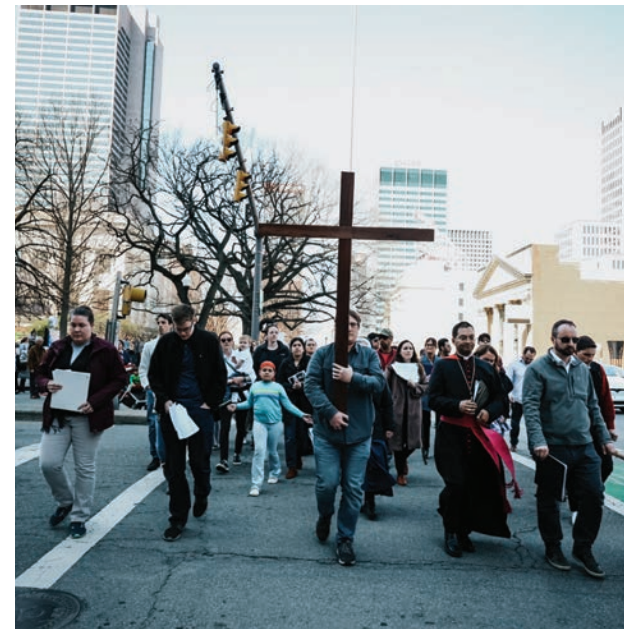


The CATHOLIC TIMES

THE DIOCESE OF COLUMBUS' INFORMATION SOURCE
APRIL 7, 2024 • DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY • VOLUME 73:7



DIOCESE OBSERVES HOLY WEEK, Pages 2-3



INSIDE THIS ISSUE



PONTIFICAL HONORS
Mark Huddy (left) and Msgr. Joseph Hendricks received pontifical awards from Bishop Earl Fernandes in recognition for their service to the diocese on Tuesday, March 19 at St. Joseph Cathedral, Page 5



DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY
A number of parishes throughout the diocese have scheduled chaplets, confessions, Eucharistic Adoration and other special events for Divine Mercy Sunday on April 7, Page 12



Bishop Earl Fernandes dries the feet of Thomas Lee Finley Jr., who came into the Catholic Church in 2020 and said that when the bishop washed his feet on Holy Thursday he cried because he didn't know what to expect and was scared but afterward felt very blessed.



Bishop Earl Fernandes washes the feet of Darrell Vogt, a cradle Catholic who has been incarcerated for 19 years and scheduled to be released on April 11. During his incarceration, Vogt said he has sponsored six men who studied the Catechism of the Catholic Church and eventually were baptized and confirmed. *CT photos by Ken Snow*



Inmate Eric Humphries' feet are dried by Bishop Earl Fernandes on Holy Thursday.

Bishop joins inmates on Holy Thursday at two prisons

For the second consecutive year on Holy Thursday, Bishop Earl Fernandes returned to state prisons in the diocese to minister to inmates gathered in the chapels at London and Madison Correctional Institutions for prayer and washing of the feet.

Imitating Jesus' sacred act at the Last Supper, the bishop knelt in front of each man in the chapels at each prison and, one by one, washed and dried their feet.

At London Correctional Institution, the

bishop's first stop on Thursday, March 28, he led approximately 15 men in morning prayer and reminded them that Christ instituted the Sacraments of the Holy Eucharist and the priesthood on Holy Thursday. He was assisted in the washing of the feet by Father Pat Toner, the Catholic chaplain at London Correctional.

"It is a privilege, as the bishop of this diocese, to begin these holy three days with all of you," Bishop Fernandes told the inmates.

"The twelve apostles were not perfect people. They were all sinners. Yet Jesus washed their feet. And through the power of His Holy Spirit, He would transform them into bold and courageous men. Not all were clean, but some were.

"And so, on this Holy Thursday I invite you to open your hearts to the Lord, to let His love purify you."

Inmate Eric Humphries shared afterward that when Bishop Fernandes washed his feet "it was humbling. I felt I was cleansed and that it was kind of another form of baptism."

Inmate Mickey Murrill said that "it was really humbling to have him wash my feet, because for someone with his stature in life, he actually gave his time and came in here to do that for us and show us how God's love is abundant and that He's got enough of it to spread around for everybody.

"No matter what your situation is in life, or how dark the world can be, there's always light to be shone on everybody, and no matter who the individual is, it will be shone — especially in a place like this."

Murrill, who has been incarcerated for seven years, said his life had sunk so low

that he tried to commit suicide. Then, several years ago, he began to explore the Catholic faith after a fellow inmate invited him to attend Mass and Bible studies.

The former Southern Baptist said he realized that God had a plan for him. He began studying the Catechism of the Catholic Church and was baptized and confirmed as a Catholic in 2023.

His conversion awakened him to seeing the presence of Christ in his life, noting that "everything is more focused and clear. You see light shining in places where you didn't notice it before. Things that used to be hard have become easier when I rely on God."

Bishop Fernandes reminded the men at both prisons located in Madison County that "I, as the bishop of this diocese, am supposed to represent Christ, the Good Shepherd, in the midst of the flock. And you are part of that flock. And the Good Shepherd lays down His life for His sheep. Christ loves you very much, and we in the Diocese of Columbus, we pray for you, we care for you.

"And we hope that these three days (of the Sacred Triduum) will be truly glorious days so that on Sunday we can cry out together, 'He is Risen. He is truly Risen.'"



Mickey Murrill (foreground) and other inmates recite the Antiphon during the Gospel canticle on Holy Thursday at London Correctional Institution. *CT photo by Ken Snow*

WE ARE
HIRING
DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

St. Vincent Haven seeks a Development Director interested and called to mission-focused work. This position oversees online marketing, monthly pledges, endowment building, capital campaigns, grant writing, existing fundraisers, and regular giving. The ideal candidate embodies (or is open to) Catholic/Christian lifestyle and values.

MORE INFORMATION:

SCAN

SEND YOUR RESUME TO:
johnpaul@svdphaven.org

Holy week



Bishop Earl Fernandes, assisted by Deacon Tyler Carter, blesses palms in the courtyard at St. Joseph Cathedral before the Palm Sunday Mass at the beginning of Holy Week on March 24. *CT photo by Ken Snow*



Deacons bring forward the oils during the Chrism Mass on Tuesday, March 26 at Westerville St. Paul the Apostle Church. *Photo courtesy Abigail Pitones*



The cross of Christ is venerated on Good Friday at St. Joseph Cathedral. *Photo courtesy Abigail Pitones*



Gahanna St. Matthew the Apostle Church and School received the Holy Oils consecrated at the Chrism Mass on Tuesday of Holy Week at an all-school Mass the following day, which is known as Spy Wednesday. Students learned about the oils and their uses in the sacramental life of the church in a homily given by Father Ted Sill, the parish's pastor. *Photo courtesy St. Matthew*



Father Adam Streitenberger confirms one of 31 new Catholics at the Columbus St. Thomas More Newman Center during the Easter Vigil on Saturday, March 30. *Photo courtesy Newman Center*



Bishop Emeritus Frederick Campbell venerates the cross during the Good Friday liturgy on March 29 at St. Joseph Cathedral. *Photo courtesy Abigail Pitones*



Kent Curtis is confirmed at the Easter Vigil by Bishop Earl Fernandes at St. Joseph Cathedral on Saturday, March 30. *CT photo by Ken Snow*

Dioceses submit summary to Archbishop, Apostolic Nunciature

Late last month, Bishop Paul J. Bradley (Steubenville) and Bishop Earl K. Fernandes (Columbus) along with their diocesan leadership teams submitted a summary of findings on how both dioceses could be affected by a potential merger.

The bishops and their diocesan leadership teams were asked to discuss and

compile an assessment of how both dioceses could be affected by such a proposal.

After discussions between the diocesan leadership teams in numerous meetings, a summary was compiled and submitted to Archbishop Dennis M. Schnurr, Cincinnati, and the Apostolic Nunciature. Both Columbus and

Steubenville contributed to the summary communicating details unique to their respective dioceses.

Neither the bishops nor their leadership teams were tasked with making a decision, rather to consider how the aspects of diocesan life of the dioceses could be affected by a potential merger.

No decision on 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 Bradley and Bishop Fernandes, as well as the diocesan leadership teams, ask for the continued prayers of the clergy and laity of both dioceses as Pope Francis discerns the path forward.

Parish suppressions announced

The Diocese of Columbus issued suppression announcements on Friday, March 22 that affect parishes in Knox, Hardin, Perry, Ross, Pike, Delaware, Fairfield and Franklin counties.

None of the impacted churches are closing at this time, but seven mergers of two or more parishes each under a new title were approved by the diocese's Presbyteral Council on March 21 to, as the decrees state, "better utilize the limited numbers of available priests, and taking into consideration the Mass attendance data, community demographics, the financial conditions and the conditions of the physical plant serving all communities."

The suppressions, which were promulgated on March 22 with their online publication, will become effective in June and include the following parishes:

Groveport St. Mary and Canal Winchester St. John XXIII aggregated into The Immaculate Heart of the Blessed Virgin Parish; Ada Our Lady of Lourdes and Kenton Immaculate Conception aggregated into Our Lady, The Immaculate Conception Parish; Columbus St. Peter and Powell St. Joan of Arc aggregated into St. Peter St. Joan of Arc Parish; Mount Vernon St. Vincent de Paul and Danville St. Luke aggregated into St. John the Baptist Parish; Chillicothe St.

Peter and St. Mary and Waverly St. Mary, Queen of the Missions aggregated into Our Lady, Queen of the Apostles Parish; Somerset Holy Trinity and Somerset St. Joseph aggregated into Holy Trinity-St. Joseph Parish; and Columbus St. Matthias merged with Columbus St. Elizabeth and given a new name, St. Josephine Bakhita Parish at St. Elizabeth Church.

The current St. Matthias School, which is located in north Columbus adjacent to St. Francis DeSales High School and serves pre-K through eighth-grade students, will remain open as St. Josephine Bakhita School.

The church suppressions are part of the ongoing Real Presence Real Future initiative that began four years ago under the direction of then-Columbus Bishop Robert Brennan.

Since the initiative was announced, the process has included extensive analysis of the short- and long-term challenges and needs facing the diocese. After reviewing the data gathered from surveys and with input from pastors, parishes and parishioners, Bishop Earl Fernandes made the final decisions last spring.

Over the past year, the diocese has implemented the changes while continuing to evaluate the needs of the faithful.

Msgr. Francis J. Meagher passed away on March 25, 2024

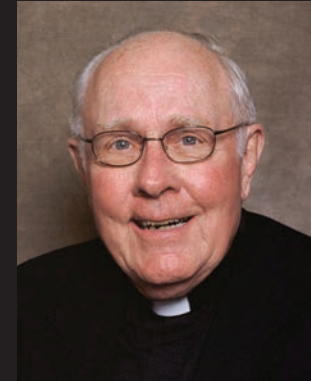
Funeral Mass for Msgr. Francis J. Meagher, 89, who died Monday, March 25, was celebrated Monday, April 1 at Gahanna St. Matthew the Apostle Church. Burial was at St. Joseph Cemetery, Columbus.

He was born on Feb. 7, 1935 to the late John and Eleanor (Gatz) Meagher.

He was a graduate of Madison Township High School in Groveport and earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in philosophy from Columbus St. Charles Seminary and a Master of Divinity degree from St. Mary of the West Seminary in Norwood.

He was ordained to the priesthood at Columbus Christ the King Church on Aug. 6, 1960 by Bishop Clarence Issenmann.

In 63 years as a priest, he served as an assistant pastor at Zanesville St. Nicholas and Chillicothe St. Peter churches and pastor at Corning St. Bernard, Circleville St. Joseph. Co-



lumbus St. Agatha and Buckeye Lake Our Lady of Mount Carmel churches.

He also was a teacher at Zanesville Bishop Rosecrans and Chillicothe Bishop Flaget high schools, chaplain for the Diocesan Catholic Committee on Scouting for

the Muskingum Valley, a spiritual director at the Pontifical College Josephinum, chaplain of Daughters of Isabella Circle 584 in Chillicothe and Knights of Columbus Council 5297 in Circleville and a member of the diocesan priest personnel board, presbyteral council and college of consultants. He retired from active ministry on July 8, 2008.

Pope St. John Paul II appointed him a monsignor, with the title prelate of honor, on Sept. 24, 1992.

Front page photos

DIocese OBSERVES HOLY WEEK

The lighting of the Easter Vigil flame (upper left) on Holy Saturday is one of the highlights of Holy Week, which started with Palm Sunday (lower left) and continued with the Chrism Mass (lower middle), Holy Thursday with inmates (upper right) and Walking Stations of the Cross (lower right) in downtown Columbus on Good Friday.

Photos by Ken Snow and Abigail Pitones

THE CATHOLIC TIMES

Copyright © 2024. All rights reserved. *Catholic Times* (USPS 967-000) (ISSN 745-6050) is the official newspaper of the Catholic Diocese of Columbus, Ohio. It is published every other week throughout the year. Subscription rate: \$26 per year, or call and make arrangements with your parish. Periodical Postage Paid at Columbus OH 43218.

Bishop Earl K. Fernandes: President & Publisher
Doug Bean: Editor (dbean@columbuscatholic.org)
Hannah Heil: Reporter (hheil@columbuscatholic.org)
Emma Noel: Layout/Design (enoel@columbuscatholic.org)
Mailing Address: 197 E. Gay St., Columbus OH 43215
Editorial/Advertising: (614) 224-5195
Subscriptions: (614) 224-6530
 (subscriptions@columbuscatholic.org)

Postmaster: Send address changes to
Catholic Times 197 E. Gay St., Columbus OH 43215.
 Please allow two to four weeks for change of address.

25% of all donations remain in our diocese to help local feeding ministries.

Thank you!

Your Lenten sacrifices helped families and abroad overcome the challenges of hunger and poor nutrition. Turn in your CRS Rice Bowl today.

crsricebowl.org/give

CRS RICE BOWL
 CATHOLIC RICE SERVICE

Bishop presents pontifical awards for longtime service to diocese

By Hannah Heil
Catholic Times Reporter

Two diocesan staff members received pontifical awards and were recognized by Bishop Earl Fernandes on Tuesday, March 19 during a Mass at Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral.

During the Mass celebrating the Solemnity of St. Joseph at the cathedral named in honor of Christ's foster father, Msgr. Joseph Hendricks and Mark Huddy were honored for their service and contributions to the diocese.

Msgr. Hendricks, the bishop's delegate for community relations, received the Cross Pro-Ecclesia et Pontifice (Cross for the Church and Pontiff) award for his work with parish leadership, financial management, community relations and community service while serving on several boards. His most recent parish assignment was as pastor of Dublin St. Brigid of Kildare Church from 1997 to 2023.

The Cross Pro-Ecclesia et Pontifice is bestowed on laypersons and clergy who have given service to the Catholic Church. The papal award was founded by Pope Leo XIII in 1888 and was originally intended to mark his 50th priestly jubilee.

The insignia of the Cross Pro-Ecclesia et Pontifice was later altered by Pope Paul VI to a gold Greek cross with images of Apostles Ss. Peter and Paul in the center. The ribbon is half yellow and half white, the colors of the Holy See.

Huddy, the diocesan Episcopal Moderator for Catholic Charities and the Office of Social Concerns who also serves on the diocesan Bishop's Council, was elevated by the Holy See to the Dignity of a Papal Knight of the Equestrian Or-

der of St. Gregory the Great.

Within the Order of St. Gregory the Great, the class of Knight is most frequently bestowed at the diocesan level. It is a special mark of favor from the Holy See for persons who diligently serve the Church on the local level.

The Order of St. Gregory the Great can be bestowed upon any individuals who serve the Catholic Church or who have distinguished themselves by their accomplishments benefitting society.

As Episcopal Moderator, Huddy promotes the Church's social justice teachings for the poor, immigrants, human life and the elderly. He has served the diocese for 30 years.

"So often in the Church we hear complaints, but on the Solemnity of St. Joseph, we wanted to celebrate the tremendous service that these two men have rendered to the Church and beyond, a service that comes from faith and is carried out by God's power," Bishop Fernandes said.

"Mark Huddy gave up a promising legal career to serve the poor. He has been instrumental in the diocese's pro-life efforts. He, like Msgr. Hendricks, has been involved with the Seton Housing Project. I have had the opportunity to spend time with him in visiting prisons and jails throughout the diocese. He is a man of compassion who puts his faith into action.

"Msgr. Hendricks is a man of action, too. He has served the diocese as chancellor, vicar general and as pastor of St. Brigid of Kildare. He helped found and has led the Seton Housing Project, providing affordable housing for senior citizens. Msgr. Hendricks has represented the Church and the diocese well in the public sphere and has been recognized by civil authorities for his service. It's

about time we recognized him for his magnificent contributions to our diocese.

"To both men, we offer our heartfelt thanks!"

Msgr. Hendricks was ordained to the priesthood in 1972. In addition to serving as the bishop's delegate for community relations, he oversees the Villas of St. Therese and Seton Square Housing, Inc. He also helps to guide cemeteries and the renewal and restructuring of the annual appeal.

"I am honored and humbled to receive the Pro-Ecclesia et Pontifice award," Msgr. Hendricks said. "I accept this papal award on behalf of the priests of the diocese who labor tirelessly each day to bring the Gospel and the sacraments to others. It has been a life of grace to serve the Church and the diocese these last 51 years."

Huddy's honor was first announced Dec. 25 at his home parish, Gahanna St. Matthew the Apostle Church. Bishop Fernandes presented him a certificate there during a Christmas morning Mass, elevating him as a Papal Knight. He was then pinned by the bishop during Mass on March 19.

The insignia of the Order of St. Gregory the Great consists of a red enamel cross with a center medallion portraying the image of St. Gregory the Great, a green and gold laurel wreath for the civil division and a red silk ribbon edged in yellow. For the rank of Knight, the medallion is worn on the left breast.

"All glory and honor goes to God because God's the One that gave me the parents that I had that were very supportive in my growing up, got me the education that made this job a possibility," Huddy said. "God gave me the natural abilities that I have and I'm thankful

for. God gave me the opportunities that I have, including the opportunity to work here."

Huddy thanked Bishop Emeritus James Griffin, who concelebrated the Mass on March 19, for hiring him, he said. Huddy joined the diocese in 1993 after working as an attorney for several years.

He noted that God desires to work in harmony with people to do good things and He makes it possible. Huddy also pointed out that recognition is good because it points to God's goodness. For that, he expressed gratitude to Bishop Fernandes.

"We have a bishop here who ... took the time and the process necessary to make this recognition possible, and that's something that doesn't happen all the time, and that speaks very highly of our bishop that he would do that and recognize a contribution that I was able to make with God's help," Huddy said.

"As Jesus tells us in the Scriptures, 'Without Me you can do nothing.' And so, it's only with God's help that I have been able to do what I've done.

"God gave me great collaborators here. So, it's a great team that we've had in Social Concerns and in our Charities' agencies that have allowed the diocese to succeed: Jerry Freewalt, Erin Cordle, Ruth Beckman, Lisa Keita, Ashley Riegel ... all of our directors of Catholic Charities over those years from Sarah Murphy to Don Wisler to Rachel Lustig to Kelley Henderson now ... at St. Stephen's (Community House) from Judy Stattmiller all the way up to Marilyn (Mehaffie)'s role here. Same thing at St. Vincent's (Family Services), so we've had a series of good leaders. Those were all God's gifts in the process."



Bishop Earl Fernandes congratulates Msgr. Joseph Hendricks (right) after presenting the Cross Pro-Ecclesia et Pontifice (Cross for the Church and Pontiff) award at St. Joseph Cathedral on Tuesday, March 19, the Solemnity of St. Joseph. Msgr. Hendricks is the bishop's delegate for community relations after serving as pastor at Dublin St. Brigid of Kildare Church for 26 years.



Mark Huddy (right), the diocesan Episcopal Moderator for Catholic Charities and the Office of Social Concerns, wears a medallion presented by Bishop Earl Fernandes on March 19 that signifies his elevation by the Holy See to the Dignity of a Papal Knight of the Equestrian Order of St. Gregory the Great.

Photos courtesy Abigail Pitones



Catholic Diocese of Columbus

DECREE OF SUPPRESSION

of the parish of Our Lady of Lourdes, Ada, Ohio
and Immaculate Conception, Kenton, Ohio
and aggregation and erection of the new parish
of Our Lady, the Immaculate Conception Parish, Kenton, Ohio

Whereas, a plan has been carefully developed by the clergy and faithful of the Hardin County Catholic Parishes of Our Lady of Lourdes, Ada and Immaculate Conception, Kenton the suppression of all these parishes and the aggregation of the suppressed parishes to form a new parish with a new title; and

Whereas, the need to consolidate resources and to better utilize the limited numbers of available priests, and taking into consideration the Mass attendance data, community demographics, the financial conditions and the conditions of the physical plant serving all communities; and

Whereas, having heard the Presbyteral Council of the Diocese of Columbus on March 21, 2024 in accordance with C. 515.2, and receiving unanimous approval of this plans;

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

1. The parish of Our Lady of Lourdes, Ada is suppressed effective June 30, 2024;
2. The parish of Immaculate Conception, Kenton is suppressed effective June 30, 2024;
3. Simultaneously with the suppression of these parishes, the parishioners, property, assets and liabilities of these suppressed parishes of Our Lady of Lourdes, Ada and Immaculate Conception, Kenton will be joined by aggregation into a single juridic person, to form a new parish, the boundaries of which are to include all of Hardin County, Ohio.
4. This new parish will be given the title "Our Lady, the Immaculate Conception Parish."
5. There is no change in status or title of Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Ada or Immaculate Conception Church, Kenton foreseen at this time; they continue as dedicated parish churches in the care of which henceforth is the responsibility of Our Lady, the Immaculate Conception Parish.
6. This decree shall be promulgated by publication on the Diocesan Website, in the Catholic Times and disseminated in the affected parishes via the parish bulletin and other means of communication as deemed appropriate by Pastor of the affected communities.

Given at the Chancery Office, 198 E. Broad St., Columbus, Ohio this 21st day of March, 2024.

Notary

Most Reverend Earl K. Fernandes
Bishop of Columbus

Stephan Moloney

+ *Earl K. Fernandes*

Easter season: living out faith with renewed purpose and action

By Jerry Freewalt

In the wake of Lent, a season devoted to renewal, reflection and preparation, we transition into the joy and hope of the Easter season. This period is not just a conclusion to the journey of Lent but a beginning, marked by the resurrection of Christ, symbolizing new life and renewal for Christians around the world.

As we embrace the spirit of Easter, it's important to carry forward the lessons and commitments we've nurtured during Lent into the broader tapestry of our daily lives.

Continuing the practice of fasting from meat on Fridays comes as a special request from Bishop Earl Fernandes, who, in a heartfelt letter to the faithful in December 2023, urged us to fast in reparation for the passage of state Issue 1, which enshrined abortion in the Ohio constitution. This act of sacrifice is a profound way to stand in solidarity with the unborn, echoing the Lenten spirit of penance and reflection into the Easter season and beyond.

In addition to fasting, the Easter season calls us to deepen our engagement with prayer, education, service and advocacy, especially regarding the protection of the unborn and the support of women and families. These efforts are vital expressions of our faith in action, embodying the Gospel's call to love and serve the most vulnerable among us.

Advocating against the use of the death penalty is another critical area where our Easter faith compels us to act. As the Ohio General Assembly deliberates bills to abolish the death penalty, we find the Church's teaching on the dignity of life guiding our stance. Lending our voice to our legislators is a tangible way to participate in the shaping of a more compassionate and just society.

As we transition from Lent to Easter, let's not forget to return our CRS Rice Bowls. These bowls symbolize our Lenten journey of solidarity and support for those most in need, facilitated by Cath-

olic Relief Services. By turning in your Rice Bowls to your local parish, you're not only concluding a Lenten practice but also reaffirming your commitment to help those in need globally and locally. Let's continue to support CRS's efforts to assist the poor and vulnerable, reflecting our faith's call to solidarity.


Supporting local Catholic charities remains a cornerstone of living out our Easter faith. Organizations such as Catholic Social Services, JOIN (Joint Organization for Inner-City Needs), St. Stephen's Community House, St. Vincent Family Services, St. Francis Center in McArthur and the Society of St. Vincent de Paul are essential in our efforts to extend our hands to those in need. The spirit of almsgiving, central to Lent, is indeed a practice that bears fruit year-round, whether through financial support or volunteer service.

With Earth Day approaching on April 22, we are reminded that every day is an opportunity to care for our common home. In the opening lines of the encyclical *Laudato Si'*, Pope Francis writes, "Praise be to you, my Lord. In the words of this beautiful canticle, St. Francis of Assisi reminds us that our common home is like a sister with whom we share our life and a beautiful mother who opens her arms to embrace us." This message invites us to live out our faith through concrete actions aimed at preserving the beauty and integrity of God's creation and caring for the poor.

As we move forward from Lent into the Easter season, let us continue to embody the teachings and spirit of this sacred time. Let our actions reflect a deep commitment to justice, mercy and the sanctity of life. Easter is not just a moment to celebrate but a call to live out our faith in every aspect of our lives, inspired by the hope and renewal Christ's resurrection brings.

Jerry Freewalt is director of the diocesan Office for Social Concerns.

Compliments of



DEE PRINTING, INC.
4999 Transamerica Drive
Columbus, Ohio 43228
777-8700
the Myronne Family

**Specializing in Catholic Church Sunday bulletins and
Serving Columbus Diocese and others since 1974**

Springing back to life after learning to listen to God

By Michele Williams

Thank God spring is here! This past winter was surprisingly difficult, so I am overjoyed to see daffodils and other spring flowers blooming. They are symbolic of my heart opening to receive the love and mercy of Jesus after several long, cold months of struggles.

On any regular day, I exude the sort of energy that says, "I am friendly, helpful and safe! Approach freely!" Ask anyone who knows me and they'll almost all conclude that I'm rarely at a loss for words, ideas or activities. Put me in a room with Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections officials, prison wardens, outside volunteers or inmate peers and I can manage a conversation with ease. My natural *joie de vivre* is a gift that I share freely.

But January hit me like a wrecking ball. At first, I thought it was just an emotional downturn after all the holiday hoopla. It wasn't. This was bigger, a seismic internal shift that sent an undercurrent of sadness and angst coursing through my system. My chatty extrovert self turned inward and reflectively, solemnly quiet.

It is because when 2023 became 2024, the incomprehensible became my reality: I am on the cusp of 30 years of incarceration and still don't know when it will end. Even though I knew it was approaching, the utter starkness of its truth knocked the wind out of me, leaving me speechless. My heart broke anew for everyone and everything associated with my tragic crime and I couldn't put the pieces back together.

An emotional and spiritual battle was being fought. On one side were guilt, responsibility, shame, remorse, despair and hurt; on the other side were forgiveness, healing, mercy, understanding, hope and grace. A different pair would duke it out every day and it was exhausting!

Years of therapy and programing have taught me to ask for help. I have learned to share my struggles and allow others to share their expertise or insight. That's not something I did before coming to prison -- I kept all my unhealthy relationship problems, fears and situations to myself, which was a huge mistake. I suffered in silence and alone, which led to catastrophe. But now I willingly lay out my pain for emotional or spiritual surgery and risk being vulnerable for the sake of healing.

So I doubled down on counseling sessions with the chaplain and mental health to figure out how best to cope with this winter of my discontent, and both had helpful insight. I came to realize the primary casualty of this mess was my loss of words. I felt like I had nothing interesting or worthwhile to share with people anymore. For someone who loves to talk and write, this was a very unset-

ling discovery. My words and creative ideas had gone into hibernation and lay dormant no matter how hard I tried to pump some energy into them. I still wrote letters and talked on the phone, but it was challenging because my brain felt as empty and desolate as the frozen prison yard.

Thankfully, there was always compassion and love being directed to me from the other side of the fence. I noticed my loss of words most dramatically, though, in my prayers. They felt "off." I'd grown so much in my relationship with God over the past several years that it was disappointing and frustrating to not know what to pray or how to say it now! Like a record with a scratch, my prayers were desperately repetitive and just going in circles. Arrrgh!

I was lamenting this bizarre phenomenon with my mom during one of our visits. As only a mother can do, and with spotlight clarity, she said, "Maybe God wants you to be still and know He is God. Maybe He wants you to be quiet so He can talk for a while." I knew she was right the minute she said it -- Thanks Mom! I'd been doing all of the taking, trying to fight all of the battles and not giving God the chance to do anything at all. No wonder I was weary.

Her comment also brought to mind Romans 8:26-27. "In the same way, the Holy Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with wordless groans. And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God's people in accordance with the will of God." If I would just be still and be quiet, the Holy Spirit would bridge the gap between my intention and my ability to pray (wordlessly!), God would have a chance to answer, and change would happen.

I was willing to be quiet now that it was intentional instead of accidental and stressful. Surrendering to the Holy Spirit in this way took some practice, but eventually I got the hang of it. My anxiety and sadness dwindled as I trusted God more. Peace settled on the battlefield as I understood there was an acceptable, appropriate time to address each emotion involved. I found balance between words and quiet, work and rest. I regained the inner fortitude needed to make it through the season.

Slowly, my spiritual winter thawed to become a beautiful spring. As God does for every flower in the field, He helped me grow and instilled a newness in my heart. And I am filled with peace, gratitude and *joie* once again.

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



Catholic Diocese of Columbus

DECREE OF SUPPRESSION

of the parish of St. Mary, Groveport, Ohio
St. John XXIII, Canal Winchester

and aggregation and erection of the new parish

of The Immaculate Heart of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Canal Winchester Ohio

Whereas, a plan has been carefully developed by the clergy and faithful of the parishes of St. Mary, Groveport and St. John XXIII, Canal Winchester recommending the suppression of these parishes and the aggregation of the suppressed parishes to form a new parish with a new title; and

Whereas, the need to consolidate resources and to better utilize the limited numbers of available priests, and taking into consideration the Mass attendance data, community demographics, the financial conditions and the conditions of the physical plant serving all communities; and

Whereas, having heard the Presbyteral Council of the Diocese of Columbus on March 21, 2024 in accordance with C. 515.2, and receiving unanimous approval of this plan;

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

1. The parish of St. Mary, Groveport is suppressed effective June 8, 2024;
2. The parish of St. John XXIII, Canal Winchester is suppressed effective June 8, 2024;
3. Simultaneously with the suppression of these parishes, the parishioners, property, assets and liabilities of these suppressed parishes of St. Mary and St. John XXIII Parish will be joined by aggregation into a single juridic person, to form a new parish, the boundaries of which are:
 - a. Northern: Beginning at Williams Road and Lockbourne Road, East on Williams Road to Alum Creek Drive; North on Alum Creek Drive to Refugee Road (104); East on Refugee Road to Noe-Bixby Road;
 - b. Eastern: South on Noe-Bixby Road to Winchester Pike; East on Winchester Pike to Ebright Road; South on Ebright Road to U.S Route 33; East on U.S. Route 33 to Winchester Road; West on Winchester Road to Pickerington Road; South on Pickerington Road to Alspach Road,
 - c. Southern: West on Alspach Rd to Winchester Southern Rd; South on Winchester Southern Rd to Duvall Rd; West on Duvall Rd to Goodman Rd; North on Goodman Rd to London Lancaster Rd; West on London Lancaster Rd to the boundaries of Rickenbacker International Airport (formerly Lockbourne Air Force Base), to London Groveport Rd; West on London Groveport Rd to Lockbourne Rd;
 - d. Western: North on Lockbourne Road to Williams Road
4. This new parish will be given the title "The Immaculate Heart of the Blessed Virgin Mary."
5. There is no change in status or title of St. Mary Church foreseen at this time; it continues as dedicated parish churches in the care of which henceforth is the responsibility of The Immaculate Heart of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish. St. John XXIII Church will retain its name for the time being.
6. This decree shall be promulgated by publication on the Diocesan Website, in the Catholic Times and disseminated in the affected parishes via the parish bulletin and other means of communication as deemed appropriate by Pastor of the affected communities.

Given at the Chancery Office, 198 E. Broad St., Columbus, Ohio this 21st day of March, 2024.

Notary

Most Reverend Earl K. Fernandes
Bishop of Columbus

Stephen Moloney

+ Earl K. Fernandes



Catholic Diocese of Columbus

DECREE OF SUPPRESSION

of the parish of St. Vincent de Paul, Mount Vernon, Ohio
and St. Luke, Danville, Ohio
and aggregation and erection of the new parish
of St. John the Baptist Parish, Mount Vernon, Ohio

Whereas, a plan has been carefully developed by the clergy and faithful of the Knox County Catholic Parishes of St. Vincent de Paul, Mount Vernon and St. Luke, Danville the suppression of these parishes and the aggregation of the suppressed parishes to form a new parish with a new title; and

Whereas, the need to consolidate resources and to better utilize the limited numbers of available priests, and taking into consideration the Mass attendance data, community demographics, the financial conditions and the conditions of the physical plant serving all communities; and

Whereas, having heard the Presbyteral Council of the Diocese of Columbus on March 21, 2024 in accordance with C. 515.2, and receiving unanimous approval of this plans;

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

1. The parish of St. Vincent de Paul, Mount Vernon is suppressed effective June 30, 2024;
2. The parish of St. Luke, Danville is suppressed effective June 30, 2024;
3. Simultaneously with the suppression of these parishes, the parishioners, property, assets and liabilities of these suppressed parishes of St. Vincent de Paul, Mount Vernon and St. Luke, Danville will be joined by aggregation into a single juridic person, to form a new parish, the boundaries of which are to include all of Knox County, Ohio.
4. This new parish will be given the title "St. John the Baptist Parish."
5. There is no change in status or title of St. Vincent de Paul Church, Mount Vernon or St. Luke Church, Danville foreseen at this time; they continue as dedicated parish churches in the care of which henceforth is the responsibility of St. John the Baptist Parish.
6. This decree shall be promulgated by publication on the Diocesan Website, in the Catholic Times and disseminated in the affected parishes via the parish bulletin and other means of communication as deemed appropriate by Pastor of the affected communities.

Given at the Chancery Office, 198 E. Broad St., Columbus, Ohio this 21st day of March, 2024.

Notary

Most Reverend Earl K. Fernandes
Bishop of Columbus

+ Earl K. Fernandes



Catholic Diocese of Columbus

DECREE OF SUPPRESSION

of the parish of St. Mary, Chillicothe, Ohio
St. Peter Parish, Chillicothe, Ohio
St. Mary, Queen of the Missions, Waverly, Ohio
and aggregation and erection of the new parish
of Our Lady, Queen of the Apostles Parish, Chillicothe, Ohio

Whereas, a plan has been carefully developed by the clergy and faithful of the Ross-Pike County Catholic Parishes of St. Mary, Queen of the Missions, Waverly; St. Mary, Chillicothe; and St. Peter Parish, Chillicothe recommending the suppression of all these parishes and the aggregation of the suppressed parishes to form a new parish with a new title; and

Whereas, the need to consolidate resources and to better utilize the limited numbers of available priests, and taking into consideration the Mass attendance data, community demographics, the financial conditions and the conditions of the physical plant serving all communities; and

Whereas, having heard the Presbyteral Council of the Diocese of Columbus on March 21, 2024 in accordance with C. 515.2, and receiving unanimous approval of this plans;

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

1. The parish of St. Mary, Queen of the Missions, Waverly is suppressed effective June 30, 2024;
2. The parish of St. Mary, Chillicothe is suppressed effective June 30, 2024;
3. The parish of St. Peter, Chillicothe is suppressed effective June 30, 2024;
4. Simultaneously with the suppression of these parishes, the parishioners, property, assets and liabilities of these suppressed parishes of St. Mary, Queen of the Missions, Waverly; St. Mary, Chillicothe; and St. Peter Parish, Chillicothe, will be joined by aggregation into a single juridic person, to form a new parish, the boundaries of which are to include all of Ross and Pike Counties, Ohio.
5. This new parish will be given the title "Our Lady, Queen of the Apostles."
6. There is no change in status or title of St. Mary, Queen of the Missions, Waverly; St. Mary, Chillicothe; and St. Peter Parish, Chillicothe Churches foreseen at this time; they continue as dedicated parish churches in the care of which henceforth is the responsibility of Our Lady, Queen of the Apostles Parish.
7. This decree shall be promulgated by publication on the Diocesan Website, in the Catholic Times and disseminated in the affected parishes via the parish bulletin and other means of communication as deemed appropriate by Pastor of the affected communities.

Given at the Chancery Office, 198 E. Broad St., Columbus, Ohio this 21st day of March, 2024.

Notary

Most Reverend Earl K. Fernandes
Bishop of Columbus

+ Earl K. Fernandes

Poking the hornet's nest of IVF

A sweeping decision by the Alabama Supreme Court in February sent shock waves through the world of assisted reproduction. Justice Jay Mitchell, writing on behalf of the court's 7-2 majority, concluded that human embryos in IVF clinics "are 'children,' ... without exception based on developmental stage, physical location, or any other ancillary characteristics."

A firestorm followed. The decision uncomfortably reignited basic ethical questions that those in the IVF business had hoped were behind us. It had obvious financial implications, since it allowed parents to seek damages against IVF clinics when their embryonic children were lost or destroyed. It effectively upended the tacit assumption guiding the work of every IVF clinic, namely, that human embryos are nothing special, just a "means to an end" or objects to be used in the quest to satisfy customers and improve profitability. As one commentator put it, the court's decision is "clearly extraordinary in its determination that in vitro, 8-cell, microscopic embryos are considered people."

But should it really be so extraordinary? What's extraordinary is the fact that so many people, for so long, could become so riveted to the falsehood that little human beings are not human beings, just because they are little.

IVF has become so engrained in lifestyle choices that it's now not only awkward, but positively impolite, to suggest that pre-born life has intrinsic value, whether in a petri dish, a freezer, or a womb. Yet scientific facts have a hard edge to them, and as O'Rahilly & Muller put it in "Human Embryology & Teratology," the 3rd edition of their famous textbook: "Although life is a continuous process, fertilization is a critical landmark because, under ordinary circumstances, a new genetically distinct human organism is formed."

The awkward truth for the purveyors of IVF is the fact that we are all embryos who have grown up, and if all men are created equal, then all embryos are human beings, each of whom ought to be unconditionally safeguarded and never exploited.

The Alabama court ruling thrust the state into the national spotlight and sent panicked lawmakers on both sides of the aisle scrambling to come up with a quick legislative "fix." Only a few weeks after the judicial decision, the powerful infertility industry succeeded in convincing both the Alabama House and the Senate to pass legislation guaranteeing fertility clinics and doctors immunity from prosecution for any "death or damage to an embryo" that might occur during the IVF process.

Rather than running scared and caving to pressure from IVF advocates, we should be facing the question of how we have become so complacent about something so glaringly wrong. Why have we stood by to allow the industrialized commodification and destruction of younger human beings?

IVF involves at least two major moral

MAKING SENSE OUT OF BIOETHICS | Father Tad Pacholczyk

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



problems — the "collateral damage problem" and the "intrinsic problem."

The collateral damage problem means that in order to achieve one IVF birth, clinic workers may create a dozen embryos, prescreen and transfer several of the "best" ones, discard or freeze the "leftovers", and if more than one implants successfully, selectively abort the additional fetus(es). Those IVF-produced babies who manage to run this gauntlet and cross the threshold of birth still manifest elevated rates of birth defects when compared to normally-conceived babies, another instance of collateral damage.

This high tolerance for collateral damage in IVF clinics and among IVF customers arises out of the intentional prioritization of the desires of older, more powerful and wealthy adults over the rights and needs of voiceless embryonic children. Parental wants are always assumed by the industry to trump their children's best interests, allowing for grave human rights violations to become "standards of infertility care."

When it comes to the "intrinsic problem," meanwhile, IVF always involves actions contrary to the meaning of marriage and to the core designs of human marital sexuality.

Even if parts of society assert otherwise, sex remains fundamentally about bringing forth the next generation of human life within the stable bond of marriage. Children are not commodities and are entitled to be brought into the world through the loving embrace of the marital act, and within the protective and loving environment of the maternal womb, rather than being manufactured and manhandled under laboratory lights by hired hands in fertility clinics.

Through IVF, we create an "exploitable subclass" — those who, although they are just as human as the rest of us, are unjustly instrumentalized and dehumanized by being brought into the world in a manner distinct from the rest of us. This subclass is produced and subjugated through human craftiness and scheming, instead of arriving as free and undeserved gifts through the bodily self-surrender and fruitful spousal love of the marital embrace.

For those interested in understanding these issues more completely, I have recently produced two full-length, professionally-filmed videos on YouTube and Vimeo, entitled "The Struggle of Infertility" and "Why is IVF Wrong?" They are available at: <https://www.youtube.com/@FatherTad/videos> or <https://vimeo.com/bioethicsvideos>.

Let us hope that the Alabama court's decision will provide the impetus for some serious soul-searching about the ongoing calamity of IVF in our society.



Catholic Diocese of Columbus

DECREE OF SUPPRESSION of the parish of St. Joan of Arc, Powell, Ohio and St. Peter, Columbus, Ohio and aggregation and erection of the new parish of Saint Peter Saint Joan of Arc Parish, Powell, Ohio

Whereas, a plan has been carefully developed by the clergy and faithful of the Parishes of St. Joan of Arc, Powell and St. Peter, Columbus the suppression of these parishes and the aggregation of the suppressed parishes to form a new parish with a new title; and

Whereas, the need to consolidate resources and to better utilize the limited numbers of available priests, and taking into consideration the Mass attendance data, community demographics, the financial conditions and the conditions of the physical plant serving all communities; and

Whereas, having heard the Presbyteral Council of the Diocese of Columbus on March 21, 2024 in accordance with C. 515.2, and receiving unanimous approval of this plan;

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

1. The parish of St. Joan of Arc, Powell is suppressed effective June 30, 2024;
2. The parish of St. Peter, Columbus is suppressed effective June 30, 2024;
3. Simultaneously with the suppression of these parishes, the parishioners, property, assets and liabilities of these suppressed parishes of Parishes of St. Joan of Arc, Powell and St. Peter, Columbus will be joined by aggregation into a single juridic person, to form a new parish, the boundaries of which are to include the following:
Northern: Hyatts Road and State Route 23 on the east; west to Section Line Road; south to Butts Road; west on Butts Road to where Butts Road would meet the Scioto River.
Western: Where Butts Rd would meet the Scioto River on the north; south on the river to 161; east to Sawmill Rd; south to Case Rd.
Southern: Case Rd and Sawmill Rd on the west; east to Godown Rd; south to Bethel Rd; east on Bethel Rd to the CSX tracks; north on tracks to a point west of the end of Kanawha Ave; east on an air line to the Olentangy River.
Eastern: Where Kanawha Avenue would meet the Olentangy River on the south; north to the Franklin-Delaware County line; east to State Rout 23; north to Hyatts Road.
4. This new parish will be given the title "Saint Peter Saint Joan of Arc Parish."
5. There is no change in status or title of St. Joan of Arc Church, Powell or St. Peter Church, Columbus foreseen at this time; they continue as dedicated parish churches in the care of which henceforth is the responsibility of Saint Peter Saint Joan of Arc Parish.
6. This decree shall be promulgated by publication on the Diocesan Website, in the Catholic Times and disseminated in the affected parishes via the parish bulletin and other means of communication as deemed appropriate by Pastor of the affected communities.

Given at the Chancery Office, 198 E. Broad St., Columbus, Ohio this 21st day of March, 2024.

Notary

Most Reverend Earl K. Fernandes
Bishop of Columbus

Stephan Moloney

+ *Earl K. Fernandes*



Catholic Diocese of Columbus

DECREE OF SUPPRESSION

of the Parish of St. Matthias Church, Columbus, Ohio
and Changing the Parish of St. Elizabeth Church, Columbus, Ohio

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

Whereas, a plan has been carefully developed by the clergy and faithful of St. Elizabeth Church and St. Matthias Church recommending the suppression of St. Matthias Parish and the aggregation of the suppressed parish with the parish of St. Elizabeth Church, Columbus; and

Whereas, the Presbyteral Council of the Diocese of Columbus at a meeting held on March 21, 2024, reviewed the plan in detail and unanimously approved the proposal to suppress St. Matthias Parish and to make changes to St. Elizabeth Parish to join the territory, parishioners, assets and liabilities of St. Matthias Parish to that of St. Elizabeth Parish; and

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

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

1. The Parish of St. Matthias, Columbus, Ohio, is suppressed effective June 15, 2024;
2. Simultaneously with the suppression of St. Matthias Parish, the territory, parishioners, property, assets and liabilities of this parish will be joined to those of St. Elizabeth Parish by aggregation into a single juridic person, care of which is entrusted to the pastor of St. Elizabeth Parish. Furthermore, this parish is given a new name and henceforth will be known as "St. Josephine Bakhita Parish at St. Elizabeth Church."
3. The boundaries of the new parish are as follows:
Northern boundary: I-270 from CSX-NS railroad tracks on west to Alum Creek on east.
Eastern boundary: Alum Creek from I-270 on north to an air line to Elmore Avenue on the south.
Southern boundary: Elmore Avenue (both sides) from Conrail railroad tracks on west to Alum Creek on the east.
Western boundary: CSX-NS railroad tracks from Elmore Avenue to I-270.
4. The care of St. Matthias Church and the other properties of the former St. Matthias Parish, whether sacred or profane, will become the responsibility of St. Josephine Bakhita Parish, until further decisions are made and approved through the appropriate canonical processes regarding the disposition of these buildings and properties.
5. This decree shall be promulgated by publication on the Diocesan Website, in the Catholic Times, and disseminated in the affected parishes via the parish bulletin and other means of communication as deemed appropriate by Pastor of the affected communities.

Given at the Chancery Office, 198 E. Broad St., Columbus, Ohio this 21st day of March, 2024.

Notary

Most Reverend Earl K. Fernandes
Bishop of Columbus

Stephan Moloney

+ *Earl K. Fernandes*

Suffering necessitates surrender

There are pivotal moments in life when you look back and you see your surrender and how it reoriented you to Christ. *Suffering necessitates surrender.*

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.



Recently, my husband suffered a cardiac event that rendered us speechless. The left side of his heart was not pushing the blood through fast enough and he became very sick, very fast. His cardiac numbers were three times the number of a typical heart attack.

Every symptom called for immediate action. As I followed the squad to the hospital, that was what I was told. We stayed there for four days and are now treating a very frustrating condition that, along with taking a plethora of medicine, mandates rest.

Have you ever looked in the mirror and allowed yourself to marvel at the woman before you? I have. I've stood and gazed into the face of the woman before me and pondered every line and the stories that formed them.

Our lives are an epic novel, one of those thick books that we wonder how someone can read something that thick. How would we ever get through it?

My daughter reserved from the library one of the assigned books for her British literature class. It was a book from Charles Dickens. We assumed it was a short little ditty because she remembered *A Christmas Carol* as sweet, cute and meaningful but not too tedious a read. When we went to pick it up at the library, you should have seen her face! The book was massive.

My husband looked it up and apparently *Little Dorrit* was written at a time when Dickens was paid by the word. Our lives look and sometimes feel like this book, right? But I'm a writer and I love words. One thing I love about a big book is that it gives the author time to really write about the depth of the character. We fall in love with them, their joys, their struggles, their story.

Friends, that is what Jesus is doing for us. Our story is being written through our joys and our sufferings and who He is creating us to be is made clear to us with each small surrender. Each Jesus I trust

in you helps us become more of who we were created to be.

Here's the thing, though. That moment of standing in front of the mirror looking at that woman? She's not only becoming who God created her to be, she is becoming who she always wanted to be but could never be without her fiat to Jesus.

Fiat. A fiat is a declaration or a decree. We as Catholics use the word fiat to reference Mother Mary's yes to God's plan for her life. This is interesting to me because it is such a strong bold word. To declare something/to decree it *and* yet what is Mary declaring in scripture when she begins her Magnificat?

In Luke Chapter 1, verse 46: "My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord; My spirit rejoices in God my savior. For he has looked with kindness upon his handmaid's lowliness."

She is proclaiming her surrender to His will in her life. In the suffering she knows what this yes will bring; amid her fear of the unknown, she models surrender. If suffering necessitates surrender, Mary shows us how to do it with abundant grace.

Many of us hold our suffering under lock and key. We suffer in heavy silence, but I invite you to give that key to Jesus.

In the same way we begin at Mass calling to mind our sins and offering them to the Lord, perhaps we might also take time to gaze upon His cross, calling to mind our suffering. Unlock the door, give Jesus the key, and lay our suffering before the Lord. Ask him to show you who he wants you to walk with in this part of your journey. Have faith that with each surrender you are being formed more fully into the woman you so very much want to be and the woman God created you to be.

To read more of MaryBeth Eberhard's writing, visit her website and subscribe for updates at www.marybetheberhard.com.

City Wide
MASS &
ADORATION
ST. CATHARINE
CHURCH, COLUMBUS
APRIL 13
10:00 TO NOON
HEALING PRAYER TEAMS
Columbus Catholic Renewal
ccrcolumbus.org

Easter, creation and holiness

What came first: Creation, or God's covenants with the People of Israel and the New Israel, the Church?

The question may seem odd, even silly. Chronologically, it's obvious that the divine act of creation preceded the divine acts of covenant-making: no creation, no "People" with whom God could enter a covenant relationship. But our sense of time is not God's. For as St. Thomas Aquinas taught, all that we know as "time" is an eternal present to God.

In *Jesus of Nazareth: Holy Week*, Pope Benedict XVI explains that God's covenant relationship with his chosen people in both the Old and New Testaments is not an add-on, a divine afterthought — or, as it's more often understood, a fix for something that had gone wrong. Rather, Benedict writes, God's covenantal bond with his people — the Jewish people and the people of the Church — is the very reason why God "created" in the first place:

"According to rabbinic theology, the idea of the covenant — the idea of establishing a holy people to be an interlocutor for God in union with him — is prior to the idea of the creation of the world and supplies its inner motive. The cosmos was created, not that there be manifold things in heaven and earth, but that there be space for the 'covenant,' for the loving 'yes' between God and his human respondent."

Throughout the Lenten itinerary of conversion we have lived for six weeks, the Church has asked us to reflect on God's thirst for us. Thus, the paradigmatic Lenten gospel reading of Jesus and the woman at the well on the Third Sunday of Lent points to prayer as a "gift of God" (John 4:10): Prayer is our divinely empowered response to God's burning desire for our holiness. Other paradigmatic Lenten Sunday gospels strike a similar note: The cure of the man born blind (who is empowered to see Jesus as the Light of the World [John 9, 5, 38]) and the raising of Lazarus from the dead (which follows Martha's act of faith in John 11:27). God creates or "speaks" the world into being through his "Word" (John 1:3) and redeems the world through the Word incarnate (John 1:14) to share the divine holiness. God yearns, God "thirsts," for the holiness of the human creatures he has created, so that he might be in covenant relationship with them.

The Redemption wrought in Christ is not, therefore, some sort of addendum to Creation. The paschal mystery of Christ's passion, death, resurrection and ascension is the axial point of the entire drama of Creation: the decisive,

THE CATHOLIC DIFFERENCE

George Weigel

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



definitive turning point that reveals why there is "Creation" at all. Thus, the answer that Christian faith, which is Easter faith, gives to a question philosophy has pondered for millennia — Why is there something rather than nothing? — is, in a word, holiness. The Thrice-Holy God created so that the holiness shared among Father, Son and Holy Spirit might be shared ad extra: in a world brought into being to experience the eternal giving-and-receiving of love that is God's inner-trinitarian life.

Like many others, I have been mesmerized by the extraordinarily beautiful pictures of the cosmos made available by the Hubble Space Telescope and the James Webb Space Telescope; I recently bought a print reproducing a small portion of what astronomers know as Messier 16, the "Eagle Nebula" (which the more lyrically inclined call the "Pillars of Creation"). Some might consider this vast factory of new stars, 5,700 light-years away, as a benign accident rather than what biblical religion calls a "creation." Those who think that way tend to think of human beings the same way: We're accidents produced by billions of years by fortuitous cosmic biochemistry.

Easter faith invites us to think differently — and more deeply.

Easter faith and the optic on reality it creates suggests that the burden of proof lies with those who imagine that everything from the Eagle Nebula to the mysterious workings of human cognition and human altruism is just accidental. Easter faith — the faith that the Incarnate Word overcame death and was raised to a new and superabundant form of life — confesses we live in a cosmos that is purposeful because it is Christocentric: "In him all things were created ... and in him all things hold together" (Colossians 1:16-17).

Easter faith summons us to think of ourselves as creatures capable of eternal life, for that is what Christ promised to those who embrace his cause (John 3:15, 17:3). And in friendship with him, the Risen One, we can experience that life, that holiness, here and now.



Catholic Diocese of Columbus

DECREE OF SUPPRESSION of the Parish of St. Joseph, Somerset, Ohio and Changing the Parish of Holy Trinity, Somerset, Ohio

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

Whereas, a plan has been carefully developed by the clergy and faithful of St. Joseph and Holy Trinity recommending the suppression of St. Joseph Parish and the aggregation of the suppressed parish with the parish of Holy Trinity, Somerset; and

Whereas, the Presbyteral Council of the Diocese of Columbus at a meeting held on March 21, 2024, reviewed the plan in detail and unanimously approved the proposal to suppress St. Joseph Parish and to make changes to Holy Trinity Parish to join the territory, parishioners, assets and liabilities of St. Joseph Parish to that of Holy Trinity Parish; and

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

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

1. The Parish of St. Joseph, Somerset, Ohio, is suppressed effective June 30, 2024;
2. Simultaneously with the suppression of St. Joseph Parish, the territory, parishioners, property, assets and liabilities of these parishes will be joined to those of Holy Trinity Parish by aggregation into a single juridic person, care of which is entrusted to the pastor of Holy Trinity Parish. Also simultaneously, the new name of Holy Trinity Parish shall henceforth be named, "Holy Trinity – St. Joseph Parish."
3. The territorial boundaries of the new parish will combine the previous boundaries of both Holy Trinity and St. Joseph Parish, Somerset.
4. The care of St. Joseph Church and the other properties of the former St. Joseph Parish, whether sacred or profane, will become the responsibility of Holy Trinity Parish, until further decisions are made and approved through the appropriate canonical processes regarding the disposition of these buildings and properties.
5. This decree shall be promulgated by publication on the Diocesan Website, in the Catholic Times and disseminated in the affected parishes via the parish bulletin and other means of communication as deemed appropriate by Pastor of the affected communities.

Given at the Chancery Office, 198 E. Broad St., Columbus, Ohio this 21st day of March, 2024.

Notary

Most Reverend Earl K. Fernandes
Bishop of Columbus

Stephan Moloney

+ Earl K. Fernandes

Divine Mercy Sunday events scheduled in diocese

The following parishes in the Diocese of Columbus have scheduled programs for Divine Mercy Sunday, April 7:

Chillicothe St. Mary – Saturday, April 6, recitation of Chaplet of Divine Mercy after the 5 p.m. Mass, concluding novena; Sunday, Eucharistic Adoration, confessions, noon; reading of excerpts from St. Faustina's diary, 1 to 3 p.m.; Chaplet recitation, 3 p.m.; Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament, 3:30 p.m.

Chillicothe St. Peter – Chaplet recitation after 8 a.m. Mass

Circleville St. Joseph – Holy Hour with confessions, 2 p.m.; Chaplet, 3 p.m.

Columbus Holy Family – Adoration, noon; confessions, 12:30 to 2 p.m.; Chaplet, 3 p.m.; Benediction, 4 p.m.

Columbus St. Catharine of Siena – Adoration, 3 to 4 p.m. with sung Chaplet and confessions

Columbus St. Christopher – Holy Hour, 1 to 3 p.m.; Mass with Bishop Earl

Fernandes, 3 p.m.

Columbus St. Leo the Great Oratory – Low Mass in Latin, 8 a.m.; High Mass in Latin, 10:30 a.m., followed by Chaplet in presence of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction

Columbus St. Mary German Village – Adoration, confessions, 2 p.m.; Chaplet, Benediction, 3 p.m.

Delaware St. Mary – Mass, 2 p.m. followed by Adoration

Dennison Immaculate Conception – Adoration and confessions, 1 to 3 p.m.; Chaplet, 3 p.m.; Benediction, 3:15 p.m.

Gahanna St. Matthew – Confessions, 2 to 3 p.m.; Holy Hour with Adoration and Chaplet, 3 to 4 p.m.

Hilliard St. Brendan the Navigator – Sung Chaplet led by Dominican Sisters of the Immaculate Conception, 3 p.m., followed by confessions, with Adoration until 5 p.m.

Lancaster St. Mark – Chaplet, Benediction, 2 p.m.

London St. Patrick – Adoration, 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.; confessions, 2 to 3 p.m.; Chaplet, 3 p.m., followed by Benediction

Millersport St. Peter – Chaplet, 11 a.m., followed by Mass

Mount Vernon St. Vincent de Paul – Prayers and confessions, 2 to 3 p.m.; Chaplet, 3 p.m.

Newark Blessed Sacrament – Chaplet, 3 p.m.

Pickerington St. Elizabeth Seton – Holy Hour with Adoration, sung Chaplet, prayer Benediction, 3 p.m.

Plain City St. Joseph – Holy Hour and confessions, 2 to 3 p.m., followed by Chaplet and Benediction

Reynoldsburg St. Pius X – Saturday, Chaplet after 4:30 p.m. Mass; Sunday, Chaplet after 8 and 10 a.m. Masses;

confessions, 2 to 2:45 p.m.; Chaplet with Divine Mercy litanies and Adoration, 3 p.m.; Vespers and benediction, 4 p.m.

Scioto Catholic St. John Paul II Parish – Adoration, Chaplet and other devotions, 2 to 4 p.m., Pond Creek Holy Trinity Church

Sunbury St. John Neumann – Confessions, 2 to 3 p.m.; Holy Hour and chaplet, 3 to 4 p.m.

Waverly St. Mary, Queen of the Missions – Chaplet recitation after 10 a.m. Mass

West Jefferson Ss. Simon and Jude – Adoration, 2 p.m. with meditation every 15 minutes until 3 p.m., with singing of the Chaplet at 3 and Benediction at 3:30

Westerville St. Paul – Confessions, Adoration, Chaplet, Litany of the Sacred Heart, Rosary, Divine Mercy Praises, 3 to 4 p.m.

'Humanity will not have peace until it turns with trust to my mercy'

By Tim McAndrew

Christ gave certain commands in the diary of St. Faustina Kowalska and one of those was to institute a feast day for Divine Mercy, which Pope St. John Paul II did in 2002 on the Sunday after Easter.

Christ also told St. Faustina, the Polish religious sister and mystic who had visions and conversations with Jesus before she died in 1938, that "humanity will not have peace until it turns with trust to my Mercy" (The Diary of St. Maria Faustina Kowalska 300), which was a reference to celebrating Divine Mercy Sunday.

St. Faustina made three requests on her deathbed:

1. The first was that the Feast of Divine Mercy be solemnly promulgated and celebrated in every Church around the world.

2. The second was that sinners, especially the sick and dying, through the Chaplet of Divine Mercy would have recourse to and experience the unspeakable effects of this Mercy.

3. The third was that the work of His Mercy would be realized according to His wishes through a particular person charged with this work (Diary 1680).

Most of her three wishes have been fulfilled. What has not been fully accepted is the universal celebration of the feast in every church worldwide on the Second Sunday of Easter as commanded by Christ in the revelation.

St. Faustina provided the blueprint on celebrating Divine Mercy Sunday in her diary, starting with purification of the soul:

"The soul that will go to Confession and receive Holy Communion shall obtain complete forgiveness of sin and punishment. On that day all the divine flood gates through which grace flow are opened." (Diary 699)

To receive this grace of forgiveness and punishment, the Lord asks for four things: confession, Holy Communion, charity and trust.

When preparing for Divine Mercy Sunday, confession should focus on God's mercy, which is love and more powerful than evil, sin and death. A wholehearted confession should hold nothing back from the merciful Lord.

The Lord said to St. Faustina about confession:



Image courtesy Tim McAndrew

"Come with faith to the feet of My representative (Diary 1448) ... I, Myself, am waiting there for you. I am only hidden by the priest. I, Myself, act in your soul (Diary #1602) ... Make your confession before Me. The person of the priest is, for Me, only a screen. Never analyze what sort of priest it is that I am making use of; open your soul in confession as you would to Me, and I will fill it with My light." (Diary 1725)

On Divine Mercy Sunday, Christ's image should be given great honor as a reminder of His love and His sacraments; and a reminder to have love toward our neighbor and to put all our trust in Him.

The Lord's words regarding His image were:

"I demand the worship of My mercy through the Solemn Celebration of the Feast (Divine Mercy Sunday) and through the veneration of the Image which is painted." (Diary 742)

The image especially represents the Church's three great sacraments.

The red rays symbolize the blood poured out for sinners. And this blood has become the very flesh of the Lord given to His people in the Sacrament of the Eucharist.

The pale represents the Sacrament of Baptism, which washes individuals clean from all sin and makes them sons and daughters of the most-high God.

The hand raised in blessings and the white robe represents priesthood. With all priests united to the High Priest Jesus, the faithful are healed of sin through the Sacrament of Confession. It shows that Christ is always blessing his people and offering them forgiveness through His priest.

The Lord offered the following words for sinners:

"Be not afraid of your Savior, O sinful soul. I make the first move to come to you, for I know that by yourself you are unable to lift yourself to Me. Child, do not run away from your Father; be willing to talk openly with your God of mercy who wants to speak words of pardon and lavish His graces on you. How dear your soul is to Me! I have inscribed your name upon My hands; you are engraved as a deep wound in My heart." (Diary 1485)

Damnation is for the soul who wants to be damned; but for the one who desires salvation, there is the inexhaustible ocean of the Lord's mercy to draw from. (Diary 631)

Tim McAndrew is the founder and president of Laity for Mercy. For more information, visit www.feastofmercy.net.

Students ask bishop questions at high school forum

By Hannah Heil
Catholic Times Reporter

While many Columbus students recognize Bishop Earl Fernandes as the shepherd of their diocese, few have an opportunity to sit down and get to know the bishop more personally. Several students from diocesan high schools received a chance to do just that last month.

St. Gabriel Radio hosted a high school student forum with the bishop on Wednesday, March 20 at Columbus Bishop Hartley High School. Catholic high schools were invited to send four student representatives to the forum to ask Bishop Fernandes a question of their choice.

The forum was recorded by St. Gabriel Radio and aired the following Monday, March 25 at 7 a.m. and 4 p.m. on the radio station (AM 820 in Columbus).

Students were present from eight Catholic high schools, including Bishop Hartley, Columbus Bishop Ready, Bishop Watterson and St. Francis DeSales high schools, as well as Columbus St. Charles Preparatory School, Cristo Rey Columbus High School and Lancaster Fisher Catholic and Newark Catholic high schools.

Bishop Fernandes joined students in one of the school's classrooms to answer their questions. The high schoolers came prepared with questions ranging from the bishop's vocation to his work and goals for the diocese.

The forum, which was broken into three 20-minute recorded segments, kicked off with a question from Bishop Ready student Maeghann Green. She asked the bishop about his motto, "Veni per Mariam," which comes from a prayer by Msgr. Luigi Giussani, "Ven Sancte Spiritus – Veni per Mariam" (Come Holy Spirit – Come through Mary). Bishop Fernandes spoke to students about his devotion to the Blessed Mother.

Lauren Meier, a Newark Catholic student, questioned the bishop about her generation, Generation Z, which, she said, is known for its decreasing number of Catholics and increasing number of non-believers. She asked Bishop Fer-



Bishop Earl Fernandes addresses questions from diocesan high school students during a forum on Wednesday, March 20 at Columbus Bishop Hartley High School.

Photos courtesy Abigail Pitones

nandes where he sees this as being false in the Diocese of Columbus and how her generation can build up the faith for themselves and generations after them.

The third question came from Zach Utt, a student at St. Charles. He inquired about the bishop's "future goals" to improve Catholic culture and education in diocesan Catholic schools.

Bishop Watterson senior Ben Cottrell asked Bishop Fernandes about a previous comment in which he stated that "you have to be creative to be holy." Cottrell was curious what the bishop meant.

Lucy Wills, a student at St. Francis DeSales, questioned Bishop Fernandes about his vocation. She asked the bishop where and how he first heard the calling to be a priest. Similarly, Nick Brokamp, a junior at St. Charles, asked the bishop if he had any advice for young people in discerning their vocation.

The microphone returned to Bishop Ready as student Bella Hain asked Bishop Fernandes what he believes the most pressing issues are in the diocese and how they can be addressed. The bishop voiced his priorities of evangelization and vocations, noting that marriage and family life is in jeopardy as marriages continue to decline.

Cristina Diaz, a student at Cristo Rey,

asked Bishop Fernandes about gender equality in the Catholic Church and the possibility of women being ordained as priests. The bishop acknowledged that while Church law bars women from ordination to the priesthood, they serve in many capacities today in the Church.

He noted that women build up the Church in several ways, including, perhaps foremost, as mothers, generating new life. Bishop Fernandes also spoke to ways women serve in professional roles in the Church, including locally in the Diocese of Columbus.

Maggie Murphy, a student at Fisher Catholic, asked the bishop for recommendations on finding joy "when life seems to be going all wrong."

Bishop Watterson student Sofia Siles asked what advice the bishop can offer young people preparing for college on maintaining a faith-filled life. Green asked Bishop Fernandes for tips for students interested in studying abroad, noting that the bishop received his doctorate overseas from the Alphonsian Academy in Rome.

Skyler Thomae, a student at Cristo Rey, asked Bishop Fernandes the "most difficult thing" he has gone through as a bishop.

Bouncing back to the host school, Emerson Summers, a Bishop Hartley senior, questioned how Bishop Fernandes, as a successor to the Apostles, looks to the Apostles and Christ Himself and how his understanding of Apostolic succession guides his leadership as bishop.

"It is something I've always wondered, the concept of Apostolic succession and how every bishop has stemmed from the Apostles," Summers said afterward. "I wanted to know how a bishop such as himself thinks about that and uses that to walk in his spiritual life and really look to the Apostles in everything that he does."

Summers described the forum with Bishop Fernandes as an "eye-opening experience." She was grateful to join other Catholic school students in Columbus, she said, and for an opportunity to ask the bishop a question.

"I'm very honored I was able to be here and to get to speak with His Excellency

on different aspects of his work as a bishop," she said.

"It was a very moving experience to get to talk to him face to face not just with my question but getting to listen to others and really hear his personal thoughts about how our diocese is going, his own spiritual walk to become Bishop of the Columbus diocese."

St. Francis DeSales junior Eunice Otu-Danquah asked Bishop Fernandes if he ever considered getting married and having children prior to his vocation to the priesthood. The bishop, who answered in the affirmative, said if a man does not desire to be a husband and father then it's unlikely he is called to the priesthood.

Otu-Danquah said her question was inspired by Sister Guerline Joseph, a Salesian Sister of St. John Bosco who serves in campus ministry at St. Francis DeSales. During a Salesian retreat last October, she said, Sister Guerline shared her story about life before becoming a sister.

"It was amazing, and so I wanted to hear Bishop Fernandes' perspective on how his life was before and what his thoughts were before becoming a bishop," Otu-Danquah said.

She described the forum as "an amazing experience" and said it was good getting to know Bishop Fernandes on a personal level.

"It feels like I know him more because there were never really times where I got to hear his perspective about things about being Catholic, Catholic faith and everything," Otu-Danquah said. "Everything that he talked about made me grow and see the Catholic faith in a different view."

Bishop Hartley senior Rory Rolston's question focused on the high school's six pillars: faith, preparation, community, spirit, leadership and service. He asked which the bishop believes is most important in a high school and why, to which Bishop Fernandes responded "faith" and explained why he sees the virtue as most important.

"He talked about how, even in community or preparation, we need faith and if we have faith, we're able to have preparation; we're able to have leadership; we're able to use our service; and I thought that was a very nice way to look at it," Rolston reflected afterward.

"I was sitting in class and I really was nervous on what to ask him, and then I looked up on the wall and I saw our six pillars, and I thought, this could be a unique question to ask about our own school."

Rolston said he was inspired by the bishop's answers during the forum, and he described Bishop Fernandes as a "very good public speaker." He said the bishop has "insightful things to say" and thought he captivated the audience well.

To listen to the full recording, an archive of the forum is available at www.stgabrielradio.com.



Students from Lancaster Fisher Catholic High School express their appreciation to Bishop Earl Fernandes for answering their questions at a forum for diocesan high school students hosted by St. Gabriel Radio at Bishop Hartley High School.

Polish priest focuses on Eucharist in parish mission at St. Paul

By Hannah Heil
Catholic Times Reporter

The words of Father Paweł Rytel-Andrianik travel great distances, but last month, it could be said they traveled even farther.

The words spoken by the head of the Polish section of Vatican Radio reached hundreds in the Diocese of Columbus and beyond during Westerville St. Paul the Apostle Church's parish mission.

This year's mission, titled "This is My Body," was held March 17-19. Father Rytel-Andrianik gave a series of talks relating to the Eucharist each evening at 7 p.m. in the church.

The talks, which were also live-streamed, reached viewers from Father Rytel-Andrianik's home country of Poland.

Father Rytel-Andrianik, who also serves as a professor at the Pontifical University of the Holy Cross in Rome, gave a three-part presentation to a crowd of parishioners and other faithful who gathered to grow closer to Christ through a renewed focus on the Holy Eucharist.

The Eucharist-focused mission took place amid the Church's National Eucharistic Revival. The three-year revival, which launched in 2022, is a movement intended to restore understanding and devotion to the great mystery of the Eucharist in the United States.

In July 2024, Americans will gather for the first time in 83 years for a National Eucharistic Congress in Indianapolis.

On March 18, the second evening of the series of talks, Father Rytel-Andrianik focused on the distinct meaning of each part of the Mass.

The evening began with exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and an introduction from Father Jonathan Wilson, the parish's pastor. The Blessed Sacrament remained exposed on the altar as Father Rytel-Andrianik spoke about the Eucha-



Westerville St. Paul the Apostle Church's three-day mission included Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament led by Father Paweł Rytel-Andrianik.
Photos courtesy Andy Long.

rist.

He reflected on the words spoken by the priest during the consecration: "Take this, all of you, and eat of it, for this is My Body, which will be given up for you." Father Rytel-Andrianik told the audience that those are "words that make miracles" and are given by God.

He said the power comes from Christ Himself. He explained that each priest is ordained by a bishop whose succession traces back to the Apostles, who are appointed by Jesus Christ.

Father Rytel-Andrianik noted that "Eucharist" is a Greek word meaning "to thank," and he said "we cannot thank God enough" for it.

At every Mass, Father Rytel-Andrianik said, those present relive Christ's sacrifice on the Cross. It is the same sacrifice taking place on altars throughout the world.

He said it is not "another sacrifice" or a "repetition" but rather the one sacrifice of Jesus made present. The flesh that Catholics receive in the Eucharist is the "flesh of the resurrected Jesus."

"It's not something, it's Someone," he said.

He noted that the Mass has two fundamental parts: the Liturgy of the Word and the Liturgy of the Eucharist.

The beginning of the Mass, which opens with a hymn, is symbolic of those gathered being one family. Father Rytel-Andrianik said the congregation sings with one voice because they are one family, one community.

While it is not known exactly when the entrance hymn became a part of the Mass, he said there are records of it dating back as early as the fifth century.

The "kiss at the altar" when the priest enters the sanctuary and bows is a sign

of the love between the Church and God, he said. Father Rytel-Andrianik noted that the gesture is done on behalf of everyone, not only between the priest and God.

The collect, the opening prayer read by the priest, "gathers the petitions of us all," he explained.

Regarding prayer, Father Rytel-Andrianik said some people object to praying because they assume that God already knows all of their needs. Using the example of Jesus praying, he said Christ prayed and spoke to God the Father, and He gives His people an example to do the same.

He also addressed the Old and New Testament. Father Rytel-Andrianik said some people think the Old Testament does not matter. However, he said both testaments have the same author – God – and the words of the Old Testament still apply.

He recalled the words of St. Augustine, who said the New Testament is hidden in the Old Testament and the Old Testament is revealed in the New Testament. Father Rytel-Andrianik said the New Testament often mentions the word "fulfilled," as the New Testament is the fulfillment of the Old Testament.

The book of Psalms, located in the Old Testament, is the inspired Word of God, he said, and Jesus Himself prayed the Psalms.

He encouraged the congregation to open their Bibles at home and ask God what He wishes to reveal in a particular reading.

Father Rytel-Andrianik then delved deeper into the second part of the Mass – the Liturgy of the Eucharist. Father Rytel-Andrianik said the words prayed at the consecration – "Take this, all of you, and eat of it, for this is My Body" – are "simple words" but "so profound."

He said the most important moment of Mass takes place at the consecration, as the substances change from bread and wine into the Body and Blood of Christ.

Transubstantiation, or the miracle of the bread and wine changing into Christ's Body and Blood, is achieved through the invocation of the Holy Spirit, he said. From the point of view of those gathered, there appears no difference. However, the substances of bread and wine change.

The Body and Blood of Christ on the altar are the same Jesus from 2,000 years ago, he said. The Eucharist is Christ's real body.

For those who do not believe that, he asked, "What's the point of going to church?"

Father Rytel-Andrianik told the audience a story of an altar boy who stole some hosts to bring to a Black Mass. The boy did not recognize the difference be-



Father Paweł Rytel-Andrianik puts incense into the thurible during Westerville St. Paul the Apostle Church's parish mission.



Father Paweł Rytel-Andrianik places the host in the monstrance for Adoration during the parish mission.

Q&A with Vatican Radio's Father Rytel-Andrianik

The following is a question-and-answer interview with Father Paweł Rytel-Andrianik, the head of the Polish section of Vatican Radio who presented a parish mission for three nights during Lent at Westerville St. Paul the Apostle Church.

Father Rytel-Andrianik also serves as a professor at the Pontifical University of the Holy Cross in Rome. A story on one of his talks at St. Paul that focused on the Eucharist and the Mass begins on the preceding page.

Q: How did you become involved with your work at Vatican News? How long have you been working there?

A: The invitation came from the Vatican's Dicastery for Communications quite unexpectedly a year ago when I was in charge of foreign communications for the Polish Bishops' Conference. I was asked if I would take such a job.

Working in the media has always been important to me, and I have experience as a spokesman for the Polish Bishops' Conference. So, I was happy to take on this task.

Q: You recently wrote an article for Vatican News about the number of vocations in the Diocese of Columbus. Is that a good sign for the Church, and what does that say about the local diocese?

A: First, it was a sign of God working personally for me. After not seeing each other for few years, I met Bishop Earl Fernandes – an old friend from my days studying Bible in Rome – in the Vatican.

He said there were no ordinations to the priesthood in his diocese when he was installed as bishop (in 2022). At the end of his episcopal ordination, he told the congregation that more men would be ordained bishops than priests that year. And then, 16 men entered the seminary last year, and there was an increase in the number of Catholics in just two years.

This story moved me a lot, and I thought it was a sign of the work of God's grace, which is worth sharing. The Lord has generously responded to genuine pastoral care for vocations and prayer in the diocese. It is a sign for the whole Church, especially in the places where people might sometimes get discouraged.

The article appeared in Vatican Radio,



Father Paweł Rytel-Andrianik holds a Sacred Heart of Jesus picture while offering a reflection during a parish mission at Westerville St Paul the Apostle Church in March. Photos/Andy Long.

Vatican News and *L'Osservatore Romano* in many languages, such as English, Italian, Spanish, Portuguese, Polish, Czech, Hungarian and Vietnamese.

Q: You have traveled in the United States; what are your impressions about the Church in the United States – the faith, vibrancy of parishes, number of vocations, etc.?

A: During my travels in the United States, I visited various Catholic parishes. I am sure the American Church has much to give to the universal Church.

During this stay, I visited the Diocese of Columbus. I was invited to preach at a Lenten mission at (Westerville) St. Paul the Apostle parish. I was very impressed by the parish's commitment and the pastoral dedication of Father Jonathan Wilson, the pastor.

I was able to see many different parish groups actively involved in the life of the parish, and the pastor: welcoming and always available when it comes to the needs of parishioners. I was happy to see the involvement of the youth.

I have also heard that on Ash Wednesday there were about 900 people at Mass at the (Columbus St. Thomas More)

Newman Center! Excellent and effective pastoral practices and the activity of the faithful are important, though not the only aspects to share with other local churches.

Q: How would you compare the Church in Poland, your native country, with the Church in the United States?

A: One might say the Catholic Church in Poland is a monolith. It is very homogeneous. About 90 percent of the country's population declares that they are Catholics and they are Polish, except for very small groups of national minorities or immigrants.

The Church in the United States is very diverse, bringing together people of different backgrounds and ethnicities. This richness is aptly depicted in the main altar of the Westerville (St. Paul the Apostle) church. There are 15 saints around the cross of Christ, and almost every one is of a different origin!

Q: Poland has always been considered a very Catholic country; is the Church there facing challenges similar to other countries in the world?

A: For all the faithful, just as in Poland, the challenge is the new reality af-

ter the COVID-19 pandemic. The Church and the faithful must rediscover their ways of presence, ministry and pastoral care. It is not simply returning to what was but learning new ways, drawing on this difficult experience.

In addition, the Church in Poland must face the situation of war in neighboring Ukraine. The challenge is to welcome refugees, more than 1.5 million of whom have officially taken up long-term residence in Poland.

Many of these people are traumatized, and the fear of war affects both refugees and Polish citizens. Another pastoral challenge is accommodating the needs of Ukrainians, who are predominantly Greek Catholics or Orthodox, not Roman Catholics. There are also those who stayed in Ukraine and need our humanitarian help, more and more often psychological and spiritual.

Q: The Eucharistic Revival taking place in the United States – is that a very important revival to rekindle devotion to the Eucharist? And is anything similar planned in Poland?

A: The Servant of God Father John Hardon said, "Love wants us to be close to the one whom it loves. The Holy Eucharist is divine genius!" We are constantly discovering this, and we need to renew our desire to be with Jesus, who is really present in the Eucharist.

So, it is essential to rekindle this devotion. The Eucharist is the center and root of the Christian's life.

In recent years, we have been experiencing an extraordinary Eucharistic retreat in Poland. God Himself has taken care of this by giving two signs, the so-called Eucharistic miracles in two different towns three years apart, in Sokolka and Legnica.

In both cases, the Host, which had fallen to the ground, was placed in a container of water, as prescribed, to dissolve, but this did not happen. Instead, bloody tissue appeared, which specialized scientific studies have identified as coming from the heart muscle of a man in agony.

This is not, of course, about the extraordinary for their own sake but, the fact is, that both events help revive faith and devotion to the Eucharist.



Father Paweł Rytel-Andrianik presents one of his talks during a three-day mission.

MISSION, continued from Page 14

tween the consecrated host – the Body of Christ – and unconsecrated hosts, so, unknowingly, he went into the sacristy and grabbed some of the unconsecrated hosts by mistake.

When the boy brought the hosts to the Black Mass, the evildoers knew the host was not the consecrated Body of Christ. They flicked the host out of their hand, saying, "What is this?"

Father Rytel-Andrianik pointed out that even those who celebrated the Black

Mass could recognize the Real Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist. He said it is a "shocking story," but sometimes "it's good to be shocked to realize what we have here."

Father Rytel-Andrianik also reflected on the words spoken by the priest, "Go in peace," at the conclusion of the Mass. He said the congregation can leave in peace because they have met God.

He noted that the congregation is sent forth on a mission. The Mass ends in the

church, he said, but the Mass begins in the life of each Catholic.

Father Rytel-Andrianik told the audience that the Mass is a privilege, and priests are not priests for themselves but for each of them.

The "priesthood is for all of you," he said.

Father Rytel-Andrianik's talk was followed by benediction of the Blessed Sacrament and repossession in the tabernacle.

our
Catholic
Schools

THE DIOCESE OF COLUMBUS

EDUCATION JOB FAIR

Join us to learn more about the many teaching opportunities available in the 50 Catholic schools throughout the Diocese of Columbus!



April 13, 2024

9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

St. Thomas More Newman Center at OSU
64 W. Lane Avenue, Columbus, OH 43201

- *Speak with administrators from schools*
- *On-site interviews available!**

**Candidates should be prepared with multiple copies of your resume and a list of at least three, professional references.*

We offer a full complement of benefits and professional growth opportunities including:

- Medical & Dental Benefits
- Fee Waivers for Continuing Education
- Tuition Reimbursement if no fee waivers are used



Scan to learn more!



@OurCatholicSchools



@ourcatholicschools



@ocs_columbus



<https://www.linkedin.com/company/ourcatholicschools-columbus/>

Diocesan honor choir performs at Ohio Dominican

The 15th annual Diocese of Columbus Catholic Schools Honor Choir concert was held Tuesday, March 19 at Ohio Dominican University's Matesich Theatre.

The theme of this year's concert was "Let There Be Peace." The honor choir was composed of 112 students in grades four through eight representing 11 diocesan Catholic grade schools.

Sheila Cafmeyer, the choir director at Ohio Dominican University (ODU), conducted this year's concert. She has directed the Diocese of Columbus Catholic Schools Honor Choir since its inception in 2008.

The honor choir performed six songs in this year's performance and each piece featured a soloist. The evening began with performances from choirs representing ODU, Columbus Bishop Watterson High School, Columbus St. Cecilia School and

Reynoldsburg St. Pius X School.

Diocesan music teachers Karen Smith and Sharon Silleck received the Music Teacher Recognition award that honors music teachers who put their time and talents into growing their students' gifts.

Smith is a music teacher at St. Pius X School. Silleck is the director of liturgical music at Lancaster Basilica of St. Mary of the Assumption and a teacher at Lancaster St. Mary of the Assumption School and Lancaster Fisher Catholic High School.

Earlier that day, students in the honor choir gathered in the university's Christ the King Chapel for a morning Mass celebrated by Father Dan Millisor, the university chaplain. The Mass celebrated the Solemnity of St. Joseph with hymns sung to the patron of the Universal Church.

The day continued with rehearsals as a group and sectionals led by music teach-

ers and parish music directors. Salt and Light, the student campus ministry organization at ODU, organized singers into small groups for games and activities.

A diocesan high school honor choir

for students in grades eight through 11 is in the planning stages. For more information or students who are interested should contact Cafmeyer at dccshc@cdeducation.org.



The Diocese of Columbus Catholic Schools Honor Choir sings at Ohio Dominican University.

MEDJUGORJE PILGRIMAGE

OCTOBER 6TH - 15TH, 2024
with Priest Chaplain

Package price from Columbus is only \$2,790

Price includes: transportation, tours, accommodations, and daily breakfast and dinner.

For more information, please contact:
Lisa Pifhfer at **513-377-6780** or lpifhfer@hotmail.com

GLENMARY HOME MISSIONERS

Called To Mission

A one-day retreat for men ages 17-30 who are seeking to understand God's will in their lives

SPEAKERS

Fr. José Carlos Miguel-López, GHM

Br. David Henley, GHM

Date/Time
Saturday, April 13, 2024
9:00 AM - 4:30 PM

Location
The Church of St. Edward the Confessor
785 Newark-Granville Road
Granville, OH 43023-1450

Registration is free!
Scan the QR code to register!

For more information:
Call or text: 513-319-9572
Email: vocations@glenmary.org

Mommies Matter

Celebrate Motherhood with Mommies Matter!

Join us as we kick-off our annual Mother's Day Campaign with the Motown Mother's Day Concert on May 5 at 7pm at the Palace Theatre. Mommies Matter has been selected to receive a 10% donation from the proceeds. Tickets are on sale now at www.cbusarts.com, use promo Code **4MM** when you purchase your tickets so we can recognize our supporters.

Support Mommies Matter and have a Mother's Day Gift Box sent to the mother of your choice or receive a Mommies Matter cup! Each donation goes toward helping single, pregnant mothers receive the financial, emotional, and spiritual support they need

Learn more at www.mommiesmatter.org/mothers-day

MEN!

Join us as we welcome **JOHN EDWARDS**



April 13, 2024 | 8:30am-2:30pm

Saint Paul the Apostle Catholic Church | Klinger Center

313 N. State Street | Westerville, OH 43082

CATHOLIC MEN'S MINISTRY LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

♂ Are you being called to help men **grow their faith, develop healthy relationships** with other men, and **become better leaders** in their homes, churches, and communities?

♂ Learn how to **start a new men's ministry** at your parish or how to **invigorate an existing men's ministry.**

♂ **Take the next step** in becoming the leader you are meant to be...and **REGISTER!**

8:30	Mass
9-9:30	Registration / Lite Breakfast
9:30-9:45	Welcome Prayer / Opening
9:45-10:45	Restoring Your Identity: Who You Are, Whose You Are, and What You're Here For
10:45-11:00	Small Groups (by parish if possible)
11:00-12:00	The Most Important Thing: A Personal Relationship with Jesus Christ
12:00-12:30	Lunch
12:45-1:45	Men's Ministry Training
1:45-2:30	Close, Small Groups, and Questions

For More Information, Visit Our Website: www.CatholicMensMinistry.com
or **Scan the Code** to Register.

REGISTER HERE!



Special thanks for support provide by a Responsive Grant through the Catholic Foundation.

Newark Catholic's Smith named state coach of the year

Like most coaches, Rob Smith is quick to deflect credit for individual recognition to his players. But it's hard to downplay what Smith and Newark Catholic accomplished this season in high school girls basketball.

Smith was named All-Ohio Division IV Coach of the Year last week by the Ohio Prep Sportswriters Association after guiding the Green Wave (24-1) through the program's first undefeated regular season in history, Licking County League Cardinal Division and district titles and a school-record 24-game winning streak before a heartbreaking 53-42 loss to Waterford in a regional semifinal game on March 7.

Newark Catholic senior Kylie Gibson was selected first-team all-state after averaging 15 points and 4.5 steals per game and finished the season as one of the state leaders in 3-pointers with 93.

"If you saw her walk into the gym and talked to her, you would never know that she was All-Ohio and all-league in three sports," Smith said. "It was never about her. It was always about the success of the team. That's the type of girl she is."

Junior Sophie Peloquin received all-state special mention recognition after averaging 10.5 points and 5.0 assists per game. Another junior, Fini Kaiser, was named honorable mention after aver-



Newark Catholic coach Rob Smith reacts during a Division IV regional semifinal against Waterford on March 7. Smith was named Division IV state coach of the year.

Photo courtesy John Hulkenberg

aging 10.5 points and 5.8 rebounds per game.

Diocesan schools were well represent-

ed on the all-state teams.

Lancaster Fisher Catholic seniors Voni Bethel and Ellie Bruce made the first and second teams, respectively, and Portsmouth Notre Dame senior Gracie Ashley joined them on the second team. Fisher Catholic senior Jada Dixon and Notre Dame seniors Katie Strickland and Ella Kirby were honorable mention.

Fisher Catholic advanced to the district final before falling 54-48 to Newark Catholic. Notre Dame reached to the regional semifinals before suffering a 58-23 loss to Berlin Hiland.

In Division I, Columbus Bishop Waterson junior Sophie Ziel landed on the second team after helping the Eagles reach the regional finals in March.

Postseason recognition didn't stop there. Smith was also the district coach of the year and Bruce was chosen as the district player of the year in Division IV. Gibson, Peloquin, Bruce and Bethel were first-team selections and Kaiser and Dixon made the second team.

"What I tell people is when coaches get awards, it's because of one reason: You've got great players," Smith said. "As long as I've been here, I've always had the ability to communicate with the kids and then see their success. And I'm the recipient of an award because of their success. I've been very fortunate."

This past season was his most successful in 13 years at the school. Newark Catholic logged big wins during the regular season over Fisher Catholic, Granville and Waterford, but the Green Wave couldn't get past Waterford in the teams' second meeting in the regional.

"I tell people this was one of those crazy years where I saw so many smiles," Smith said. "They smiled all the time. Just by seeing their reaction of smiling and having fun, the season meant a lot to our girls and the Newark Catholic community."

With a 266-58 career record at Newark Catholic, Smith has won more girls basketball games than any coach in school history. His teams have claimed 11 league championships and a school-record seven district titles.

Smith attributes his success and the team's winning tradition to the school's strong foundation built on the Catholic faith.

"I think faith is the most important thing," he said. "Some of our better times were in chapel before games. I think that's what kept these kids together."

"I tell people I'm the luckiest person in the world because I get to coach at Newark Catholic and be surrounded by these great people and great parents. I wouldn't trade it for the world."



**DAILY MASS FROM
ST. JOSEPH
CATHEDRAL**

**WEEKDAYS
AT
12:05 PM**

**SUNDAYS
AT
10:30 AM**

LISTEN AT
STGABRIELRADIO.COM

ST. GABRIEL
CATHOLIC RADIO



AM 820
COLUMBUS

FM 88.3
SCIOTO COUNTY

FM 106.7
ATHENS

Second Sunday of Easter, Year B

Witness to truth of Risen Lord as community of believers

Acts 4:32-35
Psalm 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24
1 John 5:1-6
John 20:19-31

“The community of believers was of one heart and mind, and no one claimed that any of his possessions was his own, but they had everything in common.”

A story is told of a church where the pastor took this Scripture very seriously. The pastor told the community that they would never do anything unless everyone was in agreement, since the one heart and mind that they lived by was that of Jesus Himself. If there was any disagreement, then there would be no action since the heart and mind of Jesus are never divided.

Do you think that church ever did anything at all? How does it compare to your experience of life in the parish and in your home (the domestic church)? How do we live with the discrepancy between the promise of this Scripture and “real experience in the world of today”?

The easy way out is to say that such a picture of the early Church is idealized, that it never really happened, because we have never experienced such a community. But the Acts of the Apostles offers many examples of “miracles” that were evident and that helped with the mission of evangelization. “See these Christians, how they love one another!”

Third Sunday of Easter, Year B

Don't be a bystander; walk with resurrected Christ

Acts 3:13-15, 17-19
Psalm 4:2, 4, 7-8, 9
1 John 2:1-5a
Luke 24:35-48

Today's Gospel is Luke's account of what occurred when the disciples on the road to Emmaus returned to Jerusalem on Easter Sunday evening. As they told their story of experiencing Jesus along their journey and how they came to recognize Him in the breaking of the bread, Jesus Himself appeared to them all.

Each account of the Resurrection appearances is different. They are similar in many ways, but particular details are emphasized. This is due to two reasons. First, they are very personal. When Jesus made Himself known to His disciples, He spoke to each one of them in a way that only He could speak to them. We cannot read these accounts as if they were meant to be “police reports,” expressing only facts that could be seen by non-involved bystanders. Each tale of the Resurrection is as personal and

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Father Timothy Hayes

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



er!” was a description given of the early Church by outsiders. Mutual love is what marks Christians as a community, along with the willingness to die for one another, loving as Jesus loved.

The Easter season is abundant with Scriptures that show how those who experienced Jesus' presence among them after the Resurrection were able to live a new life. They reveal a transformation in the disciples of the Lord Jesus from a cowering and sorrowful band, most of whom ran away at the time of the Lord's suffering and death, to a community bound by faith in the Risen Lord and in their mission to share the Gospel with others, employing signs and wonders as well as living a new form of communal life.

In the Gospel, Jesus reveals His Resurrection by His presence in the locked upper room, and He empowers of the Apostles through the Holy Spirit to continue His work of forgiveness of sins, the exercise of mercy par excellence: “Receive the Holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained.” The following week, the Risen One overcomes Thomas' disbelief through showing the

subjective and unique as each human being is. Every hearer or reader is meant to be drawn in, to learn something not just from the words on the page but from the Risen Lord Himself. In this account, Jesus gives all of those gathered a deepened understanding of both His own words to them before the passion and of the Scriptures that prepared for His coming as Messiah. To enter into the account of each Resurrection appearance is always an invitation to become a witness.

The second reason why no two accounts are “the same” is that they are a reminder to us that the Resurrection and relationship with God in Jesus Christ are not something that can be captured and explained as a merely earthly phenomenon. There were real earthly experiences, but nothing described is about this world alone. Jesus eats with the disciples to remind them that it is really Himself, the One Who ate and drank with them in His time among them as their rabbi. Everything Jesus did and said before His

THE WEEKDAY BIBLE READINGS

4/8-4/13 MONDAY Isaiah 7:10-14;8:10 Psalm 40:7-11 Hebrews 10:4-10 Luke 1:26-38	THURSDAY Acts 5:27-33 Psalm 34:2,9,17-20 John 3:31-36	4-15/4-20 MONDAY Acts 6:8-15 Psalm 119:23-24,26-27,29-30 John 6:22-29	THURSDAY Acts 8:26-40 Psalm 66:8-9,16-17,20 John 6:44-51
TUESDAY Acts 4:32-37 Psalm 93:1-2,5 John 3:7b,15	FRIDAY Acts 5:34-42 Psalm 27:1,4,13-14 John 6:1-15	TUESDAY Acts 7:51-8:1a Psalm 31:3cd-4,6ab,7b,8a,17,21ab John 6:30-35	FRIDAY Acts 9:1-20 Psalm 117:1-2 John 6:52-59
WEDNESDAY Acts 5:17-26 Psalm 34:2-9 John 3:16-21	SATURDAY Acts 6:1-7 Psalm 33:1-2,4-5,18-19 John 6:16-21	WEDNESDAY Acts 8:1b-8 Psalm 66:1-3a,4-7a John 6:35-40	SATURDAY Acts 9:31-42 Psalm 116:12-17 John 6:60-69

DIOCESAN WEEKLY RADIO AND TELEVISION

Mass Schedule: Weeks of April 7 and April 14, 2024

SUNDAY MASS

10:30am Mass from Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral on St. Gabriel Radio AM820, Columbus, FM88.3, Portsmouth, and FM106.7, Athens., and at www.stgabrielradio.com and diocesan website, www.columbus-catholic.org.

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 Breeze-line 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 WEEKS II AND III OF THE LITURGY OF THE HOURS

wounds of His Passion, and Thomas is able to express a word of faith that goes beyond that of the others: “My Lord and my God!”

We have learned the message that was taught. We hear the words of the Scriptures that affirm the wondrous truth of

the Resurrection of Jesus and the power of God's mercy at work among and through the disciples. But we have a long way to go in our witness of the unity of heart and mind that is meant to be the characteristic of followers of Jesus.

death and Resurrection must be seen in a new light because of His Resurrection.

The world today has tried to “tame” Jesus, to make of Him a mere earthly figure like any great man who has had an effect on human history. The Resurrection is the linchpin that makes His reality something quite different. The Gospels and the other writings of the New Testament present an understanding of His purpose and of Who He is as someone entirely beyond our understanding, while at the same time as One who shares His life with us in its fullness. To know Jesus is not to know about Him. We are meant to encounter Him for ourselves in our own way, a way that the Risen Lord Himself tailors to each unique soul.

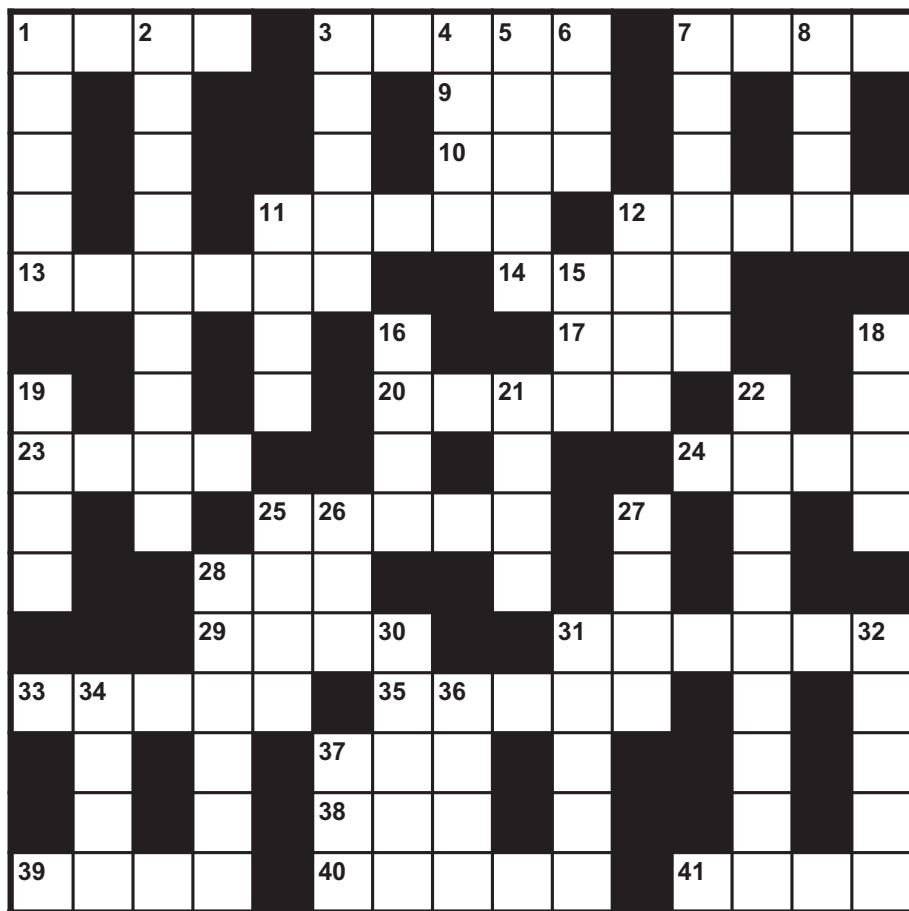
One way to allow the Scriptures of Easter and especially the Resurrection accounts to draw us into an understanding of the new life that is offered to us is to take them to our personal prayer. St. Ignatius of Loyola gave a method of meditation that allows the Spirit to guide

us to enter the events described in beautiful way. Read the Scripture slowly a few times. Become familiar with the scenes described and the figures presented.

Allow your imagination to “paint” the pictures for you. Hear the sounds associated with the scene, the words spoken, the other natural elements that are present. Breathe them in. Taste them. Feel them. As you read the text again, enter it. Become whatever character that is described that pulls you in. Allow yourself to be one of those who is involved in the scene. Don't resist. Pray: “Lord, let your face shine on us.”

There is a temptation to pull back and to try simply to be a bystander. Instead, allow the Spirit to surprise you. What happens? What do you experience? How does it apply to what the Risen Lord invites you to be right now? The Lord who opened the minds of His first disciples is still at work through His Spirit to open our minds to His plan for us, for His Church and for the world. “You are witnesses of these things.”

CATHOLIC CROSSWORD



www.wordgamesforcatholics.com

ACROSS

- 1 Biblical epic starring Burton and Mature (with "The")
- 3 Possible Easter month
- 7 One of the prophets
- 9 "Give us this day ___ daily bread..."
- 10 Theology degree (abbr.)
- 11 Vatican news service
- 12 Scripture
- 13 Florida town near Ave Maria University
- 14 Biblical twin
- 17 Catholic international aid org.
- 20 Biblical food
- 23 "___ let us adore him..."
- 24 "So be it!"
- 25 "Ave ___"
- 28 NT epistle
- 29 Commandment carrier, and others
- 31 Mother of Samuel
- 33 Color of smoke if no pope is elected
- 35 Father-in-law of Caiaphas
- 37 Coordinator of parish programs (abbr.)
- 38 Peter cut this off the soldier of the high priest
- 39 With 21D, a Latin hymn
- 40 Church singers
- 41 Catholic actor Connery

DOWN

- 1 Rite in the Catholic Church
- 2 Expression of disrespect for God
- 3 Mary, Stella ___

- 4 Priscilla and Aquila left here because the Jews were ordered out
- 5 Job's wife told him to, "___ God and die" (Job 2:9)
- 6 Med. Christian empire
- 7 Fourth century pope
- 8 OT book
- 11 "I ___ no evil, for you are with me" (Ps 23:4)
- 12 "...the world's foundations lay ___" (2 Sam 22:16)
- 15 ___, papal license plate
- 16 "Blessed are you who are ___" (Lk 6:20)
- 18 Catholic actress Haver
- 19 Biblical trial word
- 21 See 39A
- 22 God's indwelling
- 25 An evangelist
- 26 "___ and it will be given to you" (Mt 7:7)
- 27 Galilee, and others
- 28 ___ Ladder
- 30 Her tomb was the first thing bought in the Bible
- 31 Mother of Ishmael
- 32 Chief minister of the Persian king in the Book of Esther
- 34 Pope during Attila's time
- 36 He blamed the Christians for burning Rome
- 37 Christmas month (abbr.)

SUPERIOR DESIGN WORKS
PAINTER-CARPENTER
Semi-retired | Quality work | Reasonable rates | Insured
CALL 614-601-3950 | robertholmes58@yahoo.com

CORLISS JR - KRANZ

In the marriage case styled KENNETH E. CORLISS, JR AND MARY KARLENE KRANZ CORLISS, the Tribunal of the Diocese of Columbus, Ohio is currently unaware of the present address of MARY KARLENE KRANZ CORLISS. The Tribunal herewith informs her of the case and invites her to contact REV. ROBERT KITSMILLER, M.DIV, JCL, Presiding and sole Judge, no later than - 22 APRIL 2024, or call phone (614)241-2500 Extension 1. Anyone who knows of the whereabouts of MARY KARLENE KRANZ CORLISS, is herewith asked to make this Citation known to her or to inform the Tribunal of her current address.

Given this 7 APRIL 2024;

REV. ROBERT KITSMILLER, M.DIV, JCL | Presiding Judge
KAREN KITCHELL | Notary

WE LOVE YOU BLESSED MOTHER - PATTY & TONI

LANDSCAPING
DAVLAND NURSERY
VOTED BEST IN THE U.S.
Now is the best time to plan and design your landscape. patios, ponds, walkways, retaining walls, and sprinkler systems.
614-268-3834

MJ ETZEL
SINCE 1979

- PLUMBING
- HEATING
- COOLING

614-299-7700
MJETZEL.COM

IGEL
Since 1911

GEORGE J. IGEL & CO., INC.
2040 ALUM CREEK DRIVE . COLUMBUS, OHIO
614.445.8421 . www.buildwithigel.com

SITE DEVELOPMENT . EARTHWORK . UTILITIES
CONCRETE . STABILIZATION . EARTH RETENTION
ROLLER COMPACTED CONCRETE . ASPHALT PAVING

JOHN N. SCHILLING INC.
Since 1894

- Air Conditioning
- Heating
- Roofing
- Sheet Metal Work

1488 Bliss St. • 614.252.4915
WWW.JOHNSCHILLINGINC.COM

SHERIDAN
FUNERAL HOME

740-653-4633

222 S. COLUMBUS STREET
LANCASTER, OHIO 43130
WWW.SHERIDANFUNERALHOME.NET

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.

People we like the least ...

E	E	■	L	R
N	D	O	U	E
S	O	O	V	T
T	M	E	H	■

NEED OUR LOVE THE MOST

© 2020 International Puzzle Features

PRAY FOR OUR DEAD

BUERKLE, Fred J., 70, March 22
St. Cecilia Church, Columbus

CONKLE, Donald Eugene, 90, March 7
Immaculate Conception Church, Kenton

CORDI, Carole A. (Potenza), 75, March 15
St. Peter Church, Columbus

DANISON, Jeffrey M., 67, March 7
St. Rose of Lima Church, New Lexington

DAVIS, Robert J., 62, of Gahanna, March 8
Our Lady of Victory Church, State College, Pa.

DODSON, Robert M. "Mike," 75, March 18
St. Agatha Church, Columbus

HENSEL, Sue R., 76, March 19
Our Mother of Sorrows Chapel, Columbus

KIMMET, Marilyn, (Winkle), 93, March 9
St. Colman of Cloyne Church, Washington Court House

KOPF, George M., 88, March 18
St. Nicholas Church, Zanesville

McINTYRE, Una Mary, 91, March 15
St. Francis de Sales Church, Newark

MERZLAK, James, 62, Feb. 24
St. Colman of Cloyne Church, Washington

Court House

MURPHY, Mildred (Hite), 98, March 6
St. Colman of Cloyne Church, Washington Court House

PATRILLA, Anthony "Tony," of Worthington, 50, March 21
St. Ignatius Church, Oregon, Ohio

PELLEGRINI, Antonio, 89, March 20
Our Mother of Sorrows Chapel, Columbus

PIATEK, Shirley A. (Hobart), 87, March 16
St. Matthew Church, Gahanna

QUINN, Susan L. (Paolini), 74, March 15
St. James the Less Church, Columbus

RUSS, Larry, 86, March 11
St. Joseph Church, Dover

SHEARS, Eleanor (Hedesh), 91, March 20
St. Joan of Arc Church, Powell

SHERIDAN, Patrick W., 65, March 20
St. Brigid of Kildare Church, Dublin

SORDELET, Diane K. (Morbiter), 80, March 26
Holy Cross Church, Columbus

SWEAZY, Alice A. (Weinritt), 88, March 15
Our Mother of Sorrows Chapel, Columbus

Lori Ann Arnold

Funeral Mass for Lori Ann Arnold, 63, who died Friday, March 15, was celebrated Wednesday, March 20 at Newark Blessed Sacrament Church. Burial was at St. Joseph Cemetery, Newark.

She was born in Columbus on May 22, 1960 to Charles and Marie (Susi) Fisher.

She graduated from Columbus St. Francis DeSales High School in 1978 and graduated summa cum laude with a Bachelor of Science degree in elementary education from Ohio Dominican University in 1982.

She spent more than three decades as

an elementary school teacher in diocesan schools, serving at Columbus St. Philip, Newark St. Francis de Sales and Gahanna St. Matthew schools, as well as being a volunteer at Newark Catholic High School.

She was preceded in death by her parents and a sister, Mary Katherine. Survivors include her husband, Dale; three children, Mallory Grieb, Mac Arnold-Bickel and Madison Arnold; a sister, Susan Metheney; and six grandchildren.

Catherine M. Fields

Funeral Mass for Catherine M. Fields, 79, of Pickerington, who died Monday, March 11, was celebrated Monday, March 18 at Columbus Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal Church. Burial was at Holy Cross Cemetery, Pataskala.

She was born on June 4, 1944 in Chicago to Vincent and Florence (Kotarek) Lane.

She served the diocesan school system from 1964 to 2006 as a teacher at Reynoldsburg St. Pius X, Columbus St. Philip, Columbus St. Christopher and Columbus St. Joseph Montessori schools and principal at Portsmouth Notre Dame El-

ementary, St. Pius X and Somerset Holy Trinity schools.

She was a longtime member of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal Church and sang in its praise band, and recently began attending Columbus St. Peter Church.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Harvey; sons, Darren and Gene; and brothers, Bill and Jack. Survivors include sons, Ryan (Lauren), Daniel (Mary) and George; daughter, Monica (TJ) Kagey; sisters, Vicki Lane and Maureen (Pat) Eliseo; nine grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Thomas C. Pitcock

Funeral Mass for Thomas C. Pitcock, 81, who died Sunday, March 10, was celebrated Friday, March 15 at Zanesville St. Nicholas Church. Burial was at Mount Olive Cemetery, Zanesville.

He was born in Newark on Sept. 18, 1942 to James and Alice (Colborn) Pitcock and was a 1960 graduate of Newark High School and a 1964 graduate of Ohio State University with a Bachelor's degree in business. He served in the Army National Guard for six years.

He was employed in the insurance industry for 35 years, then served for more than 15 years as administrator of St. Nicholas Church, where he also

was a lector. He was past president of the Zanesville Rosecrans High School Boosters Club, a member of Knights of Columbus Council 505, a coach and umpire for the Zanesville Miracle League, providing baseball for young people and adults with mental and physical challenges, and a hospital volunteer.

He was preceded in death by his parents; a brother, Roger; and a granddaughter. Survivors include wife, Elaine; sons, Thomas (Janna), Andrew (Kimberly), Aaron, James (Tommi), Scott (Erica) and Jason (Anjanette); daughters, Kathleen (Larry) Land, Susan (William) Pratt and Sarah (Daniel) Rankin; 25 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

POSITION AVAILABLE

COORDINATOR OF PARISH YOUTH CATECHESIS | St. Patrick Church, London

The full-time Coordinator of Parish Youth Catechesis has responsibility for transmitting the Gospel message to the parish and school community. This includes forming people of all ages to be disciples of Jesus Christ through sacramental preparation, catechesis and catechist training. The Coordinator of Parish Youth Catechesis will work in collaboration with the Pastoral Catechetical Team (consisting of the Pastor, the school Principal and the Permanent Deacon) toward mission advancement within St. Patrick Parish and School aligned with the mission of the parish.

Job Responsibilities entail planning, implementation and evaluation of a comprehensive catechetical program for kindergarten through eighth grade, including formation for sacraments, with a focus with a Family Catechesis Model or other programs as approved by the pastor; providing Sacramental formation for High School students as needed; keeping records as required by the Diocese and Civil Law; offering monthly catechesis opportunities for parents, focusing on parents as the first teachers of the faith; keeping the parish informed of activities; assisting with the implementation of the Parish Summer Vacation Bible School, as needed.

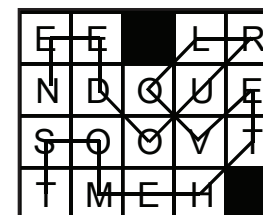
Must be a practicing Catholic in good standing with the Church. Compliance with BCI&I background checks and completion of Protecting God's Children program and other Safe Environment requirements as necessitated by the Diocese of Columbus.

BA in Religious Education/Catholic Theology or equivalent is preferred. Other Bachelor Level Degrees or higher may be accepted by the Pastor provided that some course work in Catholic Theology is pursued and/or maintained during employment. Minimum 3 years' parish religious education experience or similar experience is required; familiarity with principles and dimensions of adult faith formation, catechist formation, young adult ministry and total youth ministry is preferred.

For a complete job description, candidate submissions should include cover letter, resume and references via email to: **Fr. Anthony A. Dinovo Jr.**, Pastor, St. Patrick Church, London, OH at adinovo@columbuscatholic.org

CROSSWORD SOLUTION

R	O	B	E		M	A	R	C	H		J	O	E	L		
O		L			A		O	U	R		J			C		
M		A			R		M	R	E		L			C		
A		S			F	I	D	E	S		B	I	B	L	E	
N	A	P	L	E	S		E	S	A	U						
E		H	A		P		C	R	S					J		
E	E	R			O	L	I	V	E		I			U		
C	O	M	E		O	R					A	M	E	N		
C	Y				M	A	R	I	A		S			E		
E					J	A	S			E	E			A		
					A	R	K	S			H	A	N	N	A	H
B	L	A	C	K		A	N	N	A	S		E			A	
					E	O				D	R	E	G		N	M
					O	B				E	A	R	A		C	A
D	I	E	S		C	H	O	I	R		S	E	A	N		



WORDS OF WISDOM SOLUTION

Subscribe, renew online

To subscribe to *The Catholic Times* and renew print subscriptions online, go to www.catholictimescolumbus.org and click the Subscribe tab at the top of the home page. Enter your name, address and payment information for yourself or a gift. It's that simple.

Cardinal coming to St. Leo Oratory for feast day Mass

Cardinal Raymond Burke will celebrate a Pontifical Mass at the Throne on Thursday, April 11 at 5 p.m. on the patronal feast day of Columbus St. Leo the Great Oratory, 221 Hanford St.

The feast of St. Leo the Great, a fourth century pope who in 1754 was named a Doctor of the Church (someone who has contributed significantly to theology or doctrine), is observed on April 11 on the Latin Mass calendar.

Cardinal Burke, who led the Diocese of La Crosse, Wisconsin, and the Archdiocese of St. Louis and also served as the Prefect for the Supreme Tribunal of the Apostolic Signatura in Rome, will be assisted at the altar for the Traditional Latin Mass by Canon David Silvey, the rector of St. Leo Oratory, and canons, seminarians and oblates from the Institute of Christ the King Sovereign Priest.

A Pontifical Mass at the Throne is a solemn high Mass offered by a bishop in his diocese or with permission in another diocese.

A Wisconsin native, Cardinal Burke is known for his defense of Church tradi-



Cardinal Raymond Burke
Catholic News Agency photo

tion and for his orthodoxy, particularly on issues involving abortion, euthanasia

and the sanctity of marriage. He established a Marian shrine church and center dedicated to Our Lady of Guadalupe in La Crosse in the 1990s.

Cardinal Burke frequently offers the Traditional Latin Mass and has supported its continued use despite severe restrictions placed on its celebration in diocesan parish churches throughout the world when Pope Francis issued his 2021 *motu proprio*, *Traditionis Custodes*. The *Novus Ordo*, or New Mass, was adopted after the Second Vatican Council in the 1960s as the Ordinary Form of the liturgy using local languages.

Religious congregations such as the Institute of Christ the King Sovereign Priest and the Priestly Fraternity of St. Peter, which offer Mass in what is known as the Extraordinary Form or Old Rite, are not affected by the recent limitations.

The Institute of Christ the King Sovereign Priest, based in Italy with U.S. headquarters in Chicago, is a religious congregation dedicated to exclusively offering the traditional liturgy in com-

munion with the Holy See. Former Diocese of Columbus Bishop Robert Brennan invited the Institute to staff St. Leo in October 2020.

Canon Silvey, who was ordained to the priesthood by Cardinal Burke in 2016, has served in Columbus as St. Leo's rector since the Institute's arrival.

The historic church, located in the Merion Village neighborhood of south Columbus, was suppressed as a diocesan parish in 1999 but remained opened for occasional weddings, funerals and as a home for the Korean Catholic community while the Romanesque church, built in 1922, and its campus were cared for by the independent St. Leo Preservation Society before the Institute arrived.

Over the past four years, the parish has experienced rapid growth with many young people and families attracted to the sacredness of the ancient liturgy.

A reception with Cardinal Burke will take place after Mass in the Msgr. Sorohan Parish Center at Columbus St. Catharine Church, 500 S. Gould Road.

Mass of the Ages documentary to be shown in Columbus

A screening of the third documentary in the Mass of the Ages series is scheduled for 1:30 p.m. Saturday, April 13 at the Grandview Theater, 1247 Grandview Ave.

"Guardians of Tradition," which premiered in March, is the final installment of a trilogy from the Mass of the Ages Society, a non-profit organization dedicated to the Traditional Latin Mass.

Doors open for the screening at 1 p.m. Complimentary tickets are available at www.latinmass.com/tickets. All three parts of the series are also available for viewing at www.latinmass.com/watch.

"Guardians of Tradition" follows a group of priests' mothers who organized

a pilgrimage to walk 680 miles from Paris to Rome in eight weeks to deliver thousands of letters to the Vatican in support of the Traditional Latin Mass after worldwide restrictions were placed on its celebration in 2021 with the *motu proprio* *Traditionis Custodes*.

The documentary is interspersed with perspectives on the Mass from distinguished commentators that include noted theologian and author Dr. Scott Hahn, a professor at Franciscan University of Steubenville; Patrick Madrid, an author and radio host who lives in the Diocese of Columbus; Father Joseph Fessio, SJ; Dr. Peter Kwasniewski; Trent Horn; Leah Darrow and Bishops Atha-

nasius Schneider and Joseph Strickland.

The documentary series was shot over four years and includes interviews and footage from Africa, France, Italy, United Kingdom, Mexico and throughout the United States.

Cameron O'Hearn, the director, producer and writer of the series, will attend the Columbus screening and take part in a question-and-answer session afterward. He is also the founder and CEO of the Mass of the Ages Society.

"I firmly believe that the Traditional Latin Mass is the solid foundation of faith for our confused world — a treasure that must be shared," O'Hearn said. "Mass attendance around the world is

on the decline, but traditional Masses are overflowing. I believe the next generation will see a growth of traditional parishes like never before.

"That's why I founded Mass of the Ages, with the mission to introduce the world to the richness of the Traditional Latin Mass through the powerful medium of film."

Other Ohio screenings will be held at 1:30 p.m. Sunday, April 14 at the Parkland Theater in Cincinnati and at 7 p.m. Monday, April 15 at the Plaza Theater in Dayton.

For additional information, visit www.latinmass.com.

LOCAL NEWS AND EVENTS

Columbus Catholic Renewal to sponsor Mass

The Columbus Catholic Renewal organization will host a citywide Mass and praise adoration program from 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, April 13 at Columbus St. Catharine Church, 500 S. Gould Road.

Father Patrick Toner will celebrate the Mass and Dr. Steve Kebe will be presenting a teaching before the praise adoration. Confession will be available and prayer teams will be on hand for individual prayer.

The Columbus Catholic Renewal is under the authority of Bishop Earl Fernandes with Father Toner as its liaison to the bishop. More information is available at www.crcolumbus.org.

Record society to meet April 14

The diocesan Catholic Record Society will conduct its quarterly meeting at 2 p.m. Sunday, April 14 in the first-floor meeting room of the Catholic Center, 197 E. Gay St., Columbus.

Dr. Chris Ryckman will speak on the life and home of prominent Lancaster resident Thomas Ewing, who lived from 1789 to 1871. His home, built in 1824, is still standing and is owned by Ryckman.

Ewing was an attorney and served as various times as U.S. secretary of state, secretary of the treasury and secretary of the interior. He was the father of three Civil War generals and father-in-law of Gen. William T. Sherman, also of Lan-

caster.

His wife was a Catholic and he was always friendly to the Catholic Church, but did not become a Catholic until late in life. He is buried in Lancaster St. Mary Cemetery.

After the talk and a short break, the society will conduct a business meeting.

For more information, contact Mark Gideon at (614) 312-8026.

Newman Center to host pro-life conference in May

"Persuasive Pro-Life," a conference for students and others who want to learn how to explain the Catholic Church's position to anyone who asks, will take

place from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Saturday, May 18 at the Columbus St. Thomas More Newman Center, 64 W. Lane Ave.

Speakers will be Trent Horn, a professional speaker for Catholic Answers, and Savannah Marten of the Bella Vita Pregnancy Center in Toledo, executive director of the Ohio Pregnancy Center Coalition.

Sponsors for the event are Ohio Right to Life, Students for Life and Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Toledo. The Diocese of Columbus is one of several partners.

The cost to attend is \$20. Register at ohiolife.org.

Our Lady of Fatima statue found in lake after tornado

By Tim Puet

For The Catholic Times

A 20-foot statue of Our Lady of Fatima destroyed by the EF3 tornado that devastated the Indian Lake area of Logan County on March 14, killing three people and injuring at least 27 others, was found on the lake bottom on Holy Saturday, March 30, by a team of volunteer divers.

"We are so excited to have her finally located, and just one day before Easter Sunday," said Bill Quatman, chairman of the American Statue of Ephesus (ASE), a nonprofit group that owns the statue.

"Visibility was near zero and three drone flights could not locate her, so divers had to feel for the statue in the dark. She was found about 50 feet offshore after being blown off her concrete pedestal. She never touched the ground and must have flown 50 to 100 yards in the air. That would have been quite a sight to see," Quatman said.

Quatman said a new statue and a concrete pedestal for it will be built. The former pedestal raised the height of the original statue to 43 feet. ASE is not solic-

iting design ideas for the new shrine until debris is removed and the site is graded.

The statue was a popular site for pilgrims from the Diocese of Columbus, especially around Aug. 15, the Solemnity of the Assumption, when an annual Mass was celebrated there by the pastor of Russells Point St. Mary of the Woods Church, with the Archbishop of Cincinnati also a frequent celebrant. Logan County is part of the archdiocese.

Quatman said a 60th anniversary event planned for that date this year has been postponed.

"We likely cannot use any of the original statue, (but) we will build something equally impressive and respectful," he said. "We knew that the shrine was important to the community and have been overwhelmed at the requests to build her back."

An insurance claim to cover the loss is pending, he said.

Quatman also said ASE made a \$25,000 donation to the United Way of Logan County's Indian Lake tornado relief fund. "We suffered property damage and the loss of our beloved Mary statue. But oth-

ers in the community suffered injuries, loss of life and home or business. We felt compelled to give back. Our prayers are with the affected community," he said.

He said he has been receiving inquiries from around the world about the statue and was particularly grateful for a kind letter from the mayor of Fatima, Portugal, who visited the site in August 2018.

People have offered to donate to a rebuilding fund, but Quatman has asked that donations be sent to the United Way.

The statue, popularly known as "Our Lady of the Lake," was erected by Quatman's grandfather George, who operated an amusement park in Russells Point. When dedicated in 1964, it was the world's largest Marian statue, five feet taller than the statue at Fatima that was the elder Quatman's inspiration. George Quatman died in 1964, two weeks after the statue's dedication.

Profits from the park, now closed, were used to build the statue. It was sculpted and cast in Florida, with work beginning in February 1963. The face of the Virgin Mary was based on a painting, reputed to be one of the several portraits attributed to St. Luke, that Quatman saw in an Armenian chapel in Jerusalem. Upon completion, it was shipped to Ohio, where it was placed atop the pedestal.

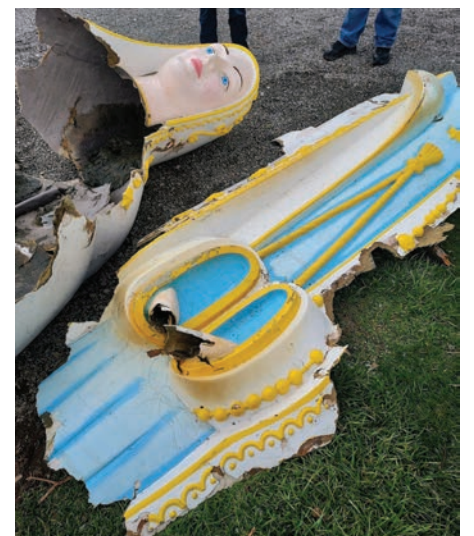
Mary's robes were painted blue and white, trimmed in gold, with fluorescent paint that came alive under concealed black lighting. A water fountain below the statue was programmed with 14 water scenes.

The original construction included a motorized, lighted platform that permitted the statue to complete a full rotation once an hour with 18 changes of color. In more recent years, the statue has permanently faced outward, overlooking Indian Lake.

For more information on ASE and the



A statue of Our Lady of Fatima and its canopy (foreground) in Russells Point was blown off its platform by a tornado on March 14.



Divers found the statue in Indian Lake.

Photos courtesy American Society of Ephesus.

statue, visit www.ase-gbqfoundation.org or www.saintmaryofthewoods.com/fatima. For more on United Way of Logan County's Indian Lake tornado relief fund, visit <https://www.uwlogan.org/indian-lake-tornado-community-response>.

► FRIENDS OF THE JOSEPHINUM ◀

4-MILER RUN/WALK

SUPPORTING THE SEMINARIANS

Register now at m3ssports.com

SEPTEMBER 28, 2024
PONTIFICAL COLLEGE JOSEPHINUM
7625 NORTH HIGH STREET

Event parking provided at Crosswoods Center I office park located at 100 Crosswoods Blvd. Jessing Center parking may be used by those with small children, or mobility challenges.

Packet pickup: 7:30am | Start time: 9am

Swag: All participants receive bread and a bottle of wine, or bread and a jar of Trappist Monastery jam.

Family rate:

Save \$5 per person when registering at least 3 participants at one time.

PRESENTED BY THE FRIENDS OF THE JOSEPHINUM

Governor attends St. Agatha's live Stations



Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine visited Columbus St. Agatha School during Lent for a live Stations of the Cross performed by sixth-grade students. The performance showcased their dedication to the Catholic faith and parish community while leading those in attendance in praying the Stations of the Cross. A soup supper, which followed in the church's Monsignor Kennedy Parish Hall, was an opportunity for the faithful to gather for a shared meal and strengthen bonds in the parish community.

Photo courtesy St. Agatha School

PDHC helps save lives through Abortion Pill Reversal

By Kathy Scanlon
President, Pregnancy Decision Health Centers

Like most women served at Pregnancy Decision Health Centers (PDHC), Sierra found herself in challenging circumstances facing an unexpected pregnancy. She felt scared, hopeless and alone.

Out of fear, she found herself in the abortion clinic, swallowing the abortion pill. With immediate regret, she began reaching out for help but was told there was no hope.

Leaving the clinic parking lot very distraught, her eyes focused on a sign that read, "If you took the first pill, it's not too late, we can help." It included the number for the Abortion Pill Reversal (APR) helpline. That phone call changed the trajectory of her story.

Sierra was immediately connected to PDHC, the closest pregnancy center to her providing APR services. She drove two hours to our center and experienced pure joy and relief when the ultrasound, provided by our nurse, showed a strong, healthy heartbeat.

She was connected to our medical doctor to begin a successful reversal process. As Sierra continued with her prenatal care, PDHC followed up with her, making sure she had the support and resources she needed.



Sierra holds baby Sawyer while surrounded by her other children. Photo courtesy PDHC

Her beautiful daughter, Sawyer, was born in October. She is a perfect, happy and healthy baby.

Sierra is thankful for God's grace and mercy.

"He didn't have to let me keep her," she said.

Sierra is sharing her story to educate and help others facing similar situations to know there is hope. They are not alone.

In a recent follow-up, Sierra said, "Sawyer is the sweetest girl ever. People who don't even know us or our story call her an angel baby. People can sense some-

thing special about our girl, so completely thankful."

Sierra's story is not unusual. Chemical abortions via the abortion pill continue to rise, representing 87 percent of abortions in Franklin County.

APR services, such as those provided at PDHC, become critical. They give women like Sierra a second chance to save their babies.

PDHC is affiliated with Heartbeat International, which operates the Abortion Pill Rescue Network through their Option Line 24/7 contact center. Heartbeat

connects mothers who regret taking the abortion pill to the closest pregnancy center with medical professionals who can guide them toward reversing its effects.

Thousands of lives have been saved through APR protocol.

Sadly, however, at least a million lives were lost last year to abortion in the United States. With the passing of state Issue 1 in November (legalizing abortion through all nine months of pregnancy in the state of Ohio), we can expect many of Ohio's existing pro-life laws to be challenged this year through legislative and judicial action.

Recently, the U.S. Supreme Court heard arguments in the case of Alliance for Hippocratic Medicine v. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regarding concerns of the FDA removing critical safeguards for high-risk abortion drugs. We must all stand boldly and do our part to protect the sanctity of human life.

PDHC will host its 33rd annual Golf for Life fundraising event at The Country Club at Muirfield Village on Monday, May 13. If you or someone you know would like to participate and fundraise to help us save and change lives, visit www.SupportLifePDHC.org/golf for information and registration details.

Together, we are rescuing lives and impacting generations, one heartbeat at a time.



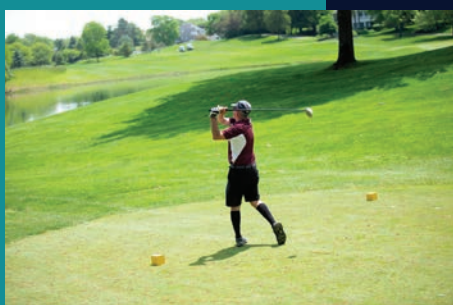
Pregnancy Decision Health Centers

33RD ANNUAL GOLF FOR LIFE COLUMBUS

MONDAY MAY 13, 2024

The Country Club at Muirfield Village

Visit SupportLifePDHC.org to register or scan the QR code below:



SMART GIVING:
Parish Endowments

**“Support
your parish
today,
tomorrow,
and forever.”**

– Scott Hartman, SVP & Chief Development Officer



Every parish in the diocese of Columbus has an endowment fund that The Catholic Foundation manages. Investing in it can generate market returns that will grow your giving and support your parish perpetually.

A Parish Endowment:

- Exists to support your parish outside of the weekly offertory
- Can be funded through everyday giving or a planned gift
- Accepts gifts of cash, stocks, real estate, and other assets
- Provides a steady source of income to your parish for generations to come

40
YEARS
CELEBRATING
CATHOLIC GIVING



THE
CATHOLIC
FOUNDATION



Scan to learn
more about
Catholic giving

Ready to grow your everyday Catholic giving? We're here to help.
Contact Scott Hartman at shartman@catholic-foundation.org.

TCC students make blankets for shelter

By Sophia Cronebaugh

In January, Mr. Matt Ritzert, former principal of New Philadelphia Tuscarawas Central Catholic (TCC) Elementary School and Dennison Immaculate Conception School, visited the seventh- and eighth-grade classes of TCC Jr./Sr High. He told them about the local Friends of the Homeless shelter and their mission. Mr. Ritzert also gave them a list of items that are always needed at the Friends of the Homeless shelter.

The students came up with a list of the most important items that the shelter needs and brainstormed ideas on how to raise money to buy or collect these items. Then, volunteers from each grade, with help from their religion teacher, Sandy Lawless, formed a committee to bring the class ideas to fruition.

Seventh graders Esperanza Cedillo DeLeon, Sybil Cronebaugh, Shayla Sica Perez, Lainey Satterfield, Lyla Terakedis and Addi Meryo and eighth-grader Sophia Cronebaugh (chairman) made up the committee. Together they decided to focus on blankets.

Using the money raised from three themed out-of-uniform days, the committee ordered fleece fabric. The seventh- and eighth-grade students then spent two class periods cutting and tying fleece panels



Tuscarawas Central Catholic seventh- and eighth-graders who made blankets for the Friends of the Homeless shelter and presented them to volunteer Matt Ritzert (back row, center) include (front row from left) Shayla Sica Perez, Esperanza Cedillo DeLeon and Addy Meryo. (back row from left) Lainey Satterfield, Sybil Cronebaugh, Lyla Terakedis and Sophia Cronebaugh.

Photo courtesy Tuscarawas Central Catholic

together. Some blankets were solid black while others had black and print fabric.

The seventh- and eighth-grade classes made a total of 40 blankets to donate to the Friends of the Homeless.

Sophia Cronebaugh is an eighth grader at New Philadelphia Tuscarawas Central Catholic Junior-Senior High School.



Beautifully Handcrafted Memorials
From *Our Family* to *Yours*



MODLICH
Monument Company

614-276-1439

modlich-monument.com

DEO GRATIAS


THE CONGREGATION OF HOLY CROSS
celebrates the Ordination to the Priesthood of

REV. EDWARD DOLPHIN, C.S.C.
REV. NICHOLAS GUINEY, C.S.C.
REV. STEPHEN JAKUBOWSKI, C.S.C.
REV. RYAN KERR, C.S.C.
REV. TYLER KREIPKE, C.S.C.
REV. PETER PULEO, C.S.C.
REV. MICHAEL RYAN, C.S.C.
REV. BRIAN VETTER, C.S.C.



IF YOU'RE INTERESTED IN A LIFE OF SERVICE TO OTHERS AS A PRIEST OR BROTHER OF HOLY CROSS, VISIT CSCVOCATIONS.ORG.

Rev. Andrew Fritz, C.S.C., ordained a priest of Holy Cross in 2023, elevates the chalice during Mass at St. John Vianney Catholic Church, a Holy Cross parish in Goodyear, Arizona.



CONGREGATION OF
HOLY CROSS
EDUCATION · PARISH · MISSION

cscvocations.org
@cscvocations

Mass of the Ages

APRIL EXCLUSIVE SHOWINGS

1:30PM SAT 13TH
COLUMBUS GRANDVIEW THEATER



1:30PM SUN 14TH
CINCINNATI PARKLAND THEATER



7PM MON 15TH
DAYTON PLAZA THEATER



GUARDIANS OF TRADITION

FREE

live Q&A after show
latinmass.com/tickets

PG-13



HERE, WE DO MORE ROBOTIC WEIGHT LOSS PROCEDURES THAN ANY OTHER HOSPITAL IN THE REGION.

From your first visit to long after weight loss surgery, ongoing support from our team of experts brings the life you want into focus. To find out if weight loss surgery is right for you, visit mountcarmelbariatrics.com

EXPERT CARE FOR ALL OF YOU. | mountcarmelforyou.com

©2024 Mount Carmel Health System • Columbus, Ohio



MOUNT CARMEL

A Member of Trinity Health