

# The CATHOLIC TIMES

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THE ASSUMPTION,  
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Nine men were ordained to the permanent diaconate for the diocese at a Mass celebrated by Bishop Earl Fernandes on Saturday, Aug. 10 at St. Joseph Cathedral, Page 11



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The 2024 high school football regular season was set to begin the weekend of Aug. 23-24 with all 10 diocesan teams optimistic about their chances for success, Page 24

# Pilgrims flock to Carey for Assumption procession, Mass

By Hannah Heil  
Catholic Times Reporter

CAREY, Ohio – Thousands of Catholics gathered at the Basilica & National Shrine of Our Lady of Consolation on Wednesday, Aug. 14 for a statewide Eucharistic pilgrimage to celebrate the vigil of the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. The pilgrimage included a candlelight rosary procession and Mass at Shrine Park, located down the street.

Four Ohio bishops were present for the celebration as well as many clergy, consecrated religious, seminarians and Knights of Columbus.

Bishop Earl Fernandes served as the homilist for the Mass. Bishop Daniel Thomas of the Diocese of Toledo was the celebrant. Also present were Bishop Edward Malesic, the bishop of Cleveland, and Bishop Michael Woost, an auxiliary bishop of Cleveland.

Leading up to the solemnity, Bishop Fernandes led a nine-day Assumption novena, which started Aug. 6, and celebrated several Masses at the shrine church for the devotion that culminated



Bishop Earl Fernandes delivers the homily at a Mass in Our Lady of Consolation's Shrine Park in Carey on Aug. 14. Photo courtesy Andy Long

on Aug. 14.

The celebration of the Assumption with a procession and Mass is an annual tradition for the Carey basilica. Thousands of faithful flock to the shrine every year for the feast day celebration.

This year, Ohio's bishops invited all faithful to attend as part of the year of going out on mission.

The year of mission, which began after the National Eucharistic Congress in



Thousands of the faithful attend Mass in the Shrine Park in Carey on Aug. 14, the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Photo courtesy Andy Long

July and will conclude at the celebration of Pentecost in 2025, is the third in a three-year National Eucharistic Revival in the United States. The revival began in 2022 with the year of diocesan revival, followed by the year of parish revival beginning in 2023, and, ultimately, the year of going out on mission.

Marking the year of mission as well as the Blessed Virgin's Assumption into heaven, pilgrims gathered in Carey to

offer thanksgiving, seek the Blessed Virgin's intercession and unite in mission.

A candlelight rosary procession began at the basilica at 9 p.m. The faithful gathered outside of Our Lady of Consolation and departed from the shrine church, filling the street and sidewalks as they processed down to Shrine Park.

The Miraculous Statue of Our Lady of Consolation, which is on display at the basilica, was elevated and processed in a truck to the park. Bishops, priests, deacons and seminarians led the procession.

Bishop Thomas led the faithful in praying the Glorious Mysteries of the rosary along the journey. Thousands held candles as they prayed and processed to the park.

In Shrine Park for the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, which began around 9:30 p.m. at the park's outdoor altar, the faithful sang hymns to the Blessed Mother and offered praise and thanksgiving. The park was filled with individuals sitting in lawn chairs as well as many standing for the Mass.

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## Hundreds attend Mass in Spanish at Our Lady of Consolation

By Hannah Heil  
Catholic Times Reporter

Bishop Earl Fernandes celebrated a Mass in Spanish on Thursday, Aug. 8 at the Basilica & National Shrine of Our Lady of Consolation in Carey, Ohio.

The bishop was leading a nine-day Assumption novena that started Aug. 6. He also celebrated several Masses at the shrine church as part of a devotion that culminated with a rosary procession and Mass on Wednesday evening, Aug. 14, for the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

The Spanish Mass celebrated by Bishop Fernandes on Aug. 8, the feast of St. Dominic, drew more than 200 individuals from Hispanic communities, including many children.

The bishop was joined for the celebration of the Mass by diocesan priests Father Antonio Carvalho, pastor of Columbus Our Lady of Guadalupe, Star of the



Pilgrims attending the Mass in Spanish on Aug. 8 at the Basilica of Our Lady of Consolation came from four diocesan parishes.

New Evangelization parish, and Father David Arroyo-Alonso, C.R. (Clerics Regular, Theatines), the vicar for Hispanic Ministries.

The faithful present for the Mass represented several parishes in the diocese,



Bishop Earl Fernandes shares his vocation story with young people in the crypt of the Basilica of Our Lady of Consolation in Carey.

including Columbus Christ the King; Our Lady of Guadalupe, Star of the New Evangelization and St. Agnes churches and Marion St. Mary Church. A student from Cristo Rey Columbus High School also attended.

"It was a beautiful experience, and many Hispanic parishioners of our diocese had never had the opportunity to visit the shrine," Father Arroyo said. "At the beginning of this novena, the Hispanic community prayed at the feet of Our Lady and asked for her intercession."

After Mass, Bishop Fernandes welcomed all young people present for a conversation on vocations. A group congregated in the crypt underneath of the basilica to hear the bishop speak.

Bishop Fernandes shared his vocation story with the youth and asked them to be open to God's call in their lives.

"The encounter with Bishop Fernandes and youth resonated in the hearts of the young people as he shared his vocation story and his own family migration story to the U.S.," Father Arroyo said.



### Front page photo ASSUMPTION CELEBRATION

Bishop Daniel Thomas of the Diocese of Toledo leads the rosary during a candlelight procession and a Vigil Mass that followed with Bishop Earl Fernandes and other Ohio bishops for the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary on Aug. 14 at the Basilica & National Shrine of Our Lady of Consolation in Carey. Photo/Andy Long

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Toledo Bishop Daniel Thomas leads the rosary during the candlelight procession.



Many of the faithful hold candles during the procession.



Bishop Earl Fernandes (right), Bishop Edward Malesic (center) of Cleveland and Auxiliary Bishop Michael Woost of Cleveland were among four Ohio bishops participating in the procession and Mass at the Basilica & National Shrine of Our Lady of Consolation on the Vigil of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Photos courtesy Andy Lang



Bishop Earl Fernandes (left), Auxiliary Bishop Michael Woost and Bishop Edward Malesic of Cleveland stop for a photo outside the Basilica & National Shrine of Our Lady of Consolation.

## ASSUMPTION, continued from Page 2

“The feast of the Assumption is one of hope, ultimately, that we, too, will follow where Mary has gone,” Bishop Fernandes said in his homily.

“We journeyed from the basilica all the way down here to the park, following in the footsteps of Mary. We pilgrims on our journey – we want to walk as she walked, in fidelity to the Lord.”

The bishop reflected on the example of the Blessed Virgin. He encouraged the congregation to imitate the Blessed Mother, not only in hearing the word of God in Sacred Scripture but in acting on it and sharing it with others, especially the vulnerable and those in need.

“Mary is a woman of contemplation on the word, but she is a woman also of action, of true charity,” Bishop Fernandes said. “She is the first evangelist, if you will, bringing good news, bringing the joy of her Son, Jesus, to the whole world.”

“We have just celebrated the National Eucharistic Congress, completed the second year of the National Eucharistic Revival, but this third year is the year of mission, and Mary gives us the example: to follow in her footsteps, to go and to see and to intuit where there is a need and go to meet it.”

After Mass, the faithful processed back to the basilica shrine. Bishop Thomas led those gathered in praying the Joyful Mysteries of the rosary during

the procession.

The evening concluded at the basilica after the recitation of the rosary. The miraculous statue was repositioned inside of the basilica shrine above the basilica’s right altar as several congregated around the statue and sang the Salve Regina.

Many faithful stayed to pray and explore the basilica shrine, which has an upper and lower level. Several saint statues, vestments, relics and recorded miracles are housed in the basilica’s lower level.

The sacrament of reconciliation was offered earlier in the afternoon. Several Masses were also offered throughout the day at the basilica, including a Mass in the Chaldean Rite.

Thousands of Chaldean Catholics were present for the pilgrimage. Chaldeans originate from an Eastern region that includes modern-day Iraq. Their heritage dates back to St. Thomas the Apostle, who witnessed to their ancestors in the region.

Carol Jesko, a Carey native, was excited to welcome thousands of Catholics to her hometown for this year’s procession and Mass. A lifelong Catholic, Jesko was baptized at the Basilica & National Shrine of Our Lady of Consolation.

“It’s a big crowd this year,” she said. “The weather’s beautiful – it’s never rained on a procession.”

Jesko and her husband, Terry, live a

few blocks west of the basilica and have a view of Shrine Park from their house. They invite pilgrims to use their driveway each year for parking, as the streets surrounding the basilica shrine are often filled during the solemnity.

Jesko said all of the houses on her street, with the exception of about two, belong to Catholic families. One of her neighbors estimated between 5,000 and 10,000 pilgrims visit annually during the days around the solemnity.

“The house on the corner, the Chal-deans bought it, and they only come for like two weeks this time of the year and stay in the house,” she said.

The Jeskos enjoy observing pilgrims flock to the basilica shrine for the procession and Mass each year for the Solemnity of the Assumption.

“All the people and the candles – we have stood inside the park – the Shrine Park – and watch them come,” she said. “It’s just overwhelming. It really is.”

Tom Kiger, from about 40 miles north in Bowling Green, was eager to drive down to the basilica shrine for the statewide Eucharistic pilgrimage.

“It’s a four-bishop celebration, so that’s a pretty big deal,” he said.

Kiger said he visits the basilica shrine about two or three times each year. This year was his first visiting the shrine for the vigil of the solemnity. His visits to the shrine have impacted him.

“You can just tangibly feel the grace and the Holy Spirit here,” he said. “When you walk in there, the air is just dense and heavy with grace.”

Lisa Wirth, a parishioner at Westerville St. Paul the Apostle Church, also attended the statewide Eucharistic pilgrimage in Carey. She traveled with a group from her parish.

“It’s really beautiful,” she said of the pilgrimage. “We’ve seen so many people who’ve come from so far, and there’s just a joy in everyone being together that’s just really exhilarating.”

Wirth said she was looking forward to the celebration of the Mass, especially with Bishop Fernandes serving as the homilist. She had been eager to attend the pilgrimage after an encounter a couple of months back.

“I was in New York City earlier this summer, and I met a lady on the stairs of the New York Public Library, and we started chatting, and she said that she volunteered here at this event,” Wirth said.

“And so, ever since June, I had it in my mind that I wanted to come. And then, this group brought up about coming, and I was like, ‘OK, I feel like I’m meant to be here.’”

# 10 new diocesan seminarians prepare to begin formation

By Hannah Heil

Catholic Times Reporter

The Diocese of Columbus is gearing up for another large class of seminarians for the 2024-25 academic year.

This year, the diocese welcomed 10 men to begin formation for the priesthood. They are Chatham Anderson, Michael Born, Kevin Fult, Jonathon Gardner, Collin Gosche, Sam Mahle, Jacob Pagulayan, Alex Price, Hagan Stovall and Hans Zehnder.

The newest class of seminarians began the propaedeutic, or preparatory, stage of seminary this month.

The propaedeutic stage, which can last approximately one to three years, is a time of discernment, as men transition from the outside world into seminary. The time of preparation is focused on human and spiritual formation as opposed to heavy academics.

The number of seminarians in the new class is a promising sign. It is another strong number for the diocese after 16 men who entered seminary last year, one of the largest classes in recent diocesan history. Of those in the propaedeutic stage last year, 14 are continuing formation.

As a first last year, several seminarians in the propaedeutic stage studied at

Mount St. Mary's Seminary & School of Theology in Cincinnati. The Diocese of Columbus will continue to send men in the propaedeutic stage this year to the Cincinnati-based seminary in addition to several men from last year who will continue studying there.

In this year's propaedeutic stage, Anderson, Gosche and Stovall will study at Mount St. Mary's, and the remainder of the 10 new men will study at the Pontifical College Josephinum.

The new class represents a variety of parishes in the diocese. Within the metro area of the city, Gosche and Zehnder belong to Columbus St. Patrick Church, and Fult is a member of Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral. Anderson is from Columbus St. Christopher Church.

Outside of the city, Pagulayan belongs to Powell St. Joan of Arc Church and Stovall is from Gahanna St. Matthew Church. Mahle is a member of Sunbury St. John Neumann Church, Gardner is from Granville St. Edward the Confessor Church and Born is a parishioner at Newark St. Francis de Sales Church.

From the northwest side of the diocese, in Tuscarawas County, Price belongs to Dennison Immaculate Conception Church.

Members of the new class offered various reasons for entering seminary and

to begin priestly formation. Each had a personal call.

Similarly, however, many attested to the call being nothing new. It had been on their mind or heart for a while.

Zehnder, who is originally from California, recalled being drawn to the priesthood at a young age.

"When I was probably about 6 or 7, we got a priest at our parish; the priest was very joyful, a very holy man," he said. "He kind of drew me to the priesthood."

Zehnder's family relocated to Ohio in 2017.

In high school, he attended Quo Vadis at the Josephinum. The retreat gives high school students a chance to explore a vocation to the priesthood. Participants experience the seminary, learn to pray the Liturgy of the Hours, attend Mass and Adoration and hear talks on vocations, and also engage in physical activities.

"Since then, I've been more seriously discerning," Zehnder said.

Price will begin seminary after recently graduating from Youngstown State University. He said he thought about the priesthood "on and off" since junior high school.

"I felt that call more strongly within the last year, more heavily," he said. "I thought about it, prayed about it, dis-

cerned it and then graduated."

Price's cousin, Nick Love, is also a seminarian for the Diocese of Columbus. Love will begin the second stage of seminary formation, known as discipleship, studying pre-theology at the Josephinum this year.

With no priests in their family, Price and Love are the first to take steps toward a vocation to the priesthood.

"My grandparents were elated, to say the least," Price said.

He named several priests who were role models for him in the discernment process.

"We've had a lot of good priests at our parish, so it's been a blessing," he said. "They all bring different things to the table. I've got to see that over the years and take something, a little bit from each of them."

Stovall, who graduated from Benedictine College in Atchison, Kansas earlier this year, had also been considering seminary for a while.

He first applied and was accepted after high school. He said he decided to attend college at Benedictine, where he studied philosophy and theology.

"I thought, well, maybe mission work or teaching, like, a lot of good Catholic things, but I kind of had this sense that

See SEMINARIANS, Page 9



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## 39 women receive St. Mother Teresa awards

Thirty-nine women from 20 parishes were presented St. Mother Teresa Recognition Awards for charity, compassion and service by the Diocesan Council of Catholic Women (DCCW) on Sunday, Aug. 18 at Columbus St. Agatha Church.

Sponsored by the Columbus Catholic Women's Conference and the Daughters of Isabella, the award recognizes women who are living their lives in the spirit of St. Mother Teresa and are strong in their Catholic faith, engaged and involved in their parish communities, and examples of devotion and dedication.

Bishop Earl Fernandes presented certificates to the women, who were recommended for recognition by one or more individuals during a nomination period.

Award recipients were Bella Arnold, Gina McCauley and Christina Carr of Lancaster Basilica of St. Mary of the Assumption; Magdalena Baez and Mary Miller of Columbus Christ the King; Karen Ballou, Donna Swartz and Karen Szolosi of Columbus St. Agatha; Susan Baker, Brenda Case, Karen Cheatham, Lisa Cornelison, Sharon Reinhard, Marci Stone and Tammy Bergman of Columbus St. Cecilia; Sandra Bonneville of Columbus St. Aloysius and St. Mary Magdalene; Christine Bumgardner, Judy Harness, Sonia Luisa Lisk and Thecla Hauser of Chillicothe Our Lady, Queen of Apostles Parish; Susan Butler of Columbus Holy Spirit; Su-

san Colbert of Columbus St. Dominic; Bernadette Dinehart of Dublin St. Brigid of Kildare; Paige Donahue, Fran Kempf, Kathleen McKinniss and Mary Jeffries of Columbus Holy Family; Carol Fisher of Powell St. Joan of Arc; Monica Flynn and Leslie Fresco of Sunbury St. John Neumann; Mary Jo George and Sheila Tompos of Westerville St. Paul the Apostle; Edith Macias of Columbus St. Stephen the Martyr; Karen Maguire of Columbus St. Margaret of Cortona; Debby Michael of Columbus St. Catharine of Siena; Rachel Muha of Columbus Our Lady of Victory; Emilia Ibarra Quiros of Columbus St. Thomas the Apostle; Jennifer Rice of Hilliard St. Brendan the Navigator; Linda Strapp of Gahanna St. Matthew the Apostle; and Donna Swartz and Karen Szolosi of Columbus St. Agatha.

The St. Mother Teresa awards were presented for the first last year after succeeding the former Catholic Woman of the Year and Catholic Young Woman of the Year Awards, which were last present-



Recipients of the St. Mother Teresa Award for charity, compassion and service are pictured with Bishop Earl Fernandes. *CT photo by Ken Snow*

ed in 2016.

DCCW, an affiliate of the National Council of Catholic Women, was founded in Columbus in 1947 by Bishop Michael Ready. Its members participate in activities during the year, and the group's board meets quarterly. Annette Roth serves as the DCCW president in the diocese.

The Daughters of Isabella is a Catholic women's ministry founded in 1897 by Father Michael McGivney, who also started the Knights of Columbus. The local group, which meets at St. Agatha Church, is open to all women and has a strong pro-life focus and supports vocations in the diocese.



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## Go out on mission and bring Christ into the world

I was listening to a Catholic podcast recently and the host challenged us to get out of ourselves and our “devotions” and take Jesus out to others. She reminded us that as faithful Catholics it can be easy to attend Mass, adoration, Bible studies and spend time in personal daily prayer, which is beautiful and essential, but we can’t remain in the comfort of our devotions. We are called to go out, in whatever way God is calling us, to love and serve our neighbor by bringing the healing love of Jesus to others.

That is the call of this third year of the Eucharistic Revival; this is a year of mission. We are called to go out and seek the lost, the lonely, the forgotten, those who have left the Church or never met Jesus, ever, to share His love in natural and supernatural ways. We are being asked to walk with “the one” — to pray and ask the Holy Spirit to show us that one person who needs someone to walk with them and to be that loving presence of Christ in their lives.

At a recent parish meeting, I was reminded that being a loving witness to God’s love might mean never mentioning the word Catholic or Christian. It might not be the right time to quote Scripture or invite someone to adoration. We might be called to be Christ to them by listening, laughing, caring, loving and offering to help them in whatever way is needed. The beauty of this is that we can all do it! I sometimes say, “just be human.” Listen, care and respond with compassion. The Cursil-

### 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.



lo movement has a motto: Make a friend. Be a Friend. Bring a Friend to Christ. — in that order and that beautifully sums up our call to go out on mission.

But that’s a tall order! I’m far from perfect and I walk away from people saying to myself, “Wow, I wish I would have responded differently” or “That was a missed opportunity to share the love of Jesus.” We probably all do that sometimes. And it’s OK. It’s a reminder that we have to rely on God, talk to the Holy Spirit in the moment asking Him to give us the words. Our weaknesses build a hunger in us to be like Jesus to them in the moment and to rely on Him for that strength. He does the real work.

So how does this relate to our physical lives? I usually try to find a commonality between our spiritual and physical lives. If all I do is go to the gym and lift weights to become physically fit, without using that fitness for good, then I have missed an opportunity to serve. However, if my goal is to be strong to help and serve others, for example, to help my husband do physical tasks at home, to lift boxes at the soup kitchen, to walk on a pilgrimage or in a procession or around a retirement center taking communion

to others, then lifting weights and exercising becomes an endeavor that strengthens me to go out and serve others.

Back to our religious devotions and our call to then go out and love and serve others ... I know that sometimes we have angst about what we should do. How should we spend our valuable time serving others? What is God asking of us? How do we know if we are doing the right thing? I’m learning as I go to pay attention to the movements of my heart. When I’m invited to serve, sometimes I need to pray and discern that invitation. Other times, my heart leaps and I just know this is my calling as it uses my charisms, brings me joy, and there is a lightness to it even in the midst of inevitable difficulties. Finally, does my effort bear good fruit?

Blessed Solanus Casey said, “We should ever be grateful for and love the vocation to which God has called us. This applies to every vocation because, after all, what a privilege it is to serve God, even in the least capacity!”

So let us set aside doubt and fear and step out of the comfort and safety of our personal prayer lives, and parish life, and ask the Lord where He wants us to go and what He wants us to do for Him. Let us eagerly seek His response and be ready to give our yes to going to new places to love and serve “even in the least capacity” for the Kingdom of God.

## Repurposing the Catholic Campaign for Human Development

The Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD), rhetorically oversold as the “U.S. Church’s anti-poverty program” — Do no other such programs exist? — was an interesting idea in its time. That time has passed. A new model is needed.

The American bishops created CCHD in 1969 as a kind of Catholic analog to Lyndon B. Johnson’s Great Society programs. At the time, many well-intentioned people believed that the increasingly severe problems of America’s inner cities could be solved by large infusions of federal cash. That cash often flowed through “community organizing” associations led by “community organizers.” In college, I did some work for one of those associations in my native Baltimore and enjoyed the friendship of several community organizers in the years I worked in a poor parish.

Billions of dollars of federal money did not solve the problems of impoverished urban communities, however, because of factors already identified in the 1965 Moynihan Report, which located many of the sources of urban deterioration in the breakdown of marriage and family structures: a cultural crisis not amenable

### 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.



to solution by cash. And as Great Society programs evolved, “community organizing” often led to radical politics, the catastrophic effects of which are now visible in cities like Chicago, home of “community organizing” as defined by the movement’s guru, Saul Alinsky, in his books *Reveille for Radicals* and *Rules for Radicals*.

From the beginning, CCHD, which was funded by an annual collection taken up in all U.S. parishes, made community organizing on the Alinsky model a focus of its grant-making. No doubt that CCHD funding has done some good over the past half-century. But CCHD has also been a jobs program for community organizers paid by CCHD-funded organizations, some of which have a tenuous connection (if that) to the Catholic Church and her

convictions. And insofar as CCHD funds have supported community organizers whose chief accomplishment has been to radicalize the Democratic Party to the point where the once-traditional home of American Catholics has become a poisonous environment for Catholics who take seriously Catholic teaching on life issues and related matters, CCHD has paid, if indirectly, for anti-Catholic political activity.

No one expected this in the late 1960s. What began

as a worthy effort has been subverted by a flawed paradigm of what “anti-poverty work” means. Now is the time for a reassessment and a paradigm shift (if I may use a term familiar to prominent CCHD supporters).

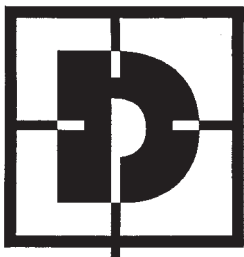
As proposed by Pope St. John Paul II in his epic 1991 social encyclical *Centesimus Annus*, the Catholic approach to anti-poverty work begins with an affirmation of the potential latent in the poor, and then seeks to unleash that potential through empowerment programs that inculcate and develop the virtues and skills necessary to participate in the networks where wealth is created and exchanged today. If that’s the Catholic anti-poverty paradigm, then we don’t need to invent new programs, and we don’t need to channel Saul Alinsky. We already have in place the most effective empowerment tool the American Church has ever devised: our Catholic schools.

By all empirical measures, Catholic schools outperform government schools in American inner-urban areas. Inner-city public schools are a national tragedy and a national disgrace, as they are typically run by self-serving teachers’ unions that are arguably the most reactionary force in American public life. Thus, my proposal: repurpose the Catholic Campaign for Human Development as the Campaign for Urban Catholic Schools, funded by a national collection. I guarantee that any such transformation would double, triple or possibly quadruple the amount of money raised by CCHD, if the new campaign were properly promoted and run with transparency. I know I would quintuple what I used to give to CCHD, and I know many others who would do the same.

CCHD recently ran a \$5.7 million deficit, which prompted a discussion of its future in an executive session of the U.S. bishops’ spring meeting in June. That discussion was leaked to conscience-lite journalists, oblivious to the sleaziness of anonymous sourcing, by equally conscience-lite bishops, willing to violate the norms of confidentiality that govern the bishops’

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# Why does the Church exclude some people from Communion?

Dear Father,

I attended a wedding recently and the priest announced that only Catholics in the state of grace were allowed to come forward for Communion. Don't you think that this kind of exclusion is why people are leaving the Church?

-Cameron

Dear Cameron,

You don't say whether you are Catholic or even Christian, so I'm not sure if you felt this announcement was more personally directed to you or not. While the priest surely was not directing his announcement toward you specifically, most likely he was trying to help anyone who would not know what to do at a Catholic Mass.

Frequently, at wedding Masses and funeral Masses, many in attendance are not Catholic. All the various rubrics or directions for sitting, standing, kneeling, answering prayers and the rest surely can be confusing for a non-Catholic. Even we priests have to read Mass directions carefully for certain Masses year after year, such as on Palm Sunday or Holy Thursday.

For some strange reason, even Catholics who never miss Mass often become confused at wedding and funeral Masses. There are crickets at the end of the prayer to which they normally would respond with an Amen. They forget to sit for the first readings and to stand for the Gospel. Thus, many of us priests will give specific directions to everyone at funerals and weddings. We don't want people to feel embarrassed by not knowing what to do at Mass. For this reason, worship aids, or programs, are often printed giving directions for the various postures at special Masses.

More important than knowing when to sit or stand or kneel is the reception of Holy Communion. Christ,

## 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.*



the Son of God, instituted the most holy Eucharist as the supreme sacrament of His presence among us. At every Catholic Mass, Christ offers Himself as a sacrifice to His Father, just as He did on Good Friday when He died on the cross. At Mass, Christ's offering is re-presented in an unbloody manner through the ordained Catholic priest. At our Masses, the bread and wine are changed completely into the Body and Blood of Christ, just as He did at the first Mass on Holy Thursday, the Last Supper.

Christ has commanded us to consume His Body and Blood, which is what we do when we receive Holy Communion, even if only under the sign of the consecrated bread or host. However, we need to be prepared to receive Christ in Communion. St. Paul says, "Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty concerning the body and blood of the Lord. Let a person examine himself then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment on himself. That is why many of you are weak and ill, and some have died."

Those are sobering words! To receive Holy Communion in an unworthy manner means that we must be free from mortal or grave sin. St. Paul presumes, of course, that he is writing to Christians, that is, people who have been baptized and are members of the one

Church.

Therefore, non-baptized persons and non-Catholics are excluded, according to the Bible. Even Catholics who have not gone to the sacrament of Confession and who have committed mortal sins are excluded, according to the Bible. The Church's canon law stipulates the same.

I'm stressing that this is Biblical teaching so that you can see that it's not the priest's capricious decision to announce at Mass who may or may not receive Holy Communion. He's doing it to protect people from greater harm by receiving Communion unworthily.

You spoke about "exclusion." In some circles, exclusion has taken on a pejorative meaning, as if all exclusivity is wrong. Are single-sex bathrooms actually evil? Clearly, this can't be correct. The State has no difficulty in excluding people with no vision from obtaining a driver's license. The State excludes bars from serving alcohol to underage persons. The list goes on. Exclusion is meant for the protection of citizens. In the same way, you would refuse to give a shot of whiskey to a 10-year-old, and thus you would be acting exclusively.

So, it is with the Church and Holy Communion. Yes, the Church is necessarily exclusive on certain matters. We want everyone in the world to join us to worship God properly, but there is an orderly way to do that. We want everyone to come to our Thanksgiving dinner, but we must make sure that they are able to consume what we serve.

So, what should some not receiving Holy Communion do? The body of U.S. bishops encourages non-Catholic Christians "to express in their hearts a prayerful desire for unity with the Lord Jesus and with one another." So, too, for non-Christians: "We ask them to offer their prayers for the peace and the unity of the human family."

## Hip-hop and the gift of motherhood

Last night, I found myself in a hip-hop class. As I shimmied and shook my way through class, I wondered if this was worth it, and as I looked over at the girl next to me for inspiration, I thought how surely it was.

While back, this daughter had words spoken to her that changed her perspective of herself. As mothers, we are watchful shepherds, and when I began to see the effects of these words play out in real life, I prayed into how I might respond. Girls today face so many challenges to their self-image that we must tread carefully as we walk alongside them.

Hence hip-hop class, and the many new and flavorful dishes that exist in my kitchen thanks to Operation Invitation to Cook. Though my grocery and entertainment budget has increased, the peace and joy that has come with seeing that this was the right response from prayer is far greater.

Knowing our children is key to helping them feel loved and supported. This particular child of mine loves to dance. It is how she expresses herself when sad, angry or happy. Many a night I am given a front row seat to one of the latest dances she has learned, and I am so grateful. I love every moment.

Operation Learn to Cook came from knowing my

## 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.*



daughter's desire to care for others. I shared that it was a goal for me to eat a more balanced set of meals and that I love fresh foods. I also shared that I wanted to add more movement into my weekly routine. I thought learning to cook some new recipes together and taking an exercise class that spoke to her tastes might be a good fit.

She knows I believe that God made food to provide, bless and heal us, and so we researched new foods and worked together. So far, we have tried overnight oats, quinoa salads and some really good soups. I have made some protein-rich meals for myself, and she has become a master of creamy delicious and healthy sauces.

Soon, she will overtake me in the kitchen, and I will remember these moments with an aching fondness, so I am basking in this time together. I am so grateful that God is taking what was a wound and healing it through relationship and time together.

## WEIGEL, continued from Page 6

executive sessions. Nonetheless, serious conversation about CCHD's future has now been opened. And it isn't going away because of the political commitments of journalists or bishops.

It's past time to repurpose CCHD. It's an imperative

work of justice for the U.S. Church to continue, indeed expand, its efforts to empower the poor through Catholic schools before they crumble under the terrible financial pressures they now face. The connection seems obvious. All that is needed is the episcopal will to act on it.

When words are spoken that hurt our hearts or our children's hearts, it is easy to become irate or indignant and respond with that same emotion. Trust me, as a momma bear, I felt all those quick emotions. But there was such a moment of grace in this situation because a wave of charity and mercy came over me for the person who spoke those words. I am a mother to eight kids. I too have said the wrong words before, many times, and those words have hurt others without that being my intent. I would want the same grace extended to me, and thanks be to God it has.

Sometimes we make the right decisions as mothers. We need to celebrate them and share them so we can learn together. In this situation, I think I chose wisely. Not only do I have a daughter who knows her value, but I have cultivated a relationship with this daughter that will stand the test of many challenges because we have invested in the gift of time and oh how grateful am I for this gift.

Perhaps the next time our children face a hard challenge, and our first response is a rise to quick anger, take a moment to settle your heart and invite Jesus into the moment. What would you speak into this situation Lord? How would you bring healing? How might I love through this? How might I bring healing?

I have found that taking a breath (or five) before I rush to action in defense of the one I love helps me to act more closely to who I want to be, who the Lord is asking me to be. This is the example I want to be to others and especially to my children of what it means to love like Jesus.

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## Back-to-school renewal for our spiritual lives

While the trees have not yet donned their fall splendor, the other signs are here. We have had Ohio sales tax free week. There are pencils, markers and backpacks abounding in every retail outlet from groceries to drug stores to warehouse outlets. There are lunchboxes and power bars and multi-packs of all manner of energy and brain foods to help propel their purchasers through the day. It is definitely back-to-school time.

Even for those of us that have long graduated from the classroom and lecture hall, there is still an adrenaline rush of enthusiasm for beginning something new that is built into our biology come late August and early September. After the dog days of summer, we look forward to learning, planning and envisioning our future. We have new energy to take on tasks that are a little foreign to us, even if they are difficult and demanding. We welcome the direction of teacher guides that can help us assimilate new knowledge and skills.

Last week, I had a conversation with one of my colleagues about how youth find their lane in life, one that can bring them to a productive and satisfying career. It is hard to work toward something we do not know, something that is not in our realm of experience. Youth

### FAITH IN ACTION | Mark Huddy

Mark Huddy is the Episcopal Moderator for Catholic Charities and the Office for Social Concerns in the Diocese of Columbus.



need models that can inspire them to pursue a particular goal and demonstrate how that goal can be lived out. Youth find those models in school and in internships.

So, what is our own back-to-school rhythm calling us to do and what implications does it have for our spiritual life? How can we put new energy into our quest for holiness and an active life of discipleship? What items do we want to put into our spiritual backpack?

Just as school prepares us through learning and doing to take on the responsibilities of life as an adult, the spiritual life is designed to help us become saints. We do this, by God's grace, and by learning and doing. We need food to make this possible. Our power bar is the Holy Eucharist and a lived relationship with Jesus. Our brain food is prayer. We need teacher guides. That is

why in the spiritual realm the lives of the saints are so important for us. Learning about them is an important part of the curriculum. They open our minds and our hearts to new possibilities for living out the Christian life.

So, in this late summer back-to school season, let us respond to the desire to begin anew with a sturdy backpack filled with our commitment to honor Jesus in the Holy Eucharist by spending time with Him and worthily receiving Him at Mass as often as possible. Let us take a fresh highlighter to our reading of Scripture to find, like St. Francis, Jesus that we want to emulate. Let us study, with notebook in hand, the life of at least one saint that can inspire us to follow Jesus in ways that we did not think possible. This month, we might consider reading the Confessions of St. Augustine, or a biography of his mother, Monica. Let us go to the lab of life and try out what we have learned and perhaps, tutor another student. Let us be attentive to better learning the language of prayer. Let us seek out an internship of Christian service. And let us wear the uniform of justice, love and mercy as we embark on this new adventure.

## Jesus 'conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary'

The third article of St. Thomas Aquinas' Catechetical Instructions concerns "Who (Jesus) was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary."

St. Thomas writes, "The Christian must not only believe in the Son of God, as we have seen, but also in His Incarnation. St. John, after having written of things subtle and difficult to understand, (in John 1:1-13) points out the Incarnation to us when he says, 'And the Word was made flesh (John 1:14).'"

Now, in order that we may understand something of this, I give an illustration at the outset. It is clear that there is nothing more like the Word of God than the word that is conceived in our mind but not spoken. Now, no one knows this interior word in our mind except the one who conceives it, and then it is known to others only when it is pronounced. Also, as long as the Word of God was in the heart of the Father, it was not known except by the Father Himself; but when the Word assumed flesh — as a word becomes audible — then was it first made manifest and known.

St. Thomas then goes on to address several errors.

He writes, "Manichaeus said that Christ was always the Son of God and He descended from heaven, but He was not actually but only in appearance clothed in true flesh. But this is false, because it is not worthy of the Teacher of Truth to have anything to do with what is false, and just as He showed His physical Body, so it was really His: '... handle, and see; for a spirit has not flesh and bones, as you see I have' (Lk 24:39). To remove this error, therefore, they (Council Fathers) added, 'And He

### AQUINAS CORNER | Richard Arnold

Richard Arnold, a parishioner at Chillicothe St. Mary, holds an MA in Catechetics and Evangelization from Franciscan University of Steubenville and is a husband and a father to two children.



was incarnate."

Some of you may have heard from your Protestant friends that Mary was "just a vessel." Here, St. Thomas writes, "Valentinus believed that Christ was conceived by the Holy Spirit, but would have the Holy Spirit deposit a heavenly body in the Blessed Virgin, so that she contributed nothing to Christ's birth except to furnish a place for Him. Thus, he said, this Body appeared by means of the Blessed Virgin, as though she were a channel. This is a great error, for the Angel said: '... therefore, the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God (Lk 1:35).' And the Apostle (Paul) adds: 'But when the time had fully come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman ... (Gal 4:4)' Hence the Creed says: 'Born of the Virgin Mary.'"

He then goes on to list some good effects of these considerations.

"(1) Our faith is strengthened. If, for instance, someone should tell us about a certain foreign land which he himself had never seen, we would not believe him to the extent we would if he had been there. Now, before Christ came into the world, the Patriarchs and Prophets and John the Baptist told something of God; but

men did not believe them as they believed Christ, who was with God, nay more, was one with God. Hence, far more firm is our faith in what is given us by Christ Himself. Thus, many mysteries of our faith that before the coming of Christ were hidden from us are now made clear.

"(2) Our hope is raised up. It is certain that the Son of Man did not come to us, assuming our flesh, for any trivial cause but for our exceeding great advantage. For He made as it were a trade with us, assuming a living body and deigning to be born of the Virgin, in order that to us might be vouchsafed part of His divinity.

"(3) Our charity is enkindled. There is no proof of divine charity so clear as that God, the Creator of all things, is made a creature; that Our Lord is become our brother, and that the Son of God is made the Son of man: 'For God so loved the world as to give His only-begotten Son (Jn 3:16).' Therefore, upon consideration of this our love for God ought to be re-ignited and burst into flame.

"(4) This induces us to keep our souls pure. Our nature was exalted and ennobled by its union with God to the extent of being assumed into union with a Divine Person. Therefore, one who reflects on this exaltation of his nature and is ever conscious of it, should scorn to cheapen and lower himself and his nature by sin.

St. Thomas closes with a quote from St. Paul (Phil 1:23), "'... My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better.' And it is this desire which grows in us as we meditate upon the Incarnation of Christ."

### SEMINARIANS, continued from Page 4

there was a little bit more that the Lord wanted," he said. "I prayed about it a little bit more. I got back in contact with Father (William) Hahn and decided to come to seminary."

Father Hahn, vicar general for the diocese, serves as the director of priestly life and vocations.

Stovall attended several faith formation events this past year that helped

in his discernment. He participated in the Empower young adult conference at Damascus Catholic Mission Campus in Knox County and the Fellowship of Catholic University Students' annual SEEK conference.

For the SEEK conference, Stovall traveled with diocesan seminarians. The experience was helpful in his discernment.

"Especially when I was with the sem-

inarians, I was like, 'Oh yeah, this is totally the next step.' There was that sense of home feeling and peace, like, that's where I am supposed to be," he said.

Gardner is entering seminary after graduating from Granville High School. He credited altar serving as a reason for a possible vocation to the priesthood.

Now, he will begin formation to serve at the altar as a priest.

"I've always loved altar serving, and I wanted to continue that," he said.

Gardner said he has always wanted to serve in the military, too. In addition to being a diocesan priest, he hopes to serve as a U.S. Air Force chaplain one day.

"My love for serving, like, bringing that to other people, was the main reason why I entered seminary," he said.



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Deacons line up on the altar in St. Joseph Cathedral for the prayer of ordination on Aug. 10.



Pictured after the diaconate ordination Mass at St. Joseph Cathedral are (from left) Deacon Paul Zemaneck, Father Michael Hartge, Deacon Robert Lancia, Deacon Steven Petrill, Deacon Matthew Paulus, Deacon Fidel Pitones, Deacon Louis Griffith, Bishop Earl Fernandes, Deacon Matthew Shaw, Deacon David Fesenmyer, Deacon David Collinsworth, Deacon Michael Berger, Deacon Christopher Spiese, Deacon Frank Iannarino and Father William Hahn. *CT photos by Ken Snow*

## Newly ordained deacons eager to begin serving in diocese

By Hannah Heil  
*Catholic Times Reporter*

Nine permanent deacons were ordained for the Diocese of Columbus by Bishop Earl Fernandes on Saturday, Aug. 10, the feast of St. Lawrence, during a Mass at Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral.

The newly ordained include Deacons Michael Berger, David Collinsworth, David Fesenmyer, Louis Griffith, Robert Lancia, Matthew Paulus, Fidel Pitones, Matthew Shaw and Christopher Spiese.

The deacons were assigned to the following parishes: Deacon Berger, Reynoldsburg St. Pius X; Deacon Collinsworth, Westerville St. Paul the Apostle; Deacon Fesenmyer, New Albany Church of the Resurrection; Deacon Griffith, Columbus Our Lady of Peace; Deacon Lancia, Columbus Our Lady of Perpetual Help with service to Columbus St. Stephen the Martyr; Deacon Paulus, Delaware St. Mary; Deacon Pitones, Columbus St. Peter and St. Joan of Arc; Deacon Shaw, Logan St. John the Evangelist; Deacon Spiese, Our Lady, Immaculate Conception parish at Ada Our Lady of Lourdes and Kenton Immaculate Conception churches.

The new deacons are the first permanent deacons to be ordained for the diocese since November 2020. A new class is typically ordained in the diocese once every four years.

The deacons were accompanied by their wives and families to the ordination. Several priests were present to concelebrate the Mass. Deacons who serve in the diocese, consecrated religious and many lay faithful were present as well.

Also in attendance was Bishop Joseph Raja Rao Thelegathoti of the Diocese of Vijayawada, India. He was appointed bishop of Vijayawada in 2015 by Pope Francis. The diocese is in the Indian state of Andhra Pradesh, located along the country's eastern coast.

The rite of ordination began after the Gospel reading and before the homily. The candidates presented themselves to Bishop Fernandes.

Father William Hahn, the diocesan vicar general and director for priestly life and vocations, testified that the men were ready for

service. The bishop then formally elected, or chose, them for the Order of the Diaconate.

In his homily, Bishop Fernandes noted that, as much as the diaconate is an exalted rank, it is one of charity and service. He said the candidates must imitate Christ, who came not to be served but to serve.

"He has clothed you with the garments of salvation; He has covered you with the robe of righteousness or justice," the bishop told the men. "Still, as disciples and ministers, you are called to go beyond justice and move toward charity."

Bishop Fernandes reflected on St. Lawrence, an early Church deacon and martyr. He told the men that they must be like the great saint, who preached not only by word but by action.

"The Church today needs men of integrity, men to whom people can entrust their consciences, but in a special way, the Church needs men who are close to the poor, people like St. Lawrence, whom the Church honors today: 'Blessed is the man who is gracious and lends to those in need,'" he said.

St. Lawrence was martyred by being grilled alive, Bishop Fernandes noted. As deacons, he told the candidates sitting in front of him that they too are called to bear witness to Christ, whether through a bloody martyrdom or a different type of witness.

He also recognized St. Stephen, the first martyr and one of the first seven deacons chosen by the 12 Apostles to assist in the Church's mission.

"You must be like those once chosen by the Apostles for the ministry of charity: men of good reputation, full of wisdom and the Holy Spirit, men like Stephen, men like Lawrence, ready to lay down their lives in witness to the crucified and risen Lord," he said.

After the homily, the bishop questioned the elect about their resolve to undertake and faithfully fulfill the ministry to which they were about to be ordained. The candidates were also questioned about their willingness to serve the Church in union with Christ.

They responded, "I do," to a series of questions.

Kneeling before Bishop Fernandes, they promised respect and obedience to the diocesan bishop and his successors.

The candidates then lied prostrate on the ground before the altar while the

Litany of Supplication was chanted. The cantor, joined by the congregation, invoked the intercession of the saints.

After the litany, the men were formally consecrated as deacons through the bishop's laying-on of hands. Bishop Fernandes, in an ancient apostolic gesture of ordination, laid his hands on each candidate's head and invoked the Holy Spirit.

The act was completed by a prayer of ordination, which ordains men to service in Holy Orders. The candidates entered from the lay state of the Church into the clerical state through the conferral of the sacrament. The diaconate is the only clerical order open to married men.

The newly ordained deacons were vested with the deacon's stole, which is a sign of his office of service, and the dalmatic, a liturgical vestment worn by deacons. Each newly ordained deacon then received the Book of Gospels, symbolizing his responsibility to proclaim God's Word.

During the fraternal kiss of peace, Bishop Fernandes extended a greeting of peace to each new deacon. The gesture is a sign that they are co-workers in the ministry of the Church. The act concludes the rite of ordination.

All deacons in attendance came forward to offer a sign of peace to the newly ordained. The Mass then continued with the Liturgy of the Eucharist.

Deacon Paulus, who is married to Mary and has six children, was privileged to meet many deacons in the diocese during the past 25 years, he said, which largely prompted him to pursue the diaconate.

"In these men, I saw service of the Church carried out in many and varied ways. Some cared for the poor, some were gifted preachers, some were skilled medical clinicians, and yet, some were amazing evangelizers. The common denominator was their utter desire to be of service to Christ's beloved people," he said. "I felt very drawn to that."

With a background in education and advanced practice nursing, he said, he "naturally tends" toward teaching and ministering to the suffering. He also has a passion for helping couples strengthen their marriages through faith. He hopes to serve the Church in such ways.

Deacon Paulus originally pursued the diaconate in 2015. The process had been a long time coming. He said it taught him trust and obedience.

"I always approached my calling to the diaconate as something that was a process and was something that God was asking me to consider, not something I was entitled to or something guaranteed," he said. "I had to first learn to trust."

Deacon Berger, who is married to Megan and has three children, also viewed the diaconate as a gift.

"I am clearly aware that the call to Holy Orders is not some sort of crown placed upon the righteous, but rather a lifeline to help me in my spiritual weakness along the path to holiness," he said. "It is a gift from Jesus the Servant to me."

Deacon Berger said he hopes the Holy Spirit will continue to transform him into a "self-gift" for others. A calling from the Lord led him to diaconal ministry.

"I did not pursue the diaconate, but rather, God called me to it," he said. "After much prayer, discernment and discussion with my wife, I felt that if God was truly calling me to this vocation, there is no way I could say no to this incredible invitation."

Throughout the formation process, he said, consistent spiritual direction, praying the Liturgy of the Hours twice daily – at least once with his wife – reading and dialoguing with God through Sacred Scripture each morning and offering daily prayers for a growing number of people who request his intercession have helped "to keep my focus away from me and toward others."

Deacon Shaw, who is married to Christine and has five children, said he looks forward to working with his parish priest on evangelization efforts and leading others closer to Christ.

Since first pursuing the diaconate, studying God's Word, reading the lives of the saints, praying, and socializing with fellow deacon candidates and clergy across the diocese have impacted him.

"All of these deliberate actions that have resulted from the formation process have contributed to my faith," he said. "I think it's safe to say that these have 'rubbed off' a bit to my wife and kids, too. Answering the call has been yet another blessing."

## Berger inspired to bring light of Christ to those he serves

John 8:12.

That is Michael Berger's license plate.

"Jesus spoke to them again, saying, 'I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.'"

"I love that Bible verse," Berger said. "I think that's just such a great message to the world. No matter how dark it is in this world, if Christ is in your life, that darkness is not going to overcome Him. I just love the gospel of John AND it fit nicely on a license plate!"

Berger, who has three children (Andrew, 24, Caroline, 21 and Olivia, 9) with his wife, Megan, is a specialty practice pharmacist at The James Cancer Hospital at Ohio State University. He has worked with breast cancer patients for 22 years, getting to know the patient and family and helping them to understand the treatment and manage any side effects.

The patients he sees are, of course, concerned about how they will battle cancer. Many also have apprehension about how they will afford any prescribed treatments. This often arises

with Berger as he is providing patient education about the prescribed medications.

"I can come into the room and assess what patients understand, what they don't understand, and fill in gaps," Berger said. "There's a lot of fear and apprehension about how they are going to get this medicine, what it is going to cost, what it's going to mean to their quality of life, and what is the goal of taking this medicine? All of these things get talked about."

With all of that knowledge in his back pocket, Berger still does one thing before consulting with a patient.

"I always ask the Holy Spirit to help me before I walk into a patient's room," he said. "I absolutely see Jesus in every person, regardless of race, creed, color, whatever. Whenever I go into a patient room, I am treating Jesus, whether they see that or not."

"I certainly love my job because there's a ministry component to it. Whether I can talk to patients about that or not, it doesn't mean I treat them any differ-



Deacon Michael Berger

ently. But if they give me a window, I can jump in. There have been many times when I've gotten to pray with patients when they're hurting and I've just offered to pray with them."

He said the most difficult patient vis-

its are when he knows it will be the last time to see them.

"They're going on to hospice and I want to tell them that they're a champion, that it's been an honor knowing them. Those are impactful," Berger said. "I pray for my patients, all of them in general, and when it's a young mom who's recently diagnosed or an especially stressful situation I will literally write their names down and keep them in my prayers."

It turns out that many of the patients Berger has worked with have actually provided inspiration to him in his work.

"I've had a lot of patients write me notes or give me little inspirational things and I have them plastered around my desk so I can look back and remember them," he said. "Many of them have since passed away, but I kind of feel like they're ministering with me to these other patients."

The care Berger gives to his patients and the grace of inspiration they extend to him brings the light of Christ into difficult health circumstances on a daily basis.

## Public service career prepares Collinsworth for diaconate

David Collinsworth is a man who is comfortable living life "in a fishbowl." Having spent the past 32 years serving in

a variety of roles in local government, he knows what it is like to have his words and actions observed by the public. So,

he wasn't intimidated to learn life would be similar as a deacon.

"As a deacon and an ordained minister of the church, people pay attention to how they see you acting not only in the confines of the church itself but in the community and other associations you have, and to me, because that is the life of a city manager, that was a box I could check," Collinsworth said.

He retired after spending 13 years as City Manager for the City of Westerville, where he lives with his wife, Jane. Their three children, Rachel, Abbie and Andrew, are now in their 20s.

Prior to his work in Westerville, Collinsworth was City Manager for Tipp City for 10 years and Assistant City Manager in Miamisburg for seven years. In total, Collinsworth spent 32 years working in public servant roles, many positions requiring 50-60 hours of work each week. He said he sees serving the needs of the community as a common, and essential, element in both civil service and the diaconate.

"There are a lot of similarities and overlaps," he said. "In both venues, you're living life in a fishbowl and there are people that you serve that have certain expectations of you in terms of what your demeanor is and how you interface with them. From that standpoint I'd say the life of public service has helped prepare me a little bit. It's a different domain but the same concept."

Life in local government might bring to mind the plots of TV shows and movies with zany situations involving neighbors, and Collinsworth had his share of



Deacon David Collinsworth

those situations. There are, of course, plenty of legitimate issues that pop up in the daily running of a city and Collinsworth enjoyed the challenge of making improvements.

"You're looked to in that role as being able to solve problems, to make improvements in the overall life of the community whether it's developing parks or improving services or addressing people's particular needs in the community," he said. "That was something I got a lot of intrinsic value from."

"In the wonderful world of local government as I like to call it, you have peo-

See COLLINSWORTH, Page 13

The community of  
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## Griffith follows God's plan and not his own

Complicated is not a word one would use to describe Lou Griffith. In fact, he will admit he doesn't like complicated.

"What's complicated? People make things complicated quite a bit," he said. "You knock out one piece at a time and you build on that.

"You come to a point of, am I turning right or turning left? I'm turning right. I'm never going to worry about turning left. What would have happened if I turned left? I have no idea, I don't care.

"So now I'm coming to another fork in the road and I'm making a choice and I'm going with my choice and hopefully I'm being directed in that right choice."

Griffith's latest fork in the road was the decision to become a deacon.

"There was a time that I said, 'God, this is in your hands; I'm a passenger,'" Griffith said. "Because I said yes, I will do this. I've been moved along at each step. It's not my will, it's God's will that's keeping me in the game. We must be heading in a direction that you're guiding. That's not me pushing."

To keep things simple, Griffith applies this approach to everything in life, including at his job as a project manager for 2K General Company, a commercial construction business. He works with a lot of people either on his crew or with subcontractors, mostly on projects for the City of Columbus, and because of the tight schedules demanded by the city, he is up-



Deacon Lou Griffith makes the promise of obedience to Bishop Earl Fernandes.

CT photo by Ken Snow.

front with everything he knows about a project before he hires.

"I try to answer as much of the unknown to begin with," Griffith said. "You always run into discovery in the middle of something. As long as everybody knows, everybody's good. It's when you try to go around something that there's a problem. We're dealing with a lot of historic buildings where you've got 100 years of hidden something and nobody knows when we start."

Griffith is also a guy who stays busy,

whether at work or in his family life with wife Karen and sons Grant, 25, and Peter, 23.

"I never stop. I'm always busy doing something," he said. "I have a hard time sitting. There's not a lot of idle time for me. With work there's always multiple things going on because that's the nature of my projects, but it also runs into the personal life, too, that there are stages of things that can get done ... timing, financial, weather. There's always something going on."

Staying busy was ingrained in him from an early age. The family owned an 80-acre farm with mostly livestock. He started working for his father's contracting business at age 13.

"I started doing a lot of cleaning," Griffith said. "I would help in the shop with the cleaning and taking stuff apart, learning the equipment and machinery. I had to mop the office and take out the trash. We had a family business and we had to do everything."

He observed that his faith is woven through the happenings of his daily life, whether work-related or personal.

"None of this is my plan," he said. "So, I can't have a kneejerk reaction, I can't have an emotional reaction. I really have to stop and just let it sink in for a second and then make that assessment and you go with your faith, your knowledge, your history or how you dealt with situations before and that's your guidance."

COLLINSWORTH, *continued*

from Page 12

ple that are coming to you with problems, with challenges, with issues that there's some expectation that you'll be able to help bring about a solution or a resolution. I can see in the diaconate that your personal relationship with the parish and the faithful that you develop a similar kind of relationship where people's needs are different.

"Their issues and problems are spiritual, they're personal in nature. It's the same kind of interaction. I'm coming to you because you possess something that can help address my issue, my need, my problem. That parallels the diaconate: being open and available to serve and help address needs and issues."

Although retired from full-time public service, Collinsworth now works as a management consultant providing executive recruiting and other services for local governments in Ohio and the Midwest. This has allowed him some additional flexibility and time to study and prepare for becoming a deacon.

"There's never been a point in my adult life that I haven't felt a closeness to God," he said. "Coming to the diaconate has been a steady, slow drip of grace in my life. There was a gift of faith there with which I sensed God asking me to do more. It's been a natural progression for me."



*Congratulations,*  
**DEACON LOU GRIFFITH!**

*with love, from your*  
*Our Lady of Peace Family*



## Fesenmyer overcomes obstacles to become deacon

Sept. 21, 1980.

“My mother told me I should have died that day, but I didn’t because God had a plan for me.”

David Fesenmyer was six years old at the time. His family’s dairy farm in northwestern Pennsylvania had a major road running through it, separating the house from the barn. Dave went across the road to visit with his new albino rabbit in the barn and on his way back home he was hit by a car.

He landed on his head, resulting in a cracked skull and severe concussion. He had surgery at the local hospital and was then life-flighted to Children’s Hospital in Pittsburgh. The only thing Fesenmyer remembers from that time was what his mother said to him when he got home.

“As the years went on, I was trying to figure out what this thing was that God was sending me to do,” he said. “I would put it to the back of my mind, not thinking about it, but every now and then it would pop up.”

The accident and concussion resulted in a bumpy road for him in regard to his

education. His multiple attempts at college work did not go smoothly, but on the bright side, during that time he met his wife, Tina.

After the couple married, they moved to her hometown of Rochester, New York, and that was when Fesenmyer learned about the diaconate. He was involved in their parish as an usher, Eucharistic minister and member of the Knights of Columbus, so he had a good relationship with the parish’s deacon. He felt comfortable enough to ask how a man becomes a deacon.

“He said you have to be 35 – I was 31 at the time -- and then he told me you have to have a college degree. I told him I didn’t have a college degree and then he said, ‘Well, then, you’ll never be a deacon.’”

Fesenmyer accepted that it wasn’t possible for him to be a deacon, but still something tugged at him.

“That fire inside me should have gone out that very minute because I didn’t have a college degree, but it didn’t,” he said. “The fire inside just burned hotter



Deacon David Fesenmyer

and hotter and I waited and figured God will tell me what He wants.”

The Fesenmyers moved to Columbus in 2005 and joined New Albany Church of the Resurrection, where David became friends with Deacon Byron

Phillips, who shared with him that the Diocese of Columbus does not require a college degree for deacons.

“I said, ‘Ah-ha! Now I know why I’m here,’” Fesenmyer said. It was when Tina converted that David entered the diaconate program. The couple has three children, Alyssa, 25, Clayton, 22, and Edwin, 12.

He said he has had great support from Deacon Frank Iannarino, the former director of the diocese’s formation program, and others involved with the diaconate program.

“I’ll never be a theologian or a biblical scholar, but I don’t think that’s all that makes a deacon,” he said. “Don’t get me wrong, it’s part of the deacon role and I have plenty of information stored away. My ministry is with the people, dealing with issues of the heart, of the mind.

“People find it really easy to talk to me. People feel comfortable coming to me with their problems. I don’t understand it, but it’s not for me to understand.”

## Lancia acts on inspiration to serve as deacon

Being alone outside in a remote area in the dark of night is a situation that makes many people uncomfortable. Not Rob Lancia. For him, just sitting with the vastness of the night sky brings peace.

“I’ve always been fascinated by nature in general,” he said. “I feel most at peace outside. I look at nature and I feel God, I see his presence and I sense the wonder and awe of His creation. The night sky has always fascinated me.”

Given that consistent fascination, some years ago Lancia’s wife, Tonya, encouraged him to go to a meeting of the Columbus Astronomical Society (CAS) at the Perkins Observatory in Delaware. At that point, observing the night sky became an opportunity to connect with others with the same appreciation.

“I went and met some really neat guys there,” he said. “Some of the guys I met were absolutely incredible people.”

His night sky observations are a mix of going with a group and going by himself.

“I can’t even describe the feeling; you’re out in an open field, it’s totally dark, away from the city, away from houses, away from everything and just the enormity of creation when there’s no light, no sound, no people, no buildings, just you out there,” he said.

With Tonya’s encouragement, Lancia went on some five-day trips to Canada with other amateur astronomers. These were welcome times to step away from daily life and return rejuvenated.

“Some people look at the sky and they see science, but for me it draws me

closer to God. It helps bring Him closer when I’m out with no distractions. It’s a spiritual experience,” Lancia said.

Considering his lifetime draw toward service, Lancia’s involvement with the astronomical society evolved to be more public- and group-centered as he began volunteering at public programs.

The Lancias have six children from age 20 to 32 (Sage, Brittney, Connor, Danielle, Nathan and Kaitlyn), most of whom took an interest in astronomy when he volunteered to share his knowledge at their school or with scouts.

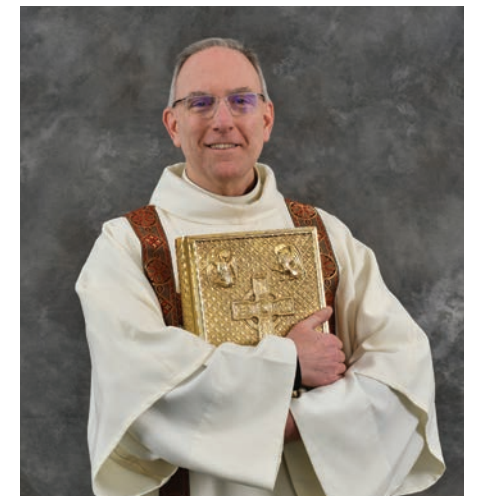
“Most of my life, when I look back, I get the most joy out of helping others do things,” Lancia said. “I’m most happy and content with my life when I’m making other peoples’ lives better in some way.”

He brings that service-oriented approach to his job as a project manager for a software firm, CAS (not the same as the astronomical society).

“I enjoy the people side of technology. I enjoy working with the teams and helping them succeed,” he said. “I don’t enjoy being an individual contributor as much as seeing teams succeed. I don’t want the glory or the spotlight. I want to see other people do better.”

This draw to serving others eventually brought him to the diaconate program. He said the draw was always there, but also present was a list of excuses not to explore it.

The tipping point was listening to a clip from a Mother Angelica Live Classics on St. Gabriel Radio. A young man called her show and said he felt a calling to the priesthood but didn’t want to



Deacon Robert Lancia

heed the call. Her response began “Oh dear,” and then she said she wouldn’t want to stand before God and have to explain why she didn’t answer His call.

Lancia said he got the message right then and soon after reached out to Deacon Frank Iannarino, the former director of the diocese’s diaconate program, to start the process of becoming a deacon.

“I have relied on the Holy Spirit to make it happen,” he said. “I decided if I was selected out of the program then I’m doing what I should be doing. It’s a win either way.

“I don’t want to look back and think that I turned down a calling I should have followed. It’s all on you, God. If it’s not a calling then kick me out because I’m not leaving on my own!”



## Caring for others prepares Paulus for service as deacon

Matt Paulus is all about taking care of people. It's something he absorbed growing up in a small town with a father who was a doctor and a mother who was a nurse.

"My parents always made it a point to be very accessible," he said. "People would drop by our house all times of day or night with a sick kid or whatnot. My parents were always adamant about having our home phone in the phone book so people could reach them at all hours."

The ability to care for others shines through not only with his wife, Mary, and their six children ranging in age from 20 to 8 (Timothy, Dominic, Clare, John, Ben, Brigid) but also in his profession as a palliative care nurse practitioner. He spent eight years in cardiology and another four in vascular surgery before settling into his current role.

"Let's face it, a lot of my patients are riding the final chapters of their lives. In a year from now they probably won't be with us anymore," he said. "In many ways, God has given me a gift to be comfortable with that. There is a very strong spiritual component when they know their time

is limited. For people who are patients of faith, I'll offer to pray with them and I've never gotten a negative reaction."

Being present with someone during the difficulties that come with a fatal illness is not something that comes naturally to a lot of people. Paulus, however, doesn't shy away from the difficulty and that's something that was fostered by his parents.

Growing up, when a patient of his father's passed away, the Paulus family would attend the funeral. On Sunday afternoons when his father saw patients at the nursing home, the Paulus children were taken along and told to go visit other residents and listen to their stories. Additionally, Paulus spent the first 10 years of his career as a paramedic.

"I saw a lot of life pass very quickly," he said. "I had to reconcile that with my faith to see people die in terrible ways. It makes you ask the Lord, 'How is this a part of your good plan?' Thankfully, I had a lot of good mentors and good people who guided me through that process. At the same time, I've always felt a close



Deacon Matt Paulus

comfort with people who are dying."

Paulus studied music in college and has seen how music can bring comfort. When he was working in vascular surgery, he had a patient in intensive care who was a

retired band director. They found a connection in their shared love of music.

Paulus plays piano and has developed a love of Celtic music, even learning to play the Irish tin whistle and the bodhran (drum), so he took his Celtic whistles to the hospital on a day off.

"It was a way to not just distract him from the pain and worry but also to recognize that he and I shared that connection and love of music," Paulus said. "It was something to talk about other than what was going on physically with him. Music really does have some therapeutic and healing elements to it. It's one of the more potent vehicles to provide comfort to people."

Now working in palliative care, Paulus finds himself counseling patients who feel a loss of dignity, that they aren't productive any longer.

"I constantly remind them that their dignity does not come from what they can do," he said. "There's a false notion that if you're not productive you're a burden. I try to help people remember that they're full of dignity. It's who they are that is most important."

## Pitones places focus on serving people

Fidel Pitones' focus during a construction project reaches beyond the bricks and mortar to the people doing the building under his supervision as well as the people who will eventually use the space being built.

As a senior project manager for The Whiting-Turner Contracting Company, Pitones is usually managing a project with a team that includes subcontractors and interacting with clients to ensure that the project is built properly.

"Throughout my 27 years in this career, I've always been focused on the people aspect of it and it really ties into my journey," he said. "But it wasn't until later in my career that I realized that I wasn't just building buildings, but I was building things that would impact peoples' lives."

One project he worked on was an expansion at a Cleveland hospital where all four of Fidel and his wife Andrea's children (Gavrielle, 25, Abby, 24, Diego, 21 and Matteo, 20) were born. The personal connections were numerous. Pitones sat in meet-

ings with the chief of staff who happened to be his own primary care doctor.

"It wasn't until the moment that we were done with the space and we had built the new NICU and they were transferring the most critical baby from the old NICU to the new NICU. There were three nurses and a police officer that were transferring the patient and I happened to be there in the hallway when they were doing that," he said. "It was at that moment when I realized, 'What the team just finished is a lot more than what you think, Fidel. It's the purpose of what you're doing.'"

That mindset carried over to the next project and the next, and is now ingrained in Pitones' workday.

"I started to refocus my career and make sure that I understand, and other people understand, that you're helping your team help others," Pitones said. "What we're doing isn't just building a dorm. Peoples' lives are going to transform in that dorm. They're going to grow. When we're building an operating room, people are going to get fixed. They're going to heal. For me, it became a lot more purposeful."

As he's working on construction projects, Pitones gets to know the many people involved with the project such as architects, subcontractors and peers. He has found that his Catholic faith frequently pops up in conversation.

"You encounter the Lord in the real world," he said. "I'm kind of a rule breaker because the things that the secular world tells you to avoid. I'm like, 'No.' We're all called by our baptism to be disciples."

Among his responsibilities, he attends college career fairs and talks with college students.

"When you see in their resumes some glimpse of the Lord, that tells me a lot about that individual," he said. "The passion to serve, whether it's working at a food bank or

for a church or being a missionary, it gives you a lens to their soul of who they are."

His own children observed Pitones' own passion to serve and predicted he would be a deacon someday. He told them they were crazy but eventually felt the call.

"You surrender to God's plan and you also have to consider that there are others that want to detour it," he said. "There's a force that wants to detour it. Even with my own discernment, there were detours. Si Dios quiere. If it's God's will."



Deacon Fidel Pitones receives the laying on of hands by Bishop Earl Fernandes CT photo

# CONGRATULATIONS DEACON PITONES!

GOD BLESS YOU  
ON YOUR  
ORDINATION TO  
THE DIACONATE,  
OUR PRAYERS  
ARE WITH YOU AS  
YOU BEGIN YOUR  
MINISTRY.



## Second career allows Shaw to pursue diaconate

An early retirement from a demanding job led Matthew Shaw to a completely different career building and renting tiny houses. It also gave Shaw, a convert to the Catholic faith, the time to study for the diaconate.

Shaw, who holds a master's degree in national security strategy from the Industrial College of Armed Forces, spent 27 years in engineering at Battelle, working 60-80 hours a week. His position required some travel and at one point he worked in Washington, D.C. for a year while his wife, Christine, and their five children (Isaac, now 27, Clare, 25, Maximilian, 23, Benjamin 21, and Sophie, 18) remained in Ohio.

It was watching TV with Isaac that created a bridge to his new career. They were watching Tiny House Nation when Isaac, who had helped with construction projects at home, suggested they build a tiny house.

It took a year to complete their tiny house that they began to rent out. Five years ago, when Shaw retired, they decided that they had a new business venture on their hands. Shaw's Hocking Hills Tiny Houses now has the most tiny houses for rent in Hocking County, with six houses on two locations around Lake Logan.

"Little did I know God had sort of planned all of this. By the time I was re-



Deacon Matthew Shaw (center) is vested with the stole and dalmatic. CT photo by Ken Snow

tired out and we needed a new thing to do we had our first tiny house on Airbnb and it seemed to work," he said. "Now we're almost always building the next one."

The Shaws built the first house on wheels, not having a location for it, and figured God would provide a location.

"It's interesting how that worked," he said. "There are so many of God's little divine interventions in here that I should

make a list. We've learned a lot about how to build tiny houses specifically, a lot about how to move them around, and each one gets a little bit smarter.

"For example, we will not build another one with a loft bed and it's not because people don't like loft beds. It's because we don't like to clean loft beds, little did we know when we built the first three."

Shaw said the tiny houses are always

booked on weekends, even in the winter, and credits Christine's meticulous cleaning for their five-star reviews. One of the things he enjoys most is talking to the visitors.

"I think it's so good to let people know one way or another that you're a Christian, that you love God," he said. "The way that I do it, and I don't know these people, but I always just I say, 'God bless.' Some will latch on to that and say, 'Well, God bless you, too.' I love talking to people, especially if the conversation is about God. That is really fulfilling for me."

Shaw grew up Lutheran with a "love for the Lord" and always had a desire to serve and help people. His wife was a cradle Catholic, but it wasn't until the birth of their first child that Shaw recognized a desire to convert to Catholicism. The call to the diaconate was there but couldn't float to the surface until Shaw retired.

"God was calling and saying you've always had this excuse of work and you ain't got that no more but I'm going to take care of you," he said. "This tiny house business just sort of blossomed out of little ideas that my son had, my wife had, and I had, and we did it. It gave me the time and the faith to say God's going to take care of this."

*congratulations*

DEACON MATT PAULUS

*on your ordination of the diaconate*



*May God bless you in  
your ministry to the Church*

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Catholic Church



## Spiese sees diaconate as extension of work with students

Christopher Spiese spends the majority of his time teaching chemistry as a professor at Ohio Northern University in Ada. He also finds himself advising students sorting through their vocations or listening to students or staff dealing with life issues. It's in those moments that his own life experience helps him relate to the students in a ministerial way.

He also understands the struggle some people have with faith. As a cradle Catholic, he drifted away from the church during his teen years. It was during a difficult time in graduate school at the State University of New York-College of Environmental Science and Forestry that he went to Mass at Our Lady of Solace and, he said, he was "back home."

Spiese then got involved with the parish and began to consider the priesthood. Unhappy in graduate school and looking for more, he did some exploration into the priesthood but quickly found that was not the path for him. Then he met his wife, Jessica, shifting those nagging thoughts of entering priesthood to becoming a deacon.

The couple moved for Spiese's teaching position at Ohio Northern, where, in addition to his chemistry classes, he has taught a course for freshmen on the philosophy and practice of science.

"There are two ways of looking at the



Deacon Christopher Spiese receives the Book of the Gospels from Bishop Earl Fernandes.

*CT photo by Ken Snow*

same truth," he said. "On the scientific side, we can come up with whatever observable thing there, knowing there is always going to be a limitation, there's going to be a finite limit to what we can know and how we can understand and what science can ultimately tell us. It can tell us what is, why it happens, but it can't tell us what should we do.

"Ultimately, if we can't observe it, it's outside that scientific realm of inquiry. Our faith gives us the structure and principles for thinking through ... we have this now, what do we do, what is the right course of action? There are things essentially beyond our observable senses here in faith, but it's through faith and revelation that we understand what lies

just beyond that sight."

It was when he was asked to give a talk at an ONU Kairos retreat in 2016 when Spiese's movement toward the diaconate picked up momentum. He went to the chapel to pray for another speaker.

"It's kind of like the Holy Spirit takes a 2x4 and smacks you right upside the head," he said. "I realized I was secure for tenure, I was of an age, everything is lined up. The message was, it's time, get going."

Within a week, he met with his parish pastor and deacon and in January 2017 he started the diaconate classes.

"Jess and I talked about it a lot and we decided we're going to keep going until somebody says no, even if it's one of us," Spiese said.

Spiese has found that his formation background has enabled him to support students during difficult times.

"Knowing that I can be a person that people in pain or struggling or grappling with whatever life is throwing at them, they can talk to me," Spiese said. "As much as we talk about liturgy or sacraments, that right there is the encounter. That's the one that when they look back they're not going to remember the homily you gave or whether you poured the water and wine correctly. It was in that moment when I needed God, He was there, through another person."



*Wishing congratulations to newly ordained Deacon Dave Fesenmyer and Deacon Dave Collinsworth.*

Church of the Resurrection congratulates all of the newly ordained deacons of our diocese. We as a parish are blessed that one of our own, Deacon Dave Fesenmyer, heard and responded to the Lord's call. What a witness to our parish as a whole and the lives that he will impact as a deacon, here at Church of the Resurrection.



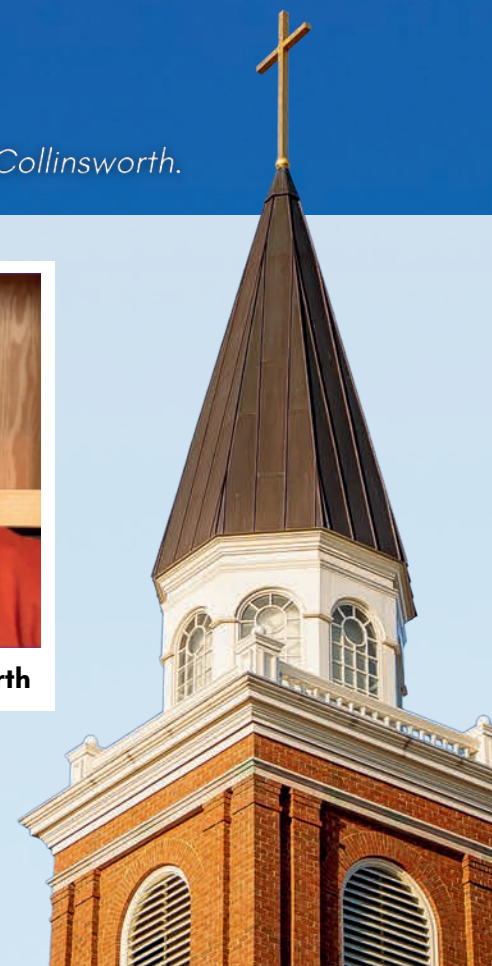
**Deacon Dave Fesenmyer**



**Deacon Dave Collinsworth**

We were also very fortunate to have had Deacon Dave Collinsworth spend his diaconate formation internship at our parish. We know that he will also do great work as a deacon as he serves at his home parish, St. Paul the Apostle parish in Westerville.

Best of luck to all those newly ordained!



# Diocesan priest serves as Ohio Army National Guard chaplain

By Hannah Heil  
Catholic Times Reporter

Father P.J. Brandimarti, the administrator at Johnstown Church of the Ascension, always knew he wanted to serve. He first thought of serving in the military and then the priesthood.

"I guess I'm attracted to uniforms," he said jokingly.

An injury in high school prevented him from receiving a Naval Reserve Officers' Training Corps scholarship. He considered the idea of being a Navy chaplain, but he then put his thoughts of the military to the side. Years later, in 2019, Father Brandimarti was ordained a priest for the Diocese of Columbus.

While he had previously considered Navy chaplaincy, by the time of his ordination, he said, he no longer thought about it. In his 30s, he figured his age or physique would not make the cut.

However, an email he received a few years ago changed what he thought was no longer a possibility. Bishop Robert Brennan, then the bishop of Columbus, emailed diocesan priests about an opportunity to serve as a chaplain in the Ohio Army National Guard.



Father P.J. Brandimarti (right) raises his right hand at a commissioning ceremony conducted by Stephen Rhoades (second from left) of the Ohio Army National Guard on Aug. 18 at Mount Vernon St. Vincent de Paul Church. Also present was state chaplain Daniel Burris.

Photo courtesy Ohio Army National Guard

Father Brandimarti seized the opportunity and responded to the bishop's email immediately. After approximately two years of preparation, he was commissioned in August 2023.

Now, he is celebrating one year as a chaplain.

His commissioning also calls for celebration in the Diocese of Columbus.

Father Brandimarti is the first Catholic chaplain to be commissioned by the Ohio Army National Guard since the 1990s.

"It's an honor that Bishop (Earl) Fernandes allows me to serve, and hopefully, more priests will receive that call because it's a vocation within a vocation," he said.

As a commissioned chaplain, Father Brandimarti meets with soldiers about one weekend a month. He travels to various bases in Ohio, meeting Catholic soldiers and those of other faiths, answering their questions and offering the sacraments of reconciliation and the Eucharist to as many individuals as possible.

Soldiers in the National Guard commit to one weekend a month and two weeks a year. During their two weeks a year, Father Brandimarti travels to various locations, he said, instead of traveling with a single unit, so he can bring the sacraments to as many people as possible.

He said it is important that soldiers have opportunities to receive the sacraments, and as a chaplain, to get to know them on a spiritual level, as a parish priest would.

"I can testify that soldiers are unique," Father Brandimarti said. "They have unique needs. The vast majority of the people that I've interacted with are in their early 20s, and they've chosen to serve our nation.

"Those type of people are the people who we are going to need in the Church. They are people who are dedicated; they are there for an idea that's bigger than themselves; they are sacrificing, and if those aren't Christian values, then I don't know what are.

"To not give them the spiritual things that they need, especially at that young age, especially when they're being pulled to every other thing in the world, having a priest, having a chaplain available to them is so important."

Not having a Catholic chaplain in the Army National Guard, Father Brandimarti said, can present challenges. A priest would need to be brought in if soldiers were overseas, or a priest would be requested off the chain of command.

Sometimes, the National Guard would bus soldiers out to a parish in the middle of training, which could include hours of transportation time in addition to an hourlong celebration of the Mass.

For such reasons, many soldiers were hesitant to take advantage of the opportunity, he said, because it could be looked down upon.

Now, after approximately 20 years without a Catholic chaplain, soldiers in the Ohio Army National Guard do not need to leave training to receive the sacraments. They have Father Brandimarti alongside them.

Of those in the Ohio National Guard who profess a faith, he said, a quarter are Catholic. Nineteen chaplains serve in Ohio, and aside from Father Brandimarti, all are practicing Christians but not Catholic.

He is praying that more priests will discern a call. In addition to a need for vocations to the priesthood, he said, there is a need for vocations to the chaplaincy.

"I really feel that I have a vocation not only to serve the people that I've been entrusted with but also to serve our soldiers," he said. "One of the things that I'm trying to do is encourage other priests to pray about that because a lot of us have prayed about, do we want to be a pastor? Do we want to be a hospital chaplain? Where's our heart? Where does the joy from our ministry come from?"

"For me, the National Guard is perfect because I get to be in a parish, I get to know and love my parishioners, but I also get to be a soldier, and I get to care for soldiers and serve soldiers."

Ohio has 120 Army Guard units that occupy 42 training sites and readiness centers throughout 36 Ohio counties. Many units work out of the Defense Support Center, one of the larger bases, located in Whitehall. Father Brandimarti spends much of his time at the base.

Unlike the U.S. Army Reserves, which is usually non-combat, he said, and reports to the president of the United States, the National Guard are combat units and work for the governor of the state. The Ohio Army National Guard includes four major brigades, or military units, of soldiers: infantry, air defense artillery, engineering and sustainment.

"Maintaining that strength allows us to live in security, and it allows us to continue to enjoy all the beautiful things that we have and all the blessings we have in this country, while also protecting other nations," Father Brandimarti said. "That's a hard job, and it requires people being away from family and friends.

"The National Guard can be caught up at any moment. If something happens, I, and every other soldier in the Ohio Guard, can be activated and pulled out, and that can be a shocking experience. Making sure that we have spiritual support, especially Catholic support, to our soldiers and to our Catholic soldiers is vital."

Being the only Catholic chaplain in

See GUARD, Page 19



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GUARD, continued from Page 18



Military chaplains are put through training similar to soldiers. Photo courtesy Army National Guard

Ohio can be a sacrifice. Father Brandimarti travels to bases located across Ohio to serve all soldiers in the National Guard. He recognizes that being a chaplain is a sacrifice for those back home, too.

“I’m very thankful to Bishop (Fernandes) for letting me do this,” he said. “We have trouble finding priests, and he’s allowed me to possibly be sent overseas if something happens, and that’s a sacrifice for me. It’s also a sacrifice for the parish I’m assigned to and for the diocese.”

During the weekend he spends with soldiers every month, he said, “all day” for the U.S. Army is about 5 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday. The schedule enables him to return in time to celebrate a vigil Mass at his parish. On Sundays, he can celebrate the 8:30 a.m. Mass before driving to an Army base and celebrating Mass for soldiers there.

During weekend training, a soldier’s responsibilities can consist of driving trucks, cooking, manning radios or watching out for biological and chemical weapons. Father Brandimarti said it is his job to support the soldiers.

“The ministry of presence is really, really valuable,” he said.

Often, he will personally invite soldiers to the chapel for the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass.

A chaplain might be the first practicing Christian a soldier encounters. Many conversations arise, Father Brandimarti said, from simply telling soldiers that he is a chaplain and a Catholic priest.

“That just opens the door to so many questions,” he said. “I can’t tell you how many people now call – or email – my Army number and just say, ‘Hey, Chaplain, tell me about this. What’s this?’”

“I would say that’s most of what I do as a chaplain now. It’s not what I do on the weekends. It’s the random phone calls and emails I get throughout the month of, ‘I’m interested in becoming Catholic. I’m interested in this. My grandma’s Catholic. Why do you guys do that?’”

Being a chaplain can also come with challenges.

Casualty notifications are difficult, Father Brandimarti said. Chaplains accompany officers to notify families of a soldier’s death. The challenge can be sim-

ilar to his responsibilities as a priest, helping individuals through death or the loss of a loved one.

“The things that are hard about being a priest are the same things that are hard about being a chaplain,” he said. “In both ways, the Holy Spirit really gives you the strength to be there because it’s not about you. It’s about the person you’re serving.”

Father Brandimarti said he recognizes parallels between the Church and the Army, as well as similarities between being a soldier and a Catholic. He noted that many of the

saints were soldiers. Some, such as St. Sebastian, the patron saint of soldiers, were martyrs.

“There are great rewards that are present but a lot of people may not see as a reward,” he said. “That calling to service, that calling to serve ideals that are higher than yourself, that calling, possibly, to give up your life – not only parts of your freedom, but literally give up your life for the greater good – are present both as a priest, as a Christian, but also a soldier.”

To become a chaplain, Father Brandimarti completed approximately three months of training that began in January 2024. He trained at the U.S. Army’s chaplain center in Fort Jackson, South Carolina with individuals from across the country preparing to be chaplains for the U.S. Army, Army Reserves and National Guard.

As part of chaplaincy training, Father Brandimarti was trained to be a soldier and an officer. Every chaplain is a commissioned officer, he said, although they lack authority to give orders.

Before his basic training, Father Brandimarti was required to meet certain physical standards and receive medical clearances. Once in South Carolina, he had 5 a.m. physical training.

“You’re doing the same basic training things, to a lesser degree, but still, the same items that soldiers do when they’re put through basic training,” he said.

“Even as a chaplain, they hold us to the exact same standard they hold every soldier to in the whole U.S. Army. There’s nothing special for us. So, I have to do the same running, the same pushups, the same sit-ups as any other soldier in my age group.”

The physical standards must be maintained for the remainder of his time in the National Guard, which can be challenging.

Father Brandimarti is hopeful the challenge will make him a better priest, he said. Taking care of himself physically and maintaining the “Army standard,” he hopes, will equate to being healthier and able to serve his flock in Columbus longer as a priest.

In addition to training to be a soldier

and an officer, chaplains are also trained to advise and provide religious services, which, as a Catholic priest, Father Brandimarti knew how to do.

Many of the Protestant Christians who train to be chaplains, he said, are not in full-time ministry. They often preach on Sundays but have full-time secular jobs outside of their church. As a Catholic priest, Father Brandimarti was an exception.

“It was actually a privilege to be able to share some of my experiences with these brother and sister Christians, many of whom, I’m happy to say, walked away having a better impression of the Catholic Church than, perhaps, when they got there, which was one of my missions,” he said.

“I want to make sure all of these people walk away knowing that the Catholic Church is Christian and that we are welcoming, and we are happy to preach the gospel, so that was an honor.”

# MUM SALE

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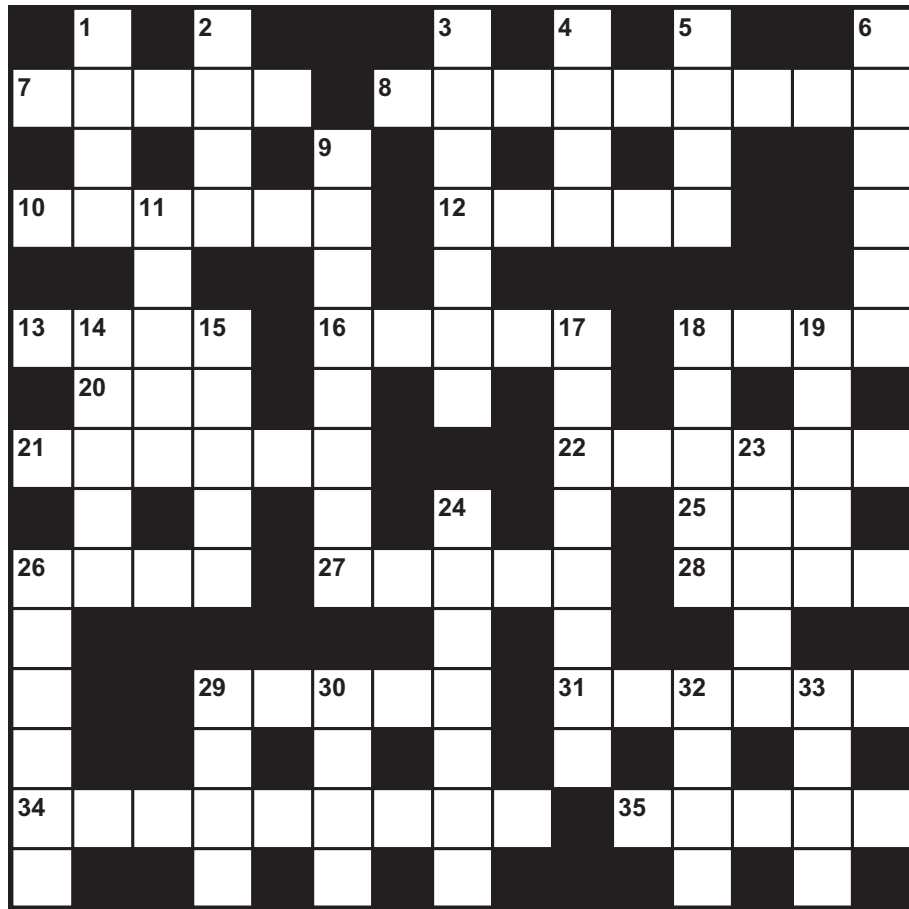


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ACROSS

- 7 *Humanae* \_\_\_
- 8 First step in being a nun
- 10 "...male and \_\_\_ he created them." (Gen 1:27)
- 12 Catholic Green Bay Packers coach Lombardi
- 13 The Immaculate Conception
- 16 First century pope
- 18 Leader of the Church
- 20 Certain Padre
- 21 Patron saint of orphans
- 22 The Gospel is read from here
- 25 It comes after Jon
- 26 It's gold and white with a papal symbol on it
- 27 Daughter of Jacob
- 28 Faith is like a mustard \_\_\_
- 29 Catholic actor in sit-com *Taxi*
- 31 An epistle
- 34 Paul's occupation
- 35 Man of the \_\_\_

DOWN

- 1 The Lord appeared to Moses in this
- 2 Biblical site of the temple of Dagon
- 3 Sister spot

- 4 Biblical mount
- 5 Chapter in Matthew where you find the Sermon on the Mount
- 6 Patron saint of Bible scholars
- 9 Jesuit who took part in the discovery of the Peking Man
- 11 Mary, Stella \_\_\_
- 14 The feast of St. Bernadette Soubirous is in this month
- 15 Jeremiah's description of himself
- 17 She shared the fate of her husband Ananias
- 18 They are burned to make ashes
- 19 The Pearl of Great \_\_\_
- 23 Someone tried to destroy this in 1972
- 24 Eastern Rite Churches in union with Rome
- 26 Commandment that requires us to honor our parents
- 29 Easter requirement
- 30 Shem's father
- 32 "...there is neither slave no free person, there is not \_\_\_" (Gal 3:28)
- 33 James was mending these when Jesus called him

LOCAL NEWS AND EVENTS

# Apostolic nuncio to participate in panel discussion at St. Charles

Cardinal Christophe Pierre, the Vatican's apostolic nuncio to the United States, will be at the Walter Commons of Columbus St. Charles Preparatory School, 2010 E. Broad St., for a panel discussion on the life and work of Servant of God Msgr. Luigi Giussani from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 11.

Giussani (1922-2005) was a noted Christian educator of the 20th century and his book *The Risk of Education* will be the topic of discussion. Panelists will examine his vision for passing on the faith.

His approach to education attracted people of all ages and the movement he began, Communion and Liberation, is one of the largest in today's Catholic Church.

Bishop Earl Fernandes, who will moderate the discussion, said, "When I read *The Risk of Education* the first time, it changed my life. It changed my approach to teaching and to education. It made me rethink my method of evangelization. This text is for our time, as the Holy Father is calling

for credible witnesses who accompany the young in the journey of faith."

Educators, parents and students all are invited to the discussion. There is no charge. For more information, contact Holly Peterson at hollypeterson888@gmail.com.

## Young adult conference set for Oct. 19 at St. Joan of Arc

This year's Columbus Catholic Young Adult Conference, for anyone ages 18 to 35, will be on Saturday, Oct. 19 at Powell St. Joan of Arc Church, 10700 Liberty Road.

Keynote speakers will be Father Patrick Schultz, parochial vicar at Sacred Heart of Jesus parish in Wadsworth, and Sister Meredith Boquiren, OCD, of the Carmelite Sisters of the Most Sacred Heart of Los Angeles.

Registration is available at the conference website, www.ccyac.org. The cost is \$40 per person with no charge for priests, deacons, religious sisters and brothers and

See LOCAL NEWS, Page 21

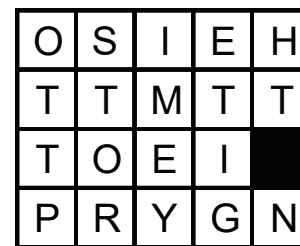
## Words of Wisdom

by Pat Battaglia, aka Dr. Fun

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

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

Trying times are not ...



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LOCAL NEWS, continued from Page 20

seminarians. The cost includes a continental breakfast and full lunch and dinner.

There will be an optional Mass and Reconciliation in the morning, with the conference starting at 10 a.m., and there will be a vigil Mass before the closing dinner. For more information, contact the conference leadership team at info@ccyac.org.

**Marian billboard program announced in central Ohio**

Tim McAndrew of the Laity for Mercy campaign wants to promote devotion to the Virgin Mary by placing billboards in several central Ohio locations and is asking for financial assistance to pay for the campaign.

The first billboard is in place in the 800 block of West Broad Street, less than a mile from downtown Columbus. The billboards include an image of Mary and the words "Behold Your Mother - Jesus."

"The billboards will be seen by Catholics and non-Catholics and, with the grace of God, may change hearts. Realizing these are turbulent economic times, we know the good Lord will richly bless you in your generosity, as He can't be outdone. Many graces will flow by spreading devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary," McAndrew said.

McAndrew is arranging with La-

mar Advertising for placement of the billboards. All donations are tax deductible. Donations may be made online at <https://feastofmercy.net/pages/behold-your-mother-billboard-campaign-2024> or by writing a check payable to Laity for Mercy and sending it to Tim McAndrew, Laity for Mercy, 5133 Collins Way, Grove City, OH 43123.

For more information, call (614) 565-8654 or (614) 832-3862 or email [mcan-drewfourlife@gmail.com](mailto:mcan-drewfourlife@gmail.com).

**St. Monica prayer service scheduled in Hilliard**

A St. Monica prayer service will take place at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 27 at Hilliard St Brendan the Navigator Church, 4475 Dublin Road.

The service will include music, Scripture and testimony, with a prayer team on hand to help pray for all Catholics no longer practicing the faith and those who are on the edge, and for the faithful to be strengthened to go out on mission and bring them home.

St. Monica lived in the fourth century and prayed constantly for the conversion of her son Augustine, who became one of the greatest saints of the church. She often is cited as an example of the power of persistent prayer.

**Chapel blessed at St. Gabriel Radio**



Bishop Earl Fernandes blessed the new chapel at St. Gabriel Catholic Radio AM 820 in Columbus and offered a Mass for staff, board members and guests on Friday, Aug. 2. The bishop was assisted by Father Paul Keller, OP, director of divine worship for the diocese, and by seminarian Shane Gerrity. St. Gabriel received approval from Bishop Fernandes in the spring to build a chapel in the station's offices at 4673 Winterset Drive. The project came together after acquiring various pieces for the chapel, including an altar from St. Charles Preparatory School that was replaced there after a renovation. Anyone who would like to visit the chapel should contact St. Gabriel Radio at 614-459-4820. Photo courtesy St. Gabriel Radio

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21st Sunday of Ordinary Time Year B

## Faith requires commitment

Joshua 24:1-2a, 15-17, 18b  
Psalm 34:2-3, 16-17, 18-19, 20-21  
Ephesians 5:21-32 or  
Ephesians 5:2a, 25-32  
John 6:60-69

Christianity is not a religion for persons who are weak. This truth, often misunderstood, is entirely contrary to the spirit of the age that claims that any religion at all is a sign of weakness in one who believes. Those who have faith are not weak persons who have no capacity to face difficulties. On the contrary, their faith gives them strength to endure beyond merely human strength. Struggles are acknowledged, but those who have faith persevere.

Real faith is not a matter of simple belief in doctrine. It is personal commitment to stay with God and with the community of believers even when others walk away. We are living in a time when many choose to let faith disappear, for themselves and for their own families, because they put other things ahead of their relationship with God. Every family is affected by this. Many reasons are given as to why it is so.

The easiest reason to give is the one that puts all the blame for it on the Church and her leaders, whether clergy, religious or laity who have been in charge. We have not been witnesses with integrity in many ways. However, this misses the point that our faith is not in the fallible human beings who are trying to live it, but in God and in the truth He reveals to us. We have a choice.

Joshua stands before the people entrusted to him by God after the death of Moses and invites them to pledge their lives to the Lord, who brought them out 22nd Sunday of Ordinary Time Year B

## SCRIPTURE READINGS

Father Timothy Hayes

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



of Egypt to the Promised Land. He lays out for them the real difficulty of being faithful. Then, he makes his own pledge, in the name of his family: *“As for me and my household, we will serve the LORD.”*

The people respond, *“Far be it from us to forsake the LORD for the service of other gods. For it was the LORD, our God, who brought us and our fathers up out of the land of Egypt, out of a state of slavery. He performed those great miracles before our very eyes and protected us along our entire journey and among the peoples through whom we passed. Therefore, we also will serve the LORD, for he is our God.”* Of course, as Biblical history unfolds, the people follow through with this pledge in a less than exemplary fashion.

In the Gospel, those who have been following Jesus are given a difficult teaching. Many walk away, finding it too much for them. *“This saying is hard; who can accept it?”* Unable to go the distance with Jesus because what He teaches is beyond them, *“many of his disciples returned to their former way of life and no longer accompanied him.”*

Jesus turns to the Apostles and asks, *“Do you also want to leave?”* This is a poignant question. It expresses the pain that Jesus experiences when He attempts to draw closer to His followers by sharing the depth of His Heart with them and finds them resistant. It is also a question that jumps off the page as addressed to us in our time. How are we to respond?

## God calls faithful to be witnesses of justice

Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-8  
Psalm 15:2-3, 3-4, 4-5  
James 1:17-18, 21b-22, 27  
Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

This weekend, we return to the Gospel of Mark following our “picnic by the Sea of Galilee with Jesus” and the Eucharistic Discourse of John 6. The new context brings us into the wider world where the Eucharist is the meal that sustains the community in its effort to proclaim the Gospel to the nations. How we are to bring the faith to this world continues to be the question also for us to explore.

The refrain of the Responsorial Psalm offers insight regarding how to live in God’s presence: *“The one who does justice will live in the presence of the Lord.”* Justice in its essence refers to giving God His due in our lives. When we live in proper relationship to God, there is a balance, as a *“weighing of the scales.”* God is God and we are His people. We can live in God’s presence only when we are attempting to

live in justice, to *“do justice,”* aware of our relationship with God as central to our lives. The Letter of James offers practical wisdom, with a clear description of such justice: *“Religion that is pure and undefiled before God and the Father is this: to care for orphans and widows in their affliction and to keep oneself unstained by the world.”*

A tendency in our time is to put function over being. What a person does is perceived as identity, as if who we are comes primarily from our actions and preferences. The Gospel today illustrates the falsehood of this way of responding to God that focuses on such externals rather than on the interior reality of relationship, an easy trap to fall into these days.

As one expression of religiosity in the earliest days of Christianity, the “washing of hands” and the “purification of cups and jugs and kettles and beds” could be attended to as if these activities are more important than what they symbolize or as if a particular interpretation

## THE WEEKDAY BIBLE READINGS

8/26-8-31 MONDAY	THURSDAY	9/2-9-7 MONDAY	THURSDAY
2 Thessalonians 1:1-5,11-12 Psalm 96:1-5 Matthew 23:13-22	1 Corinthians 1:1-9 Psalm 145:2-7 Mark 6:17-29	1 Corinthians 2:1-5 Psalm 119:97-102 Luke 4:16-30	1 Corinthians 3:18-23 Psalm 24:1-6 Luke 5:1-11
TUESDAY	FRIDAY	TUESDAY	FRIDAY
2 Thessalonians 2:1-3a,14-17 Psalm 96:10-13 Matthew 23:23-26	1 Corinthians 1:17-25 Psalm 33:1-2,4-5,10-11 Matthew 25:1-13	1 Corinthians 2:10b-16 Psalm 145:8-14 Luke 4:31-37	1 Corinthians 4:1-5 Psalm 37:3-6,27-28,39-40 Luke 5:33-39
WEDNESDAY	SATURDAY	WEDNESDAY	SATURDAY
2 Thessalonians 3:6-10,16-18 Psalm 128:1-2,4-5 Matthew 23:27-32	1 Corinthians 12:26-31 Psalm 33:12-13,18-21 Matthew 25:14-30	1 Corinthians 3:1-9 Psalm 33:12-15,20-21 Luke 4:38-44	1 Corinthians 4:6b-15 Psalm 145:17-21 Luke 6:1-5

## DIOCESAN WEEKLY RADIO AND TELEVISION

Mass Schedule: Weeks of August 25 and September 1, 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 Breeze-line Channel 378). (Encores at noon, 7 p.m., and midnight).

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

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

### DAILY MASS

8 a.m., Our Lady of the Angels Monastery in Birmingham, Ala. (Encores at noon, 7 p.m. and midnight). See EWTN above; and on I-Lifetv (Channel 113, Ada, Logan, Millersburg, Murray City, Washington C.H.; Channel 125, Marion, Newark, Newcomerstown and New Philadelphia; Channel 207, Zanesville); 8 p.m., St. Gabriel Radio (AM 820), Columbus, and at [www.stgabrielradio.com](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 I AND II OF THE LITURGY OF THE HOURS

With all the reasons given not to be persons of faith, we are confronted with a moment of decision. When others choose to leave the Church and faith behind, do we also want to leave? Peter gives an answer on behalf of the twelve: *“Master, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and are convinced that you are the Holy One of God.”*

The Eucharist is the “place” where all

the tribes of the Lord are gathered and invited to make a commitment. It may be “a hard saying” for many, but we acknowledge that Jesus speaks the truth to us: *“The words I have spoken to you are Spirit and life.”* Jesus is the Bread of Life, who gives us the words of eternal life. He is truly present to us here and now. Are we ready to make our commitment to Him? Will we *“Taste and see the goodness of the Lord”* in the Eucharist and in the Mass?

as to how they are done says everything. When Mark was describing these activities, he was writing for a Christian community, likely in Rome, that had already incorporated Gentiles as equal members of the community along with Jews. Expressing the teachings of Jesus in a new context required explanation as well as a movement forward into a new way of expressing them for Mark’s contemporaries.

The cosmopolitan world of ancient times when the Gospel was young offers many examples of how the wisdom of one culture could be “translated” into a new system. First, the insight had to be expressed clearly. Jesus “reversed the flow” of what made things “unclean” both by His own actions, touching those who were untouchable and bringing healing and holiness to them by His touch, and by His explanation: *“Hear me, all of you, and understand. Nothing that enters one from outside can defile that person; but the things that come*

*out from within are what defile. From within people, from their hearts, come evil thoughts, unchastity, theft, murder, adultery, greed, malice, deceit, licentiousness, envy, blasphemy, arrogance, folly. All these evils come from within and they defile.”*

When this wisdom and insight is received by an open mind and heart, one who lives justly may put it into practice. The evils that flow from injustice and judgment are uprooted not by a mere change in external practices but by a change in attitude. “To hear and understand” means to see our own actions with new eyes, especially in relation to other human beings.

This perspective calls for a real examination of conscience. What thoughts and attitudes do we bring to our encounters with others who are different than we are? Do we focus on what is outside or do we listen to hear and understand

See WITNESSES, Page 23

# PRAY FOR OUR DEAD

- ABEND, Dennis Allen, 79, Aug. 16**  
St. Francis de Sales Church, Newark
- ALTIER, Randal D. "Randy," 71, Aug. 6**  
St. Rose of Lima Church, New Lexington
- ANDERSON, Kimberly L., 55, Aug. 1**  
Our Mother of Sorrows Chapel, Columbus
- BLANEY, Joseph, 89, July 30**  
St. Bernadette Church, Lancaster
- BURTON, Susan M. (Kronenberger), 96, July 26**  
St. Andrew Church, Columbus
- CARR, Cecelia Ann "Li Ann," 79, July 30**  
Basilica of St. Mary of the Assumption, Lancaster
- CHESTER, Frank J., 91, Aug. 11**  
St. Edward the Confessor Church, Granville
- FITZCHARLES, David W. III "Trey," 34, Aug. 5**  
St. Mary Church, Delaware
- FRESCH, Sandra P., 64, July 30**  
St. Paul the Apostle Church, Westerville
- GARDINA, Louis James, 73, July 25**  
Sacred Heart Church, Coshocton
- GASBARRO, Alie J., 90, Aug. 2**  
Our Mother of Sorrows Chapel, Columbus
- HAMMOND, Wade Russell, 88, Aug. 5**  
St. Francis de Sales Church, Newark
- HARNETTY, Marilyn J. (Williams), 87, Aug. 13**  
St. Paul the Apostle Church, Westerville
- HOFFMAN, Carol J. (Forst), 88, formerly of Columbus, Aug. 5**  
St. Veronica Church, Chantilly, Va.
- JOHNSON, Barbara L., 73, July 13**  
St. Paul the Apostle Church, Westerville
- KRAUSS, Janet I. (Marchi), 98, Aug. 2**  
Our Mother of Sorrows Chapel, Columbus

- KRONENBERGER, Susan May, 96, July 26**  
St. Andrew Church, Columbus
- LANNING, Anna Mae (Beck), 96, Aug. 7**  
St. Rose of Lima Church, New Lexington
- LEE-CRUZA, Mallory, 37, Aug. 8**  
St. Paul the Apostle Church, Westerville
- McGLADE, Roger Allen, 86, Aug. 1**  
St. Thomas Aquinas Church, Zanesville
- McNAMARA, Virginia Sandra "Sandy," 82, July 31**  
St. Mary Church, Delaware
- McINTEE, James William, 92, July 30**  
Ss. Simon & Jude Church, West Jefferson
- MILLER, David A., 63, July 25**  
St. Paul the Apostle Church, Westerville
- MILLER-BOLTON, Betty J., 83, July 27**  
St. Paul the Apostle Church, Westerville
- NEUMEYER, Suzanne Rae, 79, Aug. 10**  
St. Leonard Church, Heath
- OBERFIELD, John "Jack," 92, Aug. 2**  
St. Francis de Sales Church, Newark
- RAYNER, Rosemary Diane, 94, Aug. 10**  
St. Mary Church, Marion
- REINHARD, Mary (McGonigle), 79, Aug. 2**  
Ss. Simon and Jude Church, West Jefferson
- ROGERS, Roger Doyle, 66, Aug. 7**  
Sacred Hearts Church, Cardington
- SAPP, John R., 92, Aug. 5**  
St. Mary Magdalene Church, Columbus
- SHUEY, Christine M., 54, Aug. 3**  
St. Elizabeth at St. Josephine Bakhita Parish, Columbus
- STROUPE, Charles F., 62, Aug. 8**  
St. Mary, Mother of God Church, Columbus
- TEIGA, Edward J., 85, July 30**  
Church of the Resurrection, New Albany
- TEMPLE, Mary Ann, 96, Aug. 5**  
Basilica of St. Mary of the Assumption, Lancaster
- TRAINI, Patrick J., 79, April 20**  
Our Mother of Sorrows Chapel, Columbus
- WALKOSAK, Patricia (Eby), 83, Aug. 6**  
St. Joseph Church, Dover

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**WORDS OF WISDOM SOLUTION**

## Violet M. Allwein

Funeral Mass for Violet M. Allwein, 90, who died Monday, Aug. 5, will be celebrated Monday, Aug. 12 at Columbus St. Catherine of Siena Church.

She was born on April 30, 1934 in Columbus to Santas and Francesco Alibrando.

She worked at the front desk of the Diocese of Columbus offices for several years

and was a longtime lector at her parish.

She was preceded in death by her parents, and brothers Guito, Paul, and Frank. Survivors include her loving husband of 67 years, Donald; sons Steven, Gary (Christina), Michael, Christopher (Elisabeth), Timothy (Meg) and Andrew (Kate), 18 grandchildren and 38 great-grandchildren.

## Serra sponsors vocation lunch for young women

The annual Serra Club of North Columbus vocations luncheon for young women will take place from 11 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 1 in the Jessing Center of the Pontifical College Josephinum, 7625 N. High St., Columbus.

"Hubs and Spokes: Steering Into Sanc-

tity" will be the title of a talk by Salesian Sister Elfie del Rosario, FMA, on a young woman's tools for growing in faith.

Anyone wishing to attend is asked to RSVP by Wednesday, Sept. 25 to Programs@SerraColumbus.org.

## Holy Family alumni group plans final reunion

The Holy Family School Alumni Association announces that its final all-alumni reunion will take place Saturday, Sept. 14. A 4 p.m. alumni vigil Mass will be celebrated at Columbus Holy Family Church, 584 W. Broad St., followed by refreshments and a raffle in the church

undercroft.

The church and the undercroft are now accessible by an elevator on the east entrance of the church. For more details, contact Genny (Welker) Temple at vttemple@gmail.com or (614) 539-4815.

## WITNESSES, continued from Page 22

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# Diocesan teams carry high hopes into new football season

At least one high school football team from the diocese usually can be counted on to make a deep run in the playoffs every year. Which team that might be this fall won't be determined for several months, but the quest for regular-season success began this weekend with 10 diocesan schools kicking off their schedules.

Last year, Columbus Bishop Watterson made a surprise run to the Division III state championship game before falling to Toledo Central Catholic. Two years before that, Newark Catholic surged to the Division VII state final before losing to small-school juggernaut Maria Stein Marion Local. In 2020, Columbus St. Francis DeSales played for a state title and came up short in a double-overtime loss to Chardon in the Division III final.

Those teams as well as Columbus Bishop Hartley, a perennial powerhouse program under coach Brad Burchfield, and Columbus Bishop Ready hope to make some noise during the regular season and into the playoffs this fall.

After the expanded playoff format adopted by the Ohio High School Athletic Association last year allowed twice as many teams to qualify for the postseason, seven of the 10 teams in the diocese took advantage of that opportunity.

In addition to Watterson, DeSales, Hartley, Ready and Columbus St. Charles Preparatory School, Zanesville Bishop Rosecrans and Portsmouth Notre Dame qualified for the playoffs in Division VII, which is made up of the state's smaller schools.

DeSales and Rosecrans bowed out in the opening round, but Hartley advanced to a regional final in Division IV and Ready and Notre Dame each won a game.

Watterson's postseason run was one to remember. After losing to DeSales in the final game of the regular season, the Eagles went on a run, disposing of five opponents with help from a strong defense on the way to the state final.

One of the leaders on that team was Dominic Purcell, a first-team All-Ohio linebacker who was credited with an astounding 202 tackles last year and is now at the U.S. Naval Academy. Also lost to graduation was quarterback AJ McAninch, who passed for 3,400 yards and 38 touchdowns.

But Watterson does return 13 starters, including senior running back Zach Weber, who rushed for 825 yards and 13 touchdowns; senior receiver Jake Uhlenhake, who caught 68 passes for 1,130 yards and 13 touchdowns; and senior receiver Cal Mangini, who had 60 receptions for 724 yards. Anchoring the offensive and defensive lines will be seniors Vance Graney and CJ Youell and sophomores Jack Schuler and Michael Boyle.

Replacing McAninch at quarterback will be junior Drew Bellisari, the son of former Ohio State linebacker Greg Bellisari.



Bishop Watterson's Jake Uhlenhake (8) is one of the returning seniors for the Eagles this season. *File photo*

Coach Brian Kennedy, entering his eighth season leading the Eagles, expects the offensive and defensive lines to be a strength this season against a tough schedule that includes Central Catholic League rivals DeSales and Hartley.

Hartley returns eight starters on offense and three on defense from a team that went to a regional final a year ago. Junior running back Robert Lathon rushed for 1,543 yards and 17 touchdowns in 2023, averaging 8.0 yards per carry, and junior quarterback Matt Galich passed for 986 yards with eight touchdowns and two interceptions for the run-oriented Hawks. Junior linebacker-running back Jay Zang is the top returning tackler from last season.

"The expectations are always the same," Burchfield said. "We expect to be among the very best, and that is the tradition of the school and the football family that has long been established."

For DeSales, the past two seasons haven't matched the school's lofty standards. The Stallions finished 7-5 in 2022 and 5-6 in 2023, losing in the early rounds of the playoffs each year.

Last year proved to be a season of near-misses for DeSales, which lost four games by a total of 10 points.

The Stallions' graduation losses include defensive tackle Cameron Gwinn, who is at the University of Toledo, and four-year starting linebacker Max Shulaw, an all-state performer and leading tackler now at the University of Virginia to wrestle after winning three state titles. But a strong nucleus returns, led by Ty Neubert, a two-way lineman and four-year starter who is an Ohio University football recruit.

Also back this season are senior linebackers Dane Crabtree and Adam Faulkner, junior running back Jonathon Brown, junior safety-outside linebacker Kingston Johnson, and sophomore two-way lineman Matthias Burrell, sophomore running back-defensive back Kaleb Johnson and sophomore quarterback RJ Day, who set school freshman passing records in 2023.

Coach Ryan Wiggins said replacing the offensive line and Gwinn and Shulaw on defense will be two of the keys to the season.

"Our expectations are always the same at DeSales – CCL (title), playoffs and deep runs," Wiggins said.

Bishop Ready begins its second season under coach T.J. Burbridge after going undefeated in the Central Buckeye League to win the championship and finishing with a 10-2 overall record.

The Silver Knights lost productive running back Kentrell Rinehart, a North Carolina State recruit who accounted for 3,003 all-purpose yards and 46 touchdowns last year at Ready before transferring to Columbus Westland.

The top returnees are linebacker-tight end Conlan Dent, who accumulated 115 tackles in 2023; linebacker Kasen Abbott (110 tackles); two-way lineman Evan Montgomery and quarterback Jacob Cheatham, who completed 60 percent of his passes for 926 yards and nine touchdowns last fall.

St. Charles is one of two diocesan football teams with a new coach. Replacing Deke Hocker is Anthony Colucci, who went 3-7 in one season as the head coach at Birmingham Southern College before the school closed this past spring.

The top returnees for a underclassmen-laden St. Charles team that lost in the first round of the Division II playoffs last year are senior quarterback-defensive back Ryan Mooney, senior running back-linebacker Joe Schmitt, junior tight end-defensive lineman Charlie Koesters and junior two-way lineman Jack Brandt.

"Our senior class is small in numbers but has done a phenomenal job embracing the new era and setting the standard," Colucci said.

Outside of Franklin County, Portsmouth Notre Dame and Bishop Rosecrans were playoff qualifiers last year.

Meanwhile, Newark Catholic is looking to rebound after missing the playoffs a year ago, Fisher Catholic just missed qualifying for the postseason a year ago and Tuscarawas Central Catholic is rebuilding with a new coach after going winless last season.

Two of Newark Catholic's more experienced players are back from a 3-7 team at two of the most important positions. Quarterback Miller Hutchinson is a three-year starter and running back Mikey Hess has started for two years.

Hutchinson passed for 1,228 yards and 13 touchdowns last year and added 22 tackles and one interception as a cornerback. Hess rushed for 974 yards and totaled nine touchdowns while making 48 tackles as a linebacker.

Returning offensive line starters are Carmine Annarino, Jackson Broyles and Keaton Helms. On defense, all three starting linebackers are back.

Newark Catholic will benefit from playoff realignment this year, dropping

down from Division VI to Division VII.

"My expectations are to build off a strong finish from our regular season last year and allow our returners to thrive in an offense and defense that they now have spent a full season and off-season learning," second-year coach Josh Hendershot said. "This will be an exciting year for Green Wave football and we are ready for the opportunity to return to Division VII and compete at a high level."

Portsmouth Notre Dame finished with an 8-4 record, with a first-round playoff victory, in Buster Davis' first year as coach.

Davis would like to see the Titans advance farther in the postseason this year and win the Southern Ohio Conference championship.

Notre Dame graduated all-purpose back Jordan Davis, who accounted for 2,000 yards and 30 touchdowns while making second-team All-Ohio, but returns quarterback-linebacker Ethan Kintgrey, running back-safety Bryce McGraw, wide receiver-cornerback Gene Collins, running back-linebacker Luke Cassidy and offensive tackle-defensive end Brody Coleman.

Fisher Catholic brings back the passing combination of senior quarterback Grant Keefer and wide receiver Hyde O'Rielley. Last season, Keefer passed for 1,893 yards and 13 touchdowns while rushing for 384 yards and three TDs. O'Rielley made first-team All-Ohio after catching 39 passes for 758 yards and 10 touchdowns in nine games while adding 73.5 tackles as a linebacker.

The challenge for the Irish will be to shore up their defense, which gave up 35 or more points in all seven of their losses.

Bishop Rosecrans lost eight seniors from last year's 4-7 team and is counting on underclassmen to fill the void.

Junior Brody Zemba accounted for 1,250 yards and 15 touchdowns last year. Junior Hayden Perdue replaces four-year starting quarterback Brendan Bernath.

Giovanni Ionno begins his first season as a head coach at Tuscarawas Central Catholic after the Saints struggled to an 0-10 record in 2023.

Ionno, who was named coach in late June, is faced with replacing 10 seniors from last year and has only five returning letter winners. He's counting on the running game and the defense to lead the way.

The top returning players are seniors Kolton Whitaker, Warren Tienarend and Braeden Brown.

"We have hit the ground running, trying to catch the kids and program up to speed," Ionno said. "We are a bit behind the eight-ball but are working hard to be ready for the season and expect to improve as the season progresses."



# 2024 high school football schedules for diocesan schools

## BISHOP HARTLEY

8-23 at Elyria Catholic  
 8-30 Youngstown Ursuline  
 9-6 Dayton Chaminade-Julienne  
 9-13 at Watkins Memorial  
 9-20 at Ironton  
 9-27 Bishop Watterson  
 10-4 at St. Francis DeSales  
 10-11 Bloom-Carroll  
 10-18 KIPP Columbus  
 10-25 at St. Charles  
 2023 record: 10-3 overall, 2-1 conference  
**CONFERENCE:** Central Catholic League  
**COACH:** Brad Burchfield (162-45 in 16 seasons at Bishop Hartley and 193-70 overall)

## BISHOP READY

8-24 at Newark Catholic  
 8-30 Cincinnati Hills Christian Academy  
 9-6 Licking Valley  
 9-13 Hamilton Badin  
 9-20 St. Francis DeSales  
 9-27 at KIPP Columbus  
 10-4 Whitehall-Yearling  
 10-11 Buckeye Valley  
 10-18 at Bexley  
 10-25 Columbus Academy  
 2023 record: 10-2 overall, 5-0 conference  
**CONFERENCE:** Central Buckeye League  
**COACH:** T.J. Burbridge (10-2 in one season at Bishop Ready)

## BISHOP WATTERSON

8-23 at Big Walnut  
 8-30 at Dublin Scioto  
 9-6 Westerville North  
 9-13 at Tiffin Columbian  
 9-20 at Chardon  
 9-27 at Bishop Hartley  
 10-4 at KIPP Columbus  
 10-11 St. Charles  
 10-18 Harrison  
 10-25 St. Francis DeSales  
 2023 record: 14-2 overall, 2-1 conference  
**CONFERENCE:** Central Catholic League  
**COACH:** Brian Kennedy (49-30 in seven seasons at Bishop Watterson and overall)

## ST. CHARLES

8-23 at West Carrollton  
 8-30 Hamilton Township  
 9-6 Columbus Independence  
 9-13 at Whitehall-Yearling  
 9-20 Columbus Academy  
 9-27 at St. Francis DeSales  
 10-4 at Buckeye Valley  
 10-11 at Bishop Watterson  
 10-18 Lutheran East  
 10-25 Bishop Hartley  
 2023 record: 5-6 overall, 0-3 conference  
**CONFERENCE:** Central Catholic League  
**COACH:** Anthony Colucci (first year at St. Charles)

## ST. FRANCIS DESALES

8-23 at Olentangy Berlin  
 8-30 at Hamilton Badin  
 9-6 Columbus Africentric  
 9-13 Wheeling (W.Va.) Linsly  
 9-20 at Bishop Ready  
 9-27 St. Charles  
 10-4 Bishop Hartley  
 10-11 KIPP Columbus  
 10-18 at Northwest  
 10-25 at Bishop Watterson  
 2023 record: 5-6 overall, 2-1 conference  
**CONFERENCE:** Central Catholic League  
**COACH:** Ryan Wiggins (144-66 in 17 seasons at St. Francis DeSales and 148-72 overall)

## BISHOP ROSECRANS

8-23 at Beallsville  
 8-30 New London  
 9-6 Steubenville Catholic Central  
 9-13 Berne Union  
 9-20 at Grove City Christian  
 9-27 Fisher Catholic  
 10-4 at Fairfield Christian Academy  
 10-11 at Bridgeport  
 10-18 Hemlock Miller  
 10-25 at Millersport  
 2023 record: 4-7 overall, 4-2 conference  
**CONFERENCE:** Mid-State League Cardinal  
**COACH:** Chris Zemba (22-31 in four seasons at Bishop Rosecrans and overall)

## FISHER CATHOLIC

8-24 Crooksville  
 8-31 Tuscarawas Central Catholic  
 9-6 at Portsmouth Notre Dame  
 9-13 South Gallia  
 9-21 Fairfield Christian Academy  
 9-27 at Bishop Rosecrans  
 10-4 Hemlock Miller  
 10-11 at Millersport  
 10-18 at Berne Union  
 10-25 Grove City Christian  
 2023 record: 3-7 overall, 2-4 conference  
**CONFERENCE:** Mid-State League Cardinal  
**COACH:** Luke Thimmes (12-28 in four seasons at Fisher Catholic and overall)

## NEWARK CATHOLIC

8-24 Bishop Ready  
 8-30 Allen East  
 9-6 at Columbus Academy  
 9-13 at Mogadore  
 9-20 at Licking Valley  
 9-27 Northridge  
 10-4 Utica  
 10-11 at Heath  
 10-18 Lakewood  
 10-25 at Johnstown  
 2023 record: 3-7 overall, 3-3 conference  
**CONFERENCE:** Licking County League Cardinal  
**COACH:** Josh Hendershot (3-7 at Newark Catholic and overall)

## Student-athletes attend fall sports Mass



More than 650 high school student-athletes from Columbus Bishop Watterson, Bishop Hartley, Bishop Ready, St. Francis DeSales and Cristo Rey gathered Sunday, Aug. 11 for the Central Catholic League fall sports Mass at St. Charles Preparatory School. Father Michael Hartge, vicar general and moderator of the curia for the diocese, celebrated the annual Mass at the start of the new sports season. *Photo courtesy Nolan Nye, St. Charles Preparatory School*

## PORTSMOUTH NOTRE DAME

8-24 Fairfield Christian Academy  
 8-30 at Frankfort Adena  
 9-6 Fisher Catholic  
 9-13 Lockland  
 9-21 at Shadyside  
 9-27 at South Gallia  
 10-5 Franklin Furnace Green  
 10-11 at Beaver Eastern  
 10-18 Symmes Valley  
 10-25 Sciotoville East  
 2023 record: 8-4 overall, 4-1 conference  
**CONFERENCE:** Southern Ohio Conference Division I  
**COACH:** Buster Davis (8-4 in one season at Notre Dame)

## TUSCARAWAS CENTRAL CATHOLIC

8-24 Conotton Valley  
 8-31 at Fisher Catholic  
 9-6 at Lowellville  
 9-13 at Windham  
 9-20 at Sandy Valley  
 9-27 Buckeye Trail  
 10-4 at Newcomerstown  
 10-11 East Canton  
 10-19 Malvern  
 10-25 at Strasburg-Franklin  
 2023 record: 0-10 overall, 0-7 conference  
**CONFERENCE:** Inter-Valley Conference North  
**COACH:** Giovanni Ionno (first year)

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# CYO expands flag football program to Grades 1-3

By Elizabeth Pardi

This fall, the Diocese of Columbus' Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) will offer flag football for first, second and third graders for the first time.

Tackle football has been available in the Columbus area for grades five through eighth, and flag was implemented for fourth and fifth grades when concussions became more of a concern. Now, students will have the opportunity to begin playing together as early as first grade.

CYO activities are open to students in Catholic schools and parishes.

"The purpose of CYO athletics is to use sports as a vehicle for discipleship and evangelization," Ryan Aiello, director of CYO athletics, said. "We believe that creating more options and engaging a younger audience is an extended effort in fulfilling that purpose."

As Aiello pointed out, flag football will become an Olympic sport in 2028, and both the National Football League and USA Football frequently promote it.

"In working with our CYO community and high school coaches, we felt that (flag football provides an) opportunity to capture a younger audience (and) grow the game by introducing a safe, exciting way to play while teaching proper fundamentals and techniques," said Aiello, a former high school football coach at Newark Catholic.

The hope is that allowing kids to start the sport earlier in their education may lead to more dedication to it later on.

"Like any other sport, early positive experiences can lead to sustained interest and participation in the sport," Aiello said. "Players who start younger will develop higher proficiency ... due to more practice and experience."

Brent Racer, who coaches fifth and sixth grade football at Columbus St. Andrew, said that earlier involvement in the sport "fosters team cohesion and a sense of community among young players."

Racer, whose sons Liam and Brayden play at St. Andrew, believes that an athletic program's success can be attributed to its cultivation of a deep, early interest in the sport for kids.

"Grassroots engagement can lead to more competitive and successful programs, as these players progress through the ranks, ultimately boosting overall program performance and ensuring long-term sustainability and growth," he said.

Additionally, offering diocesan students the opportunity to play together from a younger age builds camaraderie among those who continue playing throughout high school.

"I feel like the guys I played with for a lot of years are the people I have the strongest bonds with today, even if I don't see them much," said Vinny Pardi, who played for Columbus St. Andrew in

fifth through eighth grade and then at Columbus Bishop Watterson High School. "We developed a brotherhood with each other through the bumps and the bruises and the challenges you take on together. There's a feeling of having each other's backs."

Pardi's oldest son, Marco, will start second grade this year and play for the newly established flag football team there.

"The sport instilled certain values in me like perseverance and loyalty that I hope to foster in my kids, too," Pardi said.

Aiello agrees. Asked about the value that playing football adds to young kids' lives, he noted, among other things, the life skills it instills.

"Football teaches discipline, resilience, and the importance of hard work," he said. "It helps in developing leadership and strategic thinking skills. (It's) one of the few sports (where players) practice more than they compete, which encourages the value of understanding processes and roles."

He also noted the mental benefits of the sport in a culture where the emotional health of youth is in jeopardy.

"A lot is going on in our society today that challenges our youth, specifically in connecting with others," Aiello said. "Team sports within the CYO are an opportunity to be a part of a team while experiencing the presence of our faith."

The CYO is diligent in working to en-

sure a positive experience for all players throughout the diocese.

"We guide a minimum and maximum roster size to help ensure there are no forfeits with low rosters, and that all players are receiving playing time with the larger rosters," Aiello said. "We are pushing to establish grade level divisions to ensure a safe playing environment, but there may be divisions that play one grade above to establish a schedule."

"We want parishes to form their own team ... but if numbers are low, there is an opportunity to merge with another parish. We provide guidelines on that as well, such as keeping merges to a close proximity for practicing purposes and merging parishes within high school feeder systems."

As far as goals for the future, Aiello hopes to continue growing the program to include more kids.

"Our vision is to move forward with a girls' flag football program," he said. "This is important as it relates to our purpose and mission of providing opportunities to all children."

One of the priorities is using sports to strengthen ties throughout the community. "(We want to) create a supportive environment for all participants to grow as athletes and as disciples," Aiello said.

For more information on the Columbus CYO, its flag football program or other sports, visit [ccyo.doodlio.com](http://ccyo.doodlio.com).

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