

The CATHOLIC TIMES

THE DIOCESE OF COLUMBUS' INFORMATION SOURCE
APRIL 21, 2024 • FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER • VOLUME 73:8



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Newman Center attracts wave of new Catholics

By **Hannah Heil**
Catholic Times Reporter

The Columbus St. Thomas More Newman Center, located adjacent to the Ohio State University campus, welcomed 30 students into the Catholic Church during the Easter Vigil Mass on March 30.

The Newman Center, which ministers mainly to students on Ohio State's campus, has experienced continuous growth in the number of students coming into the Church in the past few years. Last year, 20 students entered the Church. A decade ago, in 2014, that number was eight.

Most of the 30 students who came into the Church this year were undergraduates. A handful were graduate students, said Will Kuehnle, coordinator of the Order of Christian Initiation for Adults (OCIA) program at the Newman Center.

This is Kuehnle's second year with the Newman Center's OCIA program, which brings individuals who are unbaptized or baptized but not Catholic into full communion with the Catholic Church. Last year, he served as a co-leader of the program.

Kuehnle, who works full time as the associate director for social concerns at the Catholic Conference of Ohio, attributed the growth to several factors, including a combination of student leadership, evan-



The Columbus St Thomas More Newman Center, located adjacent to the Ohio State University campus, welcomes 30 new Catholics who received the sacraments at the Easter Vigil Mass on Saturday, March 30.
Photo courtesy Buckeye Catholic

gelization to students on campus, investment in OCIA from Newman Center leadership and ultimately, God's grace.

"There's a lot of invisible grace that's at work here," he said.

Kuehnle said some students who entered the Church this year desired to go through the OCIA program though they had never set foot in the Newman Center. For those students, Kuehnle said, that could be because of a personal encounter with the Lord, such as in prayer or their studies.

There is also a vitality to the Newman Center, he said, which might be attracting several students to the Catholic faith.

"I think there's been a lot of life flowing through the Newman Center recently – this year and last year – and there are students who aren't Catholic who are going to be caught up in the tide, so to speak, and they themselves are now joining the Church," Kuehnle said.

He noted that there is a cohesion among students at the Newman Center. Several students who came into the Church had previously met a Catholic student at an event there.

The Fellowship of Catholic University Students (FOCUS) and Saint Paul's Outreach (SPO) apostolates are both present on campus. The apostolates minister to university students and offer men's and women's small groups or Bible studies at the Newman Center.

Students are introducing each other to the mysteries of the Catholic faith that, Kuehnle believes, accounts for much of the growth.

"Some of the vitality is a reflection of the fact that students are being not just equipped but I think actually commissioned to be disciples and to be disciple makers, and they're succeeding in doing that," he said.

Undergraduate student volunteers were directly involved in the OCIA program. They were available to prospective students and dispersed throughout the halls and sat with students during OCIA classes.

"My sense as an observer is that the undergraduates are a much more central part of the life of the Newman Center," Kuehnle said.

He said undergraduate leaders were a great asset and a model of Catholic life. A number of Catholic students involved in the Newman Center are converts, he said, and they give credibility to the OCIA process.

"You find in this person not only a kind presence but also you learn that they, too, are a convert, and I just think that makes the process of conversion so much easier," he said.

Kuehnle said undergraduate volunteers set out to intentionally meet each person in the OCIA program. He said students interested in converting could then picture themselves living the Catholic life.

"So much of actually converting is a psychological, social question: Can I imagine myself as a Catholic?" Kuehnle said. "And so, when you meet somebody who did convert, they're nice, they're still a normal person, they are very much thriving as a Christian, (and) suddenly it makes it much easier to imagine yourself being a convert too."

Several small group leaders served as sponsors for the catechumens, who are

unbaptized individuals seeking the sacraments of initiation, and the candidates, who are baptized Christians seeking full communion with the Catholic Church.

FOCUS and SPO connected missionaries with students who needed a sponsor.

Many students who entered the Church previously met their sponsor through a formation opportunity, such as a small group or Bible study, at the Newman Center. Kuehnle said the undergraduate leader had walked with the individual for months before serving as their sponsor.

"Students are leading each other," Kuehnle said. "There is a certain empowerment of student disciples in the form of student leaders in small groups or Bible studies or elsewhere so that they're then bringing each other into the faith."

Of the 30 who entered the Church this year, 12 were catechumens, 13 were candidates, four were baptized Catholic and completed their sacraments, and one belonged to the Ethiopian Orthodox Church and entered full communion with the Roman Catholic Church.

Kuehnle attributed the catechumen-to-candidate ratio as a sign of success. He recognized the near-equal number of catechumens and candidates entering the Church this year as noteworthy.

"That, I think, is another way that this program stands out among other (Order of Christian Initiation) OCI programs I've been involved in or observed is the proportion of those who are coming into the faith from nothing," he said.

A convert himself, Kuehnle entered the Catholic Church in 2015 while a college student at the University of Chicago. He has been involved with or observed parish-based OCIA programs throughout the years.

Kuehnle said it is a testament to the vitality of the Newman Center at Ohio State that individuals with no exposure to the Christian faith or no personal or family experience are being fully initiated in the Catholic Church.

"I think we're actually really doing our job as evangelists when we're also bringing someone into the faith who doesn't know Jesus Christ in any way," he said.

He also noted that the Newman Center was more intentional about avoiding limitations to the OCIA program this year. More than 50 individuals reached out or expressed interest in converting to Catholicism at the Newman Center.

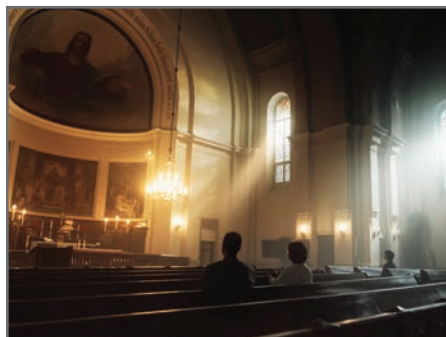
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Number of individuals who entered the Catholic Church at the Newman Center in the past decade:

2014	8	2020	11
2015	14	2021	7
2016	9	2022	10
2017	13	2023	20
2018	19	2024	30



**BUCKEYE
CATHOLIC**



Front page photo

SEEKING A SAFE HAVEN

Pornography and human trafficking are impacting families and couples, who are praying for healing and an end to a serious problem that Bishop Earl Fernandes called attention to with a Safe Haven Sunday message during the weekend of April 13-14. *iStock photo*

**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.

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

National Eucharistic Procession coming through diocese

The National Eucharistic Procession, a prelude to this summer's highly anticipated National Eucharistic Congress in Indianapolis, will come through the diocese in late June and make eight stops before traveling on to western Ohio and eventually to the final destination.

The Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Route, one of four Eucharistic processions crisscrossing the country, will begin in New Haven, Connecticut, on May 17 and move through New York, New Jersey, Maryland, Pennsylvania and West Virginia before entering Ohio on June 21 in the Diocese of Steubenville.

The first of eight stops in the Diocese of Columbus will be at Somerset St. Joseph Church on Monday, June 24.

Over the following six days, the procession will travel west to Newark Blessed Sacrament and St. Francis de Sales churches on Tuesday, June 25; Pickerington St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish on Wednesday, June 26; Columbus Christ the King Church on Thursday, June 27; Columbus St. Charles Preparatory School on Friday, June 28; Westerville St. Paul the Apostle Church on Saturday, June 29; and Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral on Sunday, June 30.

The schedule, which varies at each location, will be made available through parishes, organizations and diocesan media outlets.

Bishop Earl Fernandes is scheduled to celebrate Mass at five locations, including three that will be bilingual (Spanish). Many of the parishes will offer Eucharistic Adoration, processions and picnics.

Parishioners and guests are encouraged to register to attend at www.columbuscatholic.org/revival to allow organizers to estimate the size of the crowd at each stop. Visitors from outside the diocese are also expected to attend.

The Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Route is one of four 60-day processions headed for Indianapolis and the National Eucharistic Congress on July 17-21 at Lucas Oil Stadium. After the Columbus visits, the Seton Route will move southwest into the Archdiocese of Cincinnati.

The Marian Route starts in northern Minnesota and cuts across Wisconsin into Illinois and the Chicago

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SAINT ELIZABETH ANN SETON ROUTE NATIONAL EUCHARISTIC PROCESSION JUNE 24 - JUNE 30, 2024

MONDAY JUNE 24

St. Joseph Catholic Church, Somerset
8:00 am All Day Eucharistic Adoration
7:00 pm Mass with Bishop Earl K. Fernandes
8:00 pm Eucharistic Procession

TUESDAY JUNE 25

St. Francis de Sales Parish, Newark
4:00 pm Eucharistic Procession Church of the Blessed Sacrament, Newark
5:15 pm Eucharistic Adoration St. Francis de Sales, Newark
6:30 pm Picnic Dinner

WEDNESDAY JUNE 26

Seton Parish, Pickerington
9:00 am All Day Eucharistic Adoration
6:00 pm Mass
7:00 pm Eucharistic Procession
8:00 pm Picnic Dinner

THURSDAY JUNE 27

Christ the King, Columbus
6:00 pm Eucharistic Adoration
7:00 pm Mass (Spanish) with Bishop Earl K. Fernandes
8:00 pm Picnic Dinner

FRIDAY JUNE 28

St. Charles Preparatory School, Columbus
5:30 pm Arrival time
6:00 pm Mass with Bishop Earl K. Fernandes (Bilingual)

SATURDAY JUNE 29

St. Paul the Apostle Parish, Westerville
9:00 am Eucharistic Adoration
10:00 am Mass with Bishop Earl K. Fernandes
11:00 am Eucharistic Procession
12:00 pm - 2:00 pm Vocations Fair in the Klinger Center

SUNDAY JUNE 30

St. Joseph Cathedral, Columbus
12:30 pm Mass (Bilingual) with Bishop Earl K. Fernandes
2:00 pm Eucharistic Procession
2:30 pm Picnic Dinner

For more information and to register, go to www.columbuscatholic.org/revival

Clergy assignments announced

The following clergy assignments were announced by the diocese during the weekend of April 6-7. They are scheduled to take place in June and July.

Reverend Emmanuel Adu Addai, from Chaplain and member of the Ethics Committee, Genesis Hospital, Zanesville, and Chaplain, Bishop Rosecrans High School, Zanesville, to Pastor, Perry County Consortium (St. Rose of Lima Church, New Lexington, and St. Patrick Church, Junction City), effective July 9, 2024.

Confirming the appointment of the Prior Provincial of the Dominican Province of St. Joseph, **Reverend Stephen Alcott, OP**, from Pastor, St. Patrick Church, Columbus, to service outside the diocese, effective June 10, 2024.

Reverend Todd Lehigh, from Pastor, Perry County Consortium (St. Rose of

Lima Church, New Lexington, and St. Patrick Church, Junction City), to Assistant Chaplain, St. Thomas More Newman Center, The Ohio State University, Columbus, and Hospital Chaplain, effective July 9, 2024.

Reverend Theodore Machnik, from Pastor, St. Joseph Church, Circleville, to retirement, and in-service to Sacred Heart, Coshocton, and St. Peter, Millersburg, effective July 1, 2024.

Confirming the appointment of the Prior Provincial of the Dominican Province of St. Joseph, **Reverend Paul Marich, OP**, Parochial Vicar, St. Patrick Church, Columbus, to Pastor, St. Patrick Church, Columbus, effective June 10, 2024.

Reverend Daniel W. Olvera, from Parochial Vicar, St. Paul Church, Westerville, to Pastor, St. Bernadette Parish,

Lancaster (including St. Joseph Church, Sugar Grove), effective July 9, 2024.

Reverend Ramon Macoy Cruz Owera, to Pastor, St. Joseph Church, Circleville, effective July 1, 2024, continuing as Administrator, St. Dominic Church and the Community of Holy Rosary/St. John the Evangelist, Columbus, until July 8, 2024.

Reverend Tyron J. Tomson, from Pastor, St. Bernadette Parish, Lancaster (including St. Joseph Church, Sugar Grove), to graduate studies in Scripture, Rome, Italy, effective July 9, 2024.

Confirming the appointment of the Superior of the Sons of the Immaculate Conception, **Reverend Antony Varghese, CFIC**, from Parochial Vicar, St. Paul the Apostle Church, Westerville, to administrator, St. Dominic Church, Columbus, and St. Francis of Assisi Church,

Columbus, effective July 9, 2024.

Reverend James B. Farnan, from service outside of the Diocese to Parochial Vicar, St. Paul the Apostle Church, Westerville, effective July 9, 2024.

Confirming the appointment of the Superior of the Heralds of the Good News, **Reverend Jins Kuppakara Devasia, HGN**, to Parochial Vicar, Church of the Ascension, Johnstown, continuing as Parochial Vicar, St. John Neumann Church, Sunbury, in residence at Church of the Ascension, Johnstown, effective July 9, 2024.

Confirming the appointment of the Superior of the Heralds of the Good News, **Reverend Anish Thomas, HGN**, in residence at Church of the Ascension, Johnstown, continuing as Parochial Vicar, Church of the Resurrection, New Albany, effective July 9, 2024.

BISHOP EARL K. FERNANDES

Safe Haven Sunday addresses scourges of pornography, trafficking

This year on April 13 and 14, the Diocese of Columbus participated in Safe Haven Sunday, which seeks to address the scourge of pornography and its effects, including human trafficking. It is one of the leading causes of addiction, adultery and divorce, and produces distorted attitudes toward the body, sex and marriage. It is also one of the leading causes of human trafficking and creates an unsafe environment for children and adults. It is devastating to marriages and families, damaging society and the common good.

The effects of this distorted view of human life can be seen in the devastation of human trafficking. Our announcement of the Gospel of Life is a proclamation about the dignity of all human life and the gift of sexuality. All people should be treated with dignity and respect, worthy of love. A person deserves to be treated as a person – and loved as a person – rather than being viewed as an object to be used or viewed for another person's pleasure.

As a Church, we have a specific responsibility for the care and protection of both adults and young people. We cannot af-

ford to ignore the problem. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' statement, *Create in Me a Clean Heart*, states, "We must see our role in protecting children from pornography as our sacred duty, as well as an aspect of our work to create safe environments in accord with our ongoing implementation of the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People."

Our responsibility extends beyond young people. The crisis at the border is a humanitarian crisis, but it also involves the trafficking of persons, often for sexual purposes. It is estimated that more than 5 million people are trafficked in the United States, and many of these are vulnerable people. Ohio, because of its developed highway system, is a prime locus where persons are trafficked. Elevated levels of poverty and drugs in some parts of the state also leave Ohioans vulnerable to exploitation.

While there are many factors that lead to this vulnerability that must be addressed, one issue that we cannot neglect is the demand for gratification that leads to the manipulation and coercion of vulnerable people. Manipulation often hap-

pens through grooming behaviors, false promises of work, through social media and through websites that offer illicit materials. Whether we realize it or not, some of our un-Christian behaviors and desires may be contributing to the trafficking of persons and the ruining of lives. Personal sin has social and spiritual consequences, not just in theory, but in the reality of people's lives.

What is it that will truly satisfy the deepest longings of the human heart? While we must address the desires of the heart as a moral issue, the response of the Church must extend also to greater awareness and education, through medical and pastoral care for victims and to developing opportunities for affordable housing and recovery for victims of trafficking. Pope Francis has said: "Human trafficking is an open wound on the body of contemporary society, a scourge upon the body of Christ ... It is a crime against humanity."

On the third Sunday of Easter, Luke recounts that the Risen Lord told his disciples:

"Thus, it is written that the Christ would suffer

and rise from the dead on the third day and that repentance, for the forgiveness of sins,

would be preached in his name to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem.

You are witnesses of these things."

The priests throughout the Diocese of Columbus are here to provide help and support in overcoming addictions and refocusing on the vision of God. They make themselves available to you in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. The Lord's love and mercy is much greater than our sin. There are resources available from the Office of Evangelization to help you begin having conversations with your family about these issues as well as ways to overcome addictive behaviors and to protect your families.

This year, there is a specific focus on the dangers of pornography and its relationship to the evil of human trafficking. All of the resources can be found on the Diocese of Columbus website by visiting columbuscatholic.org/safe-haven.

Cultural influences present obstacles to living chaste lives

By Castus Society

What is chastity or living a chaste life? The long-term view and acceptable myth is that it is about not having sex or not having sexual relations under the wrong conditions.

To some of us, this might give a misleading impression as to where that would leave the role of sex in our lives.

The words "chaste" and "chastity" stem from the Latin adjective *castus*, which means "pure." The words entered the English language around the middle of the 13th century; at that time, they meant slightly different things. "Chaste" meant "virtuous or pure from unlawful sexual intercourse" (referring to extramarital sex), while "chastity" meant "virginity." It was not until the late 16th century that the two words came to have the same basic meaning as a related adjective and noun.

According to Webster, "chastity" refers to the sexual behavior of a man or woman acceptable to the moral standards and guidelines of a culture, civilization or religion. In the Western world, the term has become closely associated (and is often used interchangeably) with sexual abstinence, especially before marriage. However, the term remains applicable to persons in all states, single or married, clerical or lay, and has implications beyond sexual temperance.

Chastity needs to become more than

Influence of pornography

The articles on these pages in *The Catholic Times* were written by individuals whose lives have been impacted by pornography and immodest images. The names are changed to protect their identities.

The Castus Society is a fellowship organization that, according to its mission statement, is dedicated to the

our antiquated textbook view of what we perceive it to be when we say, "We want to live a chaste life." Chastity is not just a description of whether or not we have sex or whether or not we are monogamous or even if we are celibate. Chastity is part of the celebration of God's gift of life in harmony with our vocations, whether we are single, married, or religious. How we celebrate, our chastity directly connects to our vocations and our vocations are the basis for which we understand its meaning to be in each of our lives.

Over the years, we have walked away from our understanding of what it is to be chaste. Some of us have even run from it so that we could be as self-indulgent as we like. At times, we don't even acknowledge the responsibility we have to those in our lives, whether they are here by our choices in life or by godly gifts to us. Nevertheless, these are souls for which we are responsible. Our stew-

ardship of these gifts has been nothing less than wanting.

Chastity is not just a word or even just a burden from God; it is a way of life. Webster was so accurate when he stated, "the term remains applicable to persons in all states, single or married, clerical or lay, and has implications beyond sexual temperance."

To the married man, the sound of sexual temperance may leave him bewildered. He doesn't understand the idea of what it is to have complete fidelity in the relationship, forsaking all else that could distract him from living a fulfilling yet chaste life with his blushing bride, and yes with God's blessing his loving family.

For the single man with the hopes of one day having a family, sexual temperance includes complete abstinence until after marriage. The concept of waiting seems so foreign to most. They cannot grasp the idea of self-denial let alone worry about the spiritual and emotional

needs of those they supposedly love, or in some cases, those for whom they just have desire.

For most men, the desire or chosen vocation is to have a woman in their lives, someone to hold dear, or cherish, a mate to share life. We do not understand the importance of chastity and the role it plays in all aspects of our lives. How it affects wives, daughters, sons, sisters, brothers, friends, foes. Our obligation to demonstrate chastity is endless.

We so easily forget that God is always with us, even when we think we are alone. Oh, how often do we forget to apologize to God, the Holy Spirit and our Guardian Angel for our indiscretions, big or small? Too many times have I had to say at the end of the day, "Lord, forgive me for not being a better steward of your gifts." Remember that the honorable man does what is honorable even when no one else is around.

The best example and lesson is "Lord, help me to guard my eyes." I am confident that most of us do not realize what a great blessing this simple action can be and how great the consequences are from ignoring this action. We walk through our days so often not giving any credence to the images we take in. Every glimpse, every backward glance, every purposeful lingering look burns an image into our vast memory bank.

When these opportunities are present-

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Looking at lurid images mimics a drug hit for the brain

By Ines C.

We've been married for decades. He is a good man. We are both against pornography and its evils. How did I not know? One thing I didn't understand is the addiction of pornography. It's a *drug* hit that has the confusing evil of lust wrapped up in the brain hit of a drug, like heroin. It's more about the hit than the image they are viewing, but the image is the catalyst to getting the hit.

Now, how *did* I find out? I came across the search on his phone. At first, I thought I caused the images to pop up. That's how sure I was that my husband wouldn't do something like this. Then I saw the search words and I was confused and hurt and shocked all at the same time. He came clean and told me that he had wanted to tell me so many times, but he was afraid that I would leave him.

I was hit all at once with an entire marriage that he was battling this addiction. He had been trying to stop for years and he would go back even though he never wanted to go back to it. He would fall, go to confession and begin again.

I remember that evening, listening and trying to make sense of the nightmare that was unfolding. Our entire marriage now seemed like a lie! I remember telling him that looking at those images and videos was adultery!

He honestly seemed as shocked as me that it was adultery, as he said he just saw it as images.

I was in shock. I couldn't even cry. I just had so many questions. Mostly, why, why, why? I felt so disgusted by what he did! He was a betrayer and a liar! What did his marriage vows mean to him? I thought I knew him, but now everything was in question. He said he was thankful that hiding this tremendous shame was done and that he didn't have to be alone in this ever again.

I didn't know what to do. I felt so betrayed! Could I ever trust him again? Before this, he had my trust, but that was gone! I felt so hurt! Hurt feels like an understatement. I felt like I was being buried by all my questions and his answers. The answers didn't really help. I felt so ugly! I felt so unappreciated! I felt so unwanted! I felt so cast aside! Cast aside for the immodest, young woman who freely posts on social media. I felt so hurt. I felt so angry at the people who made it so easy to see the pornography.

Our *whole* culture is permeated with pornography. You don't even have to search. Once the weather is warm, it's even more all over the place. The immodesty is even all over the pews in Holy Mass. The crop tops, midriff tops, shorts, short skirts, leggings, tight pants and tight tops are just normal clothing for so many now. They don't know what

they are doing to those with addictions and their families.

I really wish women would not confuse immodesty with beauty, but that is another discussion. The addicts, like my husband, don't find this beautiful - they hate it -- they hate that they go back to this -- they want to be free! The immodesty triggers that bade them to return to the addiction for that drug hit are everywhere.

I was angry at people who posted their pictures and videos and hated them for posting it and wearing those clothes. He saw much of this posted on the feeds in Facebook, Snapchat, YouTube and also Google searches.

I don't know that I had ever felt unloved by my husband, but I did when I found out and I still battle this feeling. When those feelings of betrayal trauma creep back in, I feel unloved, empty, ugly and worth so little. Every time I see an immodestly dressed woman, those feelings hit me hard and I feel like I am being flooded with pain and emotions and I feel so disgusted because I know firsthand the hurt this causes.

I ask men who want to live their faith to be honest about what these images do to them. Women and girls need to listen about how immodesty harms boys and men. It's not just clothing. There's an ugly addiction there. Please stop triggering this addiction.

There is so much more I could write

about not being able to unsee an image, so please don't callously say "don't look" when they see you then they can look away, but the image is in the mind and it can't be "unseen." It's not a boys will be boys thing. That's always been a lie; it's an addiction. Much more of the population battles this than most of us realize and it is likely very close to home for a great many of us. We just might not know it yet. Have you ever thought that this could be why your loved one is not a practicing Catholic anymore? Could they be caught in the shame cycle of addiction and don't feel they can come back to church? This addiction is filled with so much shame and feeling worthless and unlovable.

My husband's addiction started when a boy from school showed him a pornography magazine at age eight. He didn't even know what was happening in his mind and body. He was so young and so confused. One time is all it takes to start this addiction. Sadly, the addictive images are posted on the internet and just walking around in public now as normal fashion choices. The children that are being harmed by our culture makes me feel physically ill.

How am I getting through this? The Lord, Our Blessed Lady, St. Michael the Archangel. Pray, love, forgive, surrender, repeat. Lamentations 3:21-26

OBSTACLES, continued from Page 4

ed to us, we do not stop and think about whether or not we should afford them to ourselves, or whether or not we are entitled to them.

"Entitled to them" is a curious concept. What exactly would give us that entitlement? Does it mean we deserve of them, that we have a right to them or maybe that they are just freely offered to us? I would dare to say that none of these claims gives us our just entitlements -- not even the free offering.

Our culture today has put such a burden on the just person, let alone those who are just holding on from going over the edge. We as a society have so inundated women with such a competitive attitude that they seem to be going to any length to vie for attention. Offering image after image without any understanding of the impact that this will have on all of their future relationships, how they re-

late to their future husbands, what they teach to their sisters or daughters, and the lack of respect it shows to their parents and grandparents.

The level of immodest dress, word and deed has escalated to a level that we cannot manage. So desensitized, we cannot even begin to see the impact that our selfish desires have had on others and the burden we have laid upon them. The responsibility for this tragedy must be placed on the backs of men. We must shoulder the responsibility of correction in earnest, as eagerly as we accepted the supposed pleasures that it afforded us. There are those who will never see the error of their ways and the destruction that their selfish desires have created. There are also those who are completely self-indulgent and who choose not to acknowledge the problem that they have helped to create.

Lust leads to mistrust

I remember once when we were dating, he drove to my work to give me a hug during a particularly bad day. During that hug I thanked Jesus for using this man to show me His love for me; using this man's arms as His arms and feet to hug me. I truly fell in love with him as a man who loved me like Christ loves His Church.

But when I caught him looking at porn, he not only became an adulterer. My pro-

tector became my assailant. My earthly safe place is gone. My female insecurities and struggles of inadequacies are realized. I don't know how to be brave enough to be sexually vulnerable to him now. I never imagined I would be faced with having to learn how to forgive him for infidelity after his arms wrapped around me like they were the arms of Christ.

-- Marie Dare

First, let us look at what we convey in thought, word or deed. The baser issue is how we view our fellow men. Do we view them as companions and what we can do to serve them, or do we view them as a pawn and viewed as an object to be used to serve whatever desires or level of accomplishment we want for ourselves in life or at any given moment? The moment we decide that others are here to serve us, we have placed ourselves in a position we are not deserving let alone qualified. Part of our responsibilities in the gift of life is to be good stewards of all that God has created and endowed to us. So often we take for granted the marvelous gifts He has given us.

"We are a work in progress ... We are called to be faith-fill -- not success-fill" (Mother Teresa). What are we entitled to? What do we convey in thought, word or deed? What is message we take home and teach? Are they objects to serve our every desire? Our wives, daughters, sisters, and mothers, what do we encourage them to be? What do we tell them that we value in them?

The Castus Society meets at two locations in the diocese to provide support and encouragement for chastity. For more information, visit castussociety.org, call or text 614-600-2223 or send an email to info@castussociety.org.

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Marriage, family suffer from the effects

By Catherine d' Genovia

I knew, but I didn't know; hindsight is always 20/20.

The first red flag was the Playboy I found when we were dating. I did not think much of it back in the 90's. "Boys will be boys." Next time I looked, it was gone.

Soon after we were married, the emotional distance started. The lack of emotional intimacy after we were physically intimate was missing. There was a quick move out of the bed on his part. After a while, I started to feel very used; I longed for the emotional connection that should occur after the physical intimacy.

Things got busy with children and taking care of them, and the distance remained. I would head up to bed early and he would stay up and watch TV. I was sickened when I would turn the TV on the next morning and find unsavory programming on the screen. Pornography addiction was not even on my radar -- I was so naive.

Time moved on, more red flags occurred: internet conversations, ogling young women, lashing out at me, lack of engagement, denial of physical intimacy or putting me off when I initiated anything, sometimes rough and thoughtless encounters. These all left me feeling used, unloved, unwanted and not re-

spected as person let alone a wife. I felt more like a maid and prostitute than a wife and a friend.

Needless to say, our marriage suffered terribly. There were intense confrontations and denials and fights about his behavior and what he was watching and what we're allowing the kids to watch. The kids knew something was not right with the constant bickering and general ugliness between us. Still, the idea of a pornography addiction never occurred to me. I understood and continued with my "wifely" duties but felt so used and dirty after physical encounters that sex became emotionally distressing for me, so I stated turning away and denying my husband.

With computers, iPads and iPhones, pornography was available everywhere, any time. Facebook and inappropriate postings along with a change in women's fashions -- leggings, for young and old, lack of undergarments, tops and dresses too short, too tight and plunging, even at Mass, created a perfect storm. The iPhone was in constant use, and the iPad found its way in into our bedroom under the guise of watching news or sports. So many arguments and lies, so much ugliness and evil in our home -- still I had no proof that he was looking at pornography; he was very sly and would close out screens as I entered the room. Then one night I found the proof I needed on the iPad. Too blatant to ignore, the confron-

tation occurred, and they continued as did the addiction and the lies. Therapy was started and stopped -- the children knew that something was not right even though we tried to act as if everything was "fine." There was so much ugliness and lack of respect and love in our home.

Tired of feeling used as an object and tossed aside, I put an end to our physical relationship, which remains today. After many conversations, my husband has accepted this abstinence. My hurt and betrayal is very deep. A good 15 years of our marriage has been fraught with lies, lack of trust and confrontation. I call pornography the "silent addiction," a "secret" that no one wants to talk about on either side. We have started therapy again, and it seems to be effective as we are addressing other issues.

I have used the pseudonym Catherine d'Genovia in honor of Saint Catherine of Genoa. A friend introduced me to this saint recognizing our similarities: a difficult marriage and husband, the constant battle between the flesh and the soul, which St. Catherine writes about in "The Spiritual Dialogue" as well as Catherine's courage in the commitment to live a life of celibacy within her marriage. Catherine also persevered in prayer for the conversion of her husband. I highly recommend reading about this saint and her amazing life.

Shortly after I was introduced to St. Catherine of Genoa, Our Lady of Fati-

SPIRITUAL RESOURCES

BOOK:

The Spiritual Doctrine of Saint Catherine of Genoa: Saint Catherine of Genoa, 1447-1510 and Don Catterneo Marabotto, Her Confessor

BOOKLET

Our Lady of Fatima's Peace Plan from Heaven: Copyright 1983 by Tan Books, an Imprint of St. Benedict Press, LLC.

ma came to my aid in a very powerful way. Our Lady clearly states: "Certain fashions will be introduced that will offend Our Lord very much." And, "More souls go to Hell because of sins of the flesh than for any other reason!" Both St. Catherine and Our Lady of Fatima confirmed what I had been feeling for years. They provided me with the strength and courage I need to fight this battle.

The sacraments, the weapon found in praying the Rosary, the saints and most importantly, Our Lady of Fatima have all been instruments in healing both of us. My prayer for future generations and married couples is always for an increase in purity, modesty and chastity and that this scourge of pornography is ended.

Husband, wife go down dark road together before putting on brakes

By Margo N.

In the mid-1980s, Dr. Ruth, a German American sex therapist, seemed to be on every talk show in the country. Porn was often a topic for her, and she promoted "a little porn," believing it was good for spicing up a marriage. Though I grew up attending Sunday school and church regularly, I had drifted away from God and my faith.

One evening we stopped at a video store on the west side of Columbus. My husband went in by himself and came out with an X rated movie. I wasn't sure what to expect, but I wasn't opposed to watching it. Dr. Ruth said it was OK,

right?

One night, one movie, one bad choice, and the door was opened to a nightmare that lasted over a decade! I was disgusted with the images, yet I was hooked.

Porn became a drug. We watched it together. I secretly watched it alone. We subscribed to the satellite channel so we didn't have to go to the video store's hidden back room. I hated myself, but I couldn't stop. I felt like I was living just outside the gates of hell all those years, and I felt so much shame!

Then God stepped in -- in a big way! And He reminded me I was made for so much more. I cleaned house, literally, and got rid of every video, every book,

anything that was a part of those disastrous years. And I filled my life with Jesus! I studied the Bible, I listened to worship music, read good books and watched Christian movies.

When I realized I couldn't do it alone, because the shame was too great, I found a Christian therapist, a wonderful grace-giver. She walked back my journey with me, gently and with such compassion that I felt safe enough to share it all with her. And I began to heal from the shame and the pain associated with those memories.

But the images of those movies were still in my brain. I couldn't just throw them in the dumpster with all the other trash!

It took more counseling, more work, but I learned that we can rewire our brains. The neural pathways can be altered, shut down and redirected. The images came from Satan, so I began talking back to him. If one came to mind, I'd tell him no, and not allow myself to linger with it. That was an important part of my healing process.

Praise God! I am truly born again. That life feels like it belongs to someone else, not me. It feels so foreign to me. Today I am set free, forgiven, and so very blessed.

Yet I remain vigilant. Satan will never stop trying to win me back. It is my cross to carry, and with God's grace, I keep marching forward.

PROCESSION, continued from Page 3

area before crossing over into Indiana.

The St. Juan Diego Route launches from Matamoros in south Texas on the Mexican border and journeys north through Houston and then into Louisiana and New Orleans before continuing east through Mississippi and Alabama. In Georgia, the procession will stop in Atlanta before turning north again toward Tennessee (through Nashville) and Kentucky (through Louisville) on the way to Indiana.

The Junipero Serra Route goes from

west to east, beginning in San Francisco and passing through Nevada, Oregon, Idaho, Utah, Colorado, Nebraska, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri and downstate Illinois.

Small groups of young adults called Perpetual Pilgrims will travel the entire route, covering 10-15 miles per day, over two months.

Father Roger Landry, a priest in the Diocese of Fall River, Massachusetts who is serving as a chaplain at Columbia University in New York, will make the entire 1,500-mile trek on the Seton Route.

Members of the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal, based in New York, will join the pilgrims on a rotating basis during the pilgrimages.

The culmination of the four processions is the five-day National Eucharistic Congress in Indianapolis that will feature speakers, activities, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, Masses, prayers, vendors and exhibits. For more information, visit www.eucharisticcongress.org.

Bishop Fernandes will offer a special

Mass at the Congress in Indianapolis on Wednesday, July 17. More details will be announced at a later date.

Updates related to the Eucharistic Revival in the Diocese of Columbus can be found by visiting www.columbuscatholic.org/evangelization/national-eucharistic-revival. Registration and full Eucharistic Congress passes or day passes can also be accessed through the diocesan site.

Easter Friday is NOT Good Friday

Dear Father,

I look forward to your writings in *The Catholic Times*. However, your answer to eating meat on Easter Friday got me a few stern words from Father X at St. Y because I confused Easter Friday with Good Friday and told him that you wrote that I could eat meat on Good Friday. My weak excuse for confusing the two days is I was not raised Catholic and plead ignorance. I do not think I'm alone in confusing Easter Friday with Good Friday and bet you get other feedback on this article.

-Stu

Dear Father,

I would like to comment on an article in the most recent issue of *The Catholic Times* of March 24th. It would be helpful if it can be clarified that Easter Friday is not Good Friday as no meat should be eaten on Good Friday.

-James

Dear Stu,

Knowing your pastor, I have to admit that I was amused while picturing in my mind the encounter between you and Father X. You have a bit of an excuse for confusing the two days since you recently became a Catholic. You related in your email that you were married to a Catholic lady for over 60 years. I would have thought that the topic of Good Friday might have come up at least once in all that time. Alas.

Apparently, you are not alone in confusing it with Easter Friday, judging from the mail I received on the matter. Perhaps it's a sign of the broader cultural ignorance. Already 25 years ago, as a college professor, I encountered Catholic students who had attended Catho-

SACRAMENTS 101

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

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lic schools but did not know basic biblical stories such as the Prodigal Son and the Good Samaritan.

While it's "water under the bridge" to some extent now that we are in the Easter liturgical season, I feel the need to warn my readers that Good Friday and Easter Friday are not synonymous. Easter Friday is, well, the Friday of Easter Week. Good Friday is the Friday before Easter Sunday.

Good Friday has been kept as a most sacred feast by the Church since the very first Good Friday, when Christ suffered and died on the cross. The Greeks called it the Holy and Great Friday, whereas other cultures called it Sorrowful Friday. The Catholic Encyclopedia says that the origin of the name "Good" is not clear. It makes sense that we call it Good Friday in English because it is the day our Lord gave His life for us and our salvation. The only greater day is Easter Sunday, when He made us sharers in His resurrection from the dead.

Good Friday is the one day of the year that we do not celebrate a Mass per se. There is a unique liturgy composed of the liturgy of the Word including the Passion according to St. John, then chanted solemn intercessions with kneeling, the veneration of the Cross, and Holy Communion. Holy Communion is distributed from that which was consecrated the previous night celebrating the Last Supper since we do not have a

Mass this day.

Good Friday is a day of fasting and abstaining from meat as we sorrowfully remember what our sins cost our loving Jesus on that dark day. Easter Friday is the day to feast.

Like the suppression of the Alleluia during Lent, which we more than make up for by the ever-present Alleluias of Easter Week and Easter season, our Lenten fasting and abstention from meat gives way to jubilant banqueting throughout Easter Week.

Of course, you don't have to eat meat on Easter Friday (I hear the vegans breathing a sigh of relief), but you ought to celebrate with feasting. Why? Because Easter is the solemnity of solemnities, as ranks of liturgical celebrations go.

So great is the solemnity of Easter that we take an entire eight days to celebrate it. Thus the whole week following Easter Sunday is a solemnity for Christians. Even the gospel passage of each day of Easter week is an unfolding of the one day, Easter Sunday.

I recently read one Catholic article whose author thinks that Easter feasting actually makes you holier. As a Dominican who is also a foodie, I assure you that eating good food and drinking good drink helps make us more fully human. To not celebrate the gift of our new life in Christ could be a sign of indifference to our Lord's work of re-creating us.

Finally, the Code of Canon Law stipulates that we abstain from meat on all Fridays of the year "unless a solemnity should fall on a Friday" (#1251). This doesn't mean, of course, that we must eat meat on Easter Friday, but it does mean that some form of celebration is in order. Why? To show our joy and gratitude for the Lord's triumph over death and sin and that He will raise us from the dead to share in His Holy Resurrection.

Radiant in the GULAG and elsewhere

In *Jesus of Nazareth – Holy Week*, Pope Benedict XVI remarked on the striking parallel between the presence of the holy women at the cross of Christ and their role in the first appearances of the Risen Lord:

Just as there were only women standing by the Cross – apart from the beloved disciple – so too the first encounter with the Risen Lord was destined to be for them. The Church's juridical structure is founded on Peter and the Eleven, but in the day-to-day life of the Church, it is the women who are constantly opening the door to the Lord and accompanying him to the Cross, and so it is they who come to experience the Risen One.

This truth over the centuries is ably demonstrated by Bronwen McShea in her fine new book, *Women of the Church: What Every Catholic Should Know*. And no woman of our Catholic moment embodied this Christocentric fidelity — opening doors to Christ, accompanying him to Calvary, living in the joy of the Resurrection — than Sister Nijolė Sadūnaitė, who died, appropriately, on Easter Sunday, March 31.

A clandestine religious in Soviet-occupied Lithuania from the time she was 18, Sister Nijolė helped create and distribute the *Chronicle of the Catholic Church in Lithuania*, a record of ongoing harassment, persecution, and martyrdom that had the honor of being the longest-running, uninterrupted dissident publication in the history of the USSR. Through surreptitious means, issue after issue of the *Chronicle* (which was produced in multiple copies on manual typewriters using 10 sheets of carbon paper) was smuggled out of Lithuania to Europe and North America; it was then translated into various languages, to the intense aggra-

THE CATHOLIC DIFFERENCE

George Weigel

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vation of the masters of the multinational empire that was in truth a vast prison covering 11 time zones. So, one by one, the leading figures in the publication of the *Chronicle* were arrested by the KGB and sentenced to the GULAG camps. In 1975, Nijolė Sadūnaitė got three years of hard labor and three years of Siberian exile.

In the GULAG, she was tortured, imprisoned in a psychiatric hospital, and spent stretches in solitary confinement. In exile, she worked as a charwoman, having previously done manual labor in a factory and cared for abandoned children. All the while, she kept her religious consecration a secret from everyone except her family and a few close friends. Released from exile, she resumed her underground resistance activities. When the KGB came looking for her in 1982, she went underground for five years, during which she wrote a memoir of her prison camp experience, which was published in 1987 as *A Radiance in the Gulag* — an apt title for the reflections of a woman of infectious joy, remarkable energy, and unbroken spirit. During the Gorbachev thaw in the late 1980s, Sister Nijolė, by then a national heroine, became publicly visible at the mass demonstrations that eventually led to Lithuania's auto-liberation in 1990-1991.

From 1986 to 1987, I helped my friend Congressman John Miller (himself Jewish) form the bipartisan Lithuanian Catholic Religious Freedom Caucus in the U.S. House of Representatives. The Caucus's work, in collaboration with the Reagan Administration, helped free two founders of the *Chronicle* from the GULAG, Father Alfonsas Svarinskis and Father Sigitas Tamkevičius, SJ (later the archbishop of Kaunas and a cardinal). Those two white martyrs, as well as Sister Nijolė, eventually made their way to Washington, where I had the honor of meeting each of them (as I did a second time during a moving reunion in Vilnius in 2013). On her visit to the nation's capital, Sister Nijolė wanted to visit Washington's cathedral. Afterward, while standing in front of St. Matthew's on Rhode Island Avenue, she suddenly took a pin with a stylized version of the Lithuanian national coat of arms from her handbag, affixed it to my suit jacket lapel, and gave me a great hug. I felt as if I, a civilian, had been decorated by a combat veteran.

Sister Nijolė's funeral Mass was celebrated in Vilnius's Calvary Church with most of the country's bishops present. At the end, there were spontaneous cries of *Santo subito!* (or its Lithuanian equivalent) — just as there had been after the funeral Mass of John Paul II, whom the underground nun, resistance hero, and GULAG survivor revered. I hope it happens, someday, that the Church recognizes the heroic virtues of Nijolė Sadūnaitė and canonizes her. I have no doubt, however, that in defending her and having been privileged to meet her, my life was touched by a saint, whose witness mirrored that of the holy women of Calvary and Easter.

Come out of your comfort zone to be brave soldiers for Jesus

“The world offers you comfort, but you were not made for comfort. You were made for greatness.” -- Pope Benedict XVI

One of things I really enjoy about strength training is that it is hard. To lift weights requires focus, trust in our bodies and perseverance to get it done. Strength training is not comfortable, and those thoughts of “why am I doing this?!” challenge me to finish. But when I’ve done it, it feels so good to have persevered through a hard challenge. In some small way, I hope this physical and mental challenge makes me stronger in other areas of my life, most importantly, in my spiritual life.

Our lives are so cushy. We like to be comfortable. I suppose that it’s normal, but I think that getting attached to the comforts of the world to such a high degree is what gets in the way of us growing into the “greatness” that Pope Benedict invites us to consider.

During Lent, I tried different ways to become less comfortable, with fasting from certain foods to foregoing conveniences and offering up aches and pains, sleepless nights and so on. I realized how much I like and seek comfort, and that challenged me to pray about it.

I also started walking with a backpack filled with weights. As you might expect, it makes a simple walk much more difficult and I offer the discomfort for those

HOLY AND HEALTHY | Lori Crock

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people and causes I’m praying for. Men and women in the military use this method of training to build physical and mental strength for their highly physical jobs.

When we are so used to being comfortable in our everyday lives, will we fight and claw and kick and scream when the hard things come? Or will we give our fiat, like Our Lady did, “Let it be done to me according to thy Word.” With so much comfort, can we unite our physical, mental and spiritual hardships with Jesus on the Cross to be an example of redemptive suffering, love, peace and a joy that is not of this world?

I want to get tougher for Jesus so that when big sufferings come, whether with myself or with my loved ones, I’ve trained my body, mind and soul to be lovingly united with Jesus.

St. Teresa of Avila said, “Courage, courage, my daughters. Remember that God does not give anyone more trials than can be suffered and that his majesty is with the afflicted. For this is certain, there is no reason to

fear but to hope in his mercy.”

I am blessed to take Holy Communion to a retirement center. We gather for a communion service and before we begin the service, we offer prayer intentions. I’ve noticed that the intentions are for others and rarely for themselves. The residents don’t complain about their physical ailments, and even when I ask, they really would rather spend the time praying for another than focusing on themselves.

Suffering is part of life, they tell me, and at their advanced age, they say that every day is a blessing. They have a beautiful gratitude for each other, for receiving Jesus in the Holy Eucharist, for their families and for the beautiful memories of their lives. They are truly brave soldiers for Jesus.

St. Therese of Lisieux said, “I always want to see you behaving like a brave soldier who does not complain about his own suffering but takes his comrades’ wounds seriously and treats his own as nothing but scratches.”

May we go deep and strong in all circumstances with love and compassion for others, keeping our focus not on the comforts of the world but on uniting our sufferings with Jesus. May we accept His invitation to greatness — which is eternal life with Him.

Feeling overwhelmed? Water your roots

Spring is in the air and I am itching to do all the things: wash the windows, declutter the house, plant the garden, mulch.

I am pondering where to start. Is it my cabinets? They certainly have platters and mixers and crock pots and bowls all ever so neatly and gently (I’m sure) placed by children’s hands after meals. What about the drawers of utensils and cooking tools? I haven’t been able to find the apple peeler in months! Or the windows. The dog’s nose has left a lovely little impressionist painting of drool on the living room window.

It all can be so overwhelming! Perhaps the spring cleaning needs to start a bit deeper than cabinets, gardens or even to-do lists.

I wrote a love letter to Jesus the other day telling him what I wanted these next few months to look like. How I wanted to know him better, how I wanted to meet him in different places and spaces of my life, and as I put that all on the page, I felt compelled to go back and pray over it. I asked the Lord where do you want to meet me? What do you have in store for me these next few months? Can we walk together? How can we be prepared?

And then it struck me. The “we” is where it’s at. Turning to the Lord reminds me of where to begin and how to look forward. It keeps Him involved in every conver-

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.



sation. When feelings of being overwhelmed either by circumstance or tasks overtake me, I need to go back to my roots. So I start my day in prayer. For me, that means going to my office, lighting a candle, brewing my tea, opening my devotional and bible and saying good morning to the Lord.

As a wife, mother, teacher, writer, I always have 10,000 thoughts going on in my mind, so I begin by giving them to the Lord. I write down all the people on my heart and give them to the Lord. I might journal a situation or two that I’m struggling with and place it at His feet. You take care of it, Jesus, please. It is then that my mind is clear to just sit with Him.

Sometimes I hit play on a quiet praise song as a way of pouring out my love for Him. I might doodle some of the lyrics in my journal that touch my heart that day. Then I have a going forward; Lord this day is yours. You know how I would go about it, but please let me do it your way. Steady my thoughts, calm my words. Keep

my eyes on you. Those are my roots.

From there, I can look ahead and plan. Again, the conversation is with the Lord. Lord I have these tasks, these opportunities, and yet I know You have more. I want to keep enough oil in my lamp that I am ready for the bridegroom at all times. Show me how to be prepared. Return to your roots, he says. Can it be that simple? I wonder.

I think the answer is “Yes” if our roots are planted in Him. Words like surrender, trust, praise, and worship are not just words. They have meaning and purpose that gives our life the richness the Lord designed it for. I am a visual person, so I imagine times in my life when I have surrendered, fully placed my trust in the Lord, and also when I have worshipped and praised Him with all my heart. These moments are private to me and incredibly beautiful in their transformative power into my life.

Perhaps those are the keys to the questions I posed to the Lord. How can I be prepared, Lord? What do You have in store for me? Water our roots. Feed them in the sacraments, prayer and worship and our earthly worries will not be carried alone.

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

Faith begins with creed: ‘I believe in one God’

St. Thomas Aquinas in his Catechetical Instructions begins with the Apostles’ Creed, breaking it down into “articles.” The first article, part one, is “I Believe in One God.”

He writes, “Among all the truths which the faithful must believe, this is the first -- that there is one God.”

Recall that our creeds go on to speak about God. St. Thomas want to address the importance of the existence of one God. He has provided five “proofs” from logic of the existence of God. In his Instructions, he focuses on what would be called the “argument from

AQUINAS CORNER | Richard Arnold

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design.”

Aquinas writes, “He who would believe that all things come into being by chance does not believe that there is a God. No one is so foolish as to deny that all nature, which operates with a certain definite time

and order, is subject to the rule and foresight and an orderly arrangement of someone. We see how the sun, the moon, and the stars, and all natural things follow a determined course, which would be impossible if they were merely products of chance.”

We know atheists have seen such arguments. There are scientists who study this orderly arrangement that don’t believe in God, even though if there were no orderly (intelligible) arrangement, it would be chaotic and therefore unintelligible. Of course, we God-fear-

See AQUINAS, Page 9

Gowns of grace, heaps of joy: rediscovering Catholicism

By Christina Capecchi
Twenty Something

Jenna Wright has come a long way from being an NFL cheerleader to a First Communion catechist. Now, rather than sporting a skimpy outfit at the Super Bowl, she's selling white gowns to second-grade girls and their families – and making it a memorable part of their sacramental preparation. It's the perfect fit for the mother of five who's rediscovered her faith.

Jenna was raised Catholic in Michigan. Again and again, the green-eyed blonde performed in the spotlight. As a teen, she trained in ballet and won a beauty pageant. In college she studied broadcast journalism and became a professional cheerleader. She even cheered at the Super Bowl.

Meanwhile, her faith was crumbling. "I was quite thin, yet I had huge body issues and felt low in my self-worth," she said. "I was surrounded by worldly things."

At the end of her junior year of college, Jenna hit a breaking point. "I'm tired of this!" she felt. "Jesus was calling me back."

She made her first confession in years. Grace began to flood in.

When the Cardinals invited Jenna back the following season, she declined. "I don't want to be dancing around in a bikini in front of hundreds of thousands of people," she thought. "I'm done with that."

The more she learned about her faith, the more her confidence surged.

Now 36, she and her husband, Eric, are raising five kids ages 1 to 10 on Daniel Island in Charleston, S.C., where they attend St. Clare of Assisi Catholic Church.

Jenna delights in leading First Communion classes. "That age group is still so sweet and innocent, but they're asking good questions and can understand bigger concepts," she said. "And the sacraments! I get teary-eyed just thinking about it. Whenever you receive the Eucharist, it's like you have a cup, and God is filling up your cup with grace. Sometimes it gets so full that it's overflowing so you just have to share it with other people."

As she taught, Jenna couldn't help but notice a business opportunity. It started when her firstborn needed a First Communion dress. No local stores were selling them, and shopping online didn't feel the same.

Other families began asking Jenna where to find dresses. She didn't have an answer. One parent mentioned that they'd booked a trip to New York to shop at a boutique. The next year, another parent said they were headed to Rhode Island to buy a First Communion dress.

"I saw a hole in the market," Jenna said.

Her thoughts quickly progressed. "There's a need, especially down south, where there aren't as many Catholics. But it's seasonal – you don't need a brick-and-mortar all year round. Someone's got to start a

pop-up First Communion boutique. I guess that someone's me."

Last summer, Jenna officially launched Gowns of Grace. She sources all the dresses, culling from three designers, along with veils and suits for boys. Then she hosts a pop-up shop at a church. She packs everything up, carrying every size and style of dress. She makes it an experience for families to enjoy together, providing cookies and drinks, a religious craft, a photo booth and a keepsake gift.

The event functions as a fundraiser for the hosting church, which receives up to 25 percent of her sales. Jenna also sells her products online at gownsofgrace.com. Parishes who promote it are given a code that gives them 10 percent back.

Jenna's goal is to celebrate each child. "This is not just another dress you have to get," she said. "This is really special."

It works, creating a positive experience that underscores the importance of the sacrament – faith-filled and fun. "Every single parent and grandparent who came thanked me and told me how lovely it was."

These days, beauty fills Jenna's life. She's come so far since college. "I felt like Jesus stepped in and said, 'Here's a fork in the road, go the other way,'" she said. "I haven't looked back."

Christina Capecchi is a freelance writer from Inver Grove Heights, Minn.

World day of prayer for vocations: the way to find happiness

By Sister Constance Veit, ISP

In his message for the World Day of Prayer for Vocations on April 21, Pope Francis acknowledges the fact that every vocation – from marriage to consecrated life and priesthood – involves a call from God embracing our entire existence.

Realizing that every path in life is a call from God is worth pondering.

"Each year, the World Day of Prayer for Vocations invites us to reflect on the precious gift of the Lord's call to each of us, as members of his faithful pilgrim people, to participate in his loving plan and to embody the beauty of the Gospel in different states of life," Pope Francis wrote. "Hearing that divine call ... is the surest way for us to fulfill our deepest desire for happiness."

"Our life finds fulfillment when we discover who we are, what our gifts are, where we can make them bear fruit, and what path we can follow in order to become signs and instruments of love, generous acceptance, beauty and peace, wherever we find ourselves."

I'd like to reflect on two aspects of this message – that God is calling each of us

to participate in his loving plan and that our acceptance of his plan is the surest way to find personal fulfillment.

When we speak of someone having a "calling," we generally assume this means a call to priesthood or religious life. But this is a narrow understanding of the concept of vocation.

God has a plan for each of us; he is calling each of us to a specific vocation, which may or may not involve full-time service in the church.

Realizing that God has a plan for us – and discerning what this plan is – is essential to our personal growth as we mature from childhood to adulthood.

As the pope says, it's a matter of discovering who we are, what our gifts are and where we can make them bear fruit.

Do we take into account that our personal gifts have been "received"?

This is what St. Paul was trying to teach the Corinthians when he said, "What do you possess that you have not received? But if you have received it, why are you boasting as if you did not receive it?" (1 Cor 4:7).

Looking back on my own vocation, I realize that as a youngster I didn't look

at my abilities and blessings as gifts given to me by God. I didn't even understand that God had a plan for my life – I thought that life was all about my plans!

I began volunteering with the Little Sisters of the Poor and the elderly – not because I felt God calling me to religious life or because I was committed to improving the lives of elderly people in need – but simply because I thought community service would "look good" on my college applications!

In just a few weeks, however, I discovered qualities within myself that I never knew existed – gifts like love and empathy for the elderly and joy in making them happy – and I came to the conviction that caring for the elderly – giving my life for them – was my God-given purpose and my mission in life!

Discovering who I was, what my special gifts were and where I could make them bear fruit led me to experience a sense of personal fulfillment and lasting joy. Despite life's inevitable ups and downs, this joy and purpose have never waned; they have endured for almost 40 years now!

Even when I was quite self-absorbed

and ignorant of his ways, in his kindness God came to meet me where I was and to make himself known to me. This encounter, though completely unexpected, was very real.

When I look back at my own vocation, I often think of the words Pope Benedict XVI addressed to young people during his inaugural homily on April 24, 2005: "With great strength and great conviction, on the basis of long personal experience of life, I say to you, dear young people: Do not be afraid of Christ! He takes nothing away and he gives you everything. When we give ourselves to him, we receive a hundredfold in return. Yes, open, open wide the doors to Christ – and you will find true life!"

If you think God might be calling you to a vocation of service, feel free to email me at serenity@littlesistersofthepoor.org.

Sister Constance Veit is the communications director for the Little Sisters of the Poor in the United States and an occupational therapist.

AQUINAS, continued from Page 8

ing/loving Christians don't help matters when we act in a non-God-fearing/loving manner, as if no God.

St. Thomas continues addressing the error of "deism," and the problem of "evil."

"There are those, however, who believe that God rules and sustains all things of nature, and nevertheless do not believe God is the overseer of the acts of man; hence they believe that human acts do not come under God's

providence. They reason thus because they see in this world how the good are afflicted and how the evil enjoy good things so that Divine Providence seems to disregard human affairs."

Deism is the "clockmaker." God cre-

ated and then set it about letting nature take its course. No miracles. No interaction. Thomas Jefferson was a famous deist.

The Jefferson Bible, also known as The

See AQUINAS, Page 17

Newly ordained Holy Cross priests from diocese follow their calling

By Hannah Heil
Catholic Times Reporter

Two Columbus St. Charles Preparatory School graduates were among eight men ordained as priests of the Congregation of the Holy Cross on Saturday, April 6 at the Basilica of the Sacred Heart on the University of Notre Dame campus in South Bend, Indiana.

Fathers Michael Ryan and Brian Vetter, C.S.C. (Congregatio a Sancta Cruce in Latin) graduated from St. Charles in 2008 and 2013, respectively. Both alumni went on to earn degrees from Notre Dame and discerned a calling to the priesthood during their undergraduate years.

The Congregation of Holy Cross, United States Province of Priests and Brothers is based in Notre Dame, Indiana. The University of Notre Dame is one of four colleges in the United States administered by the province.

Blessed Father Basil Moreau founded the Congregation of Holy Cross in 1837 in France. Priests and brothers of Holy Cross strive to be teachers in the faith, educating both mind and heart, in the field of education, parish life and mission.

Father Ryan, who attended Columbus St. Catharine School and was a member of the parish with his family, said his Catholic upbringing and education laid the foundation for his vocation.

Father Ryan, the ninth of 11 children, grew up on the east side of Columbus and said the Catholic faith was integral to the way his family operated.

Regular Mass attendance and praying the rosary during Lent was nonnegotiable, he said, but rather, simply what his family did.

"The fabric of my life has been in the faith, so, tilling that soil and nurturing the ground from which a vocation could sprout," he said.

Father Ryan had a great network of educators at St. Catharine and St. Charles, he said, who were faithful teachers, mentors and great examples to him.

In high school and college, Father Ryan said he experienced serious health issues that he described as "brutal." However, he said, God's hand was not causing the illness but rather leading him to new life through it.

The health challenges allowed him "to find Christ and come to the Resurrection.

"The new opportunities that arose, the different paths I went down because of those illnesses that ultimately led me to where I am, it's hard not see as providential," Father Ryan said.

He said it was not until he arrived at college, however, that he began to think God might be calling him to the priesthood.

He said all of the priests he knew lived lives of joy. Seeing the fruits of their vocation to the priesthood created some excitement about it.

Father Ryan graduated from Notre Dame with a degree in civil engineering. He worked as an engineer and field superintendent for five years at a construc-



Father Michael Ryan, C.S.C., (center) was ordained a priest on Saturday, April 6 at the Basilica of the Sacred Heart on the University of Notre Dame campus in South Bend, Indiana. Father Ryan is a Columbus St. Charles Preparatory School graduate.

tion company in Chicago.

He put the "discernment question" to the side and dived into his work. He worked on great teams and reached management goals he set for himself, he said, but after some time he began to question whether there was "more to the day than just the business that I was doing."

After more than three years on the job, Father Ryan said he picked up the discernment question again.

Between graduating from Notre Dame and entering seminary, he met with three vocation directors and a spiritual director and talked with family, friends and co-workers. Father Ryan said it was a long process, but speaking with vocation directors was helpful.

After several conversations and time spent in prayer, he continued to discern a call to the priesthood.

"I grew more and more comfortable with the decision to the point that I made it," he said.

In 2017, Father Ryan returned to Notre Dame and entered Moreau Seminary, the major seminary for the Congregation of Holy Cross in the United States, located less than a mile from the university's campus. He discerned with the congregation and learned more about religious life and the priesthood.

Father Ryan said he was drawn to the order's sense of family and community in common mission as well as their spirituality of the Cross as the only hope.

During his second year with the order, he spent a year of "intense prayer and discernment" in Colorado Springs, Colorado. After his second year, he professed his first vows.

"I became more certain every year that this was the life I was being called to live," he said.

Father Ryan said the vows allowed him to live more freely and joy he experienced were both indicators that he was heading in the right direction. Praying an examination of conscience at the end of the day also illumined that life in Holy Cross was helping him become more Christlike.



Father Brian Vetter, C.S.C., approaches the altar at his ordination Mass. Father Vetter is also a St. Charles graduate. Photos courtesy Congregation of the Holy Cross

He described his discernment as "a curve that never reaches 100 percent. It always gets closer, but there's still faith that you have to have to trust that you're following God's will. It's very rarely going to come on a certificate that, 'Yes,' this is what you are being called to do."

At certain points during his undergraduate years and in the professional field, he said, he wanted to be 100 percent certain of what God was calling him to. Instead, Father Ryan said his vocation was based on trust in God.

"It comes down to you have to trust, take that leap of faith because not taking it is a bigger risk: What if I was a living a life that God wasn't calling me to?" he said. "There's a risk of losing something there, losing that joyful life that I've ultimately found."

As a priest, Father Ryan will continue serving as rector of O'Neill Family Hall at Notre Dame. Being rector of the dorm is similar to a pastor, he said, as he will shepherd approximately 300 men who live in the dorm.

He said some might think his time spent in construction was wasted because he

discerned a vocation to the priesthood, but he is grateful for those years.

"I learned a lot about the world and learned a lot about how I operate, how the world operates," he said. "It really changes my vision on how I see things and how I interact with things, that experience of working with people and learning how to build buildings."

Father Ryan said he sees the engineer in him come to life in his preaching and conversations with young men in the residence hall where he serves. He said his engineering background also led to unique opportunities.

Now, as a priest, he said, "being an engineer seems atypical and maybe it is atypical, but it allows you to connect with people in a different way than you otherwise might."

As a newly ordained priest, Father Ryan will regularly celebrate Mass in the dorm's chapel, St. Joseph the Worker.

"I'll be able to celebrate Sunday Mass, which will be a great privilege to offer sacrifice on behalf of these young men," he said.

As rector, he will also assist with campus ministry, discipline and coaching young men in his dorm regarding decision making and listening as they discern God's movement in their lives.

An older brother, Father Brogan Ryan, C.S.C. is also a priest in the Congregation of Holy Cross. He serves at King's College in Pennsylvania, which is also administered by the congregation's United States Province of Priests and Brothers.

"He and his twin, Brendan, have been great examples for me of how to be virtuous young men," Father Ryan said. "Brogan has been a great mentor of mine throughout formation and throughout my discernment."

Father Brian Vetter, the youngest of three sons, attended Columbus St. Andrew School and belonged to Dublin St. Brigid of Kildare Church. He graduated from Notre Dame with a degree in pre-medicine and theology in 2017 and entered Moreau Seminary that same year.

Father Vetter said he experienced a call to consider a vocation to the priesthood during his undergraduate years. He originally planned to attend medical school after graduating college, marry and have a family.

"I kind of realized that it was a call to love in maybe a different way, and this is where I see it was a call to religious life," he said. "At the time, I didn't realize it, but then, as I discerned, it became clear."

Father Vetter said he also thought somewhat about a religious vocation in high school. Attending St. Andrew and St. Charles, he said a Catholic education allowed him to ask questions about the Catholic faith and make the faith his own.

Father Vetter said he felt called to give himself to the Church's mission through community life. He said he could best love others and be loved by others by living and serving in community.

The strong sense of community he experienced in the campus dorms at Notre

Summit speaker urges men to recognize they're God's beloved sons

By Tim Puet

For The Catholic Times

Seven weeks after speaking at the 2024 Columbus Catholic Men's Conference of how encountering Jesus brought him personal redemption, John Edwards of Memphis returned to the city to talk to men about Christ's impact on their own lives.

Edwards, who has developed a national ministry as a speaker, author and podcast host, was invited back by the diocesan Catholic Men's Ministry for a leadership summit on Saturday, April 13 at Westerville St. Paul the Apostle Church.

He delivered two morning talks on restoring identity and developing a personal relationship with Jesus, then spent the afternoon training those in attendance on how to start and develop a parish ministry. He has helped start or revive more than a dozen such programs nationwide.

He said the first talk was designed to answer the question "What's the purpose of my life?" which one young man asked him after a men's conference presentation. The questioner described his life as "a never-ending 'Groundhog Day'" with the same thing seemingly happening over and over again. The man said he had a good job, a loving wife and family and went to church regularly, but it didn't seem to matter.

Edwards said the answer to that question was "to recognize that 'I'm a beloved son of God' and mean it from your heart."

"There's a battle raging within the culture every day and you're in it," he said. "There is a lack of men taking responsibility. Instead, we believe all the lies we've been told. All of us need to fight. We're no good in worldly battles if we're not fighting the battle in our hearts."

He used the Old Testament story of David and Bathsheba as an example, noting that King David sent his men to fight while staying home, with this lack of personal commitment leading to adultery with Bathsheba and ultimately to the downfall of David and Israel.

"David chose not to fight," he said. "What if we make the same choice and we sit around waiting and no one does anything? God made each of us to do a unique job." He said the importance of parish men's groups such as *That Man Is You!* comes in helping discourage men from the idea that they can't do anything against the evils of today. "It's the power of relationship with men who don't let each other slack off," he said.

"I have to reorient myself every day to listen to the right voices within me, for who you listen to is the man you're going to be," Edwards said. "The purpose and mission of the devil in our lives is to break our relationship with the Lord and



John Edwards addresses a Columbus Men's Ministry leadership summit on Saturday, April 13 at Westerville St. Paul the Apostle Church's Klinger Center. Edwards also was a speaker at the Columbus Catholic Men's Conference in February.



Men break into small groups to discuss ideas during the leadership summit.

Photos courtesy John Endres

he does it in many little ways.

"Always remember the devil is real and he hates you. Sometimes we get discouraged and say 'Oh, I just had a bad day.' No, it's that the devil was laying snares for you all day. So often we listen to the wrong voices all day, saying 'I'm not a good husband or a good father or a good person.' When you're doing that, you're agreeing with the enemy.

"We think God and the devil are on the same platform, but the devil is a creation like you and me. He can't hurt God, so he hurts us. When he gets you and you decide to quit, he takes all the influence you have on your family, your friends, the church and the world and uses it for his own ends. Ultimately, this is why everything attacking the strengths of our culture today is an attack on the family."

"Your relations with your father always control how you see God," he said. He noted that the difficulties in this relationship in his own life helped contribute to his addiction to drugs and pornography and a selfishness that threatened his marriage and ultimately put him into jail on probation.

He had become Catholic before marrying and, as he explained more fully at the February men's conference, he re-

discovered Jesus when he went to Mass for the first time in years, received the Eucharist and was overwhelmed by the realization that he really was receiving the body of Christ.

Edwards said this dramatically changed his life but by no means ended his self-doubt. "I did drugs when I was young and had to remember that didn't mean I'd always be a dope addict," he said. "With each of us, it's a different story, but we always have to work on our own conversion. It's a lifelong experience, but in the end, it will be worth it to stand in front of Jesus and hear him say, 'Well done, good and faithful servant.'"

"John's words really had an impact on me," said Matt Yoder of Marysville Our Lady of Lourdes Church, one of about 200 men attending the conference. "He made me realize I have to be true to myself before I can lead other men. Unless I can show how my faith has made a difference in my own life, I can't tell others what to do."

"I recognize that as good Catholic and Christian fathers, we're engaged in battle for a worthy cause," said Dameron Faulkner of Columbus St. Andrew Church. "Hearing John's reminder that I'm a beloved son of God, realizing it and

trying to live that identity every day is a message I want to keep remembering."

Edwards expanded on the theme of encountering Jesus in his second talk. He said one of the things most people don't appreciate about the late Pope Benedict XVI was his constant emphasis on personally knowing Christ.

"We are only Christians if we encounter Christ, even if He does not reveal Himself to us as clearly and irresistibly as He did to (St.) Paul (on the road to Damascus)," Edwards quoted Benedict as saying. "We can also encounter Christ in reading Holy Scripture, in prayer and in the liturgical life of the Church. ... And it is only in this personal relationship with Christ ... that we are truly Christian."

"I used to have a lot of money when I was a top salesman for NAPA Auto Parts before I found Jesus," Edwards said. "Now the joy in my life comes whenever I come out of my brokenness to help somebody find God. Your choice to care for guys and help them break through the pandering of the devil and get out on the other side is blessed. But to do that, you have to be like Jesus.

"You have to make disciples, not by building the size of your men's group but by individually changing men's lives," he said, noting that when Jesus called the 12 Apostles, he didn't go into long theological explanations but just said, "Come, follow Me."

"People say to me, 'Tell me about Jesus,'" Edwards said. "I could give them a complicated answer, but the best response is John 14:30-31: 'The rulers of the world have no power over me. ... I do as the Father has commanded me so the world may know that I love the Father.'"

He said that although none of the Gospels quote St. Joseph as saying anything, the silence of Jesus' time in Nazareth from ages 12 to 30 speaks volumes. "Joseph must have poured himself into Jesus during that time" as an example of fatherhood for Jesus to follow, he said. "If you want to know Joseph, see Jesus."

"Most Christians don't know Jesus," Edwards continued. "If we did, the world would be a different place. If we want to be like Jesus, we have to start knowing Him. Without meeting Jesus, it's like a hamster being on a wheel that isn't going anywhere. And this is where the church has a problem."

Edwards said that when he became a Catholic, it was difficult to retain enthusiasm for the faith because he visited five churches and no one said a word to him.

"If I was looking to find a Protestant church in the same way, they'd be all over me and have me on two or three committees and into prayer groups," he said. "It's often the same way in RCIA classes. People want to become Catholic and we do a good job telling people all

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Serra Club holds regional summit at Josephinum



Sister Chiara Francisco, LIHM, of the Sisters of the Leaven of the Immaculate Heart of Mary speaks about vocations to more than 100 Serra International members at the Great Lakes Region Summit on Saturday, April 13 at the Pontifical College Josephinum. Sister Chiara teaches at Portsmouth Notre Dame elementary school and serves the parishes of Holy Redeemer and St. Mary with other members of her religious order. *CT photos by Ken Snow*

Divine Mercy Sunday at St. Christopher



Bishop Earl Fernandes celebrated Mass on Divine Mercy Sunday at Columbus St. Christopher Church. Mass, recitation of the Chaplet of Divine Mercy, Eucharistic Adoration and prayer devotions were held at a number of churches in the diocese on April 7, the first Sunday after Easter.



On Divine Mercy Sunday, worshippers kneel for Eucharistic Adoration during a holy hour at Columbus St. Christopher Church. Flanking the altar are a large Divine Mercy image and one of St. Faustina. The parish is devoted to Divine Mercy, offering Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, the Chaplet of Divine Mercy and the Sacrament of Reconciliation on weekday afternoons during the hour of mercy at 3 p.m. with Mass at 4 p.m. *Photos courtesy Abigail Pitones*

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State Sen. Stephen Huffman (R-Tipp City) addresses a group gathered from dioceses around Ohio at the Catholic Conference of Ohio office on April 9 in downtown Columbus for the "Catholics at the Capitol" day that included meetings with legislators

Photo courtesy Abigail Pitones

Catholics at the Capitol day: Abolish death penalty, support moms, families

By Hannah Heil
Catholic Times Reporter

Catholics from across Ohio gathered in Columbus on Tuesday, April 9 for "Catholics at the Capitol" 2024.

The day, organized by the Catholic Conference of Ohio, which serves as the official voice of the Church in Ohio on matters of public policy, was an opportunity to advocate for policies that support Ohio families and promote the common good.

State legislators were urged to support pregnant women and families, abolish the state's death penalty and assist incarcerated Ohio citizens returning to society.

The day began at the Catholic Conference of Ohio's office with prayer and remarks from Bishop Earl Fernandes.

State Sen. Stephen Huffman (R-Tipp City), who represents Ohio's fifth Senate District in southwestern Ohio outside of Dayton, addressed the group and spoke about his Catholic faith and legislative priorities.

Huffman was raised Catholic and his father was a deacon. He said he often attends morning Mass at St. Christopher Church in Vandalia, located in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati.

Huffman, also a practicing physician who works in emergency rooms throughout western Ohio, has introduced Senate Bill 101 to abolish the death penalty.

He also introduced Senate Bill 220 to designate Jan. 22, the day the U.S. Supreme Court held that the right of privacy protects a woman's right to abortion in all 50 states in the 1973 Roe v. Wade ruling, as the "Day of Tears," which, he said, would be a day of prayer with flags flown at half-staff.

Throughout the day, groups of Catholics from various parts of the state sat down with local state representatives and senators in the Ohio Statehouse and Vern Riffe Center for Government and the Arts, located across the street from the Statehouse, to ask for their support.

Some of the Columbus participants met with an aide for state Sen. Stephanie Kunze (R-Dublin), who represents the 16th Senate District. Located west of Columbus, the district comprises all of Madison and Pickaway counties as well as a portion of Franklin County northwest of Columbus.

The group advocated for abolition of Ohio's death penalty, urging Kunze to help pass Senate Bill 101 and House Bill 259.

"We're here to really advocate for support of two bills that are out there: the Senate bill and the House bill that would abolish the death penalty," said Mark Huddy, Episcopal Moderator for Catholic Charities and Social Concerns in the Diocese of Columbus. "We believe that abolishing the death penalty is more in accord with the sacredness and dignity of every human life."

"Human dignity comes from our being created in God's image, and it can't be lost or traded away. As (Pope St.) John Paul (II) says in Evangelium Vitae (his papal encyclical "The Gospel of Life"), not even a murderer loses that personal dignity that comes from being created by God."

Huddy acknowledged that while crimes deserve punishment the offender deserves an opportunity to repent, and perhaps, reenter society.

"The death penalty really cuts off the opportunity for someone to come to

See CAPITOL, Page 16



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Life-saving incidents prove effectiveness of schools' heart safe program

A program to prevent sudden cardiac deaths is saving lives in the diocese.

A teacher at St. Charles Preparatory School and a parishioner at Columbus Our Lady of Peace Church are alive today thanks to quick response and the use of Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) during cardiac events.

The AEDs are part of the Project ADAM Heart Safe Schools initiative that began in the diocese in 2021 at Columbus St. Andrew School. In the past two years, 24 additional schools have received training and certification in the comprehensive program. Nine more are on track to be added by the end of the school year.

Project ADAM was created in 1999 in memory of Adam Lemel, whose parents collaborated with Children's Hospital of Wisconsin to establish the program after the sudden death of their 17-year-old son in southeastern Wisconsin and other high school athletes across the country. The apparent cause was a condition known as ventricular fibrillation that occurs when the ventricles fail to pump enough blood into the body.

The primary purpose of Project ADAM is "to prevent sudden cardiac death in children and adolescents through education and implementation of life-saving programs," said Michele Faehnle, the



Jeremy Grimes, a Bexley police officer, serves as the resource officer at Columbus St. Charles Preparatory School, which has received the Project ADAM Heart Safe School designation. Photo courtesy St. Charles

diocesan school nursing adviser and the school nurse at St. Andrew.

The process at each school begins with a site visit from a trained Project ADAM

representative to assess a school's needs. The evaluation includes how many AEDs are required based on accessibility and location in the buildings.

"Each school selects a site coordinator who manages the AED program, is responsible for scheduling CPR-AED training, creating a cardiac response team and a Sudden Cardiac Arrest Plan and practicing drills," Faehnle said.

Marc Dutro, the Project ADAM coordinator with Nationwide Children's Hospital in Columbus, evaluates the schools and preforms a test drill before designating them as heart safe.

When a school receives its official designation as heart safe, a banner is presented to staff members.

The cardiac event that occurred at St. Charles on March 28 stands as a testament to the life-saving value of Project ADAM.

That morning, about 20 minutes before the start of school, Jack Gibbons, a social studies teacher, suddenly collapsed in a classroom with two students present. They immediately ran for help and found Rick Ey, vice principal for student services, and teacher Tony Wilson, who both happened to part of the schools' emergency response team.

The boys then headed to the nurse's office to summon Andrea Pitones. On

their way, they met Thomas Giles, a college counselor and another member of the emergency response team. They grabbed an AED and headed for the classroom.

At that point, the teacher didn't appear to be breathing and no pulse was detected. In the meantime, 911 had been called and cardiopulmonary resuscitation was underway.

When Pitones reached the classroom, the AED was used to provide an electric shock to the heart while chest compressions continued.

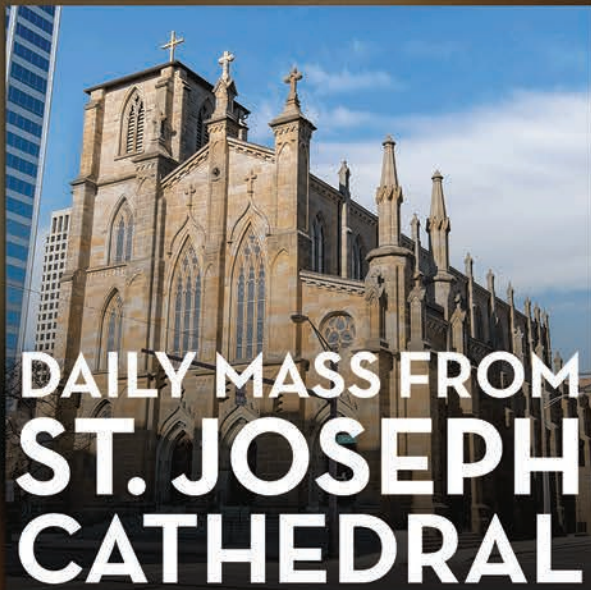
When school resource officer Jeremy Grimes arrived, he said the machine indicated that another shock was not necessary but that compressions should continue.

Within seven to 10 minutes, Columbus Division of Fire paramedics were on the scene. They could faintly hear the teacher sporadically gasping for air and a pulse was detected.

"They took over with their advanced medical tools and he was eventually transported to OSU (Ohio State University Medical Center) and immediately taken into intensive care," Grimes said. "And by God's grace, he is here to tell his story."

Grimes also credited the students in

See HEART, Page 15



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HEART, continued from Page 14

the room for their quick actions and the teachers who directed the paramedics once they arrived and who kept the students away from the scene.

All diocesan school staff members receive CPR and first aid training. At St. Charles, there are 10 individuals who are part of an emergency response team that responds not only to medical situations but safety issues and other threats.

“They bridge the gap between when a crisis happens and when help can arrive,” he said, “whether it’s a medical emergency or additional police are needed. If you don’t bridge that gap, the outcome is much different and we can say 100 percent that was proven on March 28.”

As the school nurse, Pitones was a “huge proponent of the program and we worked closely to get St. Charles certified,” Grimes said. “We do drills and we train and practice for this situation.

“Hopefully, you never have to use it, but on March 28 God had a different plan and luckily we were able to respond the way we had hoped and were trained. And being certified through Project ADAM has been proof that this does work.”

As a Bexley police officer, Grimes has



(From left) Portsmouth Notre Dame and Dublin St. Brigid of Kildare are among the diocesan schools that have completed the Project ADAM Heart Safe Schools requirements.



Photos courtesy Office of Catholic Schools

been involved in plenty of traumatic situations and knows the outcome is not always successful as it was at St. Charles and across the city at Our Lady of Peace.

During a Saturday Vigil Mass earlier this year at Our Lady of Peace, a man collapsed in a pew after receiving communion and was resuscitated with the

help of a medical student, nurses who were quick to respond and an AED that was brought in from the parish’s gathering space.

“When someone suffers cardiac arrest and an AED needs to be administered and shock and chest compressions need to take place, your success

rate isn’t amazing, let’s just say,” Grimes said. “I think it’s probably going to be on the other side of the equation, but God works in amazing ways.

“And he puts us in position to really respond and do the things that we need to do, but at the end of the day, it’s nothing short of His work that makes it possible for this to happen.”

In addition to St. Charles and Our Lady of Peace, schools that have completed the Project ADAM designation include Cristo Rey Columbus, Columbus Bishop Hartley, Bishop Ready, St. Francis DeSales, St. Andrew, Immaculate Conception, St. Mary Magdalene, St. Agatha, All Saints Academy, Holy Spirit, St. Joseph Montessori and St. Mary German Village; Hilliard St. Brendan; Dublin St. Brigid of Kildare; Westerville St. Paul; Portsmouth Note Dame; Marion St. Mary; Reynoldsburg St. Pius X; Grove City Our Lady of Perpetual Help; Chillicothe Bishop Flaget and Worthington St. Michael.

Lancaster Fisher Catholic High School and Lancaster St. Bernadette and St. Mary schools have received training through the Fairfield Medical Center’s Community Heart Watch program.



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the rules, but we don't speak of the person of Jesus Christ.

"This is so backward. There's nothing to keep them. People get baptized and confirmed at the Easter Vigil and you never see them again. Always in Scripture, God put relationships before ritual. First, He said, 'I am your God. You are my people.' The rules came later.

"We're supposed to obey the commandments not because we fear hell, but because we love God. The God of the universe said, 'I call you friends, not slaves.' ... Rules are important, but there has to be substance behind what we do."

"If you just go to Mass, you're going through the motions, you're missing so much," Edwards said. "We forget the beauty of the Sacraments." He followed with an explanation of the significance of each sacrament: "Baptism, the God of the uni-

verse saying 'I claim you.' ... The Eucharist, God humbles Himself and becomes one with us. ... Reconciliation, not punishment but Jesus saying, 'I love you.' ...

"Confirmation, God giving you a choice once you reach the age of reason to say you love Him. ... Matrimony, God makes a perfect person for you, though that person may not always seem perfect, so together you can make a family and change the world. ... Anointing of the Sick, you can be a jerk all your life, but a priest shows up and gives you the chance to live forever with God. ... Holy Orders, none of the other Sacraments would have been possible if Jesus didn't love us enough to call brave young men to give their lives not for themselves, but for everyone else."

Edwards closed his second talk by having all present close their eyes as he

read the 17th chapter of John's Gospel – Jesus' prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane on the eve of his crucifixion.

"Jesus prays for the church. On the worst night of His life, being so terrified, the God of the universe went through the worst hell anyone could know and He did it for you," Edwards said. "To anyone who says 'I don't think Jesus understands me,' you don't understand Him."

Charles Martindell of Columbus St. Mary Madalene Church said Edwards' two talks combined to encourage him as he grows in the faith. "I became Catholic a couple of years ago and am trying to develop a deeper relationship with God and a powerful, meaningful prayer life," he said. "Lots of times I still don't feel close to God, but what John said showed that I shouldn't let those times define me and should remain persistent in prayer." Mar-

tindell attended with his godson, 14-year-old Lucas Reagan of Mary Queen of Peace Church in Cleveland, who is preparing for confirmation later this year.

Conference co-director Todd Treon said that Reagan was among a significant number of attendees from the Archdiocese of Cincinnati and the Dioceses of Cleveland and Toledo and that most of those at the event also attended the men's conference in February.

Those from out of the area included seven men from three parishes in Fremont, part of the Toledo diocese. One of them, Steve Foos, said, "We are part of a That Man Is You! group and heard John in Columbus earlier. We made the two-hour drive again to help our group avoid getting stagnant. It's a great opportunity to renew friendships from past events and continue fellowship."

CAPITOL, continued from Page 13

grips with what they've done and be sorry for it," he said.

The group also discussed barriers to housing and assistance for individuals returning to society from the prison system. They asked Kunze to join them in supporting Senate Bill 198.

Huddy said the bill "is about having returning citizens able to get the documentation they need in order to show their educational background, to show a variety of things."

Senate Bill 198 would help returning citizens avoid recidivism, or repeating previous criminal behavior, by providing them copies of a birth certificate, vocational training records and a Social Security card or replacement.

Catholics who advocated at the Statehouse also urged support for House Bill 50. If passed, the bill would assist individuals with criminal records in overcoming housing barriers by creating a Certificate of Qualification for Housing and provide relief from certain bars on housing.

Nick Borchers, the chief operating officer at Catholic Social Services (CSS), which helps poor and vulnerable seniors and families in central and southern Ohio reach their potential, spoke to a high demand for housing that caseworkers at CSS have witnessed and are working to meet.

He said many caseworkers are assisting older individuals in securing housing.

"That is the number one thing," Borchers said. "We're trying to get people into housing, and they're waiting forever because it's just not there.

"It's been a significant increase over the last few years as the area's grown and costs of housing have skyrocketed. There's just not the space available, so we hear a lot of frustration from our cli-

ents."

Borchers said the clients have a standard income, but there is no space and affordable housing available for them.

Shane Hoffman, one of the participants who lives and works in Plain City, noted that the population there is expected to quadruple in size in the next 10 years but that there is a lack of affordable housing.

"Even though we have the space and it's getting bought up and developed, that is not the housing that is profitable for the developers to put in, and we need to be looking for a way to get that attainable housing," he said.

"We're very much in danger of not being able to have people work in town because there is no place affordable to live within driving distance."

Gina McCauley, executive assistant at Mommies Matter who oversees donor management, said the organization often receives four or five calls or texts a day from pregnant women in need of housing.

Mommies Matter, which journeys with single mothers through their pregnancies, the birth of their child and beyond, did not foresee such an extensive need for housing when the organization was founded about six years ago, she said.

Catholics asked the aide for Kunze, who is co-chairman of the Commission on Infant Mortality, to assist pregnant women in securing stable housing and parenting supports by passing House Bill 7 to enact the Strong Foundations Act, which would address maternal and infant mortality and expand prenatal, postnatal, infant and toddler health care.

"The organization, Mommies Matter, has done an excellent job of resourcing pregnant women not only before birth

but for a couple of years after birth and providing the support that is needed," Huddy said.

"There's just not enough funding to handle the need right now, so any help that the state could provide to organizations like Gina's would be a wonderful, wonderful way to help women and their families succeed."

Other Catholic advocates from Columbus met with state Sen. Hearcel Craig (D-Columbus), who represents the 15th Senate District. The district comprises much of Columbus.

Birthingright of Columbus director Barb McMullen asked Craig to join her in helping save infants' lives by passing House Bill 7.

"The state of Ohio is number three in infant mortality," she shared. "Among the black community, we're number one. We've got to help those ladies."

She said Birthingright is a friend to any pregnant woman. McMullen sits down and talks with each woman and asks what her needs are, whether she has clean housing, if she is safe, if she is employed or needs help searching for employment and if she is receiving prenatal care.

She also offers referrals to women in need.

"I have a lot of pregnant women out on the street and in shelters," she said. "I've got to help them. I'm their friend."

McMullen calls the women at least once every two weeks, if not more, she said, to check on them and ask how they are doing. She continues to check on them after they have given birth.

"We are also in support and asking for your support of funding for pregnancy care in the One Time Community Investment package, and it's a way to budget this community investment in helping pregnant women ... in the most

direct way," said Jerry Freewalt, director of the Diocese of Columbus Office for Social Concerns.

"It could be some ultrasound funding in this package. It could be all kinds of material support for pregnant women or parenting mothers."

Father Daniel Bowen, O. de M. (Order of the Blessed Virgin Mary of Mercy), who serves at Columbus Holy Family Church and as vocation director for the Mercedarian order, asked for Craig's support in abolishing the death penalty through the passage of House 259 and Senate 101.

"We should be wanting to allow that man or that woman who's incarcerated – right now there is presently 118 of them (on death row) here in this state of Ohio – to allow them to live their life until God calls them," he said.

Father Bowen said no one should assume the role of God in putting other individuals to death. He pointed out that the death penalty contradicts Christian beliefs.

"As believers in Jesus Christ, there's always a possibility for repentance and conversion if they're alive, so we don't want to end that prematurely," Father Bowen said. "There could be in that last moment they're looking to begin anew.

"God loves to hear from us as people who pray. God likes to hear ... prayer not just from you, Senator, or me, or anyone in this room, but from that person on death row.

"Each inmate is a person. They have families. They have a mom; they have a dad. ... There's people that still pray and love them on the outside."

"This all comes from our faith," Freewalt said. "That's our starting point. ... It comes from that command to serve the poor and vulnerable and to reach out and be the face of Christ."

LOCAL NEWS AND EVENTS

Catholic Medical Association to honor Father Penhallurick

The Catholic Medical Association (CMA) of Central Ohio will present its third annual St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta Service to Medicine Award to Father Bob Penhallurick, pastor of Hilliard St. Brendan the Navigator and chaplain of the local CMA guild.

He will be honored at the annual CMA Hippocratic Oath awards event after the 6 p.m. Mass on Monday, April 29 at the Columbus St. Thomas More Newman Center, 64 W. Lane Ave.

The award recognizes a Catholic clergy member, advanced practice nurse, pharmacist, administrator or other person committed to healing who has shown selfless charity and dedication to the poor and the vulnerable through spiritual, clinical or other service.

The Mass will be followed by food, fellowship, the award presentation and a brief talk. Details and RSVP information can be found at <http://evite.me/gB-WjyU4ers>.

Ohio Dominican to host 5K run

The Salt and Light campus ministry club of Ohio Dominican University (ODU) is sponsoring a 5-kilometer run around the campus on Saturday, April 20 to support the Run the Race organization on Columbus' west side and ODU campus ministry programs.

There also will be a kiddie dash for preschool and elementary school children.

Run the Race operates a center that serves inner-city children after school, on weekends and in the summer and also has a summer camp. It provides tutoring and homework help, meals and education in music and sports.

The first \$5,000 raised by the run will go toward the camp, which offers instruction in art, computer coding, science and other areas. Any remaining proceeds will pay for ODU student mission trips and other service activities.

For more information, go to www.ohiodominican.edu/student-life/spiritual-life/5k.html#.

tual-life/5k.html#.

Josephinum president to speak to luncheon club

Father Steven Beseau, president-rector of the Pontifical College Josephinum, will speak about the seminary in northern Franklin County and its role in the formation of priests at the next Catholic Men's Luncheon Club meeting on Friday, May 3 at Columbus St. Patrick Church, 280 N. Grant Ave., after the 11:45 a.m. Mass.

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

The club's next meeting before it takes a summer break will be on Friday, June 7 and will feature a presentation by locally based Catholic speaker, broadcaster and author Patrick Madrid on "Ten Recent Discoveries That Point to the Existence of God."

The luncheon is being sponsored by Jim Flaherty. If you are interested in sponsoring a luncheon, contact Pat Foley at foleyp513@gmail.com.

Father Hayes to speak at Maria Stein retreat

Father Stephen Hayes, OP, of Columbus St. Patrick Priory will lead a retreat for men at the Maria Stein Spiritual Center in the Mercer County community of Maria Stein from Friday to Sunday, May 17 to 19. The retreat is sponsored by the Knights of Columbus council of Hilliard St. Brendan the Navigator Church, but all men are invited to attend.

The theme of the retreat is "The Wonder and Power of Holy Mass." Father Hayes is assigned as a full-time mission and retreat preacher based in Columbus, where he is the conventual prior (religious superior) of the Dominican community at St. Patrick. He was appointed by Pope Francis as one of his worldwide missionaries of mercy for the Jubilee Year of Mercy in 2015 and 2016.

He holds a number of degrees and after practicing law for a few years entered

the Dominican Order in 1982 and was ordained a priest in 1988.

Casual attire is appropriate for the weekend. The cost is \$190, which includes all meals and a private room with bath. For more information, contact Gerry at (614) 946-8117 or email Gerryliz90@gmail.com

Hard as Nails sponsors Come and See weekend

Hard as Nails Ministries, a community of Catholic lay evangelizers and young adult missionaries, is sponsoring a Come and See retreat for young people from Friday to Sunday, May 10 to 12 at Sts. Peter and Paul Retreat Center, 2734 Seminary Road S.E., Heath.

High school seniors and college students interested in experiencing the life of a missionary are invited to attend and take part in prayer experiences, interactive talks and games and other activities.

To learn more about Hard as Nails, go to www.amazingnation.org.

Our Lady of Peace sponsoring pickleball mixer

Columbus Our Lady of Peace Church, 20 E. Dominion Blvd., is sponsoring its second annual Not-Too-Serious, Just-for-Fun Pickleball Mixer on Friday, May 10.

The event is for players 21 and older and all skill levels from beginner to advanced are invited. Instruction will be offered for new players from 4:30 to 5:15 p.m. and play will begin at 5:30.

The cost is \$20 per player. A food cart and a live DJ will be present and spectators are welcome. To register and for more information, visit www.olp-parish.org.

Shepherd's Corner activities include 5k fun run, other events

The Shepherd's Corner Ecology Center at 987 N. Waggoner Road, Blacklick, a ministry of the Dominican Sisters of Peace, is sponsoring its annual 5-kilo-

meter run/walk at 9 a.m. Saturday, June 8 at 9 a.m. To register, go to the center's website, www.shepherdscorner.org.

Homeschool adventure programs for students in kindergarten through fifth grade are planned on the third Wednesday of each month from 1 to 3 p.m. For May through August, those dates are May 15, June 19, July 17 and Aug. 21. The cost is \$5 per student.

A labyrinth walk is scheduled each month from May to June. Dates and subjects are: Wednesday, May 1, 10 to 11:30 a.m., May Day; Thursday, June 20, 7 to 8:30 p.m., midsummer celebration; Tuesday, July 16, 7 to 8:30 p.m., growth; and Thursday, Aug. 22, 7 to 8:30 p.m., harvesting gratitude for nature's bounty. The suggested donation for each is \$5.

Other programs include Psalms and the Creative Spirit led by Donna Nesbitt, Tuesday, May 14, 10 a.m. to noon, \$10; soapmaking led by Jill Brenneman for anyone 12 and older, Saturday, June 29, 10 a.m. to noon, \$20; Tai Chi for energy, flow, fitness and fun led by Grace Franklin (eight-person maximum), Friday, July 12, 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., \$10; and staying cool and calm with yoga and ayurveda led by Joy Lawrence, Saturday, Aug. 3, 9 a.m. to noon, \$25.

The annual Shepherds Fest will take place from 1 to 3:30 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 29. Participants in the free event will be able to walk the trails, meet and feed the sheep and view other animals at the farm on the eastern edge of urban Columbus.

Shepherd's Corner also is open from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on certain Mondays from April to mid-November. Check the website for dates. A \$2 per person donation is appreciated and shelf-stable foods for pantry donations are always welcome. Programming, as well as building and labyrinth rental, is available for small groups such as homeschool classes and civic organizations.

Registration is required for all programs. To learn more, go to the website or call (614) 866-4302.

AQUINAS, continued from Page 9

Life and Morals of Jesus of Nazareth, is an abridgment of the New Testament. It was compiled by Jefferson, who rearranged the text of the Gospels into an account of the life and ministry of Jesus that eschews mention of any supernatural or miraculous elements. Jefferson used a razor to cut passages from six copies of the New Testament and rearranged and pasted together the selected verses to leave just the life and teachings of Jesus behind.

The problem of evil is much more complex because it not only deals with "wicked" people being blessed with riches, "good" people seem afflicted with suffering and pain.

St. Thomas writes, "For God in His just and wise Providence knows what is good and necessary for men; and hence He afflicts some who are good and allows certain wicked men to prosper. But he is foolish indeed

who believes this is due to chance, because he does not know the causes and method of God's dealing with men.

"But, oh, that God would speak, and open his lips to you, and that he would tell you the secrets of wisdom! For he is manifold and understanding. Know then that God exacts of you less than your guilt deserves (Job 11:5-6)."

St. Thomas then addresses the problem of belief in many gods. This was one of the first things God tried to teach humanity. The book of Exodus has it front and center. The 10 plagues targeted 10 Egyptian gods. But it wasn't just that God wanted to free the Israelites, He wanted to teach both the Israelites and Egyptians that there is one God (cf. Ex 7:17).

God, of course, knew that it would take more than these "signs" to get Egypt (yes) out of Israel. When

He gave the Ten Commandments, He says in Exodus 20:3-5, "You shall have no gods before me. You shall not make for yourself a graven image ... you shall not bow down to them or serve them." What happens? The Golden Calf in Exodus 32.

We still have this sin today. Google polytheistic religions and you come up with Hinduism, Buddhism, Confucianism, Taoism, Shintoism and Animism. Let's you want to throw a lot of people in the fire, consider the number of times you have missed Mass or some other holy day of obligation, or even some critical family obligation without just cause.

We may not sacrifice bulls and goats or have Asherah poles in our yard, but we sacrifice time, talent, and treasure and consequently our souls to idols of our own making. What is your idol(s)?

Fourth Sunday of Easter, Year B

Good Shepherd Sunday serves as reminder to encourage vocations

Acts 4:8-12
Psalm 118:1, 8-9, 21-23, 26, 28, 29
1 John 3:1-2
John 10:11-18

Good Shepherd Sunday is a reminder that the Risen Lord Jesus has loved us with a love that knows no bounds. Each of us is loved uniquely and immensely. The Shepherd laid down His life for His sheep. Having journeyed through Lent, we are ready to become aware of the depth of such love. Good Shepherd Sunday is also observed as World Day of Prayer for Vocations. The Good Shepherd calls us to be His friends and to share in the love that is willing to give our lives to Him.

The Shepherd shares with each one of us His shepherding role. Receiving the love of the Shepherd, we know Him. We hear His voice and we follow Him. Responding to His invitation to follow, we also come to realize that we have sheep of our own that are also His sheep. Others follow us. They observe both our willingness to acknowledge that we are loved by the Shepherd, and our desire that they too have such a relationship with the Shepherd. We bring them to Him by our love and concern for them and by our witness that the Shepherd is the source of our love.

The Church and the world are ever in need of shepherds after the Lord's own heart. Every parish used to have on the payroll a religious Sister whose duty was to ask every Catholic boy or girl to think about a religious vocation. Unfortunately, that Sister is no longer on the payroll in most Catholic parishes. However, we can follow her example. (It is good to see that many parish-

Fifth Sunday of Easter, Year B

Pruning leads to new ways and means to spread the Gospel

Acts 9:26-31
Psalm 22:26-27, 28, 30, 31-32
1 John 3:18-24
John 15:1-8

Being pruned is a painful experience. Jesus tells us that He is the vine and we are the branches, and He describes the pruning that must occur if we are to be truly faithful to His call. Columbus has a beautiful garden on the north side called the Park of Roses. I had the custom of trying to find time to walk through the Park of Roses when the weather allowed for it. One bright day not long before spring, it happened that the weather was mild, so I pulled away from parish duties to take a walk. I had been there a few weeks before on a bright but cold winter day and found it full of dead branches and plants with no sign of future blooms. On this bright and mild day, what I saw horrified me. All the branches had been cut away. All that was left was a bunch of very small sticks

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Father Timothy Hayes

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



es are renewing connections with orders, but most of our children have not seen any religious communities in many decades.)

Girls were invited to be helpers in the sacristy – the “sacristy girls” – or they had the chance to learn piano and organ from the sister-organist (many of whom became the parish organists that are just now retiring). These girls learned that a call to join a religious order was a special vocation. The boys were altar servers, and they had a “free pass out of class” for parish Masses and funerals. Working closely with the liturgy, they learned at least a few Latin phrases (the Mass responses that the whole congregation now makes) and they were reminded that after grade school or high school the seminary was an option to be considered.

Catholics who love their faith and want to see it continue must listen to the voice of the Shepherd and teach the young people around them how to hear that voice. Most grandmothers and grandfathers will have stories for their grandchildren that they almost decided to enter an order or join a diocese. “Have you ever considered being a priest?” “Do you know any religious sisters?” “We had an uncle who was a priest.” “My great aunt was a nun in a monastery.” All these are helpful family stories that can capture the imagination of the young who are starting out on their journey in life.

My mother always told us that as a little girl, she wanted either to be a nun or the mother of 12 children. She stopped at nine

in the ground. I thought, “They have gone too far! They have killed all the plants this time.”

The walk was sobering. I enjoyed the warmth and the promise of spring but did not have much hope for beauty in the garden this year. As you may have guessed, I am not a gardener. Only a few weeks later, I was able to get away for a few hours and the day was bright and clear. As I walked into the Park of Roses, first I was hit with the wonderful perfume that I had associated with the abundance of flowers I used to see there. When the plants came into view, much to my surprise and delight, the garden was filled with an assortment of roses of all colors. The plants were full, and the blooms were many. The pruning had done its work.

Jesus tells us that if we remain on the vine, we will bear much fruit. That promise of hope is both a challenge and an invitation. We are to cling to Him. We are also to bear fruit by allowing Him

THE WEEKDAY BIBLE READINGS

4/22-4/27 MONDAY	THURSDAY	4-29/5/4 MONDAY	THURSDAY
Acts 11:1-18 Psalms 42:2-3;43:3-4 John 10:1-10	1 Peter 5:5-14 Psalm 89:2-3,6-7,16-17 Mark 16:15-20	Acts 14:5-18 Psalm 119:23-24,26-27,29-30 John 6:22-29	Acts 15:7-21 Psalm 96:1-3,10 John 15:9-11
TUESDAY	FRIDAY	TUESDAY	FRIDAY
Acts 11:19-26 Psalm 87:1-7 John 10:22-30	Acts 13:26-33 Psalm 2:6-11 John 14:1-6	Acts 7:51-8:1a Psalm 115:1-4,15-16 John 14:21-26	1 Corinthians 15:1-8 Psalm 19:2-5 John 14:6-14
WEDNESDAY	SATURDAY	WEDNESDAY	SATURDAY
Acts 12:24-13:5a Psalm 67:2-3,5-6,8 John 12:44-50	Acts 13:44-52 Psalm 98:1-4 John 14:7-14	Acts 15:1-6 Psalm 122:1-5 John 15:1-8	Acts 16:1-10 Psalm 100:1b-2,3,5 John 15:18-21

DIOCESAN WEEKLY RADIO AND TELEVISION Mass Schedule: Weeks of April 21 and April 28, 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 IV AND I OF THE LITURGY OF THE HOURS

children, but whenever she could, she attended daily Mass and invited me and my siblings to go before school when she could not. My own love for the Eucharist, which I learned from her, has led me to priesthood. The Shepherd is still calling through your example. Listen to Him as He calls and invite others to do the same.

Happily, we have been reminded that every baptized person has a vocation, a special call from God, and that all of these are

pleasing to God and important in the life of the Church. However, we do need to remind our young people to keep God in the picture for the choices they make. Consideration of priesthood or religious life has a unique power to intensify the commitment a person has to any vocation that is discovered and chosen. In our time, with so many choices and opportunities available, often young people have never even thought of a traditional religious vocation.

to prune and to open us up to new life. “Whoever remains in me and I in him will bear much fruit, because without me you can do nothing. ... If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask for whatever you want and it will be done for you. By this is my Father glorified, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.”

To be a disciple of Jesus is a choice. We can be sure that, staying close to Him, we will be able to accomplish many things. We must also be ready to be pruned. Not every part of ourselves is destined for the kingdom. Some of the realities that hold us keep us from the proper flow of grace. It may appear we are losing much when the pruning begins. Sometimes, apparently healthy branches are cut away. The Vinedresser know what He is doing.

John reminds us that we must keep the Word that has been revealed to us, the commandments He has taught us, and that the sign that God is at work in us is the presence of the Spirit. “Those who

keep his commandments remain in him, and he in them, and the way we know that he remains in us is from the Spirit he gave us.” The Spirit bears fruit in us.

The example of the newly converted Saul offers a caution. New enthusiasm, being filled with the Spirit, is a sign of discipleship. However, we must also be tempered by the encounter with the Christian community and there must be an integration of what we have learned. “I will praise you, Lord, in the assembly of your people.” The assembly is the Church. Barnabas takes Saul to meet the Apostles in Jerusalem, and then he is sent back home to Tarsus, where he must study and discover how to teach others what he has learned. Pruning means learning new ways and discovering new means to proclaim the Word by our own example. It is the Spirit who arranges this. We must keep our eyes fixed on the promise of new life.

ORDINATION, *continued from Page 10*

Dame, which, he said, he first experienced as a student at St. Charles, led him to discern a vocation with the Congregation of Holy Cross.

Father Vetter also considered the Society of Jesus, known as the Jesuits, or becoming a diocesan priest, he said. However, he discerned a calling to Holy Cross because of the order's sense of community.

"Over a few years, I was able to see that, actually, I was most fulfilled and I experienced the most joy when I was in community and when I could give more of my heart to more people in the way that the religious vows of chastity, poverty and obedience allow me to do," he said.

Father Vetter said he felt the order was the right fit, too, because of its strong sense of family.

The Congregation of Holy Cross is modeled after the Holy Family, and the congregation is under the patronage of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, Our Lady of Sorrows and St. Joseph.

Father Vetter currently teaches sixth through eighth grade science and religion at St. Adalbert School in South Bend. As part of his calling to the priesthood, he said he felt the need to serve young people.

As a Holy Cross priest, he can "give my heart to people like my students" and "be nourished and loved in community life."

As a priest, he said, he will serve as a father to his students and love them as his own.

Teaching children enables him "in a beautiful way, to help show them the love of God and the love of Jesus in their lives in a way that I think I couldn't in any other role."

He said this is important "especially for those who might not see that love in their lives and maybe have difficult home lives and might struggle to see that. ... The beauty of Catholic education is you can really show them the love of Jesus in a very explicit way in a Catholic school."

As a priest, Father Vetter will continue teaching at St. Adalbert, which primarily serves a Mexican immigrant community. He will also assist with Masses at St. Adalbert Church, which is connected to the school.

Father Vetter said he will offer the sacrament of reconciliation during the school day and hear students' confessions during lunch and recess.

On the day after their ordinations, Fathers Ryan and Vetter each celebrated a first Mass on Sunday, April 7, Divine Mercy Sunday. Father Ryan celebrated Mass on campus at the Basilica of the Sacred Heart and Father Vetter's first Mass took place at St. Adalbert Church, which he celebrated in English and Spanish.

CATHOLIC WORD SEARCH

ABRAHAM

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 Please include your name and phone number.
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Words of Wisdom

by Pat Battaglia, aka Dr. Fun

Draw a path from letter to letter to spell the words given in capital letters that completes the wisdom statement.

Move one square at a time, up, down, right, left or diagonally until all letters are used once. Ignore any black squares.

There is no right way ...

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PRAY FOR OUR DEAD

ANDRADE, Maria Concepcion, 46, March 7
St. James the Less Church, Columbus

APPLEGATE, Linda, 73, March 25
St. Joseph Church, Sugar Grove

AUGUSTUS, John, 89, March 24
St. Patrick Church, Columbus

BENSON, Rose, 87, April 1
St. Bernadette Church, Lancaster

BRADER, Jeffrey L., 67, April 2
St. John Neumann Church, Sunbury

BUCKLEY, Karen E., 79, March 23
Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, Grove City

BURNS, Carl C., 69, April 4
St. Patrick Church, London

BYRNE, Dorothy A. (Deibel), 89, April 8
St. Patrick Church, Columbus

CODISPOTI, Joseph J., 87, April 1
St. Brigid of Kildare Church, Dublin

GOODWIN, Delores A. "Dee" (Whicker), 70, March 30
Our Mother of Sorrows Chapel, Columbus

GRIFFITH, James, 74, February 27
St. Bernadette Church, Lancaster

GUTRIDGE, Virginia Rose "Ginny," 80, April 9
St. Nicholas Church, Zanesville

HARVEY, William G., 76, March 31
St. Catharine Church, Columbus

HAVENS, Lois, M., 86, April 7
St. Nicholas Church, Zanesville

KING, Winifred, 91, April 6
Buckeye Lake Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church

LUKIE, Richard, 92, March 15
Ss. Simon and Jude Church, West Jefferson

MANNION, Patrick C., 88, April 8
Church of the Resurrection, New Albany

MERCURI, Assunta, 86, March 29
Our Mother of Sorrows Chapel, Columbus

NASH, Richard A. "Dick," 84, March 25
St. Rose of Lima Church, New Lexington

NASH, Kathleen (Sullivan), 86, April 1
St. Rose of Lima Church, New Lexington

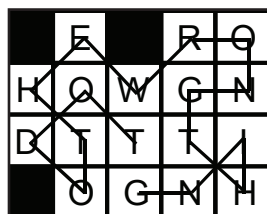
O'BRIEN, Dr. Mary Jane (Cooper), 100, April 9
St. James the Less Church, Columbus

RABER, Jean, 84, April 10
Sacred Heart Church, Coshocton

SAULTZ, Robert A., 76, April 6
Sacred Heart Church, Columbus

SHERER, James K., 91, March 31
St. Agatha Church, Columbus

WATSON, Terry Lee, 80, April 11
St. Francis de Sales Church, Newark



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Deacon Peter C. Labita

Funeral Mass for Deacon Peter C. Labita, 80, who died Friday, April 12, was celebrated Wednesday, April 17 at Columbus Christ the King Church. Burial was at St. Joseph Cemetery, Columbus.

Deacon Labita was ordained to the diaconate at Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral on Oct. 12, 1980 by Bishop Edward Herrmann and spent his entire diaconal ministry at Christ the King until his retirement in 2021. He served as facilities manager for the parish during much of that period and had lived in a home a short walk from Christ the King since 1985.

One of his most notable accomplishments there was helping start the parish Appalachian Service Project, which continues today. He also served as diocesan Scout chaplain and was a procurator and

advocate for the diocesan Tribunal.

He originally was from Suffern, New York. He served in the U.S. Air Force from 1966 to 1970, finishing his military career at the former Lockbourne Air Force Base in Columbus. He graduated from Capital University in 1970 with a Bachelor's degree in English and received a Master's degree in pastoral studies from Loyola University of New Orleans.

He spent most of his secular career in the insurance business, working for several companies and running his own agency.

He is survived by his wife of 54 years, Paula (Masys); a son, Nick; daughters, Andrea, Kirstin and Corinne; and eight grandchildren.

Deacon Joseph V. Salvo

Funeral Mass for Deacon Joseph V. Salvo, 89, who died Monday, April 1, was celebrated Saturday, April 6 at Dover St. Joseph Church. Burial will be at Ohio Western Reserve National Cemetery, Seville.

Deacon Salvo was ordained to the diaconate on May 19, 1990 by Bishop Thomas Welsh of Allentown, Pennsylvania. He served at the Cathedral of St. Catharine of Siena in Allentown from then until 1996 and was special advocate for the Diocese of Allentown Tribunal during that period.

He was incardinated into the diaconate for the Diocese of Dallas on March 16, 2001 and served at St. Ann Church in Coppell, Texas until his retirement in

early 2010, when he moved to Summerville, South Carolina. He moved in 2020 to Dover to be closer to the family of his son, Phil.

He had a 30-year career as a personnel manager with Bell Telephone Labs and served in the U.S. Army for two years.

He was born in Brooklyn, New York on Oct. 12, 1934 to the late Joseph and Phyllis (Scotti) Salvo.

He is survived by his wife of 63 years, Mary (Ragone); sons Phil (Jodi) and Joe (Candice); daughter Maria (Dave) Diefenderfer; sisters Rosemay (John) Murello and Anice Campagna; eight grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

Sister Rosemary Wack, SNDdeN

Funeral Mass for Sister Rosemary Wack, SNDdeN, 95, who died Sunday, March 24, will be celebrated Wednesday, May 1 at the chapel of the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur Provincial Motherhouse, Cincinnati. Burial will be in Piqua.

She was born on Feb. 18, 1929 to Edward and Mary Margaret (O'Brien) Wack.

She was a 1947 graduate of Dayton Julianne High School and received a Bachelor of Science degree in education from the University of Dayton in 1958, a Master of Education degree from Marquette University in 1963 and an Associate of Nursing degree from Sinclair Community College in Dayton in 1983.

She entered the congregation of the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur in 1947 and made her first profession of vows on

Jan. 28, 1950 and her final profession on Aug. 13, 1955.

She was a teacher for 13 years, including from 1959 to 1963 at Columbus St. Aloysius School. She also taught students in the Archdioceses of Cincinnati and Chicago.

In 1963, she was elected to the congregational leadership team. She spent the next six years living in Rome and traveling extensively to advise and support sisters in worldwide ministries.

After her leadership term ended, she served as head of school at a teacher training college in Kenya. After earning her nursing degree, her second career placed her in care of patients at hospitals in Kentucky, Ohio and Zimbabwe. She retired in 2012.

Elizabeth A. O'Rourke

Funeral Mass for Elizabeth A. O'Rourke, 78, who died Sunday, March 31, was celebrated Friday, April 12 at Delaware St. Mary Church. Burial was at St. Mary Cemetery, Delaware.

She was born in Columbus on March 16, 1946 to John and Marie (Kauderer) Tankovich.

She was a second-grade teacher from 1997 to 2002 at Columbus St. Anthony School.

She was preceded in death by her parents; brothers Anthony and David and a sister, Mary.

Survivors include a son, Joseph (Linda) and daughters Jennifer (Jerry) Walraven and Anna (Randy) Helpman; brothers John (Paula), Steve, Jerry (Karen) and George (Cherry); a sister, Cecilia (Mike) Longenbaker; one grandson and three granddaughters.

Missionaries begin parish visits in May to appeal for support

By Sister Zephрина Mary, FIH
Director, Diocesan Missions Office

On behalf of His Excellency, Bishop Earl K. Fernandes, I would like to welcome missionaries who are eagerly waiting to share their stories and activities with parishes in the diocese. The annual Missionary Cooperation Plan (MCP) will be held throughout the diocese from May until September.

This year, 35 missionaries will be preaching on weekends at assigned parishes. They include a remarkable number of diocesan bishops, priests, religious sisters and laity who are inflamed with the zeal for souls and do ministry in globally for the greater glory of Christ. Thus, you become partakers of the mission of the Lord and your mission support enriches the Universal mission of the Church!

The Eucharist is the primary proclamation of the love of Christ through His death and resurrection. It is the heart of the Gospel. How can we ignore the pitiful clamoring of so many neglected people suffering material and spiritual want in

mission lands? Vatican Council II clearly equates the renewal of mission spirit strongly marked by our sacrifice to follow the narrow path of our Lord. "The grace of renewal cannot grow in communities unless each of them expands the range of its charity to the ends of the earth, and has the same concern for those who are far away as it has for its members" (Ad Gentes, 37). God is calling us and counting on us to share the riches of the Gospel with those who are in mission lands through our generous giving and complete gift of ourselves.

Let us ponder the words of Pope John XXIII, "No one today in a world where distance no longer counts can give the excuse that the needs of his faraway brother are not known to him, nor can one say that the task of helping his brother is not his concern." We can together carry out the missions of the Church and continue to foster and transform many in the light of Christ, who commanded us to spread the Gospel to the whole world. We also have to foster vocations that are consecrated for the work of Gospel. Let us humbly serve Christ to promote His

kingdom.

Quoting Blessed Carlo, "The infinite is our homeland. We have always been expected in Heaven." If we want enjoy eternal salvation, we must love our brothers and sisters in need, wherever they are and from wherever they came. In fact, universal fraternity is necessary for everyone. Jesus reminds us that what we do to the "least of others" we do to Him (Mat: 25:31-46). Jesus is the companion of the poor, the hungry, the stranger, the immigrant, the sick, the imprisoned, the misunderstood. Let us hear the cry of the poor and console them by our act of charity.

As the Pope Francis teaches that "the Church is missionary. She exists so that every man and woman may encounter Jesus." (Pope Francis). I pray that may our act of love be genuine, fruitful, and glorify God through our self-giving to others with what God stored in our lives. We can offer our sickness, pain, penance, prayers for the missionaries and it will worth it because our offerings accompany them and it make them effective in their proclamation of the Gospel. The redemptive

value of suffering provides them heavenly graces.

The Mission Appeal program provides a way to centralize the efforts of missionary organizations from around the world who wish to appeal to our Diocese and, at the same time, relate to parishioners, firsthand, their mission experiences, personally appealing for prayers and support. The plan gives parishioners an opportunity to learn about missions at home and abroad as well as the opportunity to assist mission organizations financially in their efforts to spread the Gospel.

We are so grateful to the faithful in our diocese for your continued support and prayers for the missionary activity of the Church. You have responded generously to missionaries who visited your parishes in summer time (May to September) through the Missionary Cooperation Plan (MCP) to share their mission and needs. Prayer is the key element in mission spirituality. Let us be empowered by the Holy Spirit as we pursue the Church's mission to all nations.

Our Lady Queen of Missions, pray for us!

Father Joseph Yokum's funeral homily for Msgr. Francis Meagher

"To be a member of each family, yet belonging to none;

To live in the midst of the world without wishing its pleasures;

To share all suffering; to penetrate all secrets;

To heal all wounds; to go from men to God

and offer Him their prayers;

To return from God to men to bring pardon and hope;

To have a heart of fire for Charity, and a heart of bronze for Chastity

To teach and to pardon, console and bless always.

My God, what a life!

and it is yours, O priest of Jesus Christ."

- "The Priest" by Father Jean-Baptiste Lacordaire, OP (19th century)

"When I was considering the option of what to put on the back of my prayer card at ordination, Frank gave me his prayer card from his ordination from Aug. 6, 1960, the Solemnity of the Transfiguration. On the back of it were the words of "The Priest" by Father Lacordaire. Frank told me when he gave it to me, "My God, what a life! And I would never change even a little bit of it. I couldn't even imagine another life than being a priest."

"The first time I met Frank, I was help-

ing Father Ted (Sill, pastor of Gahanna St. Matthew Church, the site of the Mass) move into the rectory in London. Frank had a smile on his face. He was puffing his pipe. I don't remember if he ever picked up a box that day, but he was sure good at telling people where to go.

"At dinner that night at Pizza Hut, I was sitting right next to him and he said, finally breaking the ice in telling me where I should go, 'Why in the hell are you wasting your time at Ohio State? Don't you know you are supposed to be in seminary already?'"

"Frank had such a tender, straightforward, 'no BS' way about him. Only later did I find out that he was trying to fulfill his quota of priests. He promised God that he would have as many priests as he was years ordained by the time he died.

"Well, Frank, you have a lot of work to do from heaven. You and St. Therese of Lisieux can work together to intercede for more priests from your place in God's heavenly kingdom. But thank you for your inspiration to Msgr. (Anthony) Frecker, Father Sill and all those whom you touched in your life by your own priestly life.

"The vision of the priesthood that is offered by Father Lacordaire was the foundation for all that Frank was about.

He was a priest's priest and a parishioner's priest. He was a member of many of your families, but his most important families were his sister Paulette; the family of his brother priests; the family of the 'B' Hunt Club, and most particularly the parish family wherever he was serving.

"The celebration of the Mass and the sacraments was the focal point of Frank's life within those families, as should be the center of all of my brother priests' lives. We celebrated that most profoundly at the Chrism Mass last week – Frank celebrating it now in eternity, as we renewed our priestly promises and celebrated the day of reflection with Bishop (Ronald) Hicks (of Joliet, Illinois). 'To go from men to God and offer Him their prayers; to return from God to men to being pardon and hope.'

"Having the opportunity to choose the readings as the homilist, I went directly to the readings for Masses for priests. St. Paul in his first letter to the Corinthians writes, 'I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you.' These words are also read year after year at the Holy Thursday Mass of the Lord's Supper and the day we celebrate the institution of the priesthood.

"Peter Kreeft remarks, 'The celebration of the Eucharist within the context of the Holy Mass is the most sacred tradition in the world because it is, hands down, nothing less than God incarnate, our only hope of salvation and eternal life and joy.'

"The Mass makes us contemporary with Jesus by making Jesus contempo-

rary with us – literally bodily as well as spiritually. It makes Jesus not a distant ideal 2,000 years in the past for us to admire and try to imitate from afar, but our very present Savior and Lord who humbles himself to enter into us and into our lives, both body and soul, here and now: in our churches, in a little Host, in a little building, and now at this very present hour of our lives."

"And this is what Frank lived for. Frank opened his heart to me as a seminarian and a brother priest because of his Eucharistic heart. He opened his heart to Ted and his family over 50 years ago.

"He opened his cabin as a place of refuge for priests and a young Ted Sill to pray and discern his own calling to the priesthood. He wanted that cabin to be a place for priests to recreate together, rest together and pray together. 'To have a heart of fire for charity.' And it stemmed from his love of the Eucharist and the Church.

"My God, what a life! And it is yours, O priest of Jesus Christ.' From his many retreats fishing and hunting in the North Woods at Schuda's, from his love of people, his pipe and Canadian Club. From his love of being a priest and his love for priests, we offer Frank back to you, almighty God.

"Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace. May his soul and the souls of all the faithfully departed priests of the Diocese of Columbus rest in peace. Amen."

Douglas K. McGeorge

Funeral Mass for Douglas K. McGeorge, 76, who died Monday, April 1, was celebrated Wednesday, April 10, at Our Mother of Sorrows Chapel on the grounds of St. Joseph Cemetery, Columbus.

He was a longtime employee of Columbus Holy Family Church.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Ivan and Emily McGeorge, and his wife, Laura and is survived by a brother, Robert.



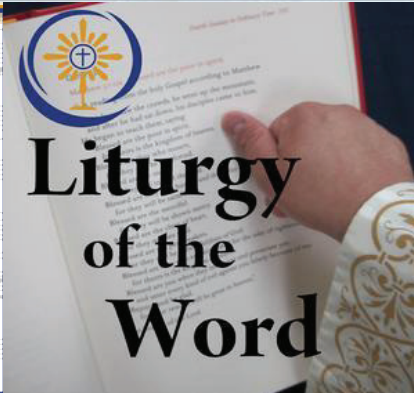
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NEWMAN, continued from Page 2

Kuehnle said there can be attrition, or a reduction in numbers, if the community is not well built. He said the OCIA program was deliberate about building community well this year.

Each OCIA class began with a meal after the 6 p.m. Sunday Mass. The shared meal gave catechumens and candidates an opportunity to get to know one another and the undergraduate student volunteers.

“There is a strong one-on-one dimension where I feel like I’ve developed some kind of relationship with everyone,” Kuehnle said.

OCIA classes were also largely discussion based.

Kuehnle said students asked questions, and each class included a discussion on a theological issue, a Catholic practice, Scripture and prayer. He said classes weaved together various elements of the Catholic life.

“Ideally, OCIA is an occasion where people are wrestling still and they do still have questions and they want to see if the Church has answers; they believe the Church might have answers,” he said.

A handful of students will enter the Church at the Newman Center in the next few weeks, he said. The program allowed students who needed more time to pray before coming into the Church an opportunity to do that.

Kuehnle also attributed growth to evangelization efforts on campus.

“That’s one of the stunning developments I’ve seen at the Newman Center

over the last two years – just how present they are,” he said.

FOCUS and SPO missionaries are often on campus, Kuehnle said. They can be found playing games in the heart of campus on The Oval, a grassy area stretching from the university’s Thompson Library to College Road. Missionaries are also present to students at orientation events.

Buckeye Catholic ministry at the Newman Center coordinates Eucharistic processions in which the Eucharist on display in the monstrance is processed through campus.

“I feel like, if you’re a college student at Ohio State and you go to class, you’ve got a pretty good chance of walking by a Eucharistic procession at some point, and that’s a marvelous thing,” Kuehnle said.

He added that the Newman Center has invested in their OCIA program. From providing a weekly dinner before OCIA class to providing each student a copy of Scripture, the rosary and theological literature, Kuehnle said the Newman Center is investing in the Church and evangelization efforts.

He recognized Father Adam Streitenberger, executive director of the Newman Center, and Pat McNulty, the assistant director.

“I think that the Newman Center has been

supporting OCIA, and that also accounts for the pretty tremendous growth that’s happening there and the number of students who are being brought in,” Kuehnle said.

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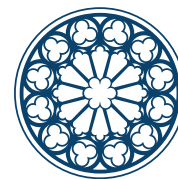


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