

# The CATHOLIC TIMES

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# Local Catholic Medical Association honors protectors of life

By Hannah Heil  
Catholic Times Reporter

The Catholic Medical Association (CMA) of Central Ohio held its annual Hippocratic Oath event on April 29 at the Columbus St. Thomas More Newman Center.

The local organization, formerly known as the John Paul II Guild, bestowed awards on several individuals for their faith and work.

"All of our members of the Catholic Medical Association ... not only see Jesus Christ in their patients and other people, but they present themselves as the healing Jesus Christ – Jesus Christ the Healer – and that's truly the core of who we are as members," said Dr. Michael Parker, an obstetrician-gynecologist (OB/GYN) and president of the local CMA.

Dr. Kathleen Lutter, a practicing OB/GYN for nearly 40 years, received the St. Gianna Courage in Medicine award. The award recognizes a Catholic healthcare professional who exemplifies courage in the culture through their life and practice.

Also honored were a chaplain, an organization dedicated to helping mothers, a medical student and a family that helped establish the local CMA.

Parker presented Lutter the award, saying, "Your witness to the Church's mission and to uphold the dignity of the least of these and your personal sacrifice and humility to improve the lives of your patients is an example that we can all learn from."

The CMA's president recognized Lutter for demonstrating "extraordinary courage" in the face of pressure and hardship. Parker commended her for her "determination and resilience during the Issue 1 campaign, which should be a model for all physicians."

In November 2023, Ohioans passed state Issue 1, enshrining abortion in the state constitution through all nine months of pregnancy. Lutter was commended for her faithfulness to the Magisterium and moral leadership.

Lutter participated in the Ohio March for Life at the Statehouse in October with her parish, Sunbury St. John Neumann. At the march, Lutter shared that she was approached by a young woman who, noticing Lutter's white coat, asked if she was Catholic and "all in." Lutter answered in the affirmative.

Lutter admitted she was unaware that the woman "was wearing a hidden Go-



Dr. Kathleen Lutter (left) receives the St. Gianna Courage in Medicine award from Dr. Michael Parker.

Pro camera, was dressed as a pro-lifer but later admitted that she infiltrated an 'anti-woman march and caught a female doctor attending in support of this awful cause.'"

In the exchange, which Lutter was unaware was being videotaped, she provided her name and other information. The woman posted the video on TikTok, and within hours, Lutter said, she was doxed: name, business office location, office and personal phone numbers, home address and family contacts. The video received approximately 500,000 views within 24 hours.

She was notified by her business manager that afternoon that the office's website was overwhelmed by calls for her firing and phone systems were unusable because of the traffic.

Later that night, Lutter said, her cell phone number was used by nurses, nurse practitioners, female physicians and others "sharing their disgust at my presence at such a march."

The individuals called for her firing, as well as for action by the American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology and sanctioning by the State Medical Board for her "unprofessional behavior." Lutter said she received threats to her body and home.

She was abandoned by several pro-choice family members, friends, patients and colleagues, who, she said, she trained during their residencies and others who she mentored, referred to and delivered their babies.

Lutter said the woman who posted the video opted to take it down after 24 hours rather than face a defamation lawsuit.



Dr. Ashley Fernandes (right) presents the Holy Family Award to (from left) Jessica Joseph, Dr. Sandy Joseph and Dr. Tony Joseph.



Father Bob Penhallurick (right) receives the St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta Service to Medicine Award from Dr. Ashley Fernandes and Dr. Marian Schuda.

However, within that day, Lutter encountered a darkness that continued.

She described the time as isolating and dark. She was in disbelief that her nearly 40-year career might end. Lutter said she went to work each day after the incident and put on her "happy face" while colleagues continued to talk about her and patients called daily saying they were no longer coming in.

"I was very focused on my practice and my career, and I forgot to remember that I was a child of God," she said.

In the midst of the darkness, Lutter said she received support from patients and friends who prayed for her. She said several patients wrote reviews to salvage her social media presence, as she lost her previous all five-star reviews on Google.



Monica Flynn (left) of Mommies Matter accepts the Pope St. John Paul II Culture of Life Award from Dorie and Greg France.



Brandon Wolters (left) accepts the St. Luke Faith and Reason Award for medical trainees from Dr. Tess Murray. *CT photos by Ken Snow*

Lutter said she found allies she did not know she had.

She signed up for a 2-3 a.m. Adoration time slot at her parish and began Adoring the Lord in the wee hours of the morning. She also began regularly praying with the Hallow prayer app.

"I'm currently stronger, more focused and realize that my only crime was to support life from natural conception to natural death, and if that was a hill I had to die on, then so be it," she said.

Lutter recalled the words of St. John Chrysostom, a fourth-century bishop and doctor of the Church, who said, "I urge you, my friends, to have confidence. Let the world be in upheaval. I hold to His promise and read His message, and that is

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## Front page photos FESTIVAL LISTING GUIDE

Festivals at Portsmouth St. John Paul II Scioto Catholic Parish, Columbus St. Catharine and Worthington St. Michael (each pictured on cover) are among the outdoor events listed in the annual guide that will take place around the diocese beginning in June.

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

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# Newman Center coffee shop to open for business, evangelization

By Hannah Heil  
Catholic Times Reporter

A new coffee shop is opening in town with more than iced coffee and lattes on the menu.

Located inside the Columbus St. Thomas More Newman Center adjacent from the Ohio State University, the coffee house offers a dose of hospitality, friendship and an encounter with the Lord courtesy of the students who are undertaking the role of missionary disciples.

Buckeye Catholic ministry at the Newman Center worked with Crimson Cup to open the coffee shop in the newly renovated student formation center. Crimson Cup will expand its spinoff shop, CRIMSON, by establishing a location there.

CRIMSON's newest shop will be located at the front entrance of the Newman Center, 64 W. Lane Ave., and occupy approximately 750 square feet.

The coffee shop is one of the final parts of a \$3 million renovation of the student formation center at the Newman Center that began last year. Renovations were funded by the diocesan "Forming Spiritual Entrepreneurs" campaign designed to promote evangelization and vocations in the Columbus Catholic community.

The goal of the Newman Center renovations was to create an environment that could be an entryway for young adults to encounter Christ and His Church. Renovations include the addition of the coffee shop, student lounge and meeting spaces for Bible study groups and student events, as well as a renovated sanctuary area for the celebration of Mass and new confessionals.

Father Adam Streitenberger, the executive director of the Newman Center and diocesan vicar for evangelization, came up with an idea for a coffee shop in the student center through the strategic planning process and students expressed interest.

"We also wanted an anchor to draw in more students – students who necessarily wouldn't be coming here for Mass or for confession or for Bible studies – students that just could come in," he said.

The idea for a coffee shop was pitched to Greg Ubert, the founder and president of Crimson Cup.

"I thought this is a great opportunity for us to come in and showcase our award-winning coffees to Ohio State," said Ubert, who is Catholic.

"There's a wonderful opportunity for people, if they so desire, to ... get into discipleship ... to become more attuned to what's going on and what's happening, to have open conversation, which ... I think is wonderful because I'm not so sure I had that opportunity – certainly in college, it wasn't there."

The opportunity for individuals to share over a cup of coffee is part of why Ubert got involved in the coffee business.

"It does foster a sense of community," he said. "It fosters openness and conver-



The new coffee shop inside the Columbus St. Thomas More Newman Center is part of a \$3 million renovation that began last year with the goal to provide a place for young adults to encounter Christ at Ohio State University.

sation. What I've noticed in my 33 years of being in business, coffee can really open up a conversation where people feel much more comfortable, relaxed and in a space where they can share more."

Father Streitenberger said the shop is an opportunity for outreach. He hopes CRIMSON will draw students into an encounter with fellow students who are on mission to serve the Lord.

"We're not opening a coffee shop just to provide coffee for people or just to get people here," he said. "We have to go the next step and present Christ to them and to be willing to proclaim the Gospel."

Father Streitenberger said students at the coffee shop need to engage in outreach to others whether they are studying, reading or relaxing.

"Bishop Fernandes calls us to be spiritual entrepreneurs," he said.

While CRIMSON is experimenting with beverage flavors in the kitchen – the shop offers a variety of coffees and teas, as well as a seasonal drink menu – Father Streitenberger described the coffee shop's opening as an experiment of sorts with students.

"In some sense, you could say that this is like a tutorial," he said. "It's just like the classes that they're taking across the street. We're trying to teach them how to be on mission because every Catholic needs to be on mission."

Missionaries with the Fellowship of Catholic University Students and Saint Paul's Outreach apostolates, who minister at Ohio State, regularly practice outreach on campus. The coffee shop will serve as a place where they can meet and build relationships with students.

"We might see this as a welcoming of people, but a welcoming of people is insufficient if we don't interact with them and propose the Gospel," Father Streitenberger said.

He listed four steps for effective evangelization: outreach, proclaiming the Gospel, catechesis and sending on mission.



The new CRIMSON coffee shop at the St. Thomas More Newman Center adjacent to the Ohio State University campus is visible to passers-by from Lane Avenue. The coffee shop is a partnership with Columbus-based Crimson Cup. Photos courtesy Newman Center

The coffee shop is a point of outreach where students are invited in and evangelization can begin. Father Streitenberger said students are then formed as disciples through good catechesis.

"It's not like you get people lined up for coffee and then you start preaching at them," he said. "That's not how it works."

He noted, instead, that outreach begins with hospitality and friendship, and students must initiate a relationship. Every time an individual visits the coffee shop, another person needs to acknowledge that individual, say "hello" and introduce themselves, Father Streitenberger said.

After a greeting, introduction and conversation, there must be an "ask" or invitation at the end, he said. This could include exchanging numbers and planning to meet again.

After a "sufficient amount of conversation," he said, a student could then invite the individual to their Bible study or a men's night.

He noted that an invitation is important.

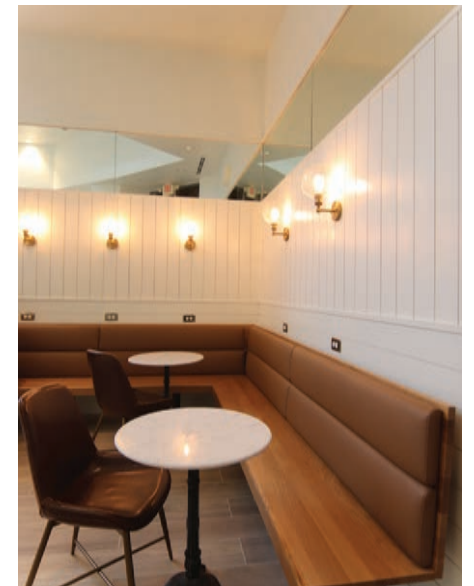
"It's those invitations to Bible studies or to men's and women's groups or to the Mass that people come, and then they realize that, actually, you know, practicing the faith as a student at the Ohio State University is not abnormal or insane," Father Streitenberger said.

He believes that one invitation to a Bible study or small group, or simply to meet again for coffee, can transform an individual's life.

"What's going to happen is that these students are invited into Bible studies, men's groups, women's groups; they're going to go through those; they're going to be formed as leaders; they're going to discern their vocations," he said.

"They're going to go out into parishes and be leaders there, and having experienced mission and outreach, being re-evangelized, they also will be on mission. So, it'll be transformative."

The coffee shop is located steps away



The St. Thomas More Newman Center's new coffee shop occupies approximately 750 square feet in the student formation center.

from the sanctuary. Father Streitenberger said some students might come for coffee, explore the building and encounter the Lord in the Blessed Sacrament.

The shop could also impact practicing Catholic students. He said most do not realize that they have a student center "dedicated just to them."

Father Streitenberger said he often hears from individuals who did not know a Newman Center existed until their junior year. He hopes the coffee shop will introduce those students to the Catholic community, too.

"I really believe that there are going to be students – Catholic students – who come here for coffee, who then come to realize, actually, the sacraments are available; there's a community of Catholics here," he said.

CRIMSON is expected to open at the Newman Center this month.



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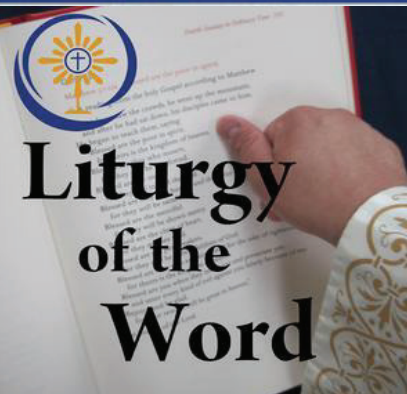


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## Can I eat before Mass?

Dear Father,  
Someone at my campus ministry told me that I'm not supposed to eat before going to Mass. She said something about a one-hour fast. I never heard of this and I was raised a Catholic. Is this true about fasting?

- Messalina

Dear Messalina,

Yes, it is true that Catholics are required to fast from food and drink in preparation for Holy Communion. The 1983 Code of Canon Law, no. 919, states, "Whoever is to receive the blessed Eucharist is to abstain for at least one hour before Holy Communion from all food and drink, with the sole exception of water and medicine."

The law uses the word "abstain" rather than "fast," but the meaning is the same. One may drink plain water or take medicine within the one-hour fasting period, however.

It's worth noting that the canon stipulates "at least one hour." This is a way of encouraging us to go beyond the legal limit and prepare ourselves for Holy Communion by fasting for a longer period of time. In fact, the one hour is a modern concession when it comes to receiving the Most Holy Sacrament.

I recommend the excellent article in Antiphon, "Eucharistic Fasting," by Sister Madeleine Grace. She notes that the pre-Communion fast is an ancient practice in the Catholic Church. That said, during the first centuries of the Church, considering that an agape meal preceded the Eucharist, it seems there was no fast before Communion.

However, by the fifth century, St. Augustine spoke about it as a nearly universal practice, apparently thinking that it was divinely inspired. We have evidence that

### SACRAMENTS 101

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

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



a fast was definitely universally practiced in the Middle Ages. In the 1917 Code of Canon Law, the fast began at midnight. Keep in mind that people attended early morning Masses. Moreover, Catholics used to be more aware of the need for going to Confession prior to receiving Holy Communion.

In 1953, Pope Pius XII, in his Apostolic Constitution *Christus Dominus*, reminded Catholics that fasting in preparation for Communion pays "due honor to our Divine Redeemer, it fosters piety ... and it can help to increase in us most salutary fruits of holiness which Christ, the Source and Author of all good, wishes us who are enriched by His Grace to bring forth." He went on to point out what we know from human nature, namely, that "when the body is not weighted down by food the mind more easily is lifted up" so that we can "meditate upon that hidden and transcendent Mystery that works in the soul, as in a temple, to the increase of divine charity."

Partly due to the shortage of priests and the increases in numbers of Masses at later hours, in 1957 Pope Pius XII reduced the fast to three hours. In 1964, Pope Paul VI further reduced the fast to one hour, the current discipline.

Medicine and water do not break the fast. Also, the new canon law asserts that "the elderly, the infirm, and those who care for them can receive the Most Holy Eucharist even if they have eaten something within the preceding hour." The fasting rule is also mitigated for priests who celebrate multiple Masses on the same day.

One hour "before Holy Communion" hardly seems difficult, apart from the elderly and infirm. If you arrive a decent time before Mass begins, and especially if the priest is a long-winded preacher, almost an hour will have elapsed before Communion. You would almost have to be munching on a doughnut on your way into the church in order to break the fasting law these days. Does this really show proper respect and preparation for receiving the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus Christ? Surely, not!

People will often ask whether coffee breaks the fast. While some people's coffee looks more like they merely waved a coffee bean over a cup of water (yes, I like my coffee strong), coffee is not water even if it is mostly water. That goes for other beverages, too.

For those wondering about chewing gum or a piece of candy or something that has no calories, I would remind them to take seriously the need to prepare to receive Christ in your body and soul. I mean, this is God, people!

Quite frankly, and I know I'm not alone in this, I think we need to return to the three-hour fast before Holy Communion. I believe that a longer fast would help us to take more seriously that we are feasting on the Body of Christ. As one commentator noted, the longer fast also would help us to prepare for the Liturgy of the Word. Here, too, we are taking in to our souls Christ the Word.

Pope Benedict XVI taught that since it is Christ Who gives Himself completely to us, should we not give ourselves to Him in a total self-offering. The Eucharistic fast is just one aspect of our self-offering.

## Multiple factors influence new priests' call to religious vocations

Ask a newly ordained priest about the factors that influenced his vocation and expect to receive a variety of answers.

Responses range from prayer, encouragement from a parishioner, family or clergy member, an inner calling from God, a retreat, a seminary visit or youth group participation.

For most, a multitude of factors come into play. And it's no different for the five men who were to be ordained to the priesthood for the Diocese of Columbus on Saturday, May 18 at Columbus St. Andrew Church by Bishop Earl Fernandes.

Each of the five share some commonalities in their vocation stories. But two of them are a little more intertwined.

Fathers Tyler Carter and Michael Haemmerle have the same home church, which is Columbus St. Patrick. Both were altar servers for the parish and each of them followed less traditional education paths.

St. Patrick has proved to be a seedbed for vocations in the diocese. At one point a few years ago, nearly a quarter of the diocesan seminarians considered St. Patrick their home parish.

One is already ordained and serving as a priest in the diocese. Another is a seminarian still in formation.

A number of young men and women who grew up in the downtown parish have gone on to join religious orders. Many of them were impacted by the preaching and witness of the Dominican Friars who have served at the parish since 1885.

St. Patrick offers a robust altar serving program that

### EDITOR'S REFLECTIONS

has included more than 100 young men at various points. In an effort to foster vocations to the priesthood and religious life, the parish follows Church tradition in allowing only boys to serve at the altar. They receive extensive training in serving the Mass and have the opportunity to see behind the scenes, so to speak, what it's like for priests to offer the sacraments to the faithful.

The impact of altar serving on vocations is not limited to St. Patrick. An annual national study commissioned by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops confirms its importance.

Each year, the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA) at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C., conducts a survey of men who will be ordained to the priesthood. The results from the 2024 class showed that 71 percent of the respondents were altar servers before entering the seminary.

"Serving helps to get that interest because (servers) get to see the priest up close and work with him and get inspired," Father Carter said. "In my case, I already felt drawn to the priesthood. So it's like a logical progression.

"(But) to start serving at the altar and be closer to the mystery of the Mass, for me it was very formative, and for a lot of priests it seems to be (too)."

It stands to reason then that altar serving apostolates like St. Patrick's and the Knights of the Holy Temple program for male servers at Westerville St. Paul the

Apostle Church can play an important role in religious vocations.

Being an altar server is "a great source of vocations," said Father Stephen Alcott, OP, pastor at St. Patrick. "We have two of our parishioners being ordained to the priesthood and in recent years we've had Father Seth Keller.

"We've had more diocesan vocations recently than Dominicans, but we've also had some (Dominican seminarians and priests) pass through here, and there are also a number of sisters from here and some women in the parish who are currently information with religious congregations of sisters."

Similarly, the Handmaids of the Eucharist program at St. Paul Church, where young women are trained to serve as sacristans, could have the same effect on girls considering a life of service to the Church as religious sisters.

Part of the training includes the development of a good prayer life that ultimately could lead to a religious vocation. The CARA study shows that to be true. In this year's survey, 75 percent of the newly ordained said they went to Eucharistic Adoration in a regular basis, 71 percent prayed the rosary and 50 percent attended a prayer or Bible study group.

Included among the many questions in the CARA survey is educational background.

Fathers Carter and Haemmerle followed a somewhat less traditional educational paths. Father Carter attended the faithfully independent Mater Dei Academy

# The most serious miscalculation of all?

Physician-assisted suicide, according to its advocates, offers a good way to wrap up our life as we face extreme suffering. When we think we have reached the limit of what we can bear in terms of pain and discomfort, they assure us we can choose death on “our own terms.” Given that our life belongs to us and no one else, we are told we should feel free to end it, supported by professionals from the medical community. Once our physician has prescribed us a toxic pharmaceutical, we are at liberty to ingest it whenever we are ready and “want out.” This final act will putatively close out our time of suffering, resolving our situation for the better, and giving permanent testimony that we believe we are, quite literally, “better off dead.”

But are we?

What if multiple mistaken ideas and flawed assumptions sustain this whole line of thinking? For example, what if we are mistaken in supposing that our life is exclusively our own? What if it also belongs, in important ways, to God and to others? And what if we are mistaken in supposing that suffering can no longer befall those who pass through death to the other side?

Some might be tempted to reply, “There is no God and no ‘other side.’” Beyond the portal of death, they argue, lies nothing — mere void and blackness. We vanish, and life does not continue on in any form.

Careful thinkers, however, would have to admit that, since we have not actually died yet, we lack the firsthand experience or positive knowledge to be certain about this conclusion. Given that many religious traditions teach strongly about our existence after death, careful thinkers face still greater uncertainty when it comes to the claim that there is no “other side.” It could even be the case that they may be simply deceiving

Among the many urgent questions raised by the Synods on the Family in 2014 and 2015 and the current Synod on Synodality — questions that will inevitably bear on the next papal conclave — is that of unity: in what, precisely, does the unity of the Church consist? What is the content of the “one” in the Creed’s affirmation of “one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church?”

The Synods on the Family grappled with this in their debates on worthiness to receive Holy Communion: Could those in canonically irregular marriages, who were not living in unity with the settled teaching and pastoral practice of the Church, participate fully in the sacrament of unity, the Eucharist? Or ought they refrain from receiving Holy Communion while still joining the community in offering true worship to the Father?

The ambiguities in *Amoris Laetitia*, the post-synodal apostolic exhortation that followed those Synods, did not resolve that question. Rather, it deepened the concern that fault lines were opening in the Church, with some local Church interpreting *Amoris Laetitia* according to the line they had taken at the Synods (i.e., those in irregular marriages could receive Holy Communion) and other local churches interpreting the apostolic exhortation differently (those in irregular marriages should refrain from receiving Holy Communion). Those fault lines were deep indeed. For how could it be that a source of sanctifying grace in Germany was a grave sin ten miles away, on the Polish side of the German-Polish border?

This, by the way, was a concern the Group of Thirteen Cardinals (now infamous in some circles) considered raising in their letter to the Pope at the outset of Synod-2015. In that letter, the cardinals politely requested

## MAKING SENSE OUT OF BIOETHICS | Father Tad Pacholczyk

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



themselves about something that they wish were true.

Many people today take this same approach when speaking about others who have died. “She is with the angels,” they may declare, or “He’s in a better place now.” Even though they lack any firsthand or real knowledge that would support such claims about other people’s post-mortem destinies, they simply want it to be so, and because they desire it to be that way, they jump to the conclusion that it actually is so.

This can have a practical impact whereby Catholics, for example, may not pray or have Masses offered for the repose of the soul of departed loved ones, even though both of these activities, objectively speaking, could be of potentially great assistance to those who have died. Instead, they play along in a kind of cultural fiction tempting us to believe that if we feel or want something to be true, then it must be so.

In considering our own death, then, we may similarly entertain a strong wish that there be no more sufferings on the other side, especially when it comes to justifying our decision to engage in physician-assisted suicide. Simply having such a wish, however, does not actually make it so. From our limited vantage point, we cannot safely rule out the possibility that after we die,

we could encounter purifications and afflictions similar to, or exceeding, those we left behind, especially if we had chosen to become the direct cause and agent of our own demise.

Careful thinkers, then, will acknowledge that, at a minimum, they lack certitude regarding the conclusion that suffering, purgation and punishment are impossible in the hereafter. They also need to consider scenarios in which the hereafter may be much longer than they might initially suppose, perhaps even eternal, as they ponder the ethical questions involved in death, dying and self-killing.

Given our lack of firsthand awareness of what awaits us after death, and the potential for serious, extended consequences, we may indeed be foolishly gambling with our most valuable asset, our very selves, if we choose physician-assisted suicide as a means of ending our earthly existence. This could engender profound regret. In thinking through the worst-case scenario, we could even envision the prospect of catastrophic repercussions and the loss of everything through eternal perdition, if we had, with full awareness and intention, and in the absence of mental illness or other mitigating factors, freely pursued the wrongful action of suicide.

Looking squarely at these logical possibilities and unpacking some of the flawed assumptions behind physician-assisted suicide can help us avoid the most serious miscalculation of all, whereby we end up, not in deliverance, but in straits potentially far worse than the limited, earthly travails we are seeking to escape. Instead of trusting in worldly slogans and leaning on human wishes, careful thinkers will seek to discern the deeper eschatological order governing human perishing and death.

## Unity in what?

### THE CATHOLIC DIFFERENCE George Weigel

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



a revision of the Synod procedures so that there would be a more robust synodal debate, and a voting process in which the Synod fathers rendered their judgments on specific propositions. An early draft of that letter warned against the possibility of the Catholic Church coming to resemble the local-option Anglican Communion, in which some constituent national churches believed and practiced in one way, and other constituent churches believed and practiced the opposite: that, it was suggested, was the path to true schism. At the end, the cardinals decided to focus on synodal procedures only and this yellow caution flag was not included in the letter’s final text.

Yet the concern remained. And it has been intensified since, not least because of diverse reactions to the December 2023 declaration of the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith on the possibility of blessing those in same-sex unions and relationships. The churches of Belgium and Germany applauded (and continued to do what they had already been doing) and the churches of Africa registered a firm “No, thank you.” These fault lines, and others, will help define the debate — and let us pray that it will be a real debate, not some ersatz and manipulated “Conversation in the Spirit” — at the Synod in October 2024.

The question of the content of the Church’s unity

was clarified by Pope John Paul II during his first pastoral pilgrimage to the United States in October 1979. Prior to the Pope’s visit, U.S.-based ecumenical dialogues had focused on core doctrinal issues, “bracketing” moral questions on which there was deep disagreement between Catholics and their Protestant dialogue partners. John Paul had a different view.

After greeting the ecumenical congregation gathered in the chapel of Washington’s Trinity College as “beloved Christian brethren and fellow disciples of the Lord Jesus,” the Pope celebrated their common proclamation that “there is one Mediator between God and man, the man Christ Jesus (1 Tim. 2.5)” and noted with satisfaction their common love for “Sacred Scripture, which we recognize as the inspired word of God.” The Pope also cited with regret “the deep division” between Christian communities “which still exists over moral and ethical matters.” And then, in one sentence, he shut down the ecumenical cafeteria: “The moral life and the life of faith are so deeply united that it is impossible to divide them.” Message: There can be no bracketing of moral issues in a genuine dialogue about recomposing Christian unity.

If that is true for ecumenism, it is certainly true for the unity of the Catholic Church. The content of the “one” in the Nicene affirmation of “one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church” is a unity in faith: a unity in the truths we know from revelation and reason. Local-option Catholicism is not Catholicism. National Catholicism is not Catholicism. The truths of faith — which include the moral truths that facilitate human flourishing and beatitude — are universal.

Which is to say, catholic and Catholic.

## Diocesan St. Peregrine Fund supports those dealing with cancer

It seems every month offers opportunities to grow in our awareness of cancer.

May is Skin Cancer Awareness Month.

For decades, the Church has looked for ways to support those struggling with cancer. For over 14 years, our diocese has had a great one – the St. Peregrine Fund!

St. Peregrine is the patron saint for those suffering from cancer and other life-threatening illnesses.

In 2010, Bishop Fredrick Campbell and the Diocesan Council of Catholic Women launched a diocesan initiative – Catholics for Cancer Prevention and Cure. In 2016, this initiative was renamed the St. Peregrine Fund. The purpose of the fund is to provide resources for cancer screening, ethical research and outreach to individuals and families dealing with all forms of cancer in the Diocese of Columbus.

The fund helps cancer patients and their families with unmet needs through the Catholic hospital systems in our diocese (Mount Carmel Foundation, Genesis HealthCare Foundation, Trinity Hospital Twin City Foundation), the Stephanie Spielman Fund for research and patient outreach, and a fund available to parishes outside the Catholic hospital systems networks through the diocesan Office for Social Concerns.

There are many low-income and underserved people in the 23-county diocese along with families whose medical bills have drained their resources. The parish dimension of the fund provides auxiliary items such items as compression garments, wigs, prosthetic breasts with bras, genetic counseling and testing, com-

### FAITH IN ACTION | Erin Cordle

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



fort bags, transportation, breast reconstruction, mammograms, medications, diet counseling, food and gas gift cards.

A new survey by the American Academy of Dermatology reveals that last year more than one-third of adults were sunburned, which is the highest number since 2020. Research shows that sunburn damages the skin, and even one blistering burn during childhood can increase the risk of developing melanoma later in life. Melanoma is on the rise in the U.S.

Skin cancer can be deadly but is preventable. May is the month to check those freckles, age spots and moles just in case. Looking for any new or changing spots or moles on your body. The key is to detect melanoma as soon as possible.

Doctors discovered a cancerous growth on Peregrine's right foot. Because of the constant, intense pain, he finally agreed with the surgeon who wanted to amputate his leg. The night before the scheduled surgery, Peregrine spent hours in prayer. He dozed off and dreamed that Christ was touching him and healing his foot. The thrill of it woke him and he saw that his foot was completely healed. After learning of his miraculous cure, many began to ask Peregrine to pray for

and with them.

The lesson of St. Peregrine's life is not only the miraculous cure, but that a faithful, trusting servant surrendered himself to the Lord. Peregrine's trust in God can be a model for us in dealing with the pain, sickness and crosses in our own lives and his intercession as we pray for others bearing their own crosses.

In the Joy of the Gospel, Pope Francis wrote, "An authentic faith – which is never comfortable or completely personal – always involves a deep desire to change the world, to transmit values, and to leave this earth somehow better than we found it." One of St. Peregrine's slogans was: "Better today than yesterday, better tomorrow than today!"

Material and financial support for the St. Peregrine Fund may be sent or dropped off at the diocesan Office for Social Concerns (197 East Gay St., Columbus, OH 43215; checks should be made out to the Catholic Diocese of Columbus with St. Peregrine in the memo line). All donations will be distributed through the St. Peregrine Fund (no administrative costs are deducted).

For more information, contact Erin Cordle, Office for Social Concerns, 614-241-2540 or socmailbox@columbuscatholic.org or go to the diocesan website at St. Peregrine Fund - Catholic Diocese of Columbus (columbuscatholic.org).

## A grateful heart for the gift of marital love

I live a love story every day, but it is not a fairy tale. It is rather one I hold with abundant gratitude and protect fiercely. People often remark how unusual it is to be this in love after 27 years of marriage. Our children roll their eyes in mock uncomfortableness when they see us dance in the kitchen, comment on the attractiveness of the other, or catch us smooching in the hallways. They also see the other side that is the call to order when we are not right with each other, the care and compassion when one of us falls sick, the support and encouragement we give to each other in our jobs, our parenting, and our goals.

My elderly father reached out to me recently to tell me he was going to "break it off" with his girlfriend of many years. It is an interesting stage of life when you begin to parent your parents. Lord have mercy on my children when we reach that stage of life.

I explained to him the importance of supporting one another and communicating openly. As I listened to my dad lay out feelings, I have honestly had in my relationship with my husband and undoubtedly he with me, I pondered why we are different. Why in a culture where it is the norm when things get hard do we not call it quits?

It is hard to communicate to a young married couple the gift of sacramental grace. When we stood before the Lord and spoke our vows to each other, the excitement honestly outweighed our realization of the lifelong gift that was being bestowed upon us. But that gift is one that has bound us, held us, sustained us, and encouraged us in so very many ways throughout our marriage.

There have been intense seasons of suffering for a child or for each other. We have weathered these storms by drawing closer to each other. As I spoke to my Dad, I quoted some Scripture that has been a light post for me in dark times. In 1 Peter, 4:8, Peter reminds

### 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.



us that "Above all else, love each other deeply." For me, that means that even when I am frustrated, hurt, angry or just plain tired, as raising eight children will make one feel, if I love my husband deeply, it is worth the sacrifice. It is worth the effort.

I also think frequently on John 3:30 where we are reminded that "He must increase and I must decrease." Putting someone else above yourself teaches humility. I don't hide my needs, thoughts, hurts or opinions, but rather prayerfully give them to God and ask Him for the timing to discuss them if at all.

There is always a safe place for me to share my heart with my husband, but the Lord knows it better than I do. I ask Him to help me love others more than myself and my own emotions. The Lord's timing is always better, and the grace given in turning to Him has strength-

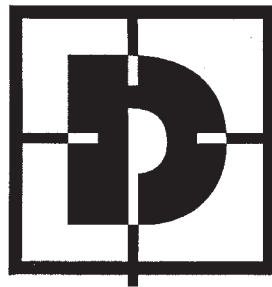
ened our marriage in countless ways. Again, my heart bursts with gratitude for that gift.

Our culture often searches for the perfect. We live in a culture that can have what we want in the moment delivered to us instantaneously. Relationships do not work that way, at least not the ones that last a lifetime.

Marriages are strengthened by calling upon the grace that is available to you through the sacramental vows you made to each other. We choose to love and laugh our way through our mishaps and to hold tight to each other and to the Lord in the storms. This love story is one worth living out day by day. I am amazed by its beauty.

To read more of MaryBeth Eberhard's writing, visit her website and subscribe for updates at [www.marybetheberhard.com](http://www.marybetheberhard.com).

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## Bishop to accompany local pilgrims to France

Bishop Earl Fernandes will lead 47 Catholic pilgrims to France for “Returning Love for Love: A Pilgrimage to the Heart of Jesus” starting May 31 and returning to Columbus on June 9.

The pilgrims will focus on responding to the loving heart of Jesus during the trip to France, which is taking place during the Jubilee Year celebrating the 350th anniversary of the revelations of the Sacred Heart of Jesus at Paray-le-Monial.

The highlight will be celebrating the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart on June 7 at the Visitation Chapel in Paray-le-Monial. The group will attend a private Mass on the feast day at the Chapel of the Visitation, where 350 years ago Jesus appeared to St. Margaret Mary, revealing His heart and asking her to spread this devotion to others.

Father Jonathan Wilson, pastor of Westerville St. Paul the Apostle Church, will accompany the pilgrims on the trip, which will be led by Emily Jaminet, executive director of the Sacred Heart Enthronement Network, and coordinated by Corporate Travel-Catholic Pilgrimages.

The pilgrimage will provide an opportunity to encounter the life of many significant saints, including St. Margaret Mary, to whom Jesus appeared in 1673; St. Vincent de Paul; St. Catherine Labouré, who received three apparitions of the Blessed Mother in 1830 in France; St. John Vianney, patron of priests; St. Bernadette, whom the Blessed Mother appeared to at Lourdes; and St. Therese of Lisieux and her parents, Sts. Zélie and Louis Martin.

These saints and many other import-

ant sites are found in France. Among them are the church with the longest-running Perpetual Adoration and the Basilica of the Sacred Heart in Montmartre.

Another highlight will be Bishop Fernandes leading a trip to venerate the relics St. Francis de Sales, the patron saint of the diocese.

“We couldn’t be any more excited to go on pilgrimage with the bishop,” Jaminet said.

The group will also visit Omaha Beach, which is a five-mile stretch of Normandy coast in France that was used by Allied forces during the D-Day invasion in World War II on June 6, 1944. The pilgrims will pray at the site for the repose of the souls of the brave soldiers on June 2, just days before the 80th anniversary of this significant day of freedom.

Father Wilson recently shared that traveling as a pilgrim requires much prayer and patience, saying that the group is going with a “purpose” — to grow closer to God. He also reminded the group at its kickoff meeting of the need to be open to new people and to make sure to have “phun” — a new kind of fun where you are open to the Lord in a new way and encounter a deeper conversion.

The pilgrims represent multiple parishes in the diocese and beyond. They will be praying for loved ones and for the needs of the Church.

In Columbus, Masses will be offered for the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart with the desire that all people will be united in the love of the Lord while asking Jesus to pour forth new graces into their lives and renew the faithful so that they might grow in holiness.

## Ask for Christ’s help to carry your cross rather than remove it

Recently, when a friend and I were training with weights, we really challenged ourselves to go heavier in our kettlebells swings. It was so hard that we were both tempted to stop. But instead, we focused on the foundational cues: strong core, root the feet, eye gaze up, upright posture, breathe from the diaphragm, relax! and so on.

Afterward, I was thinking about how focusing on the foundations of the movement are much like our call to focus on the foundations of our faith when life gets challenging. We are called to keep our eyes fixed on Jesus in hard times by relying on prayer, adoration, receiving the Sacraments, reading Scripture, and serving God and His people.

So instead of focusing on the trial, the Cross, or the challenge, we stay rooted in the gift of faith that God has given us and immerse ourselves in the love of Christ with trust and surrender. The Church and its body give us many helps, and in fact, as we know, Christians don’t suffer less than anyone else, but we seek to unite our suffering with the love of Jesus Christ.

From Matthew 11:28-30, this is one of my favorite Scripture passages: “Come to me, all who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

### HOLY AND HEALTHY | Lori Crock

Lori Crock is a SoulCore Rosary prayer and exercise leader and a St. Brendan parishioner. Lori is online at [hollyandhealthycatholic.com](http://hollyandhealthycatholic.com), where she shares her passion for faith and fitness.



I’m learning not to ask Jesus to remove my cross but to help me carry it — and strengthen me to carry it with faith, hope and love. I ask Him to help me to grow in the virtues that I need for this particular challenge in my life — and He never fails me. Most recently, I’ve been challenged to grow in the virtues of patience and perseverance and I continue to pray and ask for His leadership in my life.

St. Teresa of Calcutta said, “Prayer is not asking, prayer is putting oneself in the hands of God, at His disposition, and listening to His voice in the depths of your heart.”

When we are tempted to give up or to give in to fear in the midst of hard things, we can be encouraged by the words of St. James, “Blessed is the man who perseveres in temptation for he has been proved he will receive the crown of life that He promised to those who love Him.”

I have a friend who is an inactive Catholic whose mom recently passed. It was so beautiful how God led

her back to the “foundation” of her faith in these circumstances. She is seeing God incidences all around her, she feels called to pray again and she senses God near her. She is encouraged by the Scripture and reflections I send her. There is a new openness to God again in the midst of this trial. I’m trying to help her fill that hole in her heart with God to ease the sadness of the loss of a dear loved one.

She is being comforted by the one who created her. I am blessed to be a bridge that gently nudges her toward Him — to his love, consolation and His joy that is not of this world. Going back to the foundation of her faith has brought my friend peace and it is helping her carry this difficult cross with love.

St. Cyprian of Carthage said, “What toil we must endure, what fatigue, while we are attempting to climb hills and the summits of mountains! What, that we may ascend to heaven! If you consider the promised reward, what you endure is less. Immortality is given to the one who perseveres; everlasting life is offered; the Lord promises His Kingdom.”

So let us pour ourselves out to live our faith and to share our faith with others, in both good and challenging circumstances. Jesus can use us just as we are when we are rooted in the strong foundation of faith in Him — with His love and His hope and His peace.

### VOCATIONS, continued from Page 5

on Columbus’ east side through middle school before graduating from Columbus Bishop Watterson High School. Father Haemmerle was homeschooled until heading off to Ohio State University to pursue an engineering degree.

Their school experience reflects a wider national trend. According to the CARA survey, 10 percent of this year’s ordained priests reported being homeschooled (average length of homeschooling was eight years). CARA projects that number to rise to 13 percent by 2029.

As for the influence of Catholic schools, 31 percent of this year’s ordination class attended a Catholic high school and the same percentage went to a Catholic

college. That means the majority of ordinands did not receive a Catholic school diploma or degree before entering seminary.

Other interesting statistics from the national survey include the average age of ordinands is 34, 23 percent are foreign born, 70 percent have full-time work experience, 93 percent were baptized as infants, 82 percent of their parents were Catholic when they were children, 89 percent reported being encouraged to consider the priesthood by someone in their life, 60 percent have an undergraduate or graduate degree, 38 percent attended seminaries in the Midwest and 95 percent were raised by both parents during their formative years.

To learn more about the CARA study and the re-

sponses from seminarians being ordained around the country in 2024, visit [https://www.usccb.org/resources/Ordination%20Class%20of%202024%20-%20report\\_o.pdf](https://www.usccb.org/resources/Ordination%20Class%20of%202024%20-%20report_o.pdf).

Pray for the newly ordained in the diocese and around the world to be good and holy priests while continuing to ask Our Lord and His Blessed Mother for more vocations to serve the Church.

*EDITOR’S NOTE: The Catholic Times went to press before the diocesan ordinations to the priesthood took place on May 18. Coverage of the ordination Mass and profiles of the new priests will be included in the June 2 edition.*



# 14 PRIESTS IN DIOCESE MARK MILESTONE ANNIVERSARIES



**MSGR. JOHN J. DREESE**

**65**

Born in New Lexington. Ordained on May 30, 1959 at Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral by Bishop Clarence Isseemann. Shares title of senior priest of diocese in time of service with Father Francis Stanton. Associate pastor, Zanesville St. Nicholas and Columbus Holy Name churches and Cathedral. Administrator of Cathedral. Co-pastor, Columbus Holy Spirit Church. Pastor, Crooksville Church of the Atonement and New Lexington St. Rose of Lima churches and Perry County Consortium. Teacher, Zanesville Bishop Rosecrans High School, Columbus St. Charles Seminary, Cincinnati Mount St. Mary's Seminary, Pontifical College Josephinum, and in Kenya. Scout chaplain, Muskingum Valley Council. Assistant diocesan vocations director. Pro-Synodal judge. Perry County vicar. Chairman, Catholic-Jewish Dialogue Committee. Priests' Senate president. Co-founder, Columbus Open Shelter. Longtime Catholic Times columnist. Author of articles for magazines and the Oxford edition of The New English Bible. Named monsignor with title prelate of honor by Pope St. John Paul II, Sept. 24, 1992. Retired in July 2002. Lives in Perry County.



**FATHER FRANCIS M. STANTON**

**65**

Columbus native. Ordained on May 30, 1959 at St. Joseph Cathedral by Bishop Clarence Isseemann. Shares title of senior priest of diocese in time of service with Msgr. John Dreese. Associate pastor, Columbus St. Agatha, Dennison Immaculate Conception, New Lexington St. Rose of Lima, Columbus St. Stephen the Martyr, New Philadelphia Sacred Heart, Columbus St. Peter and Columbus Our Lady of Peace churches. Administrator, Wheelersburg St. Peter in Chains Church. Pastor, Crooksville Church of the Atonement. U.S. Navy chaplain for 20 years, serving for two deployments. Diocesan vocations committee member. Emergency relief chaplain. Riverside Methodist Hospital, Columbus. Brother of deceased Father Joseph Stanton. Retired on Dec. 31, 2004. Lives at Villas of St. Therese, Columbus.



**MSGR. DAVID R. FUNK**

**50**

Born in Lancaster. Ordained on May 27, 1974 at St. Joseph Cathedral by Bishop Edward Herrmann. Associate pastor, Chillicothe St. Peter, Columbus Corpus Christi and Columbus Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal churches. Pastor, Portsmouth Holy Redeemer, Columbus St. Agatha and Reynoldsburg St. Pius X churches. Vicar forane for Vicariate 14. Priests' Personnel Board member. Named monsignor with title chaplain to His Holiness by Pope St. John Paul II, Oct. 11, 1995. Retired on July 10, 2018. In residence at St. Pius X Church.



**MSGR. JOHN G. JOHNSON**

**50**

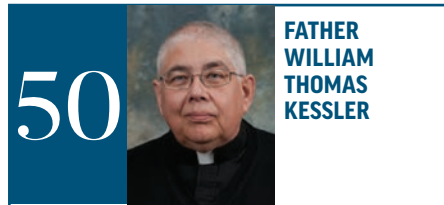
Born in Waukegan, Illinois. Ordained at Chicago St. Thomas the Apostle Church by Bishop Nevin Hayes, OP, on June 1, 1974. Associate pastor, Columbus Immaculate Conception, Columbus Our Lady of Peace and Hilliard St. Brendan the Navigator churches and St. Joseph Cathedral. Administrator pro tem at St. Brendan. In residence at Columbus St. Agnes, Columbus St. Thomas the Apostle and Reynoldsburg St. Pius X Church. Pastor, Columbus St. Philip, Columbus St. Peter, Columbus St. Timothy and Columbus Our Lady of Peace churches. Campus minister, Capital University. Pontifical College Josephinum faculty member. Notary, officialis and judge for diocesan Tribunal. Named monsignor with title chaplain to His Holiness by Pope St. John Paul II, Sept. 24, 1992. Retired on July 9, 2019, continuing in service to Tribunal. In residence at Columbus St. Agatha Church.



**FATHER DAVID A. KENEHAN, OSFS**

**50**

Born in Erie, Pennsylvania. Member of Columbus Bishop Hartley High School Class of 1963. Professed vows with Oblates of St. Francis de Sales in 1968. Ordained in 1974. Teacher and principal for 11 years at Judge Memorial High School, Salt Lake City, Utah. U.S. Army chaplain for 29 years with deployments in Texas, Germany, Alaska, Kansas, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Belgium, Virginia and at the Pentagon. Gulf War veteran. Weekend assistant for parishes at Reston and Vienna, Virginia and Washington, D.C. Moved to Columbus in 2023 to be closer to family members and Oblate provincial headquarters in Toledo. Lives at Villas of St. Therese and celebrates Masses there and at Mother Angeline McCrory Manor, New Albany Church of the Resurrection and Bishop Hartley High School.



**FATHER WILLIAM THOMAS KESSLER**

**50**

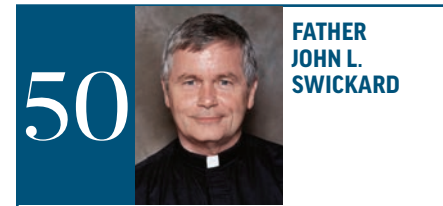
Born in Newark. Ordained at Newark St. Francis de Sales Church by Bishop Edward Herrmann on July 20, 1974. Associate pastor, Columbus St. Agatha, Columbus St. Timothy, Mount Vernon St. Vincent de Paul, Columbus St. Anthony and Westerville St. Paul churches. In residence, Columbus St. Ladislav and Mount Vernon St. Vincent de Paul churches. Spent periods of monastic life at St. Louis Abbey, Missouri and Our Lady of Gethsemani Abbey, Kentucky. Pastor, Ada Our Lady of Lourdes, Bremen St. Mary and Lancaster St. Bernadette churches. Teacher, Columbus Bishop Watterson High School and Pontifical College Josephinum. Assistant chaplain, Riverside Methodist and Ohio State University hospitals. Chaplain, Kenyon College. Pro-Synodal judge. Director of continuing education for diocesan clergy. Diocesan College of Consultors and Priests' Senate member. Catholic Times editor, Diocesan vicar for communications. Retired on July 10, 1918. Lives at Villas of St. Therese.



**FATHER JEROME P. RODENFELS**

**50**

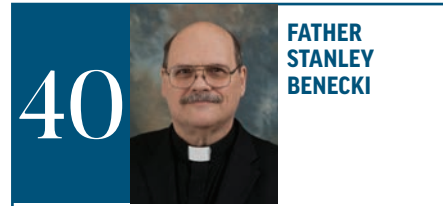
Columbus native. Ordained by Bishop Edward Herrmann at Columbus St. Matthias Church on May 26, 1974. Associate pastor, Columbus St. Andrew, Marion St. Mary, Columbus Immaculate Conception and Pickerington St. Elizabeth Seton churches. In residence, St. Joseph Cathedral. Pastor, Columbus St. Andrew Church. Administrator and pastor (two separate terms for both), New Albany Church of the Resurrection. Teacher, Columbus Bishop Watterson and Marion Catholic high schools. Campus minister, Columbus Bishop Hartley High School. Chaplain, University, St. Anthony and Mount Carmel West hospitals. Member and chair of Diocesan Presbyteral Council. Diocesan parochial examiner. Retired on July 12, 2016. Lives in Westerville.



**FATHER JOHN L. SWICKARD**

**50**

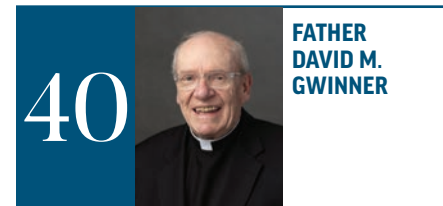
Columbus native. Ordained by Bishop Edward Herrmann at Columbus St. Mary Magdalene Church on April 21, 1974. Associate pastor, Columbus Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal, Delaware St. Mary and Columbus St. Matthias churches. Pastor, Wellston Sts. Peter and Paul, Columbus St. Anthony and Grove City Our Lady of Perpetual Help churches. Teacher, Columbus St. Charles Preparatory School. Chaplain, Knights of Columbus Council 3864. Associate diocesan vocations director. Priests' Personnel Board member. Retired on July 12, 2011. Lives in Williamsburg, Virginia.



**FATHER STANLEY BENECKI**

**40**

Born in Tarentum, Pennsylvania. Ordained by Bishop James Griffin at St. Joseph Cathedral on June 23, 1984. Associate pastor, Worthington St. Michael and Columbus Christ the King churches and St. Joseph Cathedral. Pastor, Columbus Sts. Augustine and Gabriel and St. Mary Magdalene churches. Member and officer, Central Ohio chapter, Industrial Relations Research Association. Bishop's delegate for implementation of economic pastoral. Episcopal vicar for Catholic charities and social concerns. Chaplain, diocesan apostolate for the deaf. Retired on July 10, 2018. Lives at Villas of St. Therese.



**FATHER DAVID M. GWINNER**

**40**

Born in Shelby. Ordained by Bishop James Griffin at St. Joseph Cathedral on June 23, 1984. Associate pastor, Portsmouth St. Mary, Reynoldsburg St. Pius X, Sunbury St. John Neumann and Westerville St. Paul churches. Administrator pro tem, St. Pius X and Marion St. Mary churches. Pastor, Crooksville Church of the Atonement and Zaleski St. Sylvester churches. Chaplain, Portsmouth Notre Dame High School and Kenyon College. U.S. Navy chaplain. Retired on July 11, 2017. In residence at Westerville St. Paul Church.



**FATHER THOMAS BLAU, OP**

**25**

Born in Cleveland. Ordained as priest of the Order of Preachers (Dominican Order) in 1999. Resides at Columbus St. Patrick Priory. Assigned to Dominican outreaches at University of Virginia and Providence (Rhode Island) College. Former vicar, Columbus St. Patrick Church. Did mission work in Honduras and Guatemala and had jobs including mail carrier, grade school teacher and drugstore part-owner before entering Dominicans. Completed Camino de Santiago. Currently assigned as itinerant preacher, conducting parish missions throughout the diocese. Appointed by Pope Francis as one of his worldwide missionaries of mercy for 2015-2016 Year of Mercy. Chaplain, Order of Malta and Columbus Legatus organization. Teacher, Pontifical College Josephinum. Founder of St. Barnabas Ministry, providing Dominican priests for parishes whose pastors are on retreat or vacation.



**FATHER MARTIN J. RALKO**

**40**

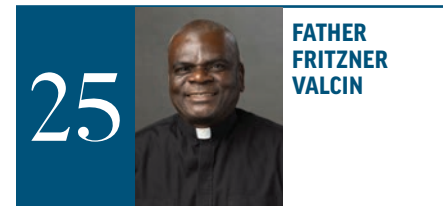
Born in Dearborn, Michigan. Ordained by Bishop James Griffin at St. Joseph Cathedral on June 23, 1984. Currently pastor, Dresden St. Ann and Mattingly Settlement St. Mary churches. Associate pastor, Zanesville St. Nicholas, Columbus St. Mary Magdalene and Newark St. Francis de Sales churches. In residence, Columbus Our Lady of Peace Church. Temporary administrator, Hilliard St. Brendan the Navigator Church. Pastor, Dennison Immaculate Conception and Zanesville St. Nicholas churches. Teacher, Zanesville Bishop Rosecrans and Columbus Bishop Ready high schools. Chaplain, Columbus St. Francis DeSales High School and Children's Hospital of Columbus. Vicar, West Columbus Vicariate. Dean, Muskingum-Perry Deanery.



**FATHER MAREK KASPERCZUK**

**25**

Native of Poland. Ordained in Bialystok. Came to the United States in 2001 and was incardinated into the Archdiocese of Chicago in 2007. Associate pastor of two parishes in Chicago area. Rector, Bishop Abramowicz Seminary program for Polish seminarians preparing for pastoral ministry in Archdiocese of Chicago. Teacher, Liturgical Institute, Mundelein, Illinois. Administrator of three parishes in the Diocese of Springfield, Illinois. Resident for six years at Pontifical College Josephinum, where he is coordinator of Sacred Liturgy, assistant professor and formator.



**FATHER FRITZNER VALCIN**

**25**

Born in Petit-Goave, Haiti. Ordained in Port au Prince, Haiti by Bishop Joseph Serge Miot on Sept. 5, 1999. Incardinated as priest of Diocese of Columbus on Dec. 6, 2014. Chaplain for Columbus Haitian community from 2006 to 2015. Administrator, Columbus St. Francis of Assisi Church for past 11 years.

# Young women serve as Handmaids of the Eucharist at St. Paul

By Hannah Heil  
Catholic Times Reporter

“Behold the handmaid of the Lord, be it done to me according to Thy word.”

The Blessed Virgin Mary’s “yes” to God’s will for her life, recorded in Luke 1:38, takes on a special meaning for a group of young women serving as sacristans at Westerville St. Paul the Apostle Church.

The girls, known as the “Handmaids of the Eucharist,” seek to emulate the Blessed Virgin Mary while working with the head sacristans at the parish to prepare the sacred vessels and the hosts and wine that will become the Body and Blood of Christ during Mass.

The program is open to girls in grades eight to 12 at the parish. Nine girls currently are participating.

Two or three girls serve as sacristans at St. Paul’s 10 a.m. Mass on Sundays. They all serve together one Sunday a month. Handmaids of the Eucharist who are students at St. Paul School serve as sacristans for the all-school Mass on Fridays.

The group is led by five members of the Daughters of Holy Mary of the Heart of Jesus, the religious order that came to the diocese in 2022 and serves at St. Paul parish.



Handmaids of the Eucharist Evelyn Renzetti (center) and Lily Brokamp (right) prepare the hosts in the sacristy that will be used during Mass at Westerville St. Paul the Apostle Church under the direction of Mother Macarena de Maria of the Daughters of Holy Mary of the Heart of Jesus.  
Photo courtesy Westerville St. Paul the Apostle Church

“The Handmaids of the Eucharist began in September 2023 with the desire to help girls draw closer to Jesus present in the Eucharist – taking Mary as their

model – by serving as sacristans,” said Mother Macarena de Maria, who helps lead the program.

“It was the Blessed Virgin Mary who

referred to herself as the ‘handmaid of the Lord,’ expressing her humility, love for God and desire to place herself at His service.”

The Handmaids of the Eucharist ask Mary to help them serve Christ, who is present in the Eucharist, as the Blessed Virgin did in Nazareth, Mother Macarena de Maria said. The girls have an opportunity, as Our Lady did, to care for Jesus in the Eucharist by setting up the Mass.

“At St. Paul the Apostle parish, boys have the wonderful opportunity to become ‘Knights of the Holy Temple,’ and there was a desire for girls to have a parallel program to help them in their faith through serving our Eucharistic Lord and building one another up in sisterhood,” Mother Macarena de Maria said.

Sophia Lee, a sophomore at Westerville North High School and parishioner at St. Paul, said her brothers serve as altar servers in the Knights of the Holy Temple program, and she was interested in a similar opportunity for girls. The Daughters of Holy Mary of the Heart of Jesus invited her to be a Handmaid of the Eucharist.

“It’s like a new door into the Church,” Lee said of the program. “I get to serve the priests, and I get to be up on the al-

See HANDMAIDS, Page 11

## HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT FORUM **PODCAST** AT STGABRIELRADIO.COM



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## HANDMAIDS, continued from Page 10



Handmaids of the Eucharist work on floral arrangements under the guidance of the Daughters of Holy Mary of the Heart of Jesus that will be placed on the altar at Westerville St. Paul the Apostle Church. Photo courtesy Daughters of the Holy Mary of the Heart of Jesus

tar (to prepare the Mass) with the sisters, which is amazing.”

Mother Macarena de Maria said it is a privilege and grace for the girls to work so closely to God, Who is fully present in the Eucharist. She prays that, as a result, they grow in love for Christ and offer their own “fiat.”

“It is our prayer that their constant contact with this astonishing reality will impel them to return such love with their own love, a love like that of Mary, a love that asks, ‘What do you want of me, Lord? Here is my heart; here is my life. Behold your handmaid! “Fiat mihi,” (meaning) “let it be done in me” according to Your Word,’” she said.

They learn to prepare for Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and set up for the Mass.

“We fill the bowls (patens) with the hosts in a very special way,” Lee said. “Whenever Jesus is there, He sees it, and it’s a sign of respect. We give a kiss on the host that the priest holds up in the consecration because that’s the first thing that the Lord receives when He comes down.”

The Handmaids of the Eucharist begin each Sunday by praying before the Blessed Sacrament in the tabernacle. Then they clean the sanctuary area, using a dust mop to collect any dust near the altar.

The girls prepare the purificators, which are linen cloths used to wipe the chalice and to purify the sacred vessels. The purificator is spread over the chalice at the beginning and conclusion of Mass.

They also arrange the lavabo and finger towel, which the priest uses to wash and dry his hands after the offertory and before the consecration.

“I know that the Lord is watching, and He’s proud,” said Evelyn Renzetti, a Handmaid of the Eucharist and eighth-grade student at St. Paul. “He’s happy that we help set up Mass.”

The girls learn about sacred vessels used during the Mass and liturgy, including the names and proper use of the vessels and the “reverence, respect and awe” with which they are to be handled, said Sister Maria Ecclesiae, who helps lead the program.

“We also keep in mind St. Therese (of Lisieux)’s advice that a sacristan ought to try to be as holy as the sacred vessels she touches out of love for the Lord,” she said.

The Handmaids of the Eucharist familiarize themselves with liturgical books used during the Mass, such as the Roman Missal and lectionary, as well as liturgical vocabulary.

While serving, the girls wear a standard uniform, consisting of a white dress, navy blue cardigan and dark shoes.

They meet at St. Paul one evening a month outside of Sundays. The additional gatherings are a time for sisterhood. Each gathering begins with prayer before Christ in the tabernacle.

The evening includes a shared meal, catechesis, sacristan training and prayer. Sister Maria Ecclesiae said the girls learn about Marian and human virtues, Eucharistic devotion and the Holy Mass and liturgy.

“We end our gathering by kneeling at the foot of the tabernacle once more in prayer and conclude by praying the Angelus together – the prayer that recounts the Annunciation and Incarnation and reminds us of Mary’s ‘fiat’ – her ‘yes’ – to God, which made her the first Handmaid of the Eucharist,” Sister Maria Ecclesiae said.

The girls also learn “practical skills” during their gathering, she said, such as cleaning, embroidery, etiquette, music and creating floral arrangements.

She said Handmaids of the Eucharist ponder how Mary would have cared for Jesus in Nazareth through similar tasks: washing and caring for His clothes, cleaning the Holy Family’s house and



Handmaids of the Eucharist kneel with the Daughters of Holy Mary of the Heart of Jesus sisters to pray in front of the tabernacle at Westerville St. Paul the Apostle Church. The young women devote time to prayer in addition to preparing the altar for Mass. Photo/St. Paul Church

preparing what her Son would need with great love.

“We see in her a model of femininity and gift of self,” Sister Maria Ecclesiae said.

Likewise, Handmaids of the Eucharist strive to prepare the altar linens, clean the sanctuary and set up for the Holy Mass as the Blessed Mother would if she were a sacristan.

“It’s made me closer with God since I am more personally helping out by setting up the Eucharist (hosts), which then will become the Body of God,” said Joslynn Vaske, a Handmaid of the Eucharist and eighth-grade student at St. Paul.

Serving as a Handmaid of the Eucharist prepares each girl for her vocation, too. Serving in the sacristy and working close to Christ in the Eucharist is an opportunity to ponder God’s call.

“We hope that as they learn to hear the Lord’s voice from the tabernacle they will discover His plan for their lives,” Mother Macarena de Maria said.

“Everything that they are learning as Handmaids of the Eucharist is aimed at helping them to be women of God in whatever vocation God has for them, whether that be as a wife and mother or as a bride of Christ, consecrated to Him as a religious sister.”

Several Handmaids of the Eucharist attributed an increased prayer life and closer relationship with Christ to their involvement in the program.

“God was in the background; and doing more personal things for Him, it made it seem more like a relationship instead of like, ‘Oh, yeah, ... I’m Catholic, whatever. I don’t really have a personal connection with Him,’ but it made it more real,” Isabella Cornell, an eighth-grade student at St. Paul, said of the Handmaids of the Eucharist program.

“We’re doing things because we love God, not because we have to – out of our love for God. We want to serve Him. We want to make Him happy, and we want to do good and small things for Him.”

Being a part of the Handmaids of the Eucharist also led Cornell to consider her vocation. As a result of the program, she began to envision a new call for her life.

“I always planned on being like, ‘Once I get through high school then I can do whatever I want,’ like, I felt like I was being forced into the faith before, but now, I want to have a religious marriage, and I want to bring my children into St. Paul and bring religion into my future life,” Cornell said.

Lily Brokamp, an eighth-grade student at St. Paul who serves as a Handmaid of the Eucharist, said regular prayer in front of the tabernacle impacted her relationship with Christ.

“I just felt like I can be closer to God ... in prayer because we do prayer every meeting and before Mass, and I feel like I’m closer to God when I’m in the sacristy, putting the hosts out,” she said.

Renzetti, who came to St. Paul last school year, said attending a Catholic school and serving as a sacristan impacted her prayer life, too.

“I’ve been praying a lot more, and I know lots more prayers,” she said, such as the Memorare and prayer to St. Michael the Archangel. “I usually only knew ‘Our Father’ and the ‘Hail Mary,’ and then, when I came to St. Paul and did the Handmaids of the Eucharist, I realized I learned a lot more prayers and a lot more ways to pray and help God and serve Him.”

Daughters of Holy Mary of the Heart of Jesus, which was approved as a religious institute of pontifical right by Pope St. John Paul II in 1998, offer their lives in love, adoration and reparation to the Sacred and Eucharistic Heart of Jesus, Mother Macarena de Maria said.

The order’s charism is a total consecration to God in union with Mary. Their mission, she said, is to make His “Sacred Heart loved everywhere.”

# Find a parish festival, outdoor event in the diocese

What is one sure sign that summer is approaching? It's the annual appearance of the parish festivals listing in *The Catholic Times*.

Diocesan parishes will be hosting traditional festivals, garden parties, international festivals and Oktoberfests starting in June and ending in October. One of the biggest October events in central Ohio is the annual Italian Festival, which attracts thousands of guests to Columbus St. John the Baptist Church.

Some parishes have hosted festivals for a number of years, others are relative newcomers and some events were modified or canceled after the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020.

Among the festivals returning this year are the combined parishes of Powell St. Joan of Arc and Columbus St. Peter churches and Reynoldsburg St. Pius X.

Columbus St. Christopher Church is combining its festival with the Grandview Hop street festival from June through September on the last Saturday of the month.

A new event is the Bachtobberfest at Marysville Our Lady of Lourdes Church

that will feature food and drink followed by a Baroque concert.

Attending a festival or parish event is a fun and easy way to support churches, schools and groups in their efforts to raise funds for their worthy endeavors.

Keep the festival list as a reference throughout the spring, summer and fall. It's a good idea to check with the parish for any changes in schedules or postponements because of inclement weather.

The following is a list of parish festivals and events reported to *The Catholic Times* as of May 10:

## JUNE

### JUNE 6-8

**ST. CATHARINE OF SIENA**  
500 S. Gould Rd., Columbus  
5-11 p.m. Thursday-Saturday

### JUNE 14-15

**ST. MARY**  
82 E. William St., Delaware  
5-11 p.m. Friday and Saturday

### JUNE 14-15

**ST. JOHN NEUMANN**  
9633 E. State Route 37, Sunbury  
6-11 p.m. Friday, 5-11 p.m. Saturday

## JUNE 28-29

**HOLY TRINITY-ST. JOSEPH**  
225 S. Columbus St., Somerset  
6-11 p.m. Friday, 6 p.m.-midnight Saturday (Garden Party)

## JUNE 29

**ST. CHRISTOPHER**  
1420 Grandview Ave.  
5-9 p.m. Saturday (part of Grandview Hop)

## JULY

### JULY 12-13

**ST. TIMOTHY**  
1088 Thomas Lane, Columbus  
6 p.m.-midnight Friday and Saturday

### JULY 12-13

**ST. JOSEPH**  
613 N. Tuscarawas Ave., Dover  
5-11 p.m. Friday and Saturday

### JULY 13

**ST. LUKE**  
307 S. Market St., Danville  
5-10 p.m. Saturday

### JULY 19-20

**ST. MATTHEW THE APOSTLE**  
807 Havens Corners Rd., Gahanna  
6-11 p.m. Friday and Saturday

## JULY 26-27

**IMMACULATE CONCEPTION**  
100 Sherman St., Dennison  
6-11 p.m. Friday and Saturday

## JULY 26-27

**IMMACULATE CONCEPTION**  
414 E. North Broadway, Columbus  
6-11 p.m. Friday, 5-11 p.m. Saturday

## JULY 26-27

**ST. MARGARET OF CORTONA**  
1600 N. Hague Ave., Columbus  
6 p.m.-midnight Friday, 5 p.m.-midnight Saturday

## JULY 27

**ST. CHRISTOPHER**  
1420 Grandview Ave.  
5-9 p.m. Saturday (part of Grandview Hop)

## AUGUST

### AUG. 2-3

**OUR LADY OF VICTORY**  
1559 Roxbury Road, Columbus  
6-11 p.m. Friday and Saturday

### AUG. 2-3

**OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP**  
3730 Broadway, Grove City  
5-11 p.m. Friday and Saturday



# ST MICHAEL FESTIVAL

## LABOR DAY WEEKEND

FRI  
**30** 7-11p  
Aug

SAT  
**1** 5-11p  
Sept

SUN  
**2** 5-11p  
Sept

Live Music  
Carnival Rides  
Children's Lawn  
Games & Prizes  
Silent Auction  
Casino

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# Find a parish festival, outdoor event in the diocese

- AUG. 2-3**  
**ST. STEPHEN THE MARTYR**  
4131 Clime Rd., Columbus  
5 p.m.-11 p.m. Friday and Saturday
- AUG. 8-10**  
**HOLY SPIRIT**  
4383 E. Broad St., Columbus  
6-11 p.m. Thursday, 6 p.m.-midnight Friday, 5 p.m.-midnight Saturday
- AUG. 9-10**  
**ST. MARY, MOTHER OF GOD**  
684 S. Third St., Columbus  
5 p.m.-11 p.m., Friday and Saturday
- AUG. 9-10**  
**ST. BRENDAN**  
4475 Dublin Rd., Hilliard  
6-11 p.m. Friday and Saturday (family fun hours 3-6 p.m. Saturday)
- AUG. 9-10**  
**ST. CECILIA**  
434 Norton Rd., Columbus  
5 p.m.-midnight Friday, 4 p.m.-midnight Saturday
- AUG. 11**  
**IMMACULATE CONCEPTION**  
215 E. North St., Kenton  
Noon-7 p.m. Sunday

- AUG. 16-17**  
**ST. ANDREW**  
1899 McCoy Road, Columbus  
5 p.m.-midnight Friday and Saturday
- AUG. 16-18**  
**ST. ELIZABETH ANN SETON**  
600 Hill Road N., Pickerington  
5-11 p.m. Friday, 2-11 p.m. Saturday, noon-4 p.m. Sunday
- AUG. 22-24**  
**ST. JOAN OF ARC-ST. PETER**  
10700 Liberty Road South, Powell  
6-10 p.m. Thursday, 5-11 p.m. Friday and Saturday
- AUG. 24**  
**ST. PIUS X**  
1061 S. Waggoner Road, Reynoldsburg  
5-10 p.m. Saturday
- AUG. 30-SEPT. 1**  
**ST. MICHAEL**  
5750 N. High St., Worthington  
7-11 p.m. Friday, 5-11 p.m. Saturday and Sunday
- AUG. 31**  
**ST. CHRISTOPHER**  
1420 Grandview Ave.  
5-9 p.m. Saturday (part of Grandview Hop)

- SEPTEMBER**  
**SEPT. 7**  
**BLESSED SACRAMENT**  
394 E. Main St., Newark  
5:30-11 p.m. Saturday
- SEPT. 13-14**  
**OUR LADY OF PEACE**  
20 E. Dominion Blvd. Columbus  
6-11 p.m. Friday, 5:30-11 p.m. Saturday (fall festival and chili cookoff)
- SEPT. 20-22**  
**ST. JOHN PAUL II SCIOTO CATHOLIC PARISH**  
524 6th St., Portsmouth  
5:30 p.m. Friday, 8 a.m.-9 p.m. Saturday, 11:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Sunday
- SEPT. 21**  
**ST. JOHN NEUMANN**  
9633 E. State Route 37, Sunbury  
5-10 p.m. Saturday (Oktoberfest)
- SEPT. 28**  
**ST. CHRISTOPHER**  
1420 Grandview Ave.  
5-9 p.m. Saturday (part of Grandview Hop)

- OCTOBER**  
**OCT. 11-13**  
**ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST**  
Hamlet and Lincoln Sts., Columbus  
Italian Festival  
5-11 p.m. Friday, noon-11 p.m. Saturday, noon-7 p.m. Sunday
- OCT. 19**  
**ST. THOMAS AQUINAS**  
144 N. 5th St., Zanesville  
5:30 p.m. Saturday (Oktoberfest)
- OCT. 20**  
**OUR LADY OF LOURDES CHURCH**  
1033 West Fifth St., Marysville  
1-5 p.m. Sunday (Bachtoberfest)



Festival fun at St. Catharine

## ST. MARY DELAWARE FESTIVAL

**MUSIC**

**FRIDAY**  
5pm-7pm: **In A Jam**  
8pm-11pm: **Trailer Park Ninjas**

**SATURDAY**  
5pm-7pm: **The Twylights**  
8pm-11pm: **Phoenix Rising CBUS**

**JUNE**

# 14 | 15

**FRI | SAT**

**5PM TO 11PM**

**ENJOY**

RIDES	BAKE SALE
GAMES	SILENT AUCTION
CASINO	ROYAL PRINCESS PARTY
BEER GARDEN	(FRI) CHICKEN DINNER
50/50 RAFFLE	(SAT) LATINO DINNER

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**DELAWARE, OHIO**

## St. John Center to continue community services

By Tim Puet

For The Catholic Times

Columbus Holy Rosary-St. John Church no longer will be serving as a worship site, but the many community services provided next door at the St. John Center, the former St. John School at 640 S. Ohio Ave., are continuing uninterrupted at least in the near future.

These include the Community Kitchen, serving free hot meals five days a week; a food pantry that is open every Thursday and provides three days' worth of food to low-income residents from anywhere in Franklin County; the St. John Learning Center, offering classes for people preparing for the GED high-school equivalency diploma test, plus other adult education programs; and the Order of Malta Center of Care, providing free medical care and referrals once a week and free dental care twice a month at no charge to anyone who visits.

Bishop Earl Fernandes issued a decree in January affirming the diocesan presbyteral council's decision that Holy Rosary-St. John Church would be closed, with its worship community combining with that of nearby Columbus St. Dominic Church as one parish, effective June 30. Caring for the church, the St. John Center and other properties on the Holy Rosary-St. John (HRSJ) campus will become the responsibility of the combined St. Dominic Parish.

"We partner with a lot of different agencies and most of them were wondering what was going to happen here until I assured them the St. John Center would remain open," said Teresa Lee, St. John Learning Center coordinator. "A number of places in the Columbus area offer GED classes, but few are ADA

(Americans with Disabilities) Act compliant, as we are.

"Our elevator was repaired a couple of years ago after being broken for some time and the rest of the building has been upgraded to ADA standards. That's a necessity for this building because it has five floors. It is so good for those in wheelchairs or with other physical limitations to be able to come here and not feel out of place. Being near a bus line also makes the center convenient to people."

The Community Kitchen is open for sit-down dining on weekdays from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. for breakfast and 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. for lunch. Last year, it served about 150,000 meals, said MJ McCleskey, president and chief executive officer of Community Kitchen, Inc. It also operates a summer food program for children and provides special Thanksgiving and Christmas meals on-site.

The program began as a parish ministry in 1979 and has been a federal 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization with a board of directors representing the community since 1985.

A food pantry that, like the kitchen, is in the St. John Center basement has been open since the 1980s and serves between 70 and 90 families or individuals each Thursday from 9 to 10:30 a.m., said volunteer coordinator Rose Moses. The pantry is a program of the parish itself.

Moses' remarks came on April 25 during a morning that began with about 20 cars in a double line, with more coming through at a steady pace for most of the 90 minutes the pantry was open. Another 54 people walked or biked to the site to pick up food.



Bearing the cross during the procession for the final Mass at Columbus Holy Rosary-St. John Church is Bill Richards, 76, who was baptized in the Church and attended the former St. John School, graduating from eighth grade in 1962. He is now a member of Pickerington St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish. He served his first Mass at St. John in 1956, was confirmed in the church, was married there and said his grandmother attended the first Mass in the original St. John Church. He and his wife are volunteers at the food pantry in the St. John Community Center.

"During the COVID pandemic, everyone had to stay in line outside," she said. "We started allowing walk-ins this winter when it got extremely cold and are continuing to do it because it makes things more efficient. Walk-ins have been on the rise since it began getting warmer."

COVID also forced the pantry to cut back its openings from two days to one day a week.

She said everyone the pantry serves receives one bag of nonperishable foods such as cereal, macaroni and cheese, spaghetti, rice and canned foods, plus one or two bags of nonperishables including bread, milk, eggs, yogurt and fresh fruits, vegetables, meat and produce.

Moses, who has been volunteering at the pantry for more than 20 years, said most of the perishables are from the Mid-Ohio Food Collective, with canned goods and other items coming from Columbus St. Peter and St. Catharine, Powell St. Joan of Arc, Pickerington St. Elizabeth Seton and Dublin St. Brigid of Kildare parishes, the Knights of St. Peter Claver auxiliary, the Knights of St. John, other organizations and individual donors.

During the Christmas season, the pantry distributes hats, gloves and blankets it receives from the knitting ministry at Gahanna St. Matthew Church.

Moses is assisted by eight to 10 regular adult volunteers, plus high school students who come to the pantry to earn volunteer service hour credits. She said its major expenses are for office supplies and bags. Most people who come to the site are from the neighborhood near the center, but Moses said she regularly has clients from the far eastern and far western ends of Franklin County as well.

Lee, who has been St. John Learning

Center's coordinator since 2022, said it has been offering GED classes since the 1980s, doing it in the past year or so in a partnership with Columbus City Schools and the Ohio Department of Higher Education's Aspire program for adult learners. The classes are offered quarterly. A spring session is in progress with about 15 people enrolled. She said most sessions have about 15 or 20 attending. The learning center also is a program of the parish.

Students in the classes take a placement test that positions them in one of two levels of study. The first level gives students enough general knowledge to go to the second level, which gets them ready to take the GED test. New classes start approximately every three months, but there's no set term for when classes end for each student. That depends on the time it takes for an individual to complete each level.

Lee said that's a change from rules of the past that set time limits. In addition, teachers now work individually rather than in groups with students. She said today's GED curriculum is aligned more with what's likely to be on the test rather than being based on specific subjects such as English or math.

For those interested in home ownership, the center offers a federally certified program on the third Saturday of each month from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. in cooperation with the NID Housing Counseling Agency. Topics discussed include steps in purchasing a home, money management, understanding credit, down payment assistance programs, how to obtain a mortgage loan and selecting the right home. Anyone wishing to register may email their name, address and phone number to [eglen@](mailto:eglen@)



Members of the congregation participate in the final Mass at Columbus Holy Rosary-St. John Church on Sunday, May 12 celebrated by Bishop Earl Fernandes. *CT photos by Ken Snow*

CENTER, *continued from Page 14*

nidhousing.com.

Lee said the Saturday program is for those seriously interested in buying a home. For those considering the possibility but not at the buying stage, there will be Zoom workshops on financial literacy from noon to 1 p.m. Thursday, June 6 and on homebuyer basics at the same time the following day, in partnership with the Financial Compass Foundation. Sign up at [stjohnlearning.wordpress.com/registration](http://stjohnlearning.wordpress.com/registration).

The center also sponsors several other Zoom programs on finance-related topics. Credit counselor Kelly Armstrong will present a workshop on improving credit scores and getting out of financial holes from noon to 1:45 p.m. Thursday, June 13. The center just completed a five-week online series on starting a business and is working on plans for another one. Topics covered in hourlong sessions include developing a business plan; insurance issues; grants and loans; taxes and marketing.

Throughout the year, the center has been presenting a Zoom workshop series on mental health issues titled "Stop the Stigma," with licensed counselors speaking on a different subject from noon to 1 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month.

Topics covered so far this year include health boundaries, social media, body image, eating disorders, domestic violence and teen dating violence. The next session will be on June 20 on "Healthy Communication for Better Relationships." To register, go to [stjohnlearning.wordpress.com/registration](http://stjohnlearning.wordpress.com/registration).

Besides classrooms, the center also has a computer lab with six stations for students. In addition, Lee said she and a local job training agency are trying to put together a program to help people learn skills needed for specific in-demand jobs.

She said the business classes attract 50 to 100 people for evening sessions and 30 to 40 for afternoon programs. About 25 to 30 people have attended each "Stop the Stigma" session to date.

"I've been here for only about 2½ years and have to give credit to several wonderful teachers who have volunteered here for much longer," she said. "One who especially stands out is Melodie McGee, an elementary school teacher for more than 30 years who is part of the GED program. She has taken in many students who couldn't read or count and patiently guided them through the steps needed to pass the GED test."

For information on any of the St. John Learning Center's activities, call (614) 547-2171 or email [sjlc.coordinator@gmail.com](mailto:sjlc.coordinator@gmail.com).

The Columbus region of the Order of Malta has operated its Center of Care at the St. John Center since the summer of 2017. Word of mouth resulted in quick

growth, with around 500 people being seen and about 1,500 packages of hygiene supplies, undergarments, socks, T-shirts, gloves and hats distributed in each of its first two full years of operation.

The arrival of COVID in March 2020 caused those numbers to drop sharply until pandemic restrictions were eased in 2022. Last year, 258 people received medical assistance and 43 received dental care, with the total of packages distributed again reaching around 1,500.

The center, which is open Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., offers health screenings and basic medical, wound, burn, dental and foot care from volunteer physicians, podiatrists and dentists from the Catholic Medical Association, along with medical referrals for those needing advanced levels of care. It does not bill insurance or Medicare but operates solely on donations.

Since 2022, it also has provided coats for the winter, distributing all the 192 coats per year it has made available.

"The Order of Malta has a history which goes back nearly 1,000 years to the Crusades in Jerusalem," said Jason Thomas, president of the care center's board. "Its mission from the beginning has been caring for the poor and the sick and today it operates hospitals and clinics in more than 120 nations.

"I'm in information technology but have always wanted to be involved in this kind of work. The center actively allows me and other members of the order to fulfill that charism."

"It's a satisfying thing to be able to do what we do, giving needed service for people who need care and can't afford it," said Dr. Tom Rankin, who provides dental care at the center. "What's especially gratifying is that we do it with no strings attached and no red tape."

"I love this work because it provides such pure human interaction," said Dr. Marian Schuda of Riverside Methodist Hospital, a physician for 45 years. "There's no bureaucracy or pre-registration, which sometimes just gets in the way, especially for people who just want to sit and talk about their medical issues. It's gratifying for them to be able to do this and reminds me of why I became a doctor in the first place."

For more on the Center of Care, call (614) 530-8643 or go to [www.centerof-care.org](http://www.centerof-care.org).

For information on all the services at the St. John Center (also known as the St. John Community Center), go to [hrs-jchurch.org/service](http://hrs-jchurch.org/service). Donations and volunteers are also welcome. Email [hrsjevents@gmail.com](mailto:hrsjevents@gmail.com) or call (614) 252-5926, extension 7 for more information on supporting these programs.



Bishop Earl Fernandes celebrates the final Mass at Holy Rosary-St. John with Father Michael Nimocks (left) and Father Ramon Owerera, the parish's pastor. To their left is Deacon Frank Iannarino.



Mary Carter Roberts, a longtime member of Holy Rosary-St. John who was married in the church to her now-deceased husband Clarence, prays during the final Mass.

CT photos by Ken Snow



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# American Heritage Girls troop celebrates 10th anniversary

By Anne Rainer

“As an American Heritage Girl, I promise to love God, cherish my family, honor my country, and serve in my community.”

I am a Patriot in American Heritage Girls (AHG) Troop OH0031, a parishioner at St. Patrick Church in Columbus and am proud to recite this Oath with my troop. My friend, Libby Chenault, who is also a Patriot, and I have been reciting this Oath for 10 years since 2014. This year, our troop is celebrating its 10th year anniversary!

AHG is a faith-based scouting troop whose mission is to build women of integrity through service to God, family, community and country. With 56 girls from all over central Ohio, we are one of the biggest troops in our state. We are very blessed to have a generous and supportive charter, St. Patrick Church, in Columbus.

In 2014, Mrs. Ellen Sullivan founded our troop and selected the troop number 0031 for Proverbs 31, which describes Godly women. Our troop began with about 30 girls and their moms with no high schoolers. I will always remember being a five-year-old and giving our former pastor, Father Michael Mary Dosch, O.P., a picture of our troop that all of us

girls had signed.

Our troop meets twice a month at St. Patrick Church. At meetings, we start with squads, then move into a flag ceremony and a prayer. We then break out into our five units based on age, with girls in kindergarten to high school: Pathfinders, Tenderhearts, Explorers, Pioneers and Patriots. Some of our most popular badges that girls have enjoyed earning are Cake Decorating, Crafts, Fire Safety and Fire Building and Outdoor Skills.

Service projects happen regularly. Every Memorial Day weekend, we go to St. Joseph Cemetery and place flags at veterans' tombstones and say a prayer. Last year, our troop had over 850 hours of service! The tour of the Ohio statehouse and Ohio Supreme Court is something our unit will never forget. Other favorite troop activities are camping, horseback riding and our annual Anthony Thomas Chocolate fundraiser.

This past summer, the Pioneer and Patriots from our troop and Troop OH0516 from Hilliard St. Brendan Church went on a trip to Cedar Point and Lake Erie.

Whether it is our cereal eaten by racoons, tent camping in a huge thunderstorm or spending hours melting crayons on a grill to make buddy burners for the



American Heritage Girls placing American flags by tombstones of veterans at St. Joseph Cemetery in 2023 are (from left) Libby Chenault, Cecilia Bautista, Anne Rainer and Miriam Angle.  
Photo courtesy American Heritage Girls

homeless, there is always a new adventure!

In January 2023 under the leadership of our Troop Coordinator Mrs. Leslie Wolf, our troop received the Diocese of Columbus 2023 Bishop's Troop Award for being an outstanding Catholic troop. We also just received the National Honor Troop Award for maintaining a healthy balanced program and by meeting objectives set by AHG, Inc. This year, girls worked on earning their Eucharistic Revival Patch and many also earned their unit's Faith Award.

Currently, Patriot Annelise Perez is working on renovating a bathroom at the Women's Care Center to earn the highest award in AHG, the Stars and Stripes Award. Five years ago, former Patriot Genevieve Taukus earned her Stars and Stripes Award by creating a prayer garden at Damascus Catholic Mission Campus.

Last year, she entered The Servants of the Lord and the Virgin Matará and is now Sister Mary Queen of Heaven! It is really special to know that she is praying for all of us.

As an active member of our troop, I have deepened my faith and have grown in virtue and leadership through AHG. I know that without AHG, I would not be the person I am today. I love leading the younger girls, growing through service and badgework, and just having fun with my sisters in Christ. I have so many great memories that I will never forget and can't wait to make more.

Please pray for our troop along with all American Heritage Girls troops in our country and know we are praying for you.

*Anne Rainer is a ninth-grader who is homeschooled and attends Columbus St. Patrick Church.*

## MEDICAL, continued from Page 2

my protecting wall and garrison.

“What message is that? “Know that I am with you always until the end of the world.” If Christ is with me, whom shall I fear?”

Lutter concluded by offering a word of encouragement to the graduating Catholic medical and nurse practitioner students in the audience.

“Be strong, students,” she said. “Be bold and have joy.”

Lutter chose to donate her honorarium to Mommies Matter, an organization in central Ohio that journeys with single mothers through their pregnancies, the birth of their child and beyond.

Father Bob Penhallurick, the pastor of Hilliard St. Brendan the Navigator Church and chaplain of the CMA, received the Mother Teresa of Calcutta Service to Medicine award. Dr. Marian Schuda, a geriatric physician and secretary of the local CMA, presented the award to Father Penhallurick.

The award recognizes a Catholic clergy member or advanced practice nurse, pharmacist or person committed to healing, as well as dedicated to poor and vulnerable populations, and who helps ad-

vance medicine.

“He was instrumental in guiding our group, absolutely instrumental,” Schuda said of Father Penhallurick's involvement with the CMA. “He's been so supportive.”

Father Penhallurick holds a master's in health care and bioethics. He was ordained to the priesthood in 1996 and serves as episcopal vicar of the diocesan Real Presence Real Future program.

“I am enormously grateful,” he said of the honor. “I love the CMA, and I love the work that we do together. It's just wonderful.”

Father Penhallurick was recently appointed to serve as director of the diocese's new respect life office. He said it is a “huge privilege” to start a “completely new respect life office” in the diocese.

“I'm really excited ... to be actually helping us to elevate what we are sharing with people in our diocese above the culture wars and to really present this beautiful Gospel of truth that inspires people to not only love God but to love the family and to love the preborn ... and everybody

*See MEDICAL, Page 20*

► FRIENDS OF THE JOSEPHINUM ◀

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## LOCAL NEWS AND EVENTS

# Serra Club to present server, essay awards at Cathedral

The Columbus Serra Club will present its 61st annual altar server awards and honor winners of its inaugural priestly vocation essay contest at 3 p.m. Sunday, May 26 in Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral, 212 E. Broad St.

Bishop Earl Fernandes will present medallions and certificates to the honorees. The server awards will be presented to two eighth-graders from each diocesan parish and are based on criteria such as reliability, reverential manner and interest in the server's role.

For the essay contest, eighth-grade boys were challenged to write a composition of 500 words or less on whether God is calling them to be a priest. Reviewers of the essays looked for prayerful self-examination on where God might be leading the writer. Ten winners were chosen, with the writers of each receiving \$1,000 in tuition assistance to a Catholic high school.

The club needs new members, especially some with a background in education, to help evaluate essays this year and in years following. For information on joining, email [carl@faehnle.com](mailto:carl@faehnle.com) or call or text (614) 584-4659.

## Madrid to speak to luncheon club

Nationally known Catholic author, speaker and radio personality Patrick Madid, a central Ohio resident, will speak to the Catholic Men's Luncheon Club on Friday, June 7 on "Ten Recent Discoveries That Point to the Existence of God."

The meeting will be at Columbus St. Patrick Church, 280 N. Grant Ave., after the church's 11:45 a.m. Mass. No reservations are necessary. A \$12 donation to cover the cost of the lunch is requested.

The club will take its annual summer break in July and August. Its next meeting will be on Friday, Sept. 6, with Don Schlegel of the diocesan Catholic Record Society speaking on the organization's 50-year history.

If you are interested in sponsoring one of the club's monthly luncheons, contact Pat Foley at [foley513@gmail.com](mailto:foley513@gmail.com).

## Special Masses to be celebrated at St. Patrick

Several special Masses will be celebrated at Columbus St. Patrick Church, 280 N. Grant Ave., in May and June.

Masses of thanksgiving for newly ordained diocesan priests Father Tyler Carter and Father Michael Haemmerle, both of whom are from the parish, followed by receptions, will take place on Sunday, May 19. Father Carter's will be at noon and Father Haemmerle's at 3 p.m.

There will be a sung Mass in the Dominican Rite for the Feast of Corpus Christi at 7 p.m. Thursday, May 30. This will be part of the ongoing Triple Jubilee of St. Thomas Aquinas. A plenary indulgence related to the jubilee may be obtained for visiting a Dominican church and following the other conditions for such an indulgence until January 2025.

Father Thomas Blau, OP, of the St. Pat-

rick Priory will celebrate a Mass of thanksgiving for the 25th anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood at 5 p.m. Saturday, June 1 with a reception to follow.

A farewell celebration for departing pastor Father Stephen Alcott, OP, is set for Saturday and Sunday, June 8 and 9. He will be preaching at all Masses and a reception will follow each Mass.

Father Paul Marich, OP, will be installed as pastor at a Mass at 5 p.m. Saturday, June 29 celebrated by Bishop Earl Fernandes.

## Eucharistic retreat scheduled at Maria Stein

A retreat with the theme "Eucharistic Joy" will take place from 4:30 p.m. Friday, May 31 to 11 a.m. Sunday, June 2 at the Maria Stein Retreat Center, 2365 St. Johns Road, Maria Stein in Mercer County.

Father Bill Marquis, OP, a Dominican friar stationed in Texas and a former theology instructor at Ohio Dominican University, will conduct the retreat, whose theme coincides with the celebration of the Feast of Corpus Christi on June 2.

Mass will be celebrated on Friday evening, Saturday and Sunday and Eucharistic Adoration and the Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available throughout the weekend.

Accommodations will be available on-site. The cost of \$290 per couple or \$210 single occupancy includes dinner on Friday, three meals on Saturday and breakfast Sunday.

The payment and registration deadline is Friday, May 17. To make a reservation or for more information, contact Jenny McAndrew at (614) 832-3862 or [jennymc4life@yahoo.com](mailto:jennymc4life@yahoo.com).

## Resurrection to display refugee-themed art

The New Albany Church of the Resurrection, 6300 E. Dublin-Granville Road, will be displaying 34 refugee-themed paintings that are to be auctioned off in June to benefit the local Community Refugee and Immigration Services (CRIS) organization.

The paintings are part of the Columbus Crossing Borders Project, an art exhibit and documentary film created to inspire critical thinking, compassion and support for the millions of people who have been forced to flee their homes due to war, climate, violence and persecution.

With no room to be territorial, the 34 participating artists worked together to resolve whatever challenges arose as they crossed their neighbors' borders. The result is a cooperative and diverse community of artists who have created a visual tribute to resilience, strength, determination and survival.

The documentary provides a visual journey of the exhibit alongside first-person accounts shared by refugees who have made the United States their home. Both the exhibit and film have been seen by thousands of people in galleries,

schools, community centers and theaters across the United States.

The auction is live and may be viewed at Columbus Crossing Borders Project Art Auction ([auctria.com](http://auctria.com)). Bidding will close on Saturday, June 22.

## Contributions asked for Sacred Heart billboards

Tim McAndrew of Columbus, a long-time promoter of the Divine Mercy Chapel through his Laity for Mercy website and Divine Mercy newspaper, is hoping to raise enough money to have four billboards honoring the Sacred Heart placed around Columbus in June.

The cost to pay Lamar Advertising for the space is \$550 or \$1,000 per billboard, depending on location. McAndrew said he has raised enough so far for one billboard, which will be on Morse Road.

Each billboard will have the image of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the words "June is devoted to the Sacred Heart of Jesus" and "Jesus is King of mercy."

The deadline for donations is Monday, May 20. All donations are tax-deductible. Anyone wishing to donate is asked to write a check to Laity for Mercy and send it to McAndrew in care of Laity for Mercy, 5133 Collins Way, Grove City OH 43123.

## DeSales class plans 50th reunion

The Columbus St. Francis DeSales High School Class of 1974 will host its 50th-anniversary reunion on Friday and Saturday, May 31 and June 1.

It will begin with an informal gathering on May 31 at The Varsity Club, 278 W. Lane Ave., Columbus.

The following day, the reunion class will lead the Class of 2024 into its commencement ceremony at Alumni Stadium, 4212 Karl Road, preceded by a continental breakfast at the school at 8 a.m. Those wishing to attend are asked to RSVP to Sarah Evans-Jacobs at (614) 267-7808, extension 429.

The reunion banquet will be from 6 to 10 p.m. that evening at Carfagna's Restaurant, 1140 Gemini Place Towne Center, Columbus. The cost is \$50 per person and must be paid in advance.

For more information, call Tibs at (614) 507-9099.

## Children's choir to present Cathedral concert

The internationally recognized Columbus International Children's Choir will present a concert at 6 p.m. Saturday, June 22 as a send-off in preparation for its performance at the 13th World Choir Games in Auckland, New Zealand, from July 10 to 20.

More than 300 choirs from more than 40 nations are expected to take part in the event, which organizers describe as the world's largest choir festival. It takes

place every two years in cities around the world, including in Cincinnati in 2012.

Founded in 1998, the choir has won prizes at many international competitions, including a gold medal at the 10th World Choir Games in Tshwane, South Africa.

It has performed at the White House, Carnegie Hall, St. Peter's Basilica, the Great Wall of China, Ireland and Canada and locally at the Ohio Theater with BalletMet, the Columbus Symphony and Opera Columbus. It hosts and sponsors the Central Ohio Singing Competition, which offers the stage for the best Ohio youth talents.

There is no charge for the concert, but donations to help pay for travel to New Zealand are welcomed and appreciated.

## Franciscan to host conference on nature of man and woman

Franciscan University of Steubenville will host a conference on "Man, Woman, and the Order of Creation" from Thursday to Saturday, Oct. 24-26. Co-sponsored by the university and the Ethics and Public Policy Center (EPPC) in Washington, the event will explore the nature of the human person, created male and female.

The conference will seek to bring clarity to the question of "Who is man and who is woman?" by addressing the scientific, philosophical and theological foundations that allow for a coherent understanding of male and female. Participants also will benefit from a thorough discussion about the implications of this reality — man and woman's identities, their differences and their distinct God-given missions.

Speakers and panelists will include Francis X. Maier, senior fellow of the EPPC's Catholic studies program; Dr. Aaron Kheriaty, fellow and director of the EPPC's bioethics and American democracy program; Dr. Paul Vitz, senior scholar emeritus at Divine Mercy University in Hopewell, Virginia and professor of psychology emeritus at New York University; Dr. Angela Franks, professor of theology at St. John's Seminary in Boston and senior fellow at the Abigail Adams Institute; Father Christian Raab, OSB, professor of systematic theology at St. Meinrad (Indiana) Seminary and School of Theology; Dr. Greg Bottaro, psychologist and founder of the CatholicPsych Institute; Dr. Hilary Towers, licensed professional counselor; Noelle Mering, author and EPPC fellow; Dr. Maria Fedoryka, professor of philosophy at Ave Maria (Florida) University and others.

For more information and to register, visit [franciscan.edu/man-woman-and-the-order-of-creation](http://franciscan.edu/man-woman-and-the-order-of-creation).

Pentecost Year B

## Easter season closes with outpouring of Holy Spirit

Vigil Mass

Genesis 11:1-9, Exodus 19:3-8a,  
16-20b, Ezekiel 37:1-14, OR Joel 3:1-5  
Ps. 104:1-2, 24, 35, 27-28, 29, 30  
Romans 8:22-27  
John 7:37-39

Mass During the Day

Acts 2:1-11

Psalm 104:1, 24, 29-30, 31, 34  
1 Corinthians 12:3b-7, 12-13 or Galatians 5:16-25  
John 20:19-23 or John 15:26-27; 16:12-15

Pentecost is the grand closing to the Easter season. The cycle of the Passion-Death-Resurrection of the Lord Jesus brings us to the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, made possible because Jesus has gone from our sight to be with the Father in His risen and glorified human nature. Our human nature in Christ has been made capable of the fullness of Divine Life.

The Church offers a Liturgy that is parallel to Easter, including a Vigil Mass and a Mass during the day. Very few parishes choose to celebrate the Vigil with solemnity using multiple readings and responsorial psalms. But the theme of the day is clear. We ask God to fulfill the promise that has been made to us through salvation history: "Lord, send out your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth."

For the Vigil, the Old Testament readings that can be selected tell us of the confusion of language and dispersal of the nations in the account of Babel (Genesis), the Epiphany of God to Moses on Sinai (Exodus), the dry bones being raised by the Spirit (Ezekiel) and the prophetic promise of the outpouring of the Spirit on

Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity Year B

## One God in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit

Deuteronomy 4:32-34, 39-40  
Psalm 33:4-5, 6, 9, 18-19, 20, 22  
Romans 8:14-17  
Matthew 28:16-20

Relationship with the Living God is not something to be taken for granted. Moses addresses the people of Israel: "Ask now of the days of old, before your time, ever since God created man upon the earth; ask from one end of the sky to the other: Did anything so great ever happen before? Was it ever heard of?" In his final discourses before Israel enters the Promised Land, he makes clear that this is a full relationship that requires understanding the very nature of God and a willingness to take it seriously.

Moses charges Israel: "You must now know, and fix in your heart, that the Lord is God in the heavens above and on earth below, and that there is no other. You must keep his statutes and commandments that I enjoin on you today, that you and your children after

### SCRIPTURE READINGS

Father Timothy Hayes

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



all flesh (Joel). Paul speaks of the share all of creation has in awaiting the revelation of the children of God. In the Gospel, Jesus cries out the invitation to living water.

Sunday's reading from Acts of the Apostles highlights the reversal of Babel in Jerusalem on the day of Pentecost with the noise like a strong, driving wind, the tongues of flame overshadowing the Apostles and Mary, and the first bold proclamation of the Gospel where all understand what is said in their own languages. The unity of humanity is renewed. Those who believe become the first members of the Church in Jerusalem.

Paul's Letter to the Corinthians describes the harmony of the Spirit's action in the Body of Christ, the Church, with the different kinds of spiritual gifts, different forms of service and different workings: "As a body is one though it has many parts, and all the parts of the body, though many, are one body, so also Christ." Likewise, in the Letter to the Galatians, the second option for the Epistle of the Mass on the day of Pentecost, Paul enumerates the fruits of the Spirit: "love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control."

The Gospel brings us back to Easter Sunday evening, when Jesus makes known to His disciples that He has risen. He gives them the fullness of peace through His greeting of "Shalom." Then, in His Risen Body, He breathes on them and empowers them to live the power of

you may prosper, and that you may have long life on the land which the Lord, your God, is giving you forever." Accepting a relationship with God means fulfilling our own side of the covenant. We must respond from the heart and with full exercise of our wills, choosing Him as the one God.

The Solemnity of the Holy Trinity opens the Sundays of Ordinary Time. What has been revealed to us in the person of Jesus Christ is that the one God is a relation of persons, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. We are given a precious glimpse into the heart of reality.

Paul emphasizes the way the Spirit has drawn us into the life of God: "Those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. ... (Y)ou received a Spirit of adoption, through whom we cry, 'Abba, Father!' The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if only we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him."

### THE WEEKDAY BIBLE READINGS

5/20-5/25  
MONDAY  
Genesis 3:9-15, 20  
or Acts 1:12-14  
Psalm 87:1b-3, 5-7  
John 19:25-34

TUESDAY  
James 4:1-10  
Psalm 55:7-11, 23  
Mark 9:30-37

WEDNESDAY  
James 4:13-17  
Psalm 49:2-3, 6-11  
Mark 9:38-40

THURSDAY  
James 5:1-6  
Psalm 49:14-20  
Mark 9:41-50

FRIDAY  
James 5:9-12  
Psalm 103:1-4, 8-9, 11-12  
Mark 9:41-50

SATURDAY  
James 5:13-20  
Psalm 141:1-3, 8  
Mark 10:13-16

5-26/5-31  
MONDAY  
1 Peter 1:3-9  
Psalm 111:1-2, 5-6, 9, 10c  
Mark 10:17-27

TUESDAY  
1 Peter 1:10-16  
Psalm 98:1-4  
Mark 10:28-31

WEDNESDAY  
1 Peter 1:18-25  
Psalm 147:12-15, 19-20  
Mark 10:32-45

THURSDAY  
1 Peter 2:2-5, 9-12  
Psalm 100:2-5  
Mark 10:46-52

FRIDAY  
Zephaniah 3:14-18a  
or Romans 12:9-16  
Isaiah 12:2-3, 4bcd, 5-6  
Luke 1:39-56

SATURDAY  
Jude 17, 20b-25  
Psalm 63:2-6  
Mark 11:27-33

### DIOCESAN WEEKLY RADIO AND TELEVISION

Mass Schedule: Weeks of May 19 and May 26, 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](http://www.stgabrielradio.com) and diocesan website, [www.columbus-catholic.org](http://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 BreezeLine Channel 378). (Encores at noon, 7 p.m., and midnight).

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

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

#### DAILY MASS

8 a.m., Our Lady of the Angels Monastery in Birmingham, Ala. (Encores at noon, 7 p.m. and midnight). See EWTN above; and on I-Lifetv (Channel 113, Ada, Logan, Millersburg, Murray City, Washington C.H.; Channel 125, Marion, Newark, Newcomerstown and New Philadelphia; Channel 207, Zanesville); 8 p.m., St. Gabriel Radio (AM 820), Columbus, and at [www.stgabrielradio.com](http://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](http://www.stgabrielradio.com) and diocesan website, [www.columbuscatholic.org](http://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](http://www.stannstmary.org)); Columbus St. Patrick ([www.stpatrickcolumbus.org](http://www.stpatrickcolumbus.org)); Delaware St. Mary ([www.delawarestmary.org](http://www.delawarestmary.org)); Sunbury St. John Neumann ([www.saintjohnsunbury.org](http://www.saintjohnsunbury.org)); and Columbus Immaculate Conception ([www.iccols.org](http://www.iccols.org)). Check your parish website for additional information.

WE PRAY WEEKS IV AND I OF THE LITURGY OF THE HOURS

the Resurrection to heal the world: "Receive the Holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained." The sacramental life of the Church continues this mission.

The Holy Spirit has been poured out on the Church. Pentecost brings us to birth as the Body of Christ that continues to be formed by the Spirit into the life of grace. Mary, the Mother of the Lord who was with the Apostles at Pentecost, becomes truly the Mother of the Church. Her feast is ob-

served on the Monday after Pentecost.

What a joy it is for the Diocese of Columbus to be celebrating the ordination and Masses of Thanksgiving of five new priests this Pentecost weekend. May the Spirit fill these young men with zeal for God and His People. May their ministry bear fruit and may many be inspired to proclaim the Gospel to all the nations. "Lord, send out your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth!"

given at Sinai. We, who by the power of the Holy Spirit are made one with Christ and the Father, now respond to the mystery of God's unity and trinity by living divine life humanly through the sacraments and through sharing the Word of Life with the world as we baptize and teach and learn to recognize ever more powerfully the truth that He is with us.

God speaks to each one of us, whispering in our personal prayer and proclaiming clearly in our communal prayer that He is with us. Each person of the Trinity seeks a living relationship. To respond to the Father, we rely on the Spirit to give us Jesus' cry as our own: "Abba!" To respond to the Son, we put into practice all that He has taught us, standing with Him in His brothers and sisters, especially those most in need. We respond to the Spirit by receiving the breath of life communicated to us by the Risen Lord and sharing the message of the Gospel with all the nations.

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| <b>ASSUMPTION</b>     | <b>IMMACULATE</b>    | <b>REFUGE</b>     |
| <b>BLESSED VIRGIN</b> | <b>MAGNIFICAT</b>    | <b>ROSARY</b>     |
| <b>CHASTE</b>         | <b>MEDIATRIX</b>     | <b>SINLESS</b>    |
| <b>FULL OF GRACE</b>  | <b>MOTHER OF GOD</b> | <b>VISITATION</b> |

**PRAYER TO THE VIRGIN**

Oh, most beautiful flower of Mt. Carmel, fruitful vine, splendor of heaven, blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in necessity. Oh, star of the sea, help me and show me herein, you are my Heaven and Earth.

I humbly beseech you from the bottom of my heart to secure me in this necessity. There are none who can withstand your powers. Oh, show me herein you are my Mother. Oh, Mary conceived without sin, pray for us, who have recourse to thee. (Repeat three times) Oh, Holy Mary, I place this cause in your hand. (Repeat three times) Holy Spirit, you who solve all problems, light all roads that I can obtain my goals. You gave me the divine gift to forgive and forget all evil against me, and in all instances in my life, you are with me. I want in this short prayer to thank you for all things as you confirm once again that I never want to be separated from you in eternal glory.

Thank you for your mercy toward me and mine. | **GW**

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by Pat Battaglia, aka Dr. Fun

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**SAMANTHA ANDERSON**

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## PRAY FOR OUR DEAD

**ARMSTRONG, Frederick L., 80, May 3**  
St. Joseph Cathedral, Columbus

**CARNEVALE, Linda, 96, April 28**  
St. Timothy Church, Columbus

**CLINE, Paul E., 90, April 29**  
St. Francis de Sales Church, Newark

**DURST, John G., 80, May 6**  
Church of the Atonement, Crooksville

**FAROOKI, Dr. Filomena (Rasay) "Nena," 93, May 4**  
St. Brigid of Kildare Church, Dublin

**GARD, Carl O. "Bud" Jr., 65, May 1**  
St. Brendan Church, Hilliard

**JIMENEZ, Olga P., 83, April 28**  
St. Michael Church, Worthington

**LISSKA, Daniel A., 65, April 29**  
St. James the Less Church, Columbus

**PERKO, Joseph G., 81, April 24**  
St. Joseph Cathedral, Columbus

**RYAN, J. David, 20, April 20**  
Our Lady of Victory Church, Columbus

**SNIDER, Judith A. (Paxton), 88, April 29**  
St. Rose of Lima Church, New Lexington

**TIPPETT, James E., 75, April 27**  
Immaculate Conception Church, Columbus

**VOISARD, Patricia (Hetzel), 83, May 6**  
Our Lady of Peace Church, Columbus

**WAGNER, Walter D., 76, April 17**  
St. Peter Church, Columbus

**WALDO, Francis X., 88, May 3**  
St. Mary Church, Marion

**WRIGHT, Catherine F., 34, April 22**  
Our Lady of Victory Church, Columbus

### Marie M. Dawes

Funeral Mass for Marie M. Dawes, 86, who died Saturday, May 4, was celebrated Friday, May 10 at the New Albany Church of the Resurrection.

She was born on April 6, 1938 to the late William and Marie Gavin and was a graduate of Allentown (Pennsylvania) Central Catholic High School and St. Joseph College of Emmitsburg, Maryland.

She was a teacher at Allentown Central Catholic and, after raising her children, returned to the classroom and was an eighth-grade teacher at Columbus St. Cecilia School for many years.

At her parish, she was a member of

the choir and an extraordinary minister of the Eucharist for the homebound. She also was a volunteer for the Pregnancy Decision Health Centers, the Women's Care Center, the Christ Child Society, St. Cecilia School and Columbus Bishop Ready High School and was a member of the Knights of the Holy Sepulchre.

Survivors include her husband of 62 years, Bob; sons, Bobby (Kelly) and Bill (Lisa); daughters, Mary Beth (Tim) Culbertson and Becky (Mike) Cummins; 11 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.



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## Sister Teresita Weind, SNDdeN

Funeral Mass for Sister Teresita Weind, SNDdeN, 81, who died Monday, April 28, was celebrated Saturday, May 11, at the Mount Notre Dame Health Center in Cincinnati. A second memorial Mass will take place in Columbus on a date to be determined.

She was born Helen Weind on July 6, 1942 to the late Lon and Lillian (Evans) Weind, was baptized at the Shiloh Baptist Church in Columbus and entered into full communion with the Catholic Church on Dec. 24, 1954 at Columbus St. Dominic Church.

She was a graduate of St. Dominic School, Columbus St. Joseph Academy and the St. Andrew Hospital School of Nursing in Bottineau, North Dakota. She received a Bachelor of Science degree in nursing from Mary College in Bismarck,

North Dakota in 1969 and a Master of Religious Studies degree from Mundelein College in Chicago in 1972.

She entered the Sisters of Mary of the Presentation on Sept. 8, 1960 and made her first profession of vows on Aug. 26, 1963 and her final profession on Aug. 15, 1968. She transferred her vows to the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur on Feb. 9, 1973 and made her final commitment to the congregation on Aug. 13, 1976.

Her 63 years as a nurse, educator, pastoral minister and provincial leader took her to Chicago; Saginaw, Michigan; Cincinnati and ultimately to Rome, where she served as her congregation's leader from 2008 to 2022 before returning to Cincinnati in retirement.

### MEDICAL, continued from Page 16

right up until natural death, so it's ... an exciting challenge," Father Penhallurick said of his new role.

He chose to donate his honorarium to the Order of Malta Center of Care, a free medical clinic stationed at Columbus Holy Rosary-St. John Church. The clinic is operated by the Order of Malta, a Catholic lay religious order, with the help of the CMA.

Mommies Matter received the St. John Paul II Culture of Life award. The award recognizes a local central Ohio organization that contributed significantly to advancing the medical, helping and caring culture of life in the vision of Pope St. John Paul II.

Greg and Dorie France, both pharmacists, presented the award to the Monica Flynn, the founder and CEO of the organization.

"The Mommies Matter community provides single mothers facing unplanned and often unwanted pregnancies tangible support services, including housing, transportation and educational assistance, family and financial advocacy, life coaching, mental health support and legal aid, but the core of Mommies Matter is community," Greg France said.

"It's in this Christ-centered community that mommies are given the opportunity to experience authentic relationships."

The CMA recognized the organization for its dedication to women and their children, journeying with women without judgment. He said the organization's dedication leaves a permanent impact on advancing respect for the dignity of human beings through service, charity and education.

According to the U.S. Census, he said, 40 percent of live births in the United States are to single mothers, and 30 percent of households in the country are headed by single mothers.

Flynn, who has been active in the pro-life movement for 25 years, thanked the CMA for recognizing the young organization, which was founded about six years ago. She spoke of the importance of walking with women after their babies are born.

"I know we all, especially in the medical field that are seeing these women and

these babies, see it," Flynn said. "We all know single parents and the health of that family unit is directly correlated to their support system, so, as a community, we really need to be there for them."

Brandon Wolters, a fourth-year graduating medical student from Ohio University Heritage College of Osteopathic Medicine, received the St. Luke Faith and Reason award.

The award recognizes a graduating Catholic medical student, nurse practitioner, physician's assistant, graduating resident or other health professional student or trainee. The recipient demonstrates exemplary service to the Church, striving for excellence in studying medicine and practicing the virtues of humility and charity in treating patients.

Wolters will begin his residency in obstetrics and gynecology at Wright State University this summer. The CMA recognized Wolters for his courage as a young leader.

Drs. Tony Joseph and Sandy Lane Joseph and family received the first annual Holy Family award. The CMA recognized the Josephs for supporting the organization with their time, talent and treasure.

They helped found the CMA of Central Ohio and have been supporters since its inception, said Dr. Ashley Fernandes, the organization's treasurer. The Josephs, who now live in Florida, recently made the single largest donation to the CMA of Central Ohio in the organization's history.

They were commended for seeking to raise their family in light of the Gospel and exemplifying kindness, generosity and love to patients, students and colleagues.

"Jesus told us, ... He said, 'Go and bear fruit,'" Tony said. "That's the family. And then, if you read one more line ... 'Go and bear fruit that will last,' and what's going to last more than our children and their children?"

The evening concluded by honoring and blessing graduating medical and other healthcare students. Catholic healthcare professionals and graduating students in attendance also recited the Hippocratic Oath.

# St. John Neumann dedicates Marian grotto

**By Hannah Heil**  
*Catholic Times Reporter*

A new Marian grotto at Sunbury St. John Neumann Church was dedicated during a Mass celebrated by Bishop Earl Fernandes on Sunday, May 12.

The dedication was timely, as Sunday was not only the Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord but also Mother's Day. The Marian grotto was built in honor of the Mother of God.

"The construction of the grotto is one small way I wanted to thank our Blessed Mother," said Father Daniel Dury, the pastor at St. John Neumann. "I thank her for all she has done for me throughout my life, but also, and more importantly, what she has done for all of us."

"Through her 'yes' she helped bring about the salvation of the human race. I know that she will continue to intercede for all those who come here and visit her."

Construction of the grotto began in June 2023. The parish held a groundbreaking blessing of the site, which was then a grove of trees.

Less than a year later, the grotto, which features a statue of the Blessed Mother and the words "Ave Maria, Gratia Plena" (Hail Mary, Full of Grace), is



Bishop Earl Fernandes blesses the new Marian grotto at Sunbury St. John Neumann Church during an outdoor Mass on Sunday, May 12. Photo courtesy St. John Neumann Church

complete and used by parishioners for various forms of prayer.

"Parishioners have already begun using the grotto for personal devotion and group rosaries," said Jackie Sutton, the stewardship director at St. John Neumann. "We anticipate offering Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament in years to come."

Several parishioners participated in a 33-day preparation for consecration to Jesus through Mary ahead of the dedication. During Mass, the bishop led the congregation in a prayer of consecration.

The Marian Grotto includes an altar for Mass, a crucifix, candles, kneelers and benches, as well as a statue of St. Bernadette Soubirous, whom the Blessed Mother appeared to in Lourdes, France.

Construction was completed at the end of 2023 and landscaping was added earlier this spring.

"When Mary appeared to St. Juan Diego in Mexico and St. Bernadette in France, she asked that a shrine be built in her honor, ultimately to lead people to her Son," Sutton said.

The idea for a grotto at St. John Neumann was presented to Father Dury by longtime parishioners Joe and Marge Gernert. A group of parishioners worked with Father Dury and architect Scott Harper to design the space.

"The rendering was presented in January 2023, and it didn't take much to encourage our parishioners to participate in raising the funds needed," Sutton said.

Funds were raised through St. John Neumann's "Magnify the Lord" capital campaign. The campaign is intended to draw souls to Jesus Christ and lead individuals to a transformative encounter with God through enhancing the liturgical life and parish grounds at St. John Neumann.

In addition to the grotto, funds were raised for a new digital organ, two new confessionals and renovation of classroom spaces for group meetings. The parish continues to raise funds for the final piece of the campaign – a bell tower outside of the church's main entrance that is set to be installed this summer.

To make a contribution, visit [www.saintjohnsunbury.org](http://www.saintjohnsunbury.org) or contact Sutton at 740-965-1358 x23 or [jsutton@stjohnsunbury.org](mailto:jsutton@stjohnsunbury.org).

## Watterson begins chapel expansion-renovation project

Columbus Bishop Watterson High School has broken ground on a \$1.7 million expansion and renovation of the St. Pius X Chapel on its campus.

When the project is completed in the

early fall, the space will be increased from 1,100 square feet to 2,500 square feet and seating capacity will grow from 51 to 160.

The chapel, which is the site of Mass-

es, Eucharistic Adoration, confession and open prayer time, has not changed much since the school opened in 1954.

"The chapel is central to our mission as a Catholic school and this renovation is long overdue," said Deacon Chris Campbell, the principal at Bishop Watterson. "The chapel needed extensive repairs and, given our enrollment, we need more space and seating. It will also

be great to have a new, beautiful worship space for our students and staff."

Deacon Campbell and his staff have been researching materials such as pews and other furniture in an effort to repurpose items from churches that have closed or have replaced items.

The St. Pius X Chapel renovation is expected to be completed in early fall.

## DeSales student-athletes commit to colleges



Columbus St. Francis DeSales seniors participated in a college commitment celebration on May 1 at the high school. Students who plan to continue their athletic careers next year include (front row from left) Luke Aaron, soccer, Franciscan University of Steubenville; Grace Dziatkowicz, soccer, Otterbein University; Aidan Shepardson, soccer, Lake Erie College; Isabella Felter, rowing, Ohio State University; Katherine Dortmund, track and field, Ohio Wesleyan University. (middle row from left) Joe Couhig, golf, Lewis University; Josh Wade, lacrosse, John Carroll University; Avery Garlock, football, Marian University; Raesean Betton, football, University of Indianapolis; Cooper Simpson, lacrosse, Cornell University; Isabella Swallow, track and field, University of Akron. (back row from left) Holden Osborne, baseball, Walsh University; Cameron Gwinn, football, University of Toledo; Jack Elgin, football, Valparaiso University; Kenyettia Quinn, track and field, Marshall University; Bridget Womber, basketball, University of Charleston; and Neal Ritchie, lacrosse, St. Vincent College. Photo courtesy St. Francis DeSales High School

## OLP students help veteran take Honor Flight



Columbus Our Lady of Peace School students, math tutor Katy Ryan Paolini and friends raised money for two staff members to take Honor Flight Columbus on April 18. Honor Flight acknowledges veterans on a day trip to Washington D.C. to see the national memorials. They were welcomed home by more than 1,500 people, including Our Lady of Peace students, cheering for them at John Glenn International Airport. In addition, students made cards for the "Mail Call" the veterans received upon arrival home. Photo courtesy Our Lady of Peace

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# Columbus author tells story of faith amid Iraq devastation

By Tim Puet

For The Catholic Times

A first-time Columbus author has written a work of historical fiction that weaves themes of suffering, courage, faith and redemption within a simple story of four people attempting to reach safety in the midst of chaotic events in Iraq in 2014.

*Nazar's Journey* by Paul T. Mascia views the attempt by ISIS terrorists to take over Iraq's Nineveh Plains in August of that year through the eyes of Nazar, a 14-year-old Christian who is forced quickly into adulthood as terrorists attack his village and he must flee. Joining him are Yousif, a builder; Amira, Yousif's daughter, whose fiancé died in the Gulf War of 1991; and Omar, one of Yousif's best workers, a Muslim who is opposed to the terrorists.

The four are among about 500,000 people, some Christian but most of them non-Christian, attempting to reach safety in Erbil, the capital of Kurdistan. They have done nothing wrong but suddenly must leave everything they know and flee on foot to an uncertain future – innocent civilians who are the “collateral damage” of war.

Nazar also is on a personal quest to find his father, from whom he has become separated because of the fighting. Added to their difficulties is that Yousif is injured and has to be carried by his companions in a homemade stretcher, slowing the group's progress toward Erbil. As the story ends, their problems are not resolved, but the four have stayed together and events have enabled them to face the future with hope.

Mascia has a degree in religious studies from Yale University and spent more than 30 years assisting people in central New Jersey with long-term care and disability insurance needs. He and his wife, Theresa, are members of Columbus St. Catharine Church. They have five children and seven grandchildren and moved to Columbus 3 1/2 years ago to be closer to a daughter and her family. He is semi-retired, working only with the clients he had before retiring.

“I wanted for some time to find a way to display my gratitude to God for all the goodness and blessings He has given me,” he said. “I’ve had a yearning for creative writing ever since I took a writing class at Yale and wrote a work of fiction about a

boy caught up in the Vietnam War whose story was like Nazar's. My professor said I should try to get it published.

“I never did because of my involvement in the insurance business, but the idea for the story stayed with me for more than 50 years. A few years ago, I read in the *National Catholic Register* and the *Knights of Columbus* magazine about the persecution of Christians in Iraq. I remember reading about how terrorists would paint the letter N on the doors of Christian households to encourage people to attack residents of those homes – sort of a reverse of the Jews in Egypt marking their doors with lamb's blood before Moses led them to freedom.

“I wanted to make the story as authentic as possible, so I placed it in sites that would have been along the road refugees traveled on the way to Erbil. One of those places is a town called Karemlesh, which had an active Christian community and where Nazar had been attending school.

“The book refers to a destroyed church in Karemlesh and a statue of the Virgin Mary inside the church. I didn't know at the time I was writing about the horrific desecration of that little village church that the statue would be restored and taken to the stadium in Erbil, where it was part of a Mass celebrated by Pope Francis in 2021 during his visit to the region. The statue has become a symbol of survival and restoration for the Iraqi Christian community.”

One scene in which Nazar and Amira gaze at the stars at night has a Columbus connection. Mascia said he was inspired to write it when he heard the Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral choir sing a composition of Psalm 91 – “He will conceal you in his



Paul T. Mascia

wings. You will not fear the terror of the night” – by Dr. Richard Fitzgerald, the cathedral's music director.

“Through Nazar's story, I hope readers will be more cognizant of that fact that we are all part of the Body of Christ,” Mascia said. “We all share in the sufferings and trials of our fellow Christians, even if they are thousands of miles away from us.

“Another lesson I hope will come from the book is that there is a grace of perseverance God provides for suffering people. Nazar goes through a lot of trauma but is given the grace to endure it and to move forward.

“I also feel that in a subtle way the book will show people the beauty of the Catholic faith,” the author said. “Nazar's search for his father includes elements of the parables of the Good Samaritan and the Prodigal Son as part of an unspoken theme of having a personal relationship with God the Father through the redemption provided by Jesus Christ.

“My desire is that the book will touch hearts everywhere and that its message will be a mustard seed of evangelization.”

The story is about 100 pages long. The rest of the 141-page book includes an Introduction by well-known Catholic writer Joseph Pearce, five endorsements, an afterword by an eyewitness, notes on the art by the author, and nine expressionist paintings by Qais Al-Sindy, an Iraqi-American from San Diego. They were created specifically for the book and add significantly to the emotion of the story.

The book will be of interest to both adults and young readers. It can easily be read in one or two settings and provides



Artwork specifically for the book was created by Qais Al-Sindy, an Iraqi-American from San Diego. Image courtesy Paul T. Mascia

rich material for spiritual and literary discussion.

The project is a charitable endeavor. Mascia plans to donate the proceeds to Aid to the Church in Need, a 77-year-old international Catholic pastoral aid organization that works with Catholics in Iraq and many other nations.

The publication date is Friday, May 24, but it may be ordered now for \$20.95 online at amazon.com, barnesandnoble.com andwalmart.com. It also will be available at the Generations religious gifts store in Columbus and Gramercy Books in Bexley. The publisher is Austin Macauley Publishers Ltd. of London.

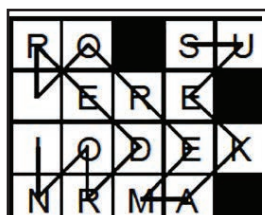
## DeSales student selected for state fair choir



Columbus St. Francis DeSales High School senior Sadie Bassitt has been selected to participate in the 2024 All-Ohio Youth State Fair Choir this summer. She will spend more than two weeks with the choir learning and performing music throughout the event.

Photo courtesy DeSales

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