

The CATHOLIC TIMES

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**JUBILEE
OF ANNIVERSARIES,**
PAGES 10-14

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CHURCH REOPENS

A Mass to celebrate the reopening and rededication of Zanesville St. Thomas Aquinas Church after it was closed for repairs in 2020 was held on Sunday, Sept. 8, Page 3



OVERCOMING ADDICTION

The powerful stories of Charles Fowle (left) and Chris Gay, who both battled drug addiction and survived after turning to their Catholic faith, are highlighted, Pages 16-19

New diocesan Delegate for Religious begins duties

Sister Antoinette Cedrone, FMA, of the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians (Salesian Sisters) has been appointed by Bishop Earl Fernandes as his Delegate for Religious in the diocese.

She began her duties, which include assisting in the Office of Vicariate Support, on Sept. 1.

Sister Antoinette succeeds Father Stash Dailey, formerly the diocesan director of religious order priests, sisters and brothers who also served during the previous two years at the Pontifical College Josephinum as vice rector of formation.

Father Dailey became the pastor this summer at Worthington St. Michael the Archangel Church, where he previously served as a parochial vicar before becoming the administrator and then pastor at Columbus Holy Family Church for nine years.

"It is my great pleasure to welcome to the Diocese, Sister Antoinette Cedrone,



Sister Antoinette Cedrone, FMA

FMA, who will serve as the Delegate of the Bishop to Religious," Bishop Fernandes said in an announcement. "As a

Salesian Sister with many years of experience, Sister Antoinette understands the unique needs and charisms of consecrated persons.

"In her role as delegate and in dealing with both male and female religious communities, she will work closely with Father William Hahn (vicar general), who also deals with many of the issues surrounding priest personnel, and with me.

"Her presence in the office of Vicariate Support will be of tremendous assistance to (Senior Director of Vicariate Support) Wendy Piper and others in the office who are making sure that our parishes and deaneries have the resources they need for evangelization during a time of transition and growth in the Diocese. I encourage everyone in the Diocese to welcome her warmly."

Bishop Fernandes went on to thank Father Dailey for his service.

"At the same time, I want to express

my gratitude to Father Stash Dailey, who has served as Vicar for Religious, in addition to many other duties in the Diocese," Bishop Fernandes said. "His personal efforts, sacrifices and attention to relationships has brought new forms of religious, consecrated life to the Diocese of Columbus. The presence of religious women, priests and other consecrated persons helps our local church to remain diverse and to grow in its appreciation of the different charisms in the Church.

"Because of the presence of these religious, through his efforts, we are able again to have religious sisters and brothers serving as campus ministers, chaplains, and teachers in our schools. The presence of religious and missionary priests has helped some parishes remain open and others to thrive and grow. The entire Diocese owes Fr. Stash a debt of gratitude. We wish him well as he begins his pastorate at St. Michael Church in Worthington."

Diocese lists new clergy assignments

The Diocese of Columbus announced the following clergy assignments. Effective dates are listed.

Confirming the appointment from the Provincial of the Pallottine Province of Our Lady of Good Health, **Reverend Sesu Maria Crescensius Panguraj, SAC**, from Chaplain, St. Francis DeSales High School, Columbus, to Parochial Vicar, St. Paul the Apostle Church, Westerville, in residence at Holy Spirit Church, Columbus, effective July 9, 2024.

Reverend Andrew Lesko, from service outside the diocese, to formator and the Director of the Propaedeutic Stage Formation Program at the Pontifical College Josephinum, effective August 16, 2024.

Reverend Jude E. Fongouck, from service outside of the diocese to Hospital Ministry, Columbus, and service to the Cameroonian Catholic Community and to the Francophone Catholic Community, effective August 10, 2024.

Confirming the appointment by the Provincial of the Apostles of Jesus, **Reverend Gottfried Mulisa, AJ**, from service outside the diocese to Parochial Vicar, St. Pius X Church, Reynoldsburg, effective September 1, 2024.

Confirming the appointment by the Provincial of the Apostles of Jesus, **Reverend Process Milton Kiocha, AJ**, from Parochial Vicar, St. Pius X Church, Reynoldsburg, to Parochial Vicar, Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Grove City, and part-time chaplain at Bishop Ready High School, effective September 1, 2024.

Reverend Pius Ajuluchukwu, from service outside of the Diocese, to Parochial Vicar, St. Josephine Bakhita Parish, effective August 24, 2024.

Reverend Hilary Ike, Incardination, effective March 21, 2024; from Parochial Vicar, St. Elizabeth Parish, Columbus and St. Matthias Parish, Columbus, continuing at Tribunal and military chaplaincy, effective immediately.

Confirming the appointment by the Provincial of the Religious Order, **Reverend Cyprian Obioha, CFIC**, from Parochial Vicar, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church, Pickerington, and Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal Church, Columbus, to service outside the diocese, effective July 31, 2024.

Reverend P. Botachew, from service outside the diocese to Parochial Vicar,

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church, Pickerington, and Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal Church, Columbus, and Diocesan Director of Multicultural Ministry, effective September 15, 2024.

Reverend Anthony Raj Bellamkonda Irudayam, from service outside of the diocese to Parochial Vicar, Sacred Heart Church, New Philadelphia and Immaculate Conception Church, Dennison, effective September 1, 2024.

Confirming the appointment by the Prior General, St. Mary's sui iuris Monastery of the Vallombrosian Congregation of the Order of St. Benedict, **Reverend Joseph P. Thomas, OSB**, from service outside the diocese to Parochial Vicar, St. Joseph Cathedral-Holy Cross, Columbus, effective September 7, 2024.

Confirming the appointment by the Prior General, St. Mary's sui iuris Monastery of the Vallombrosian Congregation of the Order of St. Benedict, **Reverend Joby P. Kurian, OSB**, from service outside the diocese to Hospital Chaplain, Columbus, in residence at Holy Cross Church Rectory, Columbus, effective September 7, 2024.

St. Charles grad returns as priest at Newman Center

By Hannah Heil
Catholic Times Reporter

In 1990, Daniel Moloney graduated from Columbus St. Charles Preparatory School, packed his bags and headed to Yale University.

Thirty-four years later, he is back in Columbus -- this time as a priest.

Father Moloney is serving as assistant chaplain at the Columbus St. Thomas More Newman Center, located adjacent to Ohio State University.

"It's a good place to be," he said.

He was ordained a priest in the Archdiocese of Boston in 2010. Father Moloney said he wanted to be a college chaplain, and Boston had more than 60 colleges. The archdiocese seemed the right place to be incardinated as a priest.

In 2015, after serving in several parish-

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Front page photo

JUBILEE OF ANNIVERSARIES

Married couples celebrating significant anniversaries of 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, 55, 60 years and longer were recognized at a Jubilee of Anniversaries Mass on Saturday, Sept. 7 at St. Joseph Cathedral.

Photo courtesy William Keimig

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Zanesville St. Thomas Aquinas Church reopens

By Melanie Von Gunten

Through 182 years, Zanesville St. Thomas Aquinas Church has endured wind, flood and structural problems, its Gothic Revival structure symbolizing Catholicism in the heart of the city's downtown.

Parishioners celebrated that legacy as they returned to the church on Sunday, Sept. 8 for the first time in 1,656 days for a rededication Mass celebrated by Bishop Earl Fernandes and 10 priests from the Dominican Order, which served the parish from its founding in 1820 until 2017.

The church, built in 1842, had been closed for worship since Ash Wednesday, Feb. 26, 2020, because of concerns related to its roof and its foundation, which had shrunk 7 inches into the ground.

While the roof was rebuilt and pilings were installed to shore up the foundation, parishioners attended Mass in the activity center at the parish school across the street. Parish members became adept at putting everything away to convert the worship space back into the activity center for use by the students of the school and for other parish activities.

It was not the first time the congregation had faced difficulties in its long history. A tornado in June 1912 sent the steeple crashing down through the roof of the church, killing three people and injuring 28. More damage occurred the following year when the Muskingum River flooded downtown Zanesville, covering the church with 5 feet of water.

The Dominicans announced on Feb. 19, 2017, that because of a restructuring of the order, they were leaving the parish. Two months later, Father Jan C.P. Sullivan became the first priest of the Diocese of Columbus to serve as its pastor. He led the rebuilding effort until becoming rector of Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral in July 2023. His successor at both St. Thomas Aquinas and Zanesville St. Nicholas Church is Father David J. Young.

When the Dominicans left, a young woman of the parish wrote, "My heart is very heavy right now. But I also know, we've been here 197 years. We have the spirit of the Irish immigrants who started this parish. And, to all my friends sad, angry, and afraid, we're not going anywhere. This is an unexpected change, yes. But we will remain. St. Thomas remains home and will remain. I'm as sure of it as I am anything I hold in my heart."

On July 20, 2020, former Columbus Bishop Robert Brennan approved Phase 1 of the church rebuilding plan. Bishop Fernandes, his successor, brought hope and comfort to the parish when he celebrated Mass in the activity center on Aug. 7, 2022 and when he returned for Mass and a Eucharistic procession through the streets of Zanesville on June 7, 2023.



Bishop Earl Fernandes, celebrants and servers process into Zanesville St. Thomas Aquinas Church for the start of rededication Mass on Sept. 8. Photos courtesy Melanie von Gunten



Bishop Earl Fernandes (left) performs the consecration of the altar at St. Thomas Aquinas Church with Deacon Sam Severance (center) and Father Paul Keller, OP standing by.

Two weeks before his second visit, the diocese announced that as part of its Real Presence, Real Future reorganization plan, there would be one Catholic parish in Zanesville, consisting of both St. Thomas Aquinas and St. Nicholas churches, with one pastor and one school system.

Bishop Fernandes said that when he first saw the church's windows, which were ordered from Belgium after the flood but didn't arrive until the end of World War I, he knew the church structure had to be saved.

"I remember visiting the church for the beautiful windows, and I thought, 'I can't close this church!'" Bishop Fernandes said. "I also saw the love and devotion of Father Sullivan and the people here during the Eucharistic procession."

Bishop Fernandes praised the faith and dedication of parish members, who communicated with him through various means.

"I knew the church had to remain, but I also needed Father Sullivan as Rector of the Cathedral. I took one of our best priests, Father David Young, who was pastor of one of our largest parishes and schools, and assigned him to Zanesville to restore this church, and to bring these



The stained glass window behind the altar and other windows at St. Thomas Aquinas came from Belgium after the church was damaged by a flood in 1913.



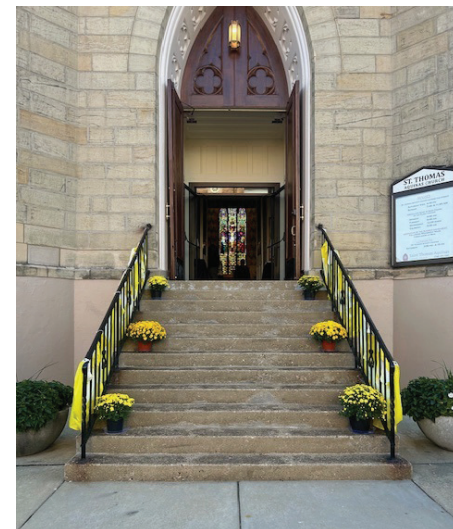
Bishop Earl Fernandes expresses during his homily his appreciation for the support of St. Thomas Aquinas parishioners.

two parishes together," he said. "With the help of (architect) William Heyer, Todd Brausch, Mike Morris and so many others, they beautifully restored this church. The several hundred letters from parishioners didn't hurt the cause either!"

More than 500 people attended the rededication Mass at 11 a.m. on Sept. 8, filling the church soon after the doors were opened at 9:30 and overflowing into the activity center, where the Mass was live-streamed. During the Mass, a prayer of dedication was recited, the altar was anointed and incensed and an improved lighting system was unveiled. Special music by the parish choir and string quartet enhanced the liturgy.

Bishop Fernandes and Father Young both referred to the parish as a home and a family.

"Just as the Lord came to visit Zachaeus in his house and brought salvation there, so too is this church meant to be a place of encounter – a home for all peoples – to encounter the Lord, to listen to Him and to pray to Him, to receive His mercy and His very life," Bishop Fernandes said. "I certainly hope that all people feel welcome. This is the Lord's house, a place where God comes to dwell



St. Thomas Aquinas Church reopened for the first time since 2020 after it was closed because of structural concerns related to the roof and foundation.



Concelebrants gather around the altar with Bishop Earl Fernandes during the rededication Mass attended by more than 500 people.

with His people, but it is also the house of the People of God, where all should feel welcome, rich and poor, saint and sinner. We are children, gathered in the Father's house."

Parishioners greeted one another with warm embraces and many wept with joy for being back in their beloved church home once again. After the two Mass, a luncheon was provided by the Russo family.

Parishioners are united as a community of faith, hope, and love and plan to move forward with joy and excitement for the next chapter of their parish history. They look forward to continuing to share the Catholic faith and continuing the parish's community outreach.

With grateful hearts, members thank Almighty God; our Blessed Mother; Bishops Fernandes and Brennan; Father Sullivan; Father Young; Father Stephen Ondrey, the parish's parochial vicar; Morris, parish finance and facilities director; and all who have contributed to the next chapter in the history of St. Thomas Aquinas Church.

Melanie A. Von Gunten is a parishioner at Zanesville St. Thomas Aquinas Church.

Syro-Malabar Catholics honor Blessed Mother's birth

The Syro-Malabar Catholic community in the diocese gathered for its annual celebration in honor of the feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary on Sunday, Sept. 1 at Columbus Sacred Heart Church.

The Church's liturgical calendar observes the birth of the Blessed Mother on Sept. 8, but because of a scheduling conflict the gathering was moved a week earlier.

The Syro-Malabar community has existed in the diocese for 20 years but has grown over the past five years. The number of families totaled 40 before the COVID-19 pandemic, dropped to 36 in the aftermath and now stands at 50.

Most of the families in attendance were from India or descended from the country.

The Syro-Malabar Church is an Eastern Catholic Church with an estimated 4.5 million members worldwide who are in full communion with the Roman Catholic Church and the Roman Pontiff. Its origin is traced to St. Thomas the Apostle, who came to India according to historical tradition and was martyred there.

Celebrating the Mass was Father Niby Kannai, the director of the Syro-Malabar mission. He is the pastor at St. Edward Catholic Church in Cynthiana, Kentucky, and travels to Columbus on Sundays to offer the Mass at Sacred Heart Church.

After the Mass, a statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary was venerated. Presentations followed for members of the community, including a musical skit performed by children as part of its cultural program.

Bishop Earl Fernandes joined the festivities after Mass and participated in a ceremony of the Lighting of the Lamp, which is considered a symbol of puri-

ty and enlightenment. Father Kannai placed a Ponnadai, a shawl honoring a dignitary that is a tradition in the southern part of India, on the shoulders of the bishop.

In an address to the assembled Syro-Malabar Catholics, Bishop Fernandes encouraged them to offer their gifts and talents to the local church to build up God's kingdom, possibly as a catechist, a priest or sister, helping the poor or simply by praying and adoring the Lord in the Blessed Sacrament.

"Your presence here in the Diocese of Columbus is a sign that we are one," the bishop said. "There is a unity in the Church, even in the diversity in our forms of worship. The cause and the effect of our unity is the Eucharist. Yet it is a true worship of God. And we are joined in communion, together in the worship of God, and just as we are joined together in the worship of God, we are joined together in mission. ...

"My brothers and sisters, you may be far from India, far from your homes, but you are close in the heart of Jesus, close in the Most Blessed Sacrament of the altar. ... He is with you always, so you need not fear 'Can I carry out this mission?' Because, if Christ is with us, we cannot fail in our mission.

"St. John Paul II was a great missionary and his opening words to the whole world were, 'Do not be afraid. Open wide the doors of Christ. Open wide the doors of your hearts to Christ.'

"And so that is my message to each and every one of you this evening. We are happy to have you in the Diocese of Columbus. We certainly open wide the doors of our local church to you. Now we ask that you open wide your hearts to Christ and to all those who are in need that they may know the love of God that comes to us in His Only Begotten Son."



Parishioners pray during a Syro-Malabar Catholic Mass on Sunday, Sept. 1 at Columbus Sacred Heart Church.
CT photos by Ken Snow



Members of the Syro-Malabar community watch musical skits performed by children after Mass at Sacred Heart Church.



Father Niby Kannai places a Ponnadai "Precious Golden Cloth" on the shoulders of Bishop Earl Fernandes, The Ponnadai is adorned around the shoulders of a dignitary who is being honored.



Bishop Earl Fernandes participates in the Lighting of the Lamp (candles) The lamp is a symbol of purity and enlightenment. The flame represents purity and the dispelling of ignorance.



Veneration of a statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary follows the Syro-Malabar Mass that honored the birth of the Blessed Mother.

Cardinal, bishop participate in education panel

By Hannah Heil
Catholic Times Reporter

Cardinal Christophe Pierre, the pope's apostolic nuncio to the United States, and Bishop Earl Fernandes were part of a panel discussion on education as the pathway of freedom held at Columbus St. Charles Preparatory School on Sept. 11.

The panel, which also included Dr. William Kuehnle, the associate director for social concerns at the Catholic Conference of Ohio; Dr. Silvia Guslandi, visiting assistant professor at Kenyon College; and Ryan Michelle Pettit, principal at Cristo Rey Columbus High School, discussed the book "The Risk of Education: Discovering Our Ultimate Destiny" by Servant of God Luigi Giussani.

The event was sponsored by Communion and Liberation, a lay ecclesial movement in the Church that has a branch in Columbus.

Communion and Liberation is so named because, its members profess, only the Christian event lived in communion with one another can bring about the liberation of the human person. Then-Father Giussani founded the movement in Milan in the 1960s with a group of high school students.

"After his ordination, he began teaching at the Venegono seminary with a bright academic career ahead of him, that is, until a chance meeting with a group of young people in a train car, traveling from Milan to the seaside town of Rimini," Dr. Holly Peterson, the assistant superintendent for academics in the Office of Catholic Schools, said in her opening remarks.



A panel of speakers that includes Cardinal Christophe Pierre (center), the Vatican representative to the United States, participate in a discussion on education at St. Charles Preparatory School.

"After spending hours discussing life with those teens and with many others later, he understood that there was an absolute indifference toward faith, the Church and Christ particularly among the young, and that, even if Jesus rose from the dead, He had no influence upon their lives. ... Giussani's response to these promptings was to leave a promising career in academia to teach theology in a public school."

At Berchet, a high school in Milan, Giussani taught his students a method to judge the experiences of everyday life and discover how faith was relevant to the most fundamental needs of their hearts.

"He was keenly aware that he wasn't there to tell students how or what to think, nor to think as he did," Peterson said. "Instead, he wanted to teach them a method with which to judge everything

they would encounter in life, a method that was 2,000 years old."

Under Giussani's leadership, a movement known as Student Youth was born. Much like Communion and Liberation today, the movement was a battle against indifference and the marginalization of Christians and Christianity in modern society through total involvement in the Christian cause regardless of class or profession, and a community lifestyle.

The panelists reflected on Giussani's "The Risk of Education," focusing on the

Servant of God's idea of education as the pathway of freedom and the relationship between educator and student.

Cardinal Pierre said it is the educator's task to develop "what is already there." He said the educator must accompany the disciple in his discoveries, paying primary attention to the person.

He also highlighted Giussani's idea of education as an "introduction into total reality."

Giussani said, "A Christianity reduced to words alone, a Christianity which is not reflected and lived as an ontological reality, touching our profound nature, is only a superficial Christianity."

Cardinal Pierre described education as leading an individual along the path to discovery of reality.

He noted that, in society today, many want to transform ideologies and impose their own truth. He pointed out that Jesus introduced people to a path of truth and what it means to be truly human.

Educators must imitate Christ in helping students to become truly human. Teachers, professors, parents and priests must discover what is true education, he said.

"They have to become, for the younger generation, an 'authority' to present

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William Kuehnle of the Catholic Conference of Ohio holds the book being discussed.



Panel member Ryan Michelle Pettit is the principal at Cristo Rey Columbus High School.



Bishop Earl Fernandes listens to Dr. Silvia Guslandi, a visiting assistant professor at Kenyon College.



Bishop Earl Fernandes offers some remarks while Cardinal Christophe Pierre listens.

CT photos by Ken Snow



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Cradling Christianity speakers stress peace, support for Holy Land

The annual Cradling Christianity Mass and dinner to benefit the Franciscan Foundation for the Holy Land was held Thursday, Sept. 12 at Columbus Our Lady of Victory Church with Cardinal Christophe Pierre as the featured speaker.

Mass was celebrated before the dinner by Cardinal Pierre, the Vatican's ambassador to the United States; Bishop Earl Fernandes; Father Jacques Kik, OAM, pastor at Our Lady of Victory and Father John Puodziunas, OFM, president of the Franciscan Foundation for the Holy Land, with assistance from Deacon Rob Joseph.

More than 185 people attended the dinner, which was sponsored by Cradling Christianity. The local non-profit group was founded in 2006 in Columbus to provide opportunities and educational assistance for young people who live in the Holy Land.

The Franciscan Foundation for the Holy Land, which was established in 1994, has raised more than \$50 million since its inception for scholarships that help young people obtain diplomas and degrees, which increases the odds of them staying in the Holy Land rather than seeking job opportunities elsewhere.

"What we do through the Foundation is to provide housing for Christians to re-



A crowd of more than 185 guests enjoy dinner at the Cradling Christianity event on Sept. 12 at Columbus Our Lady of Victory Church.

main there in an affordable way," Father Puodziunas said. "What we do is support grade schools and middle schools and what we would call high schools to educate Christians so that they could stay there and to form alliances with young people that will change the world and, in that sense, change our world. ...

"It is imperative that we continue our work to maintain the Christian presence in the Holy Land, and imperative is that we continue to educate."

Father Puodziunas succeeded Father Peter Vasko, OFM, the president of the Franciscan Foundation for the Holy Land for 30 years and a longtime supporter of Cradling Christianity.

Father Puodziunas stressed the importance of maintaining Christian in-



Cardinal Christophe Pierre, the Vatican representative to the United States, delivers the keynote address for Cradling Christianity.

fluence in the Holy Land, particularly in recent times with the violence in the region.

"I'd like you to think about places like Nazareth, Bethlehem, Sea of Galilee, Mount Tabor and the Mount of the Beatitudes," he said. "Most of us here, if not all of us, know of the stories related to these places. It's important to our faith. ... It is for a home for Christians. That is why a Christian presence is so important."

"We journey there as pilgrims, but there are people who need to live there, to maintain the presence of the holiest places of our faith. These are difficult times. Many Christians have departed in fear. Many have departed in search of a better life. Some have departed simply to



Father John Puodziunas, OFM, the new director of the Franciscan Foundation for the Holy Land, speaks to the gathering.

get educated, to be safe."

He reminded the guests that the Order of Friars Minor (Franciscans) have preserved the Christian presence in the Holy Land for 800 years and have the same mission as the Franciscan Foundation.

Cardinal Pierre addressed the violence in the Holy Land between the Israelis and Palestinians, pointing to St. Francis of Assisi, St. Teresa of Calcutta and the Good Samaritan as models of peace and fraternity.

"When it comes to people at war, we Christians are the ones who must introduce a new element," the cardinal said. "This is one of the reasons that the pres-

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Help for scrupulosity?

Dear Father,

I struggle with scrupulosity. Frequently, it makes going to confession very painful. Do you have any advice for this situation?

-Caroline

Dear Caroline,

I'm sorry that you are carrying this cross of scrupulosity. Depending on the form that your scrupulosity takes, it could have both spiritual and psychological roots. Sometimes the latter is best treated by seeing a professional for counseling. I will not speak about obsessive-compulsive disorders here.

You didn't mention whether your scrupulosity is affecting other areas of your life or whether it is mostly a matter of affecting your thoughts about sin and confession and God's mercy. Since I'm a priest and not a psychologist, let me speak about scrupulosity as a spiritual malady.

Typically, this malady occurs when a person is examining his/her conscience in preparation for the Sacrament of Confession. On one hand, we do need to make a very good examination of conscience to investigate where we offended God (and our neighbor) by thoughts, words and actions that are morally deficient, either by commission or omission. For instance, I may have offended God by being rude to another person while driving my car. Or I may have sinned by failing to do something, such as failing to help a person who is in need of my help.

On the other hand, some people over-examine their consciences when preparing for Confession. Most people do not have this difficulty. Some people have the opposite problem of not adequately preparing for Con-

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.



fession. Neither over-examination nor laxity in preparing for Confession is healthy.

The spiritual malady of scrupulosity gets its name from the Latin word *scrupus*, which refers to a sharp stone, and figuratively to anxiety. We've all stepped on sharp stones, but having even the tiniest of pebbles in our shoes is more than irritating; it can be downright painful, especially when we can't get the pebble out of our shoe.

Thus, a scrupulous soul experiences the mental pain of anxiety over usually-small things. I've never heard someone confess being scrupulous about whether he or she murdered someone. When it comes to mortal sins, such as murder, it's not difficult to figure out whether we've done something bad or not.

Scrupulosity is marked by a sense of fear, dread, extreme worry or anxiety that some sin or group of sins has not been forgiven by God in the sacrament of penance on account of some defect in the sacramental confession on the part of the penitent or the priest.

Other instances include anxiety about evil thoughts or transgressions against charity, or even errors in prayers, for example, whether I've prayed my rosary absolutely accurately. At times, countless hours can be eaten up by the preoccupation with these worries. Even if the scrupulous person arrives at some certain decision about a moral matter, he or she will often begin a

re-examination of the matter for fear of having erred or to confirm the conclusion.

Sometimes, scrupulous persons will travel from confessor to confessor in search of relief, but usually end with greater confusion and consternation, feeling greatly misunderstood.

The most important thing you can do with scrupulosity is to obey your priest/confessor. Refuse to consider, even in the smallest way, any sin that has been confessed in the sacrament of penance once you leave the confessional. I read once that St. Ignatius of Loyola heard from a penitent that he wished his priest would command him, as a cure, to never bring up anything from the past.

St. Joseph Cafasso, a 19th century priest who taught moral theology and whom many sought for confession on account of his gentleness and understanding, went so far as to forbid true sufferers of scrupulosity to omit the daily examination of conscience we should all make at the end of the day. He was very demanding of utter obedience of the scrupulous soul in order to bring about trust in God's mercy.

Furthermore, venial sins (scrupulous persons tend to think that every sin is a mortal sin leading to damnation) are forgiven by small acts of love, such as kissing a crucifix, telling God that we love Him, doing a good deed for someone.

Probably the worst aspect of scrupulosity is the lack of trust in the priest's counsel. But obedient trust is the only way out from this maze that leads nowhere.

Finally, read Father Thomas M. Santa's, CSsR, *Understanding Scrupulosity: Helpful Answers for Those Who Experience Nagging Questions and Doubts*.

God's mercy is greater than all the world's history of all sins ever committed. Trust His mercy!

Walking this spiritual journey with others

One of the wonderful gifts of exercising with others is that we can support each other on our journey of health and wellness. While I've retired from teaching strength classes, I am blessed to have a workout partner who is also a friend on mission for Jesus. Having a desire to be holy and healthy helps us to persevere and to stay accountable on this journey together.

In our spiritual lives, we rely on each other and walk with others who are also seeking to grow in holiness. I've been blessed to be part of several communities of Catholics and I have grown so much by being on mission with others.

For example, the SoulCore leaders, of which I'm blessed to be part of for many years, are doing an eight-week study with prayer and scripture to seek to improve our physical and spiritual health. We gather on Zoom weekly to learn and share how the lessons are impacting us and we pray for and encourage one another.

From Hebrews 10 24-25, "We must consider how to rouse one another to love and good works. We should not stay away from our assembly, as is the custom of

HOLY AND HEALTHY | Lori Crock

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some, but encourage one another ..."

We know as Catholics that we are called to evangelize and a big part of that is encouraging those who God places in our lives. Inviting others to serve with us in ministry, to go to Mass, attend Adoration, join Bible studies, special events and pilgrimages can be a powerful time of growing closer to our Lord and our neighbor.

St. Theresa of Avila said, "What a great favor God does when He places us in the company of good people."

In my daily prayer time, I write 10 "things" I'm grateful for and inevitably there is so much gratitude for family and friends who I had the joy of spending time with recently.

At the retirement center where I take communion, it is beautiful to watch the friendships develop and grow

around being Catholic or Christian. (We have several wonderful Protestants who come to the Catholic communion service.) Faith is a beautiful basis for lasting and loving friendship.

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

The camaraderie we have as Catholics is beautiful, and as we enter the third year of the Eucharistic Revival, we are called to go out and invite others to get to know Jesus. I've been asking in prayer for the Lord to show me who and where He wants me to go. The Lord has already highlighted a friend I don't see often enough and I've invited her to do a book study with me. I'm looking forward to reconnecting with her and to see how Jesus will work through our renewed friendship.

St. Maximilian Kolbe said, "God sends us friends to be our firm support in the whirlpool of struggle. In the company of friends, we will find strength to attain our sublime ideal." Let us give thanks for the joy that our brothers and sisters in Christ bring us on this journey to know, love and serve Jesus more each day.

HOLY LAND, continued from Page 6

ence of Christians in the Holy Land is so important."

He affirmed that spiritual and material contributions, like those offered by Cradling Christianity, are "a work of peace."

"It has real effects in the hearts and minds of those who are enduring a horrific war," Cardinal Pierre said. "Together, with the whole Church, the charity of your

prayers and gifts is a way of saying 'no' to war and to the culture of violence while saying 'yes' to social friendship and fraternity."

It is important, the cardinal noted, for Catholics and Christians to be peacemakers. He cited examples the papal teachings of popes from World War II until the present day that addressed calls for peace and denun-

ciation of war.

"Each of us can be open to receiving others," Cardinal Pierre said. "Each of us can give to the other our time and our material resources. But even more importantly, we can give to others the gift of ourselves. And in this way, we can be a part of Christ's mission of fraternity and peace."

Classical or Catholic? A sacramental approach to education

Classical education has exploded in the last 10 years, and for good reason. Education has descended into a utilitarian pursuit, though an ineffective one at that. By focusing primarily on career readiness, we have sunk to new lows with graduates unable to speak convincingly about the history and institutions of our nation, not having read the greats or unable to comprehend them, and even without much readiness for a career. It's no wonder that classical education has grown by offering a deeper formation of the mind through teaching "the best that has been thought and known."

Some push back, contending that focusing on "the best" puts classical schools in an elitist category. Parents worry their children will be left behind by reading Homer, unable to compete against students saturated in the latest technological fads. Others worry that reading the Great Books pushes an outdated narrative of one particular culture that marginalizes minority groups. Catholics watching this latest battle within a larger educational war might wonder what to do.

Looking to our own tradition can address many of these tensions, overcoming the dualism of the classical and progressive approaches, as I lay out in my new book, *Words Made Flesh: The Sacramental Mission of Catholic Education* (Catholic Education Press, 2024). Offering a sacramental approach to education, the book seeks to reconnect things that are often separated. Career preparation and intellectual formation can be brought together as the Benedictine integration of prayer and work demonstrates. The book takes seriously the Church's tradition of beauty, community and prayer, connecting them to a robust formation in the liberal arts tradition. The Catholic tradition is one of unity, inspiring us to connect body and mind, ideas and

THE CATHOLIC CULTURALIST

Dr. R. Jared Staudt

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experience, reason and imagination, prayer and practice, school and family, past and future.

A sacramental approach to education proposes growing in literacy of the great heritage we have all received as Catholics. It even proposes lists for reading and experiencing art to become more familiar with our own traditions. We need wisdom to address the key problems of our times, such as artificial intelligence, transhumanism and the ongoing breakdown of the family. Turning to the past does not prevent us from looking forward and shaping education in a way suited to the needs of our day. We have such a rich treasury of thought, artistic masterpieces, social expressions and holiness in the witness of the saints. The heritage of the Catholic tradition equips us to meet the world's challenges better than any other group. Catholic education should reinforce our children's identity as made in the image of God and called into a great work of renewing civilization, drawing from the past and imaginatively giving it new life today.

It's time to rediscover our heritage, enabling Christian culture, much more than the classics, to shape our educational approach. I'm happy, therefore, to recommend another recent resource on our Christian heritage to schools, edited by my friend Dr. Joseph Stuart, a professor of history at the University of Mary. He has produced a rich and thorough library resource called *The Milestones of Christianity* (Schlager Group, 2024).

Choking on rights talk

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.



civic sacrament, before which all must bow in worship. There is something quite sick about all this. And mutterings about the "lesser of evils" are of little consolation when what is being embraced as a "right" by the putatively lesser miscreant is, in truth, the deliberate destruction of an innocent human life – which is, this side of blasphemy, about as evil as evil gets.

Politics is typically downstream from culture, and if our politics have become warped to the point where the abortion license is being sacramentalized, then there is something gravely wrong with our public moral culture. How, then, do we rebuild a public space where truth-telling prevails over euphemism, so that serious debate replaces volleys of epithets in which each cannonading side accuses the other of violating its "rights"?

One possible path forward lies in a recovery of the classic Catholic notion that "rights" are always tied to responsibilities. In that still-relevant work of Catholic political theory, *We Hold These Truths: Catholic Reflections on the American Proposition*, John Courtney Murray, SJ, explained the linkage in these terms, while exploring the deeper meaning of the rights of free speech and freedom of the press:

"... these institutions do not rest on the thin theory proper to 19th-century individualistic rationalism, that

It's a compelling collection that contains not only gems of the Catholic intellectual tradition but also testimony of "lived experience on the ground," as he describes it in a recent interview. Stuart points out that the "formation of Christian culture" stretches "around the world primarily as a grassroots movement in which local inculturation is continually happening." The Catholic story stretches across the globe, uniting students from across cultures in a common family.

Rather than float along with current trends, we can begin to build Christian culture in our communities by living the faith robustly. This requires immersion in prayer and taking on today's problems through the lens of faith. Our graduates should be poised for leadership in the world precisely because we don't just do what everyone else does. We can give our students so much more: a complete education that truly forms the whole person – one that doesn't sacrifice the deepest formation in favor of worldly success – and unites the knowledge of faith in reason through their common source in the word. He is the source of all truth, the one who created the world, redeemed us from sin and continues to enliven us through the Blessed Sacrament. He is the living center of a sacramental approach.

Education is in crisis, and we must return to the centrality of teaching in the Great Commission given to us by Jesus, making disciples and teaching them to observe all that he commanded so that we can be happy with him forever. We see the damaging effects of educating only certain aspects of the person and neglecting others – the most important aspects of our lives, in fact. Only Catholic education can truly educate the human person fully in a way that is ordered toward our true end and purpose.

In her prescient book, *Rights Talk: The Impoverishment of Political Discourse*, Mary Ann Glendon of the Harvard Law School warned her fellow Americans in 1993 that our public life was being degraded by the promiscuous use of the language of "rights" as a rhetorical intensifier in campaigns to promote this, that, or the other thing: things that the Founders and Framers would never have imagined to be "rights." "Rights talk," Professor Glendon cautioned, sets the individual against the community, as it privileges personal autonomy – "I did it my way" – over the common good. And that, she concluded, was going to be very bad for the American experiment in ordered liberty over the long haul.

The long haul has now arrived. And the results are every bit as bad as Professor Glendon predicted.

Nowhere has this descent into verbal incontinence created as malodorous a public stench as in the profligate use of the self-contradictory phrase "reproductive rights." What can that term possibly mean if we're not in Alice's Wonderland? "Reproductive rights" is a euphemism for abortion. Elective abortion is the willful destruction of a human being at an early stage of his or her development. How can the destruction of that human being – whose biological humanity is affirmed in high school textbooks – be a matter of exercising a reproductive right when the process in question is intended to end reproduction by expulsion from the womb or fetal dismemberment?

Yet this blatantly deceptive – in fact, absurd – term, "reproductive rights," was recently embraced by the Republican Party's presidential candidate shortly after the Democratic National Convention celebrated abortion as if it were a civic sacrament – indeed, the

a man has a right to say what he thinks merely because he thinks it. ... The proper premise of these freedoms lay in the fact that they were social necessities ... essential to the conduct of free, representative and responsible government. People who are called to obey have the right first to be heard. People who are to bear burdens and make sacrifices have the right first to pronounce on the purposes which their sacrifices serve. People who are summoned to contribute to the common good have the right to pass their own judgment on the question, whether the good proposed be truly good, the people's good, the common good."

When "rights" are severed from responsibilities, the public square becomes a gladiatorial pit in which everyone's rights-claims are in a constant, often brutal, battle for survival against everyone else's. That is not democratic deliberation. It is intellectual and moral chaos. And chaos can lead to freedom's self-destruction. Thus, Murray put the danger to an America choking on contending rights-claims in these elegantly dramatic terms: perhaps, one day, "the noble, many-storied mansion of democracy (could) be dismantled, leveled to the dimensions of a flat majoritarianism, which is no mansion but a barn, perhaps even a tool shed, in which the weapons of tyranny may be forged."

Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger said much the same thing when he raised the alarm about an encroaching "dictatorship of relativism" on the day before his election as Pope Benedict XVI. We are not quite there yet. But the persistent, profligate abuse of language and reason displayed in terms like "reproductive rights" is hastening the day of reckoning.

A life fully alive in Christ? The secret is in the striving

Who here hasn't walked a season in survival mode? A season where the days are long, our hearts are heavy and our souls weary. A season where life doesn't stop for our grieving and our worry. Yet who among us does not desire a life living fully in our identity as a child of the King? It is surely the deepest longing of our heart and yet the world we live in seems to constantly be calling us away from that place of peace.

I have lived many years in a place of survival, and I felt constantly as if I was always waiting for that glimpse of things getting better, for the Lord to speak, or show me that I am not alone. As I sat in prayer recently it came to me that I have been missing the _____ while looking for the _____.

What's interesting for me is that in those times of true strife and struggle, what felt like just breath by breath survival is where I felt closest to the Lord.

Our survival often necessitates an utter reliance on God. The paradox of being a Christian is that we crave that survival type of reliance. Though the desert is hot and stifling, we want to go back! In our survival, we seek Him, and His presence is like a golden cord from heaven that constantly keeps us connected to the Lord.

I imagine the Lord constantly by my side aware of every moment of my days. It is in this recognition that He and I have been able to grow our relationship to a point where I find myself striving, no longer just surviving.

Striving for what, for whom? I am striving for a relationship with the Lord. I realize that this feeling of thriving that I am seeking is not found in a singular

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.



moment but in a constant healthy relationship. I am blessed to have a beautiful marriage, but that relationship has taken effort, vulnerability, humility and time. Even in survival mode, this relationship thrives. Why?

I go back to connection with the Lord. It is the model for my marriage. I simply cannot strive without Him. For me, there is an offering in the striving.

We have a morning offering as part of our Catholic faith ... "Oh my God, I offer you every thought, word and action of today and I beseech thee to grant me thy grace that I may not offend thee but may faithfully serve thee in all things. Amen."

Going from survival to being fully alive is an offering. It's a surrender. The Olympics have just passed and I think of all the planning and training these athletes did to prepare. I'd love to have control of the planning in my life. But life has a way of shaking and making my beautifully organized planner look like an air traffic control plan gone astray. What is God's plan in all this? I have to ask Him. I must surrender. Striving has to involve surrender. It has to involve trust and it has to be simply given.

I feel like striving should be the next level or stage on our way to thriving. However, because striving is an

offering, it weaves its way through each season making it a fundamental goal of the Christian life.

But some of us may sit here and think: How on Earth can I do that when some seasons look like I can't even get out of bed?

I think of a seed hidden under the soil lying dormant. I have sunflowers planted in my garden and inevitably there are a couple seeds that wait till every other plant has bloomed and then they shoot up. It is a good reminder that even though that seed was buried, and every other seed had bloomed and was swaying in the sunshine, God was still working on that seed – and like the plan He had for that seed, He has a plan for all of us.

In Jeremiah 29:11, we read: For I know the plans I have for you, "declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

So, with our striving, we can make that offering, St. Therese style; our own little way, all for you Jesus, one breath in and one breath out.

My favorite scripture has become somewhat of an anthem for me. It is from Habakkuk 3:17-18. It says: Though the fig tree does not bud and there are no grapes on the vines, though the olive crop fails and the fields produce no food, though there are no sheep in the pen and no cattle in the stalls, yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will be joyful in God my Savior. This is what faith looks like; to try to cling to His peace and continue striving in the midst of surviving. We do this while on our journey that is filled with both suffering, grace and joy.

Accepting life's ups and downs

One quality that I like about myself is my comfort with knowing that there are lots of things that I don't know. I mean I know lots of stuff (I do daily crosswords – in ink), but there is a universe of stuff I don't know. I don't mind that I don't know.

There will always be things that don't make sense to me; like why bad things happen to good people – it's one of life's big questions. It's not just that I am at peace with the fact that I don't have answers to life's big questions. I love that I don't have answers. Not only does it take gobs of pressure off my shoulder, not knowing is akin to wonder and awe. Much of my faith beliefs fall into the category of wonder and awe. I can't explain the virgin birth and Trinity, for instance, and I don't feel that I need to either.

Faith is sort of a mystical experience that is unlike anything else we can encounter. If I am truly seeking to live a Gospel life, it includes a realization of my own nothingness in contrast to God's immensity.

I'm a spiritual junkie. It's what keeps me sticking around organized religion at large, and Catholicism in particular. Despite all my gripes and my healthy skepticism, Catholic works. The sacraments, the music, the sacred writings, the smells and bells (as some say) are fertile ground for me.

One of my favorite scripture verses is Job 1:21: "The Lord giveth, and the Lord taketh away." On the face of it, these words seem to be trying to provide an explanation for Job's troubles. The Lord bestowed great blessing on Job, and then took it all away.

Instead of interpreting verse 1:21 as "God has a plan," I hear, "Good stuff happens. Bad stuff happens. That's life."

There's an old Chinese parable about a farmer and his fate that our dad loved to tell. In the story, the horse the farmer relies on to plow his fields runs away, and the man's friends comment on the farmer's bad fortune. Unbothered, the farmer replies, "Bad luck, good

FAITH IN ACTION | Erin Cordle

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luck, who knows?" When the horse returns with two wild horses, and the friends exclaim at the farmer's good luck, the farmer once again replies, "Bad luck, good luck, who knows?" The cycle repeats throughout the tale: The farmer's friends are quick to tout the farmer's life as good fortune until something negative occurs, and they reverse their judgment. Throughout, the farmer remains constant: "Good luck, bad luck, who knows?"

The Lord giveth, the Lord taketh away. Who knows?

Job 1:21 puts me in the mindset embodied by this farmer and helps me accept that easy and hard, exciting and boring, smooth and jarring, planned and unplanned are all parts of the human experience. It pertains to the day-to-day, hour-to-hour happenings that make up the bulk of our years.

It's easy to take setbacks and inconveniences personally, to feel indignant when the struggles of life outweigh the delights. But hardship isn't personal, and mistaking it as so is a sure path to unhappy – not a place I like visiting. Good things just happen. Bad things just happen. However, the sun still shines and my puppy jumping up

on my lap still delights.

This understanding helps me stay unbothered by all the inconveniences of life as it provides me with a grounded way of looking at the world without bitterness. When things are easy, we can be grateful, and when they aren't, we can know that nothing lasts forever.

For me to feel a connection with the deeper reality that is both beyond and within me, I need this framework that emphasizes that life contains both good and bad, that supports acceptance and gratitude in all the things, and that embraces the here and now.

For decades, I have relied on the phrase: keep it in perspective. I need to save my energy for the "big" things that come my way. I am remembered that a lump in my oatmeal and a lump in my throat and a lump in my breast are NOT the same. Good things just happen. Bad things just happen.

With God's help, we can accept all our joys and the challenges with grace.

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Robert and Glenda Neely St. Matthew, Gahanna
Frederic and Susan Smith St. Brigid of Kildare, Dublin



Jane and Bernard Paumier are joined by their oldest son, Daniel (left), for the Jubilee of Anniversaries Mass on Saturday, Sept. 7 at St. Joseph Cathedral. The Paumiers are celebrating their 75th anniversary in 2024.
CT photos by Ken Snow



Jubilee of Anniversaries honorees and their families fill St. Joseph Cathedral for a Sept. 7 Mass celebrated by Bishop Earl Fernandes acknowledging couples observing a significant marriage milestone this year.

Jubilarians include couple married 75 years

In an age when Americans are waiting until they're older to get married, choosing not to marry at all or divorcing at alarming rates, Bernard and Jane Paumier defy all of those trends.

The Paumiers, who attended the Jubilee of Anniversaries Mass on Saturday, Sept. 7 at Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral, reached a rare milestone earlier this year when they celebrated their 75th wedding anniversary.

They were one of 212 couples representing 58 parishes recognized this year at the annual Mass, celebrated this year by Bishop Earl Fernandes, honoring marriages of 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, 55 and 60 years or longer in the diocese.

Seventy-five years of marriage represents three quarters of a century and it is indeed a rarity to be together that long. Population experts estimate that there are only about 1,000 couples in America married 75 years or longer.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, only one-tenth of 1 percent of marriages reach 70 years. Two other Jubilarian couples, Richard and Kathleen Baumann of Columbus Our Lady of Victory Church, and James and Rita Marsinek of Westerville St. Paul the Apostle Church, were honored for 71 and 70 years of marriage, respectively.

There were 51 registered couples celebrating 60 or more years of marriage, 16

couples recognized for their 55th anniversary and 46 who have been married 50 years.

The Paumiers, who were profiled in a 2021 article in *The Catholic Times*, were sitting near the front of the Cathedral during the Jubilee Mass with their oldest son, Daniel. They were one of a number of couples who joined Bishop Fernandes for a photo after the Mass.

Asked how the presence of Christ and the Blessed Virgin Mary have contributed to their marriage and family all these years, Mr. Paumier, 96, known as Bernie, responded, "Well, it's been with us for 75 years, so we've never turned Him down. And any time we really had problems we went to Him.

"We lost an infant son while I was stationed overseas (in the military) — over a thousand miles from home at the time and I wasn't able to return. So my wife had to take care of everything without the help of family. It was very traumatic. But because she turned to Jesus and His Blessed Mother, she was able to make it through this difficult time without me there."

The Paumiers, originally from the Canton area, met in New Mexico while he served in the Air Force and she was employed as a nurse. The couple married in 1949 and had six children (three are still living).



Bishop Earl Fernandes offers a special blessing for the couples being recognized for their dedication to the Sacrament of Matrimony near the end of a Sept. 7 Mass at St. Joseph Cathedral.

They moved to the Columbus area in 1959 when he was transferred to Lockbourne (now Rickenbacker) Air Force Base. In 1962, they bought a farm near Baltimore in northern Fairfield County and have lived there ever since. He retired from the military in 1967 and then became a teacher and a farmer.

The couple have lived active faith lives and continue to do so.

Mrs. Paumier, 97, said they regularly go to Eucharistic Adoration. "It's the center of our lives," she said. "And the Blessed Mother is very dear to our hearts."

Bishop Fernandes congratulated all of the couples in attendance at the Mass and those who could not be there.

"To give personal witness to Jesus, this

See JUBILARIANS, Page 12

JUBILEE, continued from Page 10

Mark and Mary Jo Starrs St. Mary, Marion
Mark and Debra Supino St. Pius X, Reynoldsburg

25 YEARS

John and Linda Bergman St. Pius X, Reynoldsburg
Brian and Melissa Bishop Holy Family, Columbus
Daniel Jody Boyden Basilica of St. Mary of the Assumption, Lancaster
Scott and Cathy Brackenridge St. Joan of Arc, Powell
David and Allison Brunner St. Cecilia, Columbus

Stephen and Tricia Cicak
David and Elizabeth Garbrandt
Michael and Kimberly Kirkland
Ernest and Robin Leon
John and Jerri Letcavits
Richard and MariClare Logue
Carl and Amy Madden
Martin and Jeanne Majka
Phillip and Erin Maynard

St. Pius X, Reynoldsburg
Immaculate Conception, Dennison
St. Pius X, Reynoldsburg
St. Catharine, Columbus
St. Margaret of Cortona, Columbus
St. Cecilia, Columbus
St. Mary, Delaware
St. Andrew, Upper Arlington
St. Mary, Delaware

Octavio and Adelia Mendoza
Donnie and Mary Miller
Matthew and Mary Paulus
Jonathan and Jennifer Pawley
Todd and Shelley Perigo
Thomas and Janna Pitcock
Tim and Stephanie Temelkoff
Frank and Michelle Vamos
Michael and Megan Wion

Christ the King, Columbus
Seton Parish, Pickerington
St. Mary, Delaware
Our Lady of Peace, Columbus
St. Mary, Columbus
St. Nicholas, Zanesville
St. Brendan the Navigator, Hilliard
St. Joan of Arc, Powell
St. Mary, Delaware

50 years of marriage goes by quickly for Lancaster couple

By Hannah Heil
Catholic Times Reporter

For Pat and Julie McCauley, 50 years flew by. It seemed as if July 20, 1974, their wedding date, was recently – not five decades ago.

The McCauleys are one of many diocesan couples celebrating a marriage jubilee year. The diocese recognized couples celebrating their 25th wedding anniversary and any five-year anniversary thereafter during a Mass at Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral on Sept. 7.

Reflecting on their own 50 years of marriage, family and faith were two constants that brought the McCauleys joy and were their anchors in life's difficult seasons.

The couple reside in Lancaster and are members of nearby Lancaster Basilica of St. Mary of the Assumption. They married at the basilica – then St. Mary Church – and have spent much of

their lives in the city located near Ohio's Hocking Hills.

Pat, one of six children, and Julie, who has an older and a younger brother, got to know each other well through their siblings, who were in school together at Lancaster St. Mary and Bishop Fenwick High School, now William V. Fisher Catholic High School. They ran in the same crowd.

The McCauleys were first introduced by Julie's older brother, Bob, a friend of Pat's. Bob and Pat had planned to see a drive-in movie, Pat recalled, and Bob brought his sister along. The two got to know each other better through siblings and friends, and they eventually began dating.

Pat remembered calling up Julie at her family's home. While he formerly called for Bob, perhaps to her mother's sur-



Julie and Pat McCauley attend the Jubilee of Anniversaries Mass on Saturday, Sept. 7 at St. Joseph Cathedral with son Brian (right). The McCauleys are celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary this year. They are parishioners at Lancaster Basilica of St. Mary of the Assumption.

CT photo by Ken Snow

See MARRIAGE, Page 13

JUBILARIANS, continued from Page 11

is incumbent upon every Christian," he said in his homily. "That is why we are here today, to give thanks to God for these married couples who have given personal witness to Jesus Christ, the Bridegroom, who laid down His life for His Bride, which is the Church. When you entered into the Sacrament of Holy

Matrimony, this is what you were committing yourself to, whether you realized it or not."

The bishop explained that the Church understands marriage to be a "covenantal union between a man and a woman that is a deep sharing of the whole lot of life and love together, that is ordered

toward the good, and espouses the appropriation and education of children. ...

"And once the marriage is consummated, no earthly power can dissolve that marriage. A permanent sacramental bond is formed," he continued.

"Many of you here today, it's incredible how you have given faithful witness

to Christ and His Church. Young people today sometimes have a fear of making a commitment. They don't want to go through the pain of divorce. They wonder, can love last? And you are living witnesses that love does endure, that love never fails."

THE DIOCESE OF COLUMBUS along with the DIACONATE COMMUNITY congratulates DEACONS, DEACON CANDIDATES and their wives on their JUBILEE WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

60 or more Years

Dcn. Dennis & Elaine Rotondo	02/15/64
Dcn. Eugene & Peggy Dawson	08/29/64
Dcn. Lawrence & Laura Koebel	11/14/64
Dcn. Robert & Barb Ghiloni	02/02/63
Dcn. Harry & Melody Turner	02/09/63
Dcn. James & Rose Rouse	09/07/61
Dcn. Peter & Judi-Ann Peterson	11/04/61
Dcn. Joseph & Phyllis Schermer	11/28/59
Dcn. Richard & Kay Baumann	05/09/53

50 years

Dcn. Ken & Gladys Johanning	02/16/74
Dcn. George & Mary Smoulder	05/18/74
Dcn. Daniel & Paula Hann	06/22/74
Dcn. Klaus & Sharon Fricke	06/29/74
Dcn. Richard & Zebbra Basic	07/29/74

45 years

Dcn. Frank & Peggy Iannarino	04/07/79
Dcn. Maurice & Susan Milne	11/04/79

40 years

Dcn. Bill & Laura Demidovich	04/28/84
Dcn. Thomas & Donna Berg, Jr.	08/04/84
Dcn. Thomas & Maria Phillips	08/10/84

35 years

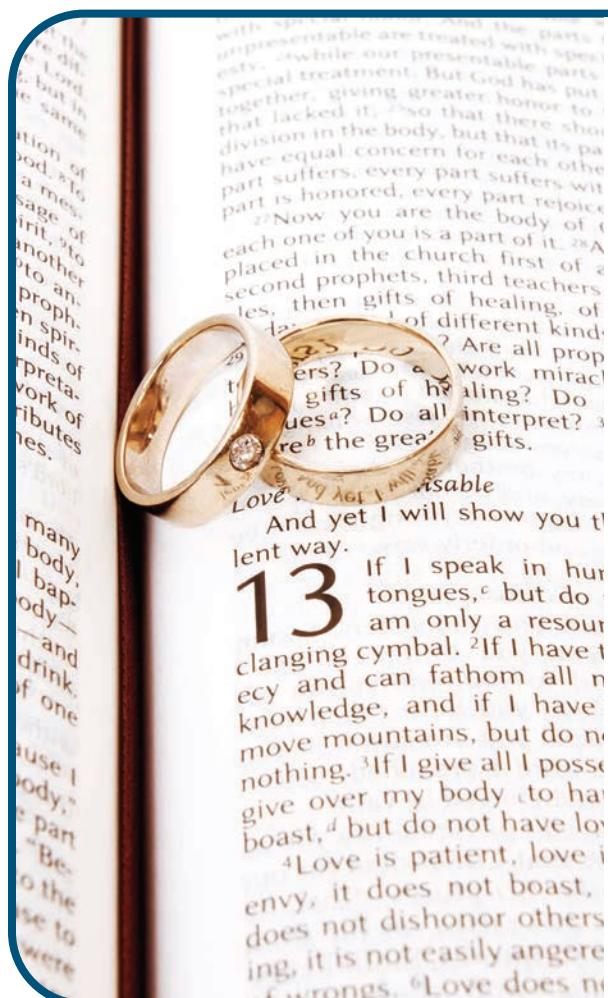
Dcn. Chris & Deborah Walsh	05/13/89
Dcn. Mark & Jane O'Loughlin	10/25/89

30 years

Dcn. Mike & Megan Berger	08/06/94
Dcn. Lou & Karen Griffith	10/10/94

25 years

Dcn. Jeffrey & Tracey Fortkamp	03/20/99
Dcn. Matt & Mary Paulus	06/26/99



MARRIAGE, *continued from Page 12*

prise, Pat was now calling for Julie.

"She got to know my voice, and she's, 'Just a minute, Pat. I'll get Bob,' so it got to the point where she wanted to know, who do you want, Bob or Julie?" he recalled. "That'd be kind of a joke there for a while."

All jokes aside, Pat was beginning to realize Julie was the woman he wanted to marry.

"I just knew, over a period of time, that this is the lady I wanted," he said.

While dating, the two enjoyed spending time with their respective families.

Pat, born in Lancaster, spent his childhood traveling around the country and Europe while his father served in the military. He had just graduated from high school in Seattle when his father retired. The family moved back to Lancaster to be near grandparents and extended family.

Julie was born in Urbana, Ohio. Her parents relocated to Lancaster before she was a year old.

Each family hosted a big Sunday dinner in their Lancaster homes. They tried to attend both family dinners each week, but after a while, Pat recalled, "Boy, that got to be just eating too much."

For Julie, she began to realize how much she missed Pat when they were apart.

"I went away one weekend with my mother," she recalled. "We went down to visit a brother of hers who was a priest in a Kentucky diocese. I didn't see (Pat) for several days. That's the longest I had gone without seeing him for a while. I thought, well, I really miss him."

The two dated for three years before marrying.

Their marriage brought many joys – most notably that of their two children, and now, a son- and daughter-in-law and six grandchildren.

The McCauleys were married for almost 10 years before their eldest was born. They endured the difficulty of numerous doctor visits as they longed for a child.

Pat recalled the doctor's words, which seemed to bring dismay.

"He got us together and said, 'Pat and Julie, I've done everything I can. ... Come back and see me in six months if you want to start all over again. We can,' he said, 'but right now, we're done. There's nothing more I can do.'

"Two months later, she's pregnant."

They were blessed by the birth of their son, Brian. A few years later, Julie was pregnant with their second, a daughter, Erin.

While most of their 50 years were spent in Lancaster, a job opportunity for Pat brought them to Washington Court House for 10 years, where they were parishioners at Washington Court House St. Colman of Cloyne Church.

When they returned to Lancaster in the '80s, Pat worked at his father-in-



Julie and Pat McCauley are pictured with their six grandchildren in Lancaster.

Photos courtesy McCauley family

law's Oldsmobile dealership in town.

He later worked at the Taylor Chevrolet in Lancaster, now owned by Hugh White, for much of his career. He retired about four years ago but continues to work at the dealership a couple of days a week.

"We were glad to get back because, Washington Court House, that's about a third of the size of Lancaster and no Catholic school. Where, here, we have a Catholic preschool, grade school and high school, and we both went to parochial schools, so we knew we wanted the kids to go there also," Julie said.

Both children attended Lancaster St. Mary School and Fisher Catholic High School.

When they were young, Julie stayed home with the children. She had worked in retail full time until they were born.

She eventually returned part time during the Christmas season at the mall in Lancaster. She picked up more hours as the children grew older and were in school.

Both children live in Lancaster today with their families. Brian and wife Gina have a son, and Erin and husband Kyle have five children.

Having their children and grandchildren nearby is a blessing.

In April 2022, Brian was diagnosed with brain cancer. While he continues battling cancer, the McCauleys reported that Brian is stable, and there are currently no new signs of growth.

The diagnosis came as a shock to them.

"When we first heard what was going on, it was very hard to take, very hard to

accept," Pat shared.

They have taken up the cross by looking to their son and seeing how he does.

"He's so strong, and his faith is so strong, and, 'This is what God's plan is for me,' and he's accepted everything and is trying to do what he can by praying for other people who have got issues," Pat said. "When I see something like that, I can't help but say, boy, if he can accept this and move on with it, then there's no reason why I can't either."

The McCauleys said they are fortunate to receive numerous cards and prayers from individuals.

"The people we got cards from, letting us know that they were praying for Brian and they were praying for us, too, that was a big help," Julie said. "We still periodically get cards, from especially one of the teachers that both kids had in school."

Parish and school involvement runs deep in the McCauley family.

Both children and their families are active members of the Basilica of St. Mary of the Assumption. They serve on parish council, school board and as coaches. Brian was the parish's director of faith formation.

Pat and Julie have been Eucharistic ministers at the parish for more than 30 years. Pat served on parish council, maintenance committee and school board at St. Mary and Fisher Catholic.

Pat's aunts, uncles and grandparents attended St. Mary School. His mother served as the school's librarian for about 10 years, and his uncle was named Alumni of the Year at St. Mary.

Pat and Julie's love of family was



Julie and Pat McCauley were married 50 years ago.

something that they first admired about each other, and it continues to be their passion.

They shared that they enjoy seeing their children and grandchildren often. Julie watches several of the grandchildren after school and the little ones who are not yet in school during the day.

They recognized the blessing of having the children and their families within a 10-minute drive.

"I talk to other grandparents now whose kids are grown and they're gone, and they have grandchildren of their own, but they don't get a chance to see them every so often," Pat said.

"Well, when these guys take a week off and go back up to where Kyle's from, boy, that's a rough week. You're lost – used to having them around you all the time."

When thinking of advice for others, Julie encouraged couples not to rush into marriage.

"I think that too often happens," she said. "Just take your time."

"The big thing, too, is try to think of the other person: what they would want to do, what they would want and how they would want it done, and try to do things that way that keeps things happy," Pat said.

He also encouraged couples to "keep talking" and "keep the line of communication open."

They acknowledged that there will be disagreements, but couples can get through it, and maintaining communication helps.

"This has been a fast 50 years," Julie said. "I'm glad we did it."

Faith pulled Reynoldsburg couple through difficulties

By Tim Puet

For *The Catholic Times*

Most couples who have been married for a long time say their biggest adjustments to each other came within the first year or two of marriage. But for Stan and Carol Vingle, that didn't happen until nearly 35 years later at the time of their retirement.

"We got married when I was in the Air Force stationed at Westover Air Force Base in Massachusetts, then I transferred to the base in Dover, Delaware, where I was a loadmaster and flew missions to the Arctic, Europe, North Africa and the Middle East, sometimes for 10 days at a stretch," Stan said.

"After I left the Air Force, I worked in Columbus for WBNS-TV as a filmmaker and film editor and later for the former North American Rockwell plant in Columbus in industrial communications. Those jobs involved a lot of traveling, too.

"So all through my life, I ended up in work that demanded a lot of travel while Carol was home raising our seven children. I retired in 2000 and by that time we had been married 34 years. Now I was home and we found we were constantly on each other's nerves. It took a while to get to know each other, having to adjust to each other, and we're still adjusting today."

"If I may elaborate here, it takes a lot of effort to adjust to each other's idiosyncrasies throughout life and to work out issues while trying to ignore both the internal and external sources that may add to the difficulty," Carol said. "The biggest thing is you have to have faith and have trust in God. In dark times, I know God is always there with you and He's going to straighten out your path."

Stan was born in Columbus. His family moved to West Virginia when he was 5 years old and returned to Columbus when he was 12 or 13. He graduated from the former St. Mary High School in German Village in 1954 and enlisted in the Air Force.

Carol grew up in western Massachusetts. Her father died when she was 5 and her mother died four years later. She was mainly raised by a grandmother and said some of her best memories are of the two of them picking blueberries and mushrooms. After high school, she took care of her sister's son so the sister could work at a textile mill.

The couple, both 88 years old, met when they were 18 at a roller-skating rink in Springfield, Massachusetts. "A buddy and I saw two cute girls attempting to skate, but doing more falling than skating, giggling all the time," Stan said. "So the two of us skated with them and eventually walked them to the bus. They introduced themselves as Carol Lewicki and Teresa Przybyla and said they were Polish.

"My mother is German and my father is Polish – my family name is actual-



Stan and Carol Vingle are celebrating 68 years of marriage. Photos courtesy Vingle family

ly Wegrzyn – so I said I was Polish too. They said something in Polish to me and I had no idea what it was. Carol wasn't impressed. My buddy was entranced by Teresa. Carol wasn't entranced by me. But we continued to double date and as my friend's interest in Teresa declined, Carol's and my interest in each other increased. The rest is history."

The couple dated for about a year-and-a-half and had to do their courting by phone after Stan was transferred to Dover. "Those were the days of long-distance telephone charges and that money added up," Stan said.

"He gave me my engagement ring at Christmastime in 1955," said Carol, who by then had gone to work for the Buxton leather goods company. Stan was in loadmaster school at West Palm Beach, Florida, but he was able to get military flights to McGuire Air Force Base in New Jersey, then hitchhiked to Massachusetts for the holidays. They were married on June 23, 1956 at Christ the King Church in Ludlow, Massachusetts.

The Vingles have five living children, all in their 60s. Christina lives in Phoenix, Steve in Pickerington, Irene in Baltimore, Ohio; Edward in Reynoldsburg with his parents and Katrina in Morgan County. A daughter, Ann Marie, died in a 1981 auto accident; a son, Stanley, died in 2001 and another daughter, Carol, died in 1964 of a miscarriage. Stan and Carol also have 18 grandchildren and 30 great-grandchildren with one more on the way.

Carol had given birth to Christina and was pregnant with Ann Marie when she moved to Columbus in late 1957 while Stan was still in Dover. "I realized the Air Force life was not a good way to raise a family, at least for us, so Carol moved to Columbus while I spent my last few months in the service, then I joined her in March 1958," he said.

"Those few months alone in Columbus were especially hard because I didn't know anyone outside of Stan's family," Carol said. "At least in Dover there were



Stan Vingle was a member of the U.S. Air Force when he married Carol in 1956.

the other Air Force families. That was another hard time when faith got me through."

"At the time I was discharged and moved back to Columbus, there was a recession and I had several jobs, none of which worked out," Stan said. "I had always liked photography and was very involved with the camera club while in high school, so I started taking photography classes while attending the Columbus College of Art and Design (CCAD).

"It was a hard time financially and we were living a sparse life. I used money the Veterans Administration gave me for education to pay for groceries, we received surplus food, my mother helped provide groceries, I sold my car and I took out student loans.

"One of my instructors at CCAD was Darryl McDougal, who was director of photography at Channel 10. Through him, I got a job there in 1961. I graduated from CCAD the following year and stayed at Channel 10 for 21 years, doing a lot of documentaries, the kind of thing local TV doesn't do much of now. I also worked as a freelancer for Diamond P Sports, a company that produced programs on drag racing, so I was constantly on the go."

Stan left WBNS in 1982 to work for Rockwell, where he was employed until its Columbus plant closed in 1988. After that, he was unemployed for 18 months, had several short-term jobs and ultimately ended up working at the Anheuser-Busch brewery in north Columbus, retiring from there in 2000.

While Stan was working, Carol was at home with the children until they got older, then was a cook for 20 years at Reynoldsburg St. Pius X School. She followed that with 10 years at a Koger deli, also retiring in 2000.

The couple have attended St. Pius Church for more than 60 years. Health issues have kept Carol from attending church recently and kept the couple from being part of the diocesan Jubilee of Anniversaries earlier this month at Colum-

bus St. Joseph Cathedral.

Stan was an adult leader in the parish's boy Scouting program for 10 years. Both also are members of the Columbus Polish American Club, with Stan serving as president for several years and as a trustee. Their work with the club included staffing a booth at an annual United Nations festival in the former Franklin County Veterans Memorial and helping organize dances and other celebrations.

Stan said he has been in 19 or 20 countries and Carol has been with him on post-retirement trips to the Grand Canyon, Alaska, Poland, Germany and elsewhere. If their health permits, they would like to go back to Poland and to Ukraine, where Carol has cousins. "I've become deeply engrossed in genealogy and going back there would help a great deal in that aspect," Stan said.

After talking about the couple's "bucket list," Stan said he had one more story to share. "I contracted COVID in March 2020 and went to the emergency room at Mount Carmel East Hospital, where I was one of its first COVID patients.

"It turned out I also had double pneumonia," he said. "I was given as much oxygen as I could handle and eventually was put on a ventilator. On my second day there, a priest came to hear my confession. The room was dark, he was wearing a 'moon suit' for protection and I had to ask him a couple of times if he was a priest to be reassured. It was a Father Stephen, but I don't remember his last name.

"I started confessing all my sins, crying and gasping for breath. Father stopped me and told me, 'God doesn't keep a scorecard. He's not vengeful. God wants you to accept His love and mercy.'

"As he was saying this, I had a vision. I was in a lagoon and a huge, warm, gentle wave came washing over me, cleansing my soul and wiping away my sins. I then noticed a hooded figure dressed in black on my left, then turned to my right and saw a large paten with a sacred Host. I recognized that as Christ absolving me. Then I heard Father's voice leading the prayer of absolution.

"I knew I was close to death, but gradually started getting better after that. The days went on and I was able to leave the hospital after 22 days.

"I didn't realize that I had a whole prayer circle constantly praying for me, including my relatives in Poland. I later found out I had a Mass celebrated for me on Easter Saturday in the Salesian seminary in Krakow. That especially moved me," he said.

"I have to believe that God brought me back for a purpose, that both of us still have His work to do. That experience made me believe more strongly than ever in the power of prayer. I don't believe some things are the result of just happenstance and luck. God is always there in His own way, paving the way for us, and it's up to us to have faith that He's looking out for us."

Sister professes vows on special day for Bridgettines

Sister Jose Mary, 27, made her first profession of religious vows with the Order of the Most Holy Savior of St. Bridget, known as the Bridgettine Sisters, on Sunday, Sept. 8 at Columbus Holy Family Church.

The Mass was celebrated by Bishop Earl Fernandes, who was joined by several diocesan priests and deacons as well as priests and a brother of the Mercedarian Order serving at Holy Family. Also present were Sister Jose Mary's parents.

During the Mass, Sister Jose Mary received the black veil and "Bridgettine crown" – a circular strip of white cloth bisected by a cross, also white, worn atop a black veil. Five red cloth spots are featured on the joints of the cross representing the five wounds of Jesus.

Sister Jose Mary professed the evangelical councils of poverty, chastity and obedience.

Sept. 8, the date marking Sister Jose Mary's first profession of vows, has special meaning for the Bridgettine community. The order was refounded on Sept. 8, 1911 by St. Maria Elisabeth Hesselblad, a Swedish Lutheran who converted to Catholicism less than a decade before.

St. Elisabeth restored the order that was originally founded by St. Bridget of Sweden in the 1300s. The order, which follows the Rule of St. Augustine, came to a halt during the Reformation and then declined.

St. Elisabeth restored traditions set by St. Bridget, including contemplation, solemn celebration of the liturgy and commitment to working and praying for unity among Christians. The motherhouse, located on the Piazza Farnese in Rome, the house where St. Bridget lived and died, also offers a place for worship and service to Lutherans in Rome and non-Catholic tourists.

Bridgettine communities are known for their hospitality and attention to guests in their homes, the centrality of Eucha-



Sister Jose Mary receives the veil and crown from Mother Eunice as a mark of her consecration to the Most Holy Savior of St. Bridget religious order, known as the Bridgettines, on Sunday, Sept. 8 at Columbus Holy Family Church.

ristic adoration, and a sense of beauty and sacredness that characterizes their convents.

Sister Jose Mary is the order's first vocation from America in decades. She spent the last few years at the Bridgettine motherhouse in Rome for her novitiate, which prepares an individual for a vowed life.

She first entered the Bridgettine community as an aspirant in February 2021. Aspirancy was followed by postulancy and then the novitiate stage.

Born Laura Ruffner, Sister Jose Mary came to Columbus from New Jersey nine years ago to attend Ohio State University. She earned a degree in business with a minor in history.

During her time at Ohio State, she began exploring religious life. Sister Jose Mary said she was attracted to the Bridgettine order primarily because Eucharistic Adoration is a central part of the community's daily life. She also reported a draw to the Bridgettine charisms of hospitality and unity.

Sister Jose Mary lives in Columbus with

five Bridgettine Sisters at the convent located adjacent to Holy Family Church in the city's Franklinton neighborhood.

The Bridgettines are in the process of renovating their Columbus convent. A three-phase construction project has been put in place. The first stage, currently underway at a cost of \$1.9 million, includes improvements and enhancements to the existing building.

The planning stage, estimated at \$5 million, foresees construction of a permanent Adoration chapel, a library and community room, two parking areas for guests and visitors, completion of an outdoor courtyard and a "House of Peace" with eight guest suites. The Bridgettines hope to offer overnight housing to visitors in the area whose loved ones are receiving medical care at one of the local hospitals.

The project also includes a tentative phase, which would include expanding the guest wing from eight to 20-26 suites should the need arise.



Sister Jose Mary smiles after receiving the crown and veil.



Sister Jose Mary leaves the church with her parents following behind after making her first profession of religious vows.



Sister Jose Mary professes the evangelical councils of chastity, poverty and obedience before Bishop Earl Fernandes at Holy Family Church.



Bishop Earl Fernandes and the Bridgettine Sisters are joined by concelebrants, deacons and servers after Sister Mary Jose's vows on Sunday Sept. 8, which is the date of the order's re-founding in 1911 by St. Maria Elisabeth Hesselblad.

Photos courtesy William Keimig

My visit by providence: Catholic faith saved me

By Chris Gay

... A leper approached, did him homage, and said, "Lord, if you wish, you can make me clean." He stretched out His hand, touched him and said, "I will do it. Be made clean." (Matthew 8:3b, 4).

Drug addiction had become leprosy. The facial sores, the track marks, clothes worn for days at a time. People had known for a while that I was "unclean." They did their best to stay clear of me or wherever it was that I was going. I can only begin to feel the pain of isolation the leper of Matthew, Chapter 8, felt.

I had found myself in prison, upstate in London, Ohio. I had gotten a sentence of 56 months; I tried to be a car thief with no success. I was strung out just needing a fix and, at that time, I knew people who would pay money for stolen vehicles. They call them "chop shops."

After seven months of incarceration, I was just lost. Nobody I knew ever answered the phone and I didn't have any letters coming in. It just seemed like nobody cared, so I just decided that I was going to commit suicide. I had only been in for seven months; "You mean to tell me that I've got another 49 months to go?!"

I went down to the chapel to make whatever peace I could with who I thought God to be back then. I grew up in a home that was primarily apostolic, so I've heard of the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. I had seen plenty of people "catch" the Holy Ghost; my hope was that He would bring me some kind of sign that everything was gonna be alright.

After sitting quietly in the chapel for a little while, I believed I made peace with God and thought, "Tonight is the night." I had planned to hang myself after the 3 a.m. count; it would be a couple of hours before anyone found me, so I could get the job done. But as I walked through the doors, I just felt like someone breathed down the back of my neck. When I turned around, there it was, a copy of Give Us This Day. This devotional would help to completely change my life.

Can I tell you that the prayers in this book had what I felt to be authentic authority? The stories of the saints inspired me deeply, and the reflections on the readings were written in a way that I could completely understand and incorporate into my life. Christianity took on a new and exciting meaning I never thought possible.

After a week, I felt moved to go talk to the priest. I was so nervous. I don't think before then I had actually seen a priest let alone talk to one. But deep within, something stirred.

Thursday came and I was in the chapel waiting area (where I'd found the devotional) and I waited for the priest to come. In came Fr. Michael Hinterschied wearing a cassock no less. I was amazed that he was wearing very old-style clothing. He vested himself up and said, "I'll be in the next room hearing confessions, or if anyone wants to just talk." I jumped right up and shook his hand and told him I was in-



Chris Gay receives communion from Father Pat Toner during his incarceration at London Correctional Institution on June 10, 2023. *CT file photos*



Chris Gay (foreground) prays alongside Betty Fannin during Eucharistic Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament at Portsmouth St. Mary of the Annunciation Church.

terested in becoming Catholic. "You have to study the faith, understand and accept the faith before you become Catholic," he said. I think of myself to be pretty docile. Learning is something I love to do.

So I began to study the Faith through R.C.I.A. and I received the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and First Holy Communion on December 29, 2022.

My life was transformed. I started to go to Mass every week as well as to Catholic Bible study on Sundays. The Eucharist became the center of my life.

I entered college to study for a business degree and I joined a faith-based community program to further try to change my life. I not only wanted to be a Catholic, but I wanted to be a Catholic leader in the prison community. In a world full of darkness, Our Lord Jesus Christ says that we are lamps, not to be hidden under a basket but to shine for all the world to see. In the encyclical *Lumen Fidei*, the

Holy Father Pope Francis says that faith isn't blind, but it is in fact a light to help guide us in the darkness.

During the next six months, my life changed dramatically. And little did I know I was eligible for a Judicial Release that following August, but it would be to a place called STAR Community Justice Center, "a community based correctional facility intended to promote public safety and reduce prison commitments." Basically, a Level 1 prison with Level 3 movement with really intense programming based on cognitive-behavioral treatment.

The Judicial Release was granted to me and I went to the STAR program in the Portsmouth area; the longest, most intense six months of my life.

During that time, I hungered for the Eucharist and longed to have my confession heard. I sent a letter to the nearest "Parish Priest" as I put on the envelope, because I didn't know the name of the priest. All I'd gotten was an address to the nearest Catholic church.

It was very providential that Betty Fannin, a parishioner at Wheelersburg St. Peter in Chains came to see me. It was an hour after our special meal to celebrate Christmas 2023. She brought me the Eucharist and I was elated! Jesus hadn't forgotten about me. When I look for Him, He is always there.

Fr. Dave Glockner, a retired Maryknoll priest in Scioto County, came to see me on Good Friday. He came to hear my confession, brought Holy Communion to me, and to just pray with me and tell me that I

haven't been forgotten.

Long story short, I got outta there. My first day out I went straight to St. Mary of the Annunciation in Portsmouth so I could praise God for getting me through, and that day I joined the parish. That evening, Bishop Earl Fernandes was there for a Confirmation Mass, which I attended. It's always an honor to see the Bishop, and he immediately recognized me from one of his visits to London Correctional the year before.

In the short three months since then, I've stayed clean, served at several Masses, read the readings at daily Mass, and I even have the privilege of leading the rosary before church every other Sunday. I've even completed vocational training for clerical work and I've gotten a job working at a local popular restaurant.

Instead of working in programming to overcome addiction, I use the sacraments. I feel as though, if you attack the sins first, then the addiction, everything else will follow suit. If you just attack your addiction, it's going to manifest itself in other ways — through different sins.

Life is so beautiful in ways I never even imagined. Slowly but surely I'm becoming the man I've always wanted to be by being the man that God wants me to be.

Betty Fannin, 71, has a son, Gabe, who was imprisoned for eight years on a drug-related offense. He qualified for a Judicial Release into the STAR program at the same center where Chris Gay was later sent, has since returned to society, clean and sober, and now is successfully employed as a welder/pipe fitter.

After Gay sent the letter to the "Parish Priest," Father David Glockner asked Fannin, a Eucharistic Minister, to contact the center and try to bring Holy Communion to Gay. After some initial difficulties, she was able to do so.

"So we made arrangements and I went up and they took me to a little, private room," Fannin said. "Then they went to get Christopher. So, here he comes, grinning ear to ear. Had a big Afro. Little ol' skinny thing. And so I gave Christopher communion and he thanked me, then left." She was able to see Gay one more time when she accompanied Father Glockner on his visit to Gay on Good Friday.

Since Gay's release, she felt it was "providential" that she ran into him once during Perpetual Adoration at St. Mary, where she volunteers as an adoror. This has since become a weekly event for the two of them. Gay now calls her his "godmother" — the mom he never really had.

Father Glockner recalled meeting Gay, saying, "I went out and visited him (Gay) and wrote him a couple of letters while he was there. And since he's been released and has joined our community, he's been extremely faithful. We're very blessed, and tickled to death that he is doing so well. He is so prayerful and really helps us here in the good ministry of our Catholic community."

'I'm looking at a miracle:' Dad gives thanks for son's transformation

Ed Fowle can't begin to express how incredibly grateful and relieved he feels that his son is still alive.

The devoted father was convinced that he would have lost his son, Charles, to drugs without the intervention of faithful Catholics who led them to Comunita Cenacolo, a Catholic-based community program in Florida that has helped thousands of young adults recover from addiction.

"I would say that the Holy Spirit was absolutely at work in Charles' life," Ed said. "I'm looking at a miracle now. My prayers are answered. I'm here to tell you that miracles do happen."

Charles, an Ohio State University graduate and Columbus resident, had battled addiction for about 10 years. He'd get clean for a while and then relapse. None of the traditional rehabilitation programs worked. He estimated he tried "probably 12 times."

He had moved back home to Columbus after being out on his own for several years as a working adult who was addicted to drugs, but after a while he decided he should leave his family home and attempt to gain some independence. He ended up in a homeless shelter in downtown Columbus.

Charles found himself with nowhere to go but the streets each morning after staying the night at the shelter. He ended up walking across the street to St. Patrick Church in downtown Columbus for a place to relax.

He didn't realize that St. Patrick has a 7 a.m. Mass each morning. The lapsed



Ed Fowle (left) and son Charles (right) are embraced by one of the priests who come to minister at Comunita Cenacolo in the St. Augustine, Florida area. *Photo courtesy Ed Fowle*

Catholic hadn't been to Mass in 10 years, but suddenly found himself in a church with a Mass taking place.

One day after Mass, a parishioner approached and asked him to join a small group remaining in the church to pray the rosary. Feeling somewhat overwhelmed, he initially turned down the offer. But Fran Kempf, who regularly attended the morning Mass, and Dr. Dennis Doody, another daily communicant, began talking to him.

"They came to me and they really wanted to help me," Charles said. "I

probably stuck out because I was all scraggly and was pretty rough looking.

"Looking back now, if I didn't meet her, I don't know where I'd be."

Kempf recalled that the meeting came on the feast of the Archangels in late September.

"I noticed Charlie because he looked like he was homeless and figured he came from (the nearby) Faith Mission," she explained. "So I went up and introduced myself. He seemed like a nice guy, and so I invited him to come up and say the rosary after Mass with us. He wasn't

ready to do that.

"But it did kind of strike up a little relationship between us. And then we just started talking after Mass, and he started bringing his dad with him."

Charles opened up about his struggles with addiction. After hearing his story, Kempf recalled a visit years earlier to Comunita Cenacolo and thought it would be a good fit for him. Doody was also familiar with the program.

"I had listened to the stories of the women down there who had gone through so many rehab programs," she said. "Some had been drug addicts since they were young girls. They had been through other programs and nothing worked, but they admitted it was their time before the Blessed Sacrament -- and just the love that they had for that community -- that changed them."

Charles expressed some reluctance at first. He was still addicted and the program house was far from home in Florida. The minimum three-year commitment also seemed a bit daunting, but his dad encouraged him to go there and Charles agreed.

"(Charlie) said, 'This is what I need. This is what I want,'" Kempf recounted. "This is what I'm looking for. And so his dad just jumped right in on it. And they went down for a visit almost immediately."

"I could tell that (Charles) was really a prayerful man. When you talk to people, you can kind of feel whether they're re-

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Catholic-based program helps individuals recover from addiction

An apostolate that virtually no one has heard about is responsible for changing the direction of thousands of lives in the United States for the past 30-plus years.

Comunita Cenacolo was started in 1983 in Italy by the late Sister Elvira Petrozzi, a member of the Sisters of Divine Charity order who became known as Mother Elvira, to help young people who were depressed, marginalized, struggling or dealing with addictions. The mission expanded to America in 1993 and also since its founding to 18 other countries.

Retired Bishop Robert Baker of Birmingham, Alabama, an Ohio native, was instrumental in bringing Comunita Cenacolo to the United States.

In America, Comunita Cenacolo has grown from one house to four houses, with three in Florida and one in Alabama. There are two houses each for men and women. A majority of the young adults who come there are battling drug addiction.

Charles Fowle of Columbus represents one of the thousands who have turned their lives around after spending time in the community. (His story can be found

in an accompanying article.) His father, Ed, credits the program with saving his son's life.

Ed Fowle offered the following about Comunita Cenacolo:

"Across the country, in the face of addiction's grip, families yearn for a miracle. Many have found solace in a path illuminated by the transformative power of the Eucharist and the Blessed Mother's intercession, as pioneered by the remarkable Italian Mother Elvira.

"Through her faith-based approach at Comunita Cenacolo, countless individuals have unlocked the grip of addiction and found a renewed life in Christ. Perhaps it's your daughter struggling with addiction, a silent plea echoing in your prayers. Or the fear etched on your face as your nephew relapses, leaving you yearning for divine intervention. Maybe it's the quiet desperation of a grandparent witnessing their grandson consumed by the darkness.

"Traditional treatments may fall short, but within Comunita Cenacolo, hope flourishes through faith, fellowship and the transformative power of God's grace, experienced through the



A chapel at the Comunita Cenacolo house is where Charles Fowle of Columbus spent many hours in front of Jesus praying while undergoing a transformation from a soul broken by addiction into a person with a powerful love of Christ. *Photo courtesy Ed Fowle*

Eucharist and the Blessed Mother's loving embrace. Importantly, Comunita Cenacolo's life-changing programs are free of charge."

Comunita Cenacolo's approach encompasses a unique combination of the

Latin phrase *Ora et Labora*, which translates to pray and work.

Once an individual gains acceptance, he or she is required to maintain a rigorous, disciplined life of prayer and

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Phelps shares recovery story at OpenDoor event

By Hannah Heil

Catholic Times Reporter

On her website, Hilary Phelps – best known as the sister of Olympic medalist Michael Phelps – has a quote that reads, “Shame hides in the darkness but we recover and heal in the light.”

That quote could describe much of Phelps’ battle with addiction and sobriety, as well as the local efforts of OpenDoor Women’s Recovery Alliance, which partners with women overcoming addiction.

Phelps shared her story with men, women and clergy during OpenDoor’s “Morning of Hope” breakfast held at New Albany Church of the Resurrection’s ministry center on Saturday, Sept. 14.

The morning also featured a panel discussion with Rachel Muha, co-founder of OpenDoor; Aimee Shadwick, director of RecoveryOhio; Judge Jodi Thomas, a Franklin County Municipal Court judge; and Oyauma Garrison, the president and

CEO of Maryhaven.

The event was moderated by Angela An, an anchor on local WBNS-10TV.

Sharing her story with the audience, Phelps said she struggled with alcohol and drug use for 15 years. She began sharing her story a couple of years ago after the COVID-19 pandemic when the percentage of alcohol use by young women at home soared.

“I decided that I didn’t have the luxury to stay silent anymore when there were women who were dying and struggling and suffering, and the shame around women in drinking and drug use and recovery, and so I started sharing my story out loud,” she said.

Phelps continues her recovery journey, choosing sobriety each day. While no longer drinking, for years her story was still largely hidden in the darkness. She decided to bring it into the light.

“When I was straddling the line between recovery and staying silent, there was still a part of me that I was hiding,

and for me, it felt shameful,” she said. “Once I shared my story, I truly felt free.”

Phelps began drinking when she was 14. She tried drugs, including lysergic acid diethylamide, known as LSD or acid, and marijuana when she was 13.

Like her brother Michael, Phelps was a swimmer. She swam year-round in school. At the time, she was the fastest swimmer in the country for her age group, she said, but that all was taken away.

In hindsight, Phelps said, she believes she had depression, but the illness was not openly talked about, so she carried much of the pain internally. Keeping it in the darkness only caused it to worsen.

“I started cutting; I started taking a pin, and I started cutting my arm because, as an athlete, the physical pain was easier than emotional pain, and I didn’t know how to get through the emotional pain, so when I found drinking, it numbed all of those thoughts of not being good enough and not knowing where to fit in and not knowing who I was,” she said.

Her parents and friends expressed concern, but Phelps said her response was only to hide her addiction more. She said hiding her illness led her to turn inward rather than outward to seek help.

Phelps said she wanted to overcome her addiction on her own. She viewed asking for help as weakness, and she did not want to be weak.

She said the shame she experienced eventually led her to seek treatment. For a while, treatment was a cycle of attending a meeting, not returning, falling into addiction and returning for treatment again.

Phelps was told during one of her treatment sessions, “you’re only as sick as your secrets.” From that moment, she said, she began healing in recovery, bringing her addiction from darkness into light.

She had a sober buddy, Claire, who she called each time she wanted to drink. The two became friends: vacations, traveling

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ceiving (your message) or not. You could see that in his face.”

Comunita Cenacolo was founded in Italy in 1983 by Mother Elvira Petrozzi, a member of the Sisters of Divine Charity order. Since then, it has expanded to 20 other countries, including the United States in 1993.

The unique Catholic program combines prayer and work for a community of individuals battling various addictions (mostly drugs) and issues that is detached from the outside world. There are two houses each in the U.S. for men and women, ranging in age from 18 into their 30s, in Florida and Alabama. (*More details about the community can be found in a related story in this issue.*)

Parents of the individuals are required to participate as well to support their family members. Once a month, mandatory regional parent meetings are held around the country. Ed traveled to Michigan monthly for a regional meeting with other parents while Charlie was in the program. Each spring and fall, parents are invited to Comunita Cenacolo for festivals.

“The things they’re doing there ... this is one of the best-kept secrets for Catholics in this country,” Ed said.

After Charles was accepted into Comunita Cenacolo at age 31, he began the process of radical transformation.

“The first moment I stepped out of the car to go I knew my life was going to be different,” Charles said. “And I think at that moment my cravings were exchanged for the love of God.”

He described the community’s 10-acre property as “out in the middle of nowhere” in rural Florida in the vicinity of St. Augustine. Between 20 and 30 men live there at a time. The program nor-

mally takes three years to complete.

Mornings began at 5 a.m. with prayer in the chapel. Each day was filled with prayer and work on the property. The community is self-sustainable, relying on older members to shepherd the newer arrivals. There is little contact with the outside world. Cellphones and TV are not allowed.

Charles compared the community to the Amish way of life.

“It was almost like the military,” he said. “It allows you to really detach and really focus on what you need to do.

“You had to get up and go to the chapel. And we would do Eucharistic adoration. That was the key to everything. That’s what made the difference.”

The rosary was prayed three times a day between work and meals. Work included gardening, beekeeping, kitchen duty, keeping the property in good condition, and a wood shop,

“We all had jobs we’d be responsible for and there was a head of the house who had been there for a couple of years who directed who would do which jobs,” Charles said. “It was real simple living.”

There was also time for recreation and, of course, the celebration of the Mass. The men were able to interact with many priests from all over the world who came in to offer Mass.

“So you really become connected to the Catholic faith,” Charles said. “That’s the difference between other rehabs. You really had to change your life.

“I started going to adoration and I wanted to go at night. That was where I felt connected to God. Jesus actually became alive in my mind.”

During the previous 10 years before entering Comunita Cenacolo while Charles was addicted to heroin and lat-

er crystal meth, God or the Church were not on his mind.

“I prayed so hard so many times and I thought for sure I was going to lose Charles,” his father said. “There are so many stories about overdoses. He was just on the edge and it was heart wrenching to see him in pain with terrible withdrawals.”

Charles had tried heroin for the first time at age 21 when he was a student at Ohio State. He became addicted to the drug but somehow managed to graduate from college.

After college, he landed a job and continued to work while using the drug. He began to try rehab programs after several years, but nothing worked.

“I think the longest time I stayed sober was about a year,” he said. I struggled mentally while being addicted. I was maintaining a life. I lived with my parents and was able to live on my own at one point and had a girlfriend.”

Five years after college, he said he experienced a bad relapse and went to California to enter a rehab program. After a year there, he went to Hawaii, where his sister had moved, and he was sober for about a year before getting introduced to crystal meth.

“I tried it once and kept doing it because it gave me the energy to work hard and to be productive and organized,” he said. “But then I started getting hallucinations and I’d stay up for days. Very terrifying stuff was going on in my mind. It did some serious mental damage.”

He decided after about a year or so after becoming addicted to crystal meth to move back to Columbus.

“I still struggled,” he said. “I started using meth again. And that was the very bottom. I feel pretty hopeless. I was

broke and didn’t have any way of getting it.”

That’s when he left home for the shelter and, providentially, found his way to St. Patrick Church.

“I don’t know, there was just something inside that I felt like communicating with God and had an attraction to Jesus,” he said. “My dad had taken us to Mass every Sunday as kids, but I didn’t like it or understand anything then.

“When I was having my hallucinations, I was absolutely fascinated about seeing Jesus and God and talking to me. I know Jesus was a part of my life that I didn’t understand and that’s when I went to St. Patrick’s and sat there for hours at a time.

“The Eucharistic Lord and adoration really made a profound difference. That was the turning point when I saw Jesus face to face like that. I knew my prayers had to be heard.”

Today, seven years after spending three years at Comunita Cenacolo, Charles said he finally feels like he’s fully recovered from the mental and physical devastation of drug use. He continues to meet with a counselor and attributes medication to helping with his hallucinations, depression and anxiety.

He now has a good job and continues to be a faithful, practicing Catholic as a member of St. Patrick Church. Earlier this summer, he helped bring a nephew who lost his father in a car accident into the Church, supporting him in the reception of Baptism, First Communion and Confirmation.

“He seems to be doing really great now,” Kempf said. “Charlie’s a great young man and he’s got a good story to tell.”

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manual labor in and around the houses to sustain the community. Community members and volunteers do all of the work to maintain the properties.

There is one senior resident in charge of overseeing each house. Newcomers are assigned an experienced “angel” who accompanies them everywhere to make sure no one is ever alone.

Comunità Cenacolo is directed in America by Albino Aragno, a former addict and graduate of the program in Italy who came to Florida in 1993 to establish the first U.S. house.

Aragno has remained with Comunità Cenacolo for the entirety of its U.S. existence and has overseen the expansion of houses in the program.

Comunità Cenacolo does no advertising and relies totally on donations. Families often learn about the community while on pilgrimages to a shrine such as Medjugorje or Lourdes, or from a friend, family member or parishioner who knows about the program.

Anyone seeking admittance to Comunità Cenacolo comes for a visit to determine whether the program is a good fit. Many of them have gone through rehab multiple times and fallen back into addiction. Parents are required to participate along with their son or daughter.

Arango estimated that about 70 percent of the community members are Catholic or come from Catholic families.

Each house for women, whose average age is between 18 and 30, includes 10 to 12 residents. The two men’s houses average from 20 to 25 members who range in age from 18 into their 30s.

Rosary, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Mass are a foundational part of the program for Catholics and non-Catholics alike. Priests come from outside the community to administer the sacraments and to celebrate Mass. Religious sisters also visit the houses.

“You wake up, you pray,” Aragno explained. “The basic foundation of the communities is prayer, work, simple life and living together – a sense of community, almost like a big family helping each other.

“There is a team leader inside each of the houses that decides the work that is to be done. Sometimes we are in construction. We maintain the property. We cook, we clean, we do pretty much everything to keep the sites in order, but



Charles Fowle eats lunch with community members in 2017. Photo courtesy Ed Fowle

that starts with putting our own lives in order.”

Detachment from the world is foundational to the program. Discipline and a strong work ethic are needed to succeed.

“No computers, no TV, no phones,” Aragno said. “You’re learning how to sit at the table and dialog. You learn how to relate to each other – removed from society ... because the lives the people have come from are pretty much destroyed. They’re broken, sad, unhappy, depressed, anxious.”

While most of the men and women who come to Comunità Cenacolo have battled drug addiction, some are dealing with other issues. One of the men who came to the community for help spent 18 hours a day on a computer or phone.

“Everybody’s made a lot of bad decisions,” Aragno said. “To reveal the new person, it’s removing everything, so removing the drugs, peers, the internet, computers, phone, you name it. Each one can have its own addiction.

“You go back to basics, and with God it is possible to change.”

Catholic faith life is imbued in the routine from the beginning of the day to the end. Starting the morning by praying the rosary in the chapel while kneeling on the hard floor is an important discipline.

“If we reach the point that we really find God in our life, we have something to reach, something to grasp,” Aragno said. “Our faith is concrete, and concrete

actions help others.”

For those who were lax in their faith or not Catholic, Aragno said he has seen some amazing transformations during their stays.

“Not only from the members of the community but also for their own families,” he said, “because this is a journey also for the family. People are the fruit of a tree. Sometimes the tree is good, sometimes the tree is not very good. And we have a variety of people coming from different kinds of families ... broken, good families, super Catholic family, homeschool family, and then you have the ones that are coming from nothing.”

No one is forced to become Catholic, but he cited an example of two men who are set to join the Church in a couple of months. Two women have entered religious life and a third is in formation. Others have gone on to raise happy families.

“I’ve also seen beautiful transformations in general,” Aragno said. “A guy that is completely sad, dead, no life and then, after two or three or six months, he begins to smile, to discover the natural beauty of all of it. That is what fills my heart.”

Fran Kempf, a member of Columbus Holy Family Church, has visited Comunità Cenacolo and was instrumental in Fowle going there. She recalled a community retreat she once attended for families.

“That’s why Cenacolo is so beautiful because the family gets involved,” she said. “They mentor the parents.”

At the community retreats, the parents are separated from their children for a weekend before they come together.

“Those who are there for healing go into the church, sit before the Blessed Sacrament and then their parents come in,” she said. “And it’s the most beautiful thing.

“The parents listen to their children ask for forgiveness, share their gratitude and thank the people in their lives that they appreciate. And they talk about God, of course. It’s quite an emotional time.”

During Kempf’s stay as a visitor, she witnessed the faith and trust placed in the Lord.

“One morning, we had a bowl of dry Cheerios on the table and they said,

“This is what God provided for today,” she recalled. “No complaint. They learn to accept what God has provided for their lives and that He’s not going to abandon them. He’s going to be there to provide everything they need.”

For the individuals going through the program, the average length of stay varies, but individuals normally remain for approximately three years. Those admitted to Comunità Cenacolo do not sign a contract, “but this is not a hotel either to check out and come back,” Arango said.

“This is not a quick fix,” Arango stressed. “A person may have been in addiction for 10-15 years. Sometimes it doesn’t take much time to destroy our lives and to make some really bad decisions, but to rebuild takes much longer. The journey is a long journey. We call it the school of life.

“We are never in a rush to put anybody out. We decide together, but sometimes we encourage also to stay longer. It’s like you’re putting money on a bank. You know you will receive it later.”

“Seeing the healing that happens there, it’s miraculous,” Kempf said.

Once it’s determined that an individual is ready to re-enter the outside world, there is assistance from an organization that exists independently of Comunità Cenacolo.

The Servants of the Holy Spirit Corporation is a non-profit Catholic organization that offers transitional support after completion of the Comunità Cenacolo program. While not directly associated with Comunità Cenacolo, Servants of the Holy Spirit supports a Christ-centered life in the critical months after exiting Comunità Cenacolo.

Services include housing, transportation, counseling, financial guidance, career planning and job placement.

The Servants of the Holy Spirit is also donor supported and welcomes financial assistance for their mission to help courageous young adults as they rebuild their lives.

More information on Servants of the Holy Spirit can be found at www.servantsoftheholyspirit.org or by contacting Ed Fowle at 614-302-9631 or servantsoftheholyspirit33@gmail.com.

For information about Comunità Cenacolo and those seeking help, visit www.hopereborn.org.

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and attending Thanksgiving dinner together.

Checking in with a buddy consistently helped Phelps stay sober, but the journey was difficult.

“Sobriety is hard,” she said. “It’s the hardest thing I’ve ever done – getting sober – because you have to change people, places, things, thoughts, behaviors.

“Drinking was the only tool I had in my

toolbox. And so, that first year, other than hanging out with Claire, I did everything somebody told me (in treatment) because I did not want to go back, but I had support, and that was everything because community is the opposite of addiction, which is isolation.”

Five years into her sobriety journey, Phelps was diagnosed with severe depression. She said she never would have

uncovered the illness had she not been sober. For 15 years, Phelps used drinking as a coping mechanism to “stuff down” her emotional pain. Now, her illness was brought into the light.

Ten years into sobriety, Phelps gave birth to a son. When he was days old, she brought him along to a meeting in which she received a “10-year chip” for 10 years of sobriety.

In June 2022, around the time she began sharing her story, Phelps endured what she described as the most difficult year of her life. She divorced, became a single mother with no income and her father, who she described as “her person,” died. He accompanied Phelps through her drinking, recovery and sobriety jour-

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Devoted man's passion for superhero saints project comes to life

There are many ways to evangelize without having to engage in long discussions or take a deep dive into Catholic theology.

Tom Goodman wants to reach young people in particular on their level of understanding with t-shirts that depict angels and saints resembling superheroes.

If kids are infatuated with Spider-Man, X-Men, Hulk and Iron Man, Goodman believes that they would be inclined to identify with a Catholic angel or saint who resembles the modern-day characters that they see virtually everywhere.

For years, the Marysville Our Lady of Lourdes Church parishioner has worked to get his "Defenders of Truth – Saints in Action" idea off the ground. After tweaking the design and searching for a partner to manufacture and distribute the shirts, his vision is about to be realized.

He connected with Nelson Enterprises, a Catholic family-owned business based in Steubenville, to produce and sell the t-shirts, which will be available to order online at CatholictotheMax.com.

"It is through our youth that the Catholic Church needs to focus," Goodman said. "Bring families back to the Church, encouraging vocations."

Goodman, who owns a horticultural sales and marketing company outside of Marysville, has financed the project on his own and plans to donate all of the proceeds from the shirts, which will sell for \$20 each, to pro-life and Catholic-related causes that include support for vocations and charities.

Working with The Catholic Foundation, he set up a donor-advised fund at <https://catholic-foundation.org/giving/existing-funds/the-superhero-saints-project-donor-advised-fund/> that can be accessed to sup-

EDITOR'S REFLECTIONS

port the project or become a patron.

The first shirt in the series will represent St. Michael the Archangel, which is apropos considering Goodman has a special passion for spreading devotion to the celestial protector.

And the rollout comes just in time for the feast of St. Michael the Archangel, which this year falls on Sunday, Sept. 29.

Goodman has incorporated an incredible amount of detail and symbolism into his vision for the St. Michael design. He commissioned the professional artwork to be done through AdMeyer Creations' Matt Meyer, a fellow parishioner at Our Lady of Lourdes in Marysville.

The three diamonds found in the image on St. Michael's wrist armor symbolize the Holy Trinity. The



The Archangel Michael superhero shirt design is teeming with symbolism.

Photo courtesy Tom Goodman

seven stars on the top left column behind him are similar to the stars found on Our Lady of Guadalupe's Tilma and also represent the seven sacraments and seven days of creation.

The eight stars on the top of the right column behind St. Michael embody joy, the resurrection and the eight beatitudes. The 12 rivets on the shield stand for the 12 apostles, the 12 tribes of Israel and the crown of 12 stars on the Blessed Virgin Mary's head. The latter refers to Chapter 12 in the Book of Revelation when a woman appeared in the sky with a crown of 12 stars and a war broke out in heaven with St. Michael and the angels battling the dragon, who is called the devil.

The 20 bars behind St. Michael make up the gates of heaven that St. Michael is defending and also represent the 20 mysteries of the rosary. The cherub angels on top of the columns are replicas of the same angels found on columns located in St. Peter's Basilica at the Vatican.

Goodman is hoping that Catholic schools, parish groups, schools of religion, parents, grandparents, relatives and friends will support his mission, which is aimed at making a positive impact on youth while drawing them closer to the faith.

"It will be better to see these t-shirts rather than the not-so-pleasant t-shirts we see worn throughout our society," he said.

Goodman doesn't plan to stop with St. Michael the Archangel. As part of his "Defenders of Truth – Saints in Action" superhero concept, he hopes to follow with a St. Joan of Arc shirt and then the three archangels, Michael, Raphael and Gabriel.

See SAINTS, Page 23



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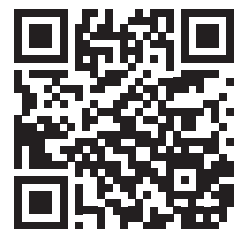
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Seniors enjoy day of faith, fellowship, encouragement from bishop

By Hannah Heil
Catholic Times Reporter

Seniors were reminded of their dignity and unique role during the 45th diocesan Senior Citizens Day celebration held Sept. 4 at Grove City Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church.

The event was hosted by the diocesan Office for Social Concerns. Mark Huddy, Episcopal Moderator for Catholic Charities and Social Concerns, Erin Cordle, associate director, and Angelita Canlas, assistant to the office, served as hosts.

More than 150 seniors gathered for a day of fellowship and to share lunch with Bishop Earl Fernandes.

The day included Mass celebrated by the bishop, games, door prizes and camaraderie.

"The people that you meet when you're here is just a bonus, and some people that I don't see on a regular basis," said Margo Downing, a parishioner at Granville St. Edward the Confessor Church. "You don't see those people when you're living out in Granville, so it's nice."

To kick off the day, Bishop Fernandes celebrated the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass.

In his homily, the bishop reflected on the dignity of life in all stages. He told the seniors that each has inherent dignity that comes from being a person, not from what they do or have achieved.

Bishop Fernandes recognized that seniors might feel useless at times, especially if their infant grandchildren seem to understand and operate technology better than them. However, he told them that "to be senior is not to be useless."

He reminded seniors that they have much to offer and hand on to the next generation: the value of hard work, sacrifice, lessons in heartbrokenness and getting through a difficult time.

He encouraged seniors to share and hand on gifts they have received, especially the legacy of faith.

"You might be senior, but you have something to offer," Bishop Fernandes said.

He pointed out that younger generations have much to learn about mourning and joy, which cannot come from technology. He said they need the witness of seniors praying on their knees in faith.

"I never saw love come out of a phone," the bishop said.

He reminded those gathered that the Holy Father wants a Church that walks together and listens to each other.

He also recognized the ailments and difficulties that come with aging. Bishop Fernandes encouraged seniors to offer up their suffering, noting that suffering can be used as an offering for someone else.

"I love the Mass," said Joan Rovnak, a parishioner at Gahanna St. Matthew the Apostle Church. "I love that the bishop talked particularly to the senior citizens and made us feel special, let us know – even though we know – that we still have a lot of work to do, and that we're a good



The 45th diocesan Senior Citizens Day celebration included Mass at Grove City Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church.
CT photos by Ken Snow



A luncheon followed Mass at the annual Senior Citizens Day celebration on Sept. 4 at Grove City Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church. The seniors event is hosted by the diocesan Office for Social Concerns.

example, especially to our grandchildren."

Downing also enjoyed Bishop Fernandes' message to seniors, and she understood the importance of intergenerational bonds.

"The bishop always has a wonderful message for us to take to heart, and it feels good to be appreciated," she said. "He knows that if you live this long, you've had the pain, the suffering and the joys, and I do believe our pastor talks often, too, about sharing our stories with even the people within our parish.

"He tries to work hard to get them together – the different generations – so that we would learn from them, and they keep us young."

After Mass, seniors gathered in the parish hall for lunch.

"Life is precious from conception to natural death, and that's what we're celebrating," Huddy said in his message to the seniors. "We celebrate this continuum of life."

Dignity was a theme of the celebration. The dignity of every person was evident in the details of the day.

Lunch was provided by Freedom a la Cart, which empowers survivors of sex trafficking and exploitation to build lives

of freedom and self-sufficiency.

Attendees also had an opportunity to win door prizes. All door prizes were fair and ethical trade items from SERRV International, www.serrv.org, which supports global artisans and farmers through long-term trading partnerships, helping to build sustainable employment, resources, rights and a vision of hope in their communities.

In the afternoon, seniors played a game of "pass the beans." They passed a bag of fair-trade organic coffee beans from SERRV International around the table. Whoever had the bag in hand when the game ended won the coffee beans.

After sharing a meal with the seniors, Bishop Fernandes offered an address.

The bishop reiterated the dignity of each person at every stage in life. He reminded seniors of the important role they play in their families, the Church and larger society.

For those who are married, he explained the importance of married couples witnessing to God's love.

"Your faithful witness to the Lord, especially in your marriages, tells people, especially young people, that love is real and that love can last, that a lasting love requires a degree of sacrifice, and many



Bishop Earl Fernandes blesses a Miraculous Medal at the Senior Citizens Day event for Richard Hicks, a member of Columbus St. Francis of Assisi Church. Hicks planned to give the medal to his oldest daughter, Suzette, a nurse practitioner, before she departed to spend six months in east Africa as an adviser in the healthcare system.

of you have made a lot of sacrifices for one another and for your children and your children's children," he said.

"This, I think, is an important dimension of growing older. That is, being witnesses to love and to knowing that, even as we get older, we are still loved by God. His love endures forever, and you are witnesses to that faithful and ever-fruitful love of God.

"That's where I need you because, in our diocese, people have lots of money, but they need Jesus Christ. They need the love of Jesus Christ, and they need to be assured that it is real."

Downing enjoyed spending the day with other seniors. Gathering together for the day had many benefits.

"I think it gets us out of the house, those that can do that," she said. "Being engaged with people, I think, is so important to your mental health as well as your physical health.

"I think it's important that they try to get out, and they engage," she said of other seniors. "I have a friend who is, more or less, homebound, and she's declining so quickly, I think, because of lack of meeting with other people."

S. Kelley Henderson, the CEO of Catholic Social Services (CSS), shared information about CSS' Senior Companion Program, which can be beneficial for individuals such as Downing's friend. The program pairs senior volunteers with like-minded peers, fostering meaningful connections and combating loneliness among seniors.

Henderson encouraged seniors to consider being a senior companion. Through casual chats, activities and creating memories together, the program enhances the



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LOCAL NEWS AND EVENTS

Bishop to speak at luncheon club in October

The Catholic Men's Luncheon Club will host Bishop Earl Fernandes on Friday, Oct. 4 for what has become a club tradition – the bishop's annual report on current and planned activities in the Diocese of Columbus. The meeting will follow the 11:45 a.m. Mass at Columbus St. Patrick Church, 280 N. Grant Ave.

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

The club's next meeting will be on Friday, Nov. 1 with Brian Hickey, executive director of the Catholic Conference of Ohio, as speaker. Mass that day will be at noon because it is All Saints Day, a holy day of obligation.

The Oct. 4 luncheon is being sponsored by the Catholic Foundation. If you are interested in sponsoring a luncheon, contact Pat Foley at foleyp513@gmail.com.

Bishop Flaget School again receives Edison award

Chillicothe Bishop Flaget School has received the Governor's Thomas Edison Award for excellence in STEM education and student research from the Ohio Academy of Science for the 19th straight year. Lancaster St. Mary School and Mount Vernon St. Vicent de Paul School also were among the 40 statewide recipients of the honor.

Among the 436 teachers listed as honorees were Amanda Harper, Ashley Tackett, Barb Apsley, Casey Teets, Christina Kessler, Christy Fay, Dana Wiseman, Deborah Fyffe, Dianne Cryder, Jonna Johnson, Laura Corcoran, Leslie Fout, Macie Alley, Mindy Martin, Rebekah Metzger, Sarah Smith, Terrina Fahnestock and Xavier Newsome of Flaget, Anita Yaple of St. Mary and Sharon Tharp of St. Vincent de Paul.

Each school will receive a certificate and each teacher will receive a complimentary membership to the academy. Funds for the program came from the office of technology investments of the Ohio Department of Development.

To earn the award, schools must conduct a science fair with 12 or more students and have two or more of these students participate in a district Science Day or have six or more students participate in the district Science Day when no local one has been conducted. Students also must participate in at least one more youth science opportunity beyond

the classroom.

The Ohio Academy of Science defines STEM education as the mastery and integration of science, technology, engineering and mathematics for all pre-kindergarten through 12th-grade students. It incorporates scientific inquiry and technological design through student-focused, project-based curricula to develop skills of communication, collaboration, innovation, critical thinking and problem solving. This is the 40th year for the Edison awards program.

Seasons of Hope announces five-week session

The Seasons of Hope Bereavement Ministry invites anyone suffering the loss of a loved one to attend its next five-week session at Worthington St. Michael Church, 5750 N. High St.

It will meet each Sunday from Oct. 6 to Nov. 3 from 2 to 4 p.m. Those interested in participating may attend any or all sessions.

The ministry is sponsored by the churches of the Northland/North High Deanery, with quarterly sessions rotating among the churches. For more information, contact Debbie Kennedy at kennedydeborah@yahoo.com or (614) 937-0516.

St. Colman to host celebration concert

A free concert to celebrate the gift of a Yamaha studio grand piano to Washington Court House St. Colman of Cloyne Church will take place at 3 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 22 in the parish center, 219 S. North St.

Performers will be parish music director Craig Jaynes; Delma Rouleau, former music director of Chillicothe St. Mary Church; Jeanne Rosendahl, former choral director of Washington Court House High School, professional musician Marretta Alden and professional pianist/accompanist Stephen Estep.

The piano is the gift of Linda Litter of Chillicothe in memory of her late husband, Robert Litter, a prominent businessman in the Chillicothe area, and was selected by Rouleau. Interested St. Colman parishioners have provided funds assuring the piano's future upkeep and tuning.

Jaynes said he is working on the development of a Suzuki-style program

be weak-kneed, lukewarm people. We must have courage.

"Keep in mind that this is not a battle of the flesh and bone. It is a battle of the spirit.

"St. Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle."

for introducing keyboard instruments to young students. He also said solo and multi-player piano programs, small ensemble and chamber music, and small musical theater productions will be encouraged to use the center, which is perfect for less formal and more intimate presentations.

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 Sanctity" 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 annemallampalli@comcast.net or mmwjjeff@gmail.com.

Sts. Augustine and Gabriel to host friends and family day

Columbus Sts. Augustine and Gabriel Church, 1550 E. Hudson St., will host a Friends and Family Day Mass at 10 a.m. Sunday, Oct. 27, followed by a potluck.

The parish Rosary Altar Society will sponsor a 50-50 raffle at the event. Anyone connected with the parish and the former St. Augustine and St. Gabriel churches and schools is encouraged to attend.

Columbus St. Mary School hosts Safety City

St. Mary School in Columbus' German Village neighborhood became the first elementary school to conduct a Safety City program during the school year.

The program, in partnership with Nationwide Children's Hospital and the City of Columbus Department of Neighborhoods, took place from Monday to Thursday, Sept. 16 to 19 and provided the school's 50 kindergarten students with essential safety lessons in traffic signals, fire prevention and stranger awareness.

Safety City is a free hands-on program for children ages 5 to 7 that usually takes place during the summer in a miniature "safety village" set up in a school's play area. Upon completion of the program, participants each received a bicycle helmet and a certificate of achievement.

For more information on the school and the event, contact Hannah Lewis at hlewis@stmaryschoolgv.org or (614) 783-6726.

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(Act to August 23, 1970: Section 3685, Title 36, United States Code)

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B. Paid circulation:		
1) outside-county mail subscriptions	2,700	2,531
2) in-county mail subscriptions	3,300	3,093
3) sales through dealers, carriers, street vendors, counter sales, other non-USPS paid circulation	0	0
4) other classes mailed through USPS	0	0
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G. Copies not distributed	0	0
H. Total	6,250	5,874
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I certify that the statements made by me above are correct and complete. Doug Bean, Editor.

SAINTS, continued from Page 20

He'd also like to see a revolution of increased devotion to St. Michael for protection against the devil through recitation of the St. Michael the Archangel prayer.

"We must stand up against evil and the Evil One," Goodman said. "We can't

25th Sunday of Ordinary Time Year A

Gospel calls for compassion

Wisdom 2:12, 17-20
Psalm 54:3-4, 5, 6-8
James 3:16 - 4:3
Mark 9:30-37

"What were you arguing about on the way?" This was Jesus' question to His disciples as they were walking on the path together. If Jesus asked you this question, what would your response be? The disciples were slow to answer: "They remained silent."

Mark "rats them out," no doubt having heard from Peter about the real issue. He tells us explicitly what the topic was: "They had been discussing among themselves on the way who was the greatest." Who is listening to us while we spend our time arguing about similar matters?

Our journey itself and how we walk it are meant to be the proclamation of the truth of the Gospel. There are important matters to discuss, but much of our argument's content is pointless. What does it matter who is the greatest? The greatest what? Winning this contest gets us exactly nowhere.

All human beings experience emotions that can seem overwhelming. When we are slaves to the realm of emotions, we lose track of the truth that we have "deeper" faculties that can help to direct the energy that comes from the immediate experience of an emotion to an action that is beneficial. If someone steps on your toe, "ouch" is an appropriate response. However, when we are already wounded, we tend to react rather than to respond and we can escalate into a war.

Desire for improvement and advancement is good. However, when it causes us to experience envy toward others or to begin to compete inordinately, it is not helpful. Jesus' disciples are "on the way;"

26th Sunday of Ordinary Time Year A

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Father Timothy Hayes

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



that is, they are seeking to live with Jesus, to put the Gospel principles He has taught them into action. He begins to tell them about what they are all about to face, once they go from Galilee to Jerusalem. "The Son of Man is to be handed over to men and they will kill him, and three days after his death the Son of Man will rise." They miss it because they are afraid to ask questions and so they fall into petty bickering.

The Letter of James centers on this facet of human nature. He addresses his readers with a clear description of the kind of division that is common among us. "Where do the wars and where do the conflicts among you come from? Is it not from your passions that make war within your members? You covet but do not possess. You kill and envy but you cannot obtain; you fight and wage war. You do not possess because you do not ask. You ask but do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions."

A real response to what divides us must be a decision to be one despite our differences and our unique approaches to whatever happens among us. This is a choice. We must acknowledge our feelings. Emotions deserve to be recognized and to have their message to us heard. We can receive from them a boundless energy that can be appropriated and directed toward growth and depth.

Our passive experience of human emotions can humble us and teach us compassion. Jesus gives the example of a

you jealous for my sake? Would that all the people of the Lord were prophets! Would that the Lord might bestow his spirit on them all!"

The test of a real relationship is whether we are willing to invite others to share it. Spouses who are jealous of one another's friends are seldom free in their own relationship. Knowledge that we possess that we are unwilling to pass on will end up creating difficulties for us. Communion of life is the pattern of relationship that Jesus expects of His disciples. Everything we have and are belongs to God, and we owe it to God to share it freely. The Kingdom is planted in us as a seed, and it is meant to grow.

Jesus goes on to offer some challenging words. "If your hand causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter into life maimed than with two hands to go into Gehenna, into the unquenchable fire. And if your foot causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter into life crippled than with two feet to be thrown

THE WEEKDAY BIBLE READINGS

9/23-9/28 MONDAY	THURSDAY	9-30/10-5 MONDAY	THURSDAY
Proverbs 3:27-34 Psalm 15:2-4 Luke 8:16-18	Ecclesiastes 1:2-11 Psalm 90:3-6,12-14,17 Luke 9:7-9	Job 1:6-22 Psalm 17:1-3,6-7 Luke 9:46-50	Job 1:6-22 Psalm 27:7-9,13-14 Luke 10:1-12
TUESDAY	FRIDAY	TUESDAY	FRIDAY
Proverbs 21:1-6,10-13 Psalm 119:1,27,30,34-35,44 Luke 8:19-21	Ecclesiastes 3:1-11 Psalm 144:1b,2abc,3-4 Luke 9:7-18-22	Job 3:1-3,11-17,20-23 Psalm 88:2-8 Luke 9:51-56	Job 38:1,12-21;40:3-5 Psalm 139:1-3,7-10,13-14 Luke 10:1-12
WEDNESDAY	SATURDAY	WEDNESDAY	SATURDAY
Proverbs 30:5-9 Psalm 119:29,72,89,101,104,163 Luke 9:1-6	Ecclesiastes 11:9-12:8 Psalm 90:3-6,12-14,17 Luke 9:43b-45	Job 9:1-12,14-16 Psalm 88:10b-15 Matthew 18:1-5,10	Job 42:1-3,5-6,12-17 Psalm 119:66,71,75,91,125,130 Luke 10:17-24

DIOCESAN WEEKLY RADIO AND TELEVISION

Mass Schedule: Weeks of September 8 and September 15, 2024

SUNDAY MASS

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

Mass with the Passionist Fathers at 7:30 a.m. on WWHO-TV (the CW), Channel 53, Columbus and 10:30 a.m. on WHIZ-TV, Channel 18, Zanesville. Mass from St. Francis de Sales Seminary, Milwaukee, at 10 a.m. on WWHO-TV. Check local cable system for cable channel listing.

Mass from Our Lady of the Angels Monastery, Birmingham, Ala., at 8 a.m. on EWTN (Spectrum Channel 385, Insight Channel 382, or Breeze-line Channel 378). (Encores at noon, 7 p.m., and midnight).

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

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

DAILY MASS

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

12:05 p.m. weekdays, 8 a.m. Saturdays, Mass from Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral on St. Gabriel Radio (AM 820), Columbus, and at www.stgabrielradio.com and diocesan website, www.columbuscatholic.org. (Saturdays on radio only).

Videos of Masses are available at any time on the internet at these and many other parish websites: Mattingly Settlement St. Mary (www.stannstmary.org); Columbus St. Patrick (www.stpatrickcolumbus.org); Delaware St. Mary (www.delawarestmary.org); Sunbury St. John Neumann (www.saintjohnsunbury.org); and Columbus Immaculate Conception (www.iccols.org). Check your parish website for additional information.

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

child, the most vulnerable human being, as a model to be imitated and as a recipient of compassion. He tells his disciples, "If anyone wishes to be first, he shall be the last of all and the servant of all."

Then, He models welcome: "Taking a child, he placed it in their midst, and putting his arms around it, he said to them, 'Whoever receives one child such as this in my name, receives me; and whoever receives me, receives not me but the One who sent me.'"

into Gehenna. And if your eye causes you to sin, pluck it out. Better for you to enter into the kingdom of God with one eye than with two eyes to be thrown into Gehenna, where 'their worm does not die, and the fire is not quenched.'

This form of discourse is "Semitic hyperbole." What is expressed is stretched for effect, intended to elicit a response. Children are familiar with this form. Who has not heard something like: "Take your hands out of the cookie jar, or I will cut them off!?" Mothers and grandmothers do not follow through with such threats; they often give in, and you have a cookie to eat, even though it may spoil your appetite for dinner.

Another Biblical approach to language is implicit here. The Biblical mind is concrete, starting with the real world as we experience it. There is a "literal" meaning that moves quickly to a more universal sense, which still is attached to the real world of experience. When Jesus speaks of the hand, the foot and the eye, He is

The Gospel calls us to go beyond our petty disputes. When we succeed in doing so, war ends before they begin, and we are made ready for the challenges that lie ahead. The struggles of our culture are an invitation to live according to Gospel principles and to invite others to see the world differently.

May we be docile to what the Lord teaches us through His Church. May we live the compassion and acceptance we long to receive.

using these aspects of our human nature to mean not simply the physical parts of our bodies but the spheres in which we move that are associated with them.

The hand does things. It reaches, takes, lays claim to something as "mine." The foot moves us into different circles. It takes us into places where we can act and be influenced by others who share that space and activity. The eye looks and gives direction. It leads us to plan, creates a way of intending something in the future.

The invitation of Jesus is for us not to cut off our hands or our feet or to pluck out our eyes, but rather to pay attention to where they will draw us into situations and actions that are not part of the Kingdom. In other words, we should attend more to our own inner movements than to what others "out there" are doing. This does not mean that we should not try to influence others, but that we should leave room for God to act in the world beyond our own experience.

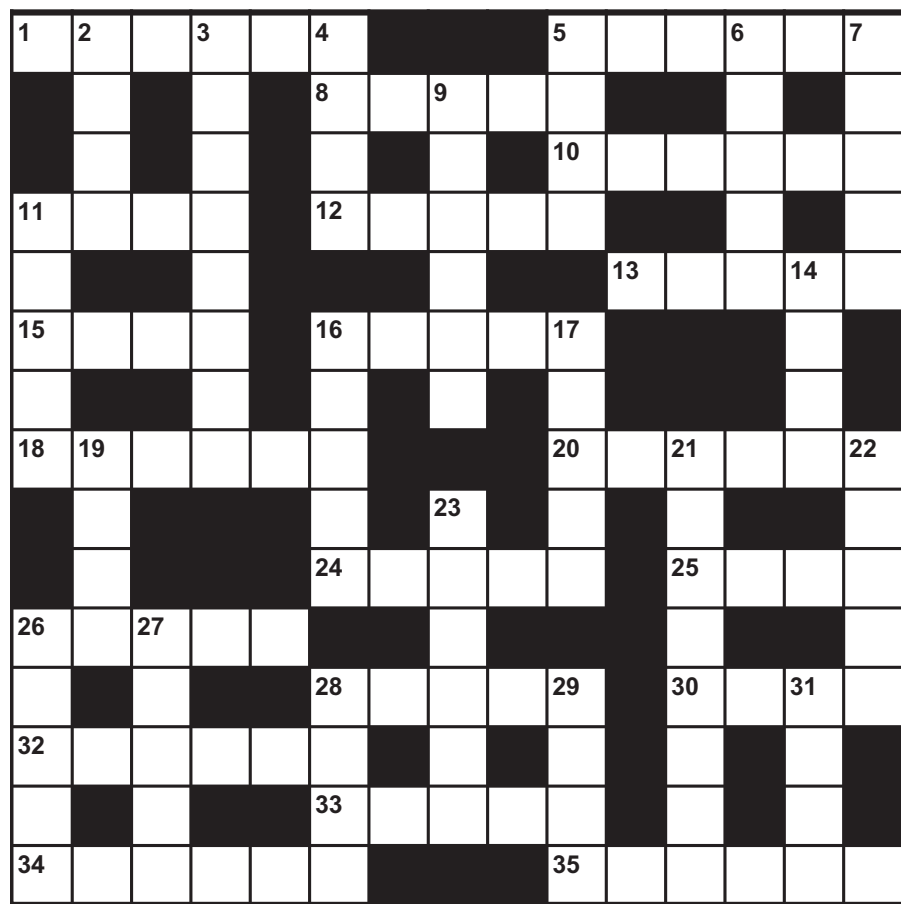
Avoid jealousy, distractions from outside influences

Numbers 11:25-29
Psalm 19:8, 10, 12-13, 14
James 5:1-6
Mark 9:38-43, 45, 47-48

Jesus' attitudes are striking. He gives those who do not know Him an opportunity to use His Name, to learn its power for themselves. James and John express concern because they feel that what belongs to them is being exploited. Where James and John would try to stop someone who "does not follow us," Jesus offers a more expansive perspective: "Do not prevent him. There is no one who performs a mighty deed in my name who can at the same time speak ill of me. For whoever is not against us is for us."

The Gospel scene is parallel to the account of Moses' sharing his spirit with the elders of Israel. Joshua objects to the fact that two who did not make it to the meeting (even though their names were on the list) are manifesting the power of the spirit. Moses confronts Joshua: "Are

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ACROSS

- 1 "And behold, I am with you ____" (Mt 28:20)
- 5 St. Martin de ____
- 8 Egyptian handmaiden
- 10 Patron saint of Scandinavia
- 11 Symbol of the Holy Spirit
- 12 Unsinkable Catholic survivor of the Titanic
- 13 "I desire ____, not sacrifice." (Mt 9:13)
- 15 Seamless Garment of ____
- 16 "...those who ____ you and curse those who..." (Gen 12:3)
- 18 Meetings of bishops
- 20 Month of the Feast of the Assumption
- 24 Father-in-law of Jacob
- 25 Biblical stargazers
- 26 State in which the Diocese of Dallas is found
- 28 Along with Timothy, he was a disciple of Paul
- 30 "...and ____ us not into temptation..."
- 32 Branch of the Eastern Church in union with Rome
- 33 St. Elizabeth ____
- 34 Your soul
- 35 High Mass

DOWN

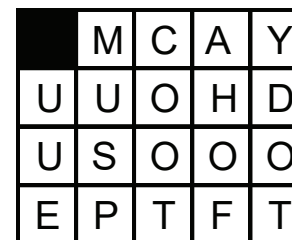
- 2 AKA Matthew
- 3 One of the young men cast into the furnace
- 4 Father of Elam and Aram
- 5 Word frequently heard in a litany
- 6 Catholic tennis star Federer
- 7 "Oh my God I am heartily ____"
- 9 ____ calf
- 11 These fell in Jericho
- 14 Part of pharaoh's dream
- 16 A Doctor of the Church
- 17 St. James is the patron of this country
- 19 "Take my ____ upon you" (Mt 11:29)
- 21 He was a member of the Sanhedrin
- 22 "...and rose again on the ____ day"
- 23 Nihil ____
- 26 St. Martin of ____
- 27 The last John
- 28 "You shall not put the Lord, your God, to the ____" (Lk 4:12)
- 29 ____ of Thunder
- 31 Father of Cain

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.

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AUER, Nancy J. (Hoblit), 87, Sept. 2
St. Mary, Mother of God Church, Columbus

CORY, Loretta J. (Trivison), 92, formerly of Columbus, Aug. 29
St. Margaret of York Church, Loveland

COTTRELL, Dr. Denise M. (Madigan), 79, Sept. 4
St. Andrew Church, Columbus

DAVIS, Alice M. (DeAngelis), 99, Aug. 24
Sacred Heart Church, New Philadelphia

DAVIS, Margaret Ann (Lewis), 75, Sept. 1
St. Rose of Lima, New Lexington

DOTSON, Claudia, 76, Sept. 1
St. Mary Church, Delaware

DURBIN, Robert F., 88, Sept. 5
St. Peter Church, Columbus

ENDRES, David, 81, Aug. 15
Sacred Heart Church, New Philadelphia

GINNETTI, Betty (Conidi), 93, Aug. 31
St. Joseph Church, Dover

GOULD, Inna Nikolaevna, 85, Aug. 29
St. Joan of Arc Church, Powell

KEARNEY, John M. "Mike," 79, Aug. 30
Church of the Resurrection, New Albany

KRESPACH, Carolyn M. "Carol," 83, Aug. 24
Our Lady of Sorrows Chapel, Lockbourne

MARUNOWSKI, Justine, 92, Sept. 6
St. Paul the Apostle Church, Westerville

MASON, Raymond A., 79, May 20
Sacred Heart Church, New Philadelphia

MEESE, Josephine (Gladstone), 92, June 7
Sacred Heart Church, New Philadelphia

MYERS, Maria, 99, Sept. 2
St. Francis de Sales Church, Newark

POWERS, James A. "Sam," 87, Aug. 31
St. Catharine Church, Columbus

RUPP, Elizabeth A. "Betty," 94, Aug. 14
Holy Spirit Church, Columbus

SABO, Richard S., 84, Sept. 7
St. Paul the Apostle Church, Westerville

THOMAS, Joseph, 81, Aug. 4
Sacred Heart Church, New Philadelphia

VEROSKI, Dolores, 92, July 16
St. Bernadette Church, Lancaster

WELLS, Anthony, 72, Sept. 8
St. Joseph Church, Dover

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OPENDOOR, continued from Page 19

ney.

"At 15 years sober, I never wanted to drink more than I did in that moment," she shared.

Phelps said the craving to drink remains today, and it will likely always be there.

"Every single day I wake up with a choice," she said. "I wake up with a choice to choose recovery, choose me, choose to show up for myself, my partner and my son or go back to addiction that's going to take everything away."

"I knew in that moment if I went back out and started drinking, I would lose my son. There's no guarantee I would come back to sobriety, and there's no guarantee I would live."

Phelps said women in similar situations need to feel supported, seen, heard and understood. "When we can connect with another human, another person, we feel less alone in our struggles," she said.

Phelps stressed the importance of community for recovery. Surrounding herself with others is instrumental for a woman's recovery and continued sobriety. It can also have a profound effect on the people around her.

"One woman getting sober and one woman seeking treatment and one woman having a community means she shows up better for her family, her friends, her loved ones," Phelps said.

Stephanie Cohn, who was served by OpenDoor during her recovery from alcohol and drug addiction, also shared her story. Cohn began as an OpenDoor participant in April 2023, a few months after receiving inpatient treatment for her addiction.

Having women walk alongside her during recovery was instrumental for Cohn. She met with a small group of OpenDoor volunteers, known as a "table," every week for a year. Their last meeting was earlier this month.

"The program is really great because, being in recovery, you have to have a good support system, and these ladies are that good support system. They're there for you friendship-wise. They're there for resources. They're there just to be there," she said.

The panelists discussed how OpenDoor's efforts in helping women recover from addiction correlate to their own work.

Thomas explained how she helps women recover through her work in the local judicial system.

She currently presides over Helping Achieve Recovery Together, known as the H.A.R.T. Program, an opiate-specific drug court giving defendants with history of treatment, refusal or non-compliance an opportunity to engage in addiction treatment.

She also presides over Creating Authority Through Collaborative Healing, known as the C.A.T.C.H. program, which exists to break the cycle of abuse for victims of human trafficking, prostitution

and sexual exploitation by providing resources, community and accountability.

At the state level, Shadwick said Governor Mike DeWine's RecoveryOhio initiative, which was created after the governor took office in 2019, is working toward making Ohio the most recovery-friendly state. The initiative is geared toward prevention and education as well as treatment, harm reduction and recovery support.

For recovery, Shadwick noted that equally important to treatment is social connectedness, as it creates a better likelihood for maintaining long-term recovery.

Muha shared the impact that drugs had on her family. Her youngest son, Brian, and his roommate were killed in their campus house by two men high on crack cocaine. The killers had received drugs from their older brothers, who received them from their mother.

"I learned over the years that – you've all heard of generational poverty – there's generational drug use, and it's devastating, especially in the inner city," she said.

Muha forgave her son's killers and founded The Brian Muha Foundation and Run the Race Club, which serves inner-city children in the hope that they won't choose the same life as her son's murderers.

"They are suffering because of their parents' addictions," Muha said of the children she serves. "When their parents do heal, the children are so proud of them, and they can start to heal, but they can't heal before that happens."

"It's so important that their parents get help. The children in the inner city, no matter what they've been through, and they've been through hell, love their mothers – they love their mothers. Very few of them know their fathers, but when their mother heals, they are the proudest children on earth."

Garrison shared that Maryhaven, a local nonprofit addiction treatment center, helps individuals and families lead healthy lives free of addiction and mental health challenges by providing education, treatment and support. The center has facilities and serves patients in Franklin, Delaware, Union and Morrow counties.

Maryhaven, originally named Mary's Haven, was founded by the Sisters of the Good Shepherd in 1953 upon the request of Bishop Michael Ready. The then-bishop asked the sisters to create a home for women struggling with alcohol addiction.

Today, Garrison said, "We provide one of the only centers that keeps the entire family together, that comes in and can stay for upwards of eight or nine months with their kids, whether it's alcohol, illicit drugs or mental health."



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Diocesan leaders, clergy tour Mount Carmel Dublin site

Catholic clergy members and diocese staff toured Mount Carmel's newest hospital and medical campus under construction in Dublin on Wednesday, Sept. 11.

Hosted by Bishop Earl Fernandes, honorary chair of the Mount Carmel Dublin capital campaign, the tour provided a behind-the-scenes preview of the new campus set to open in April 2025 at I-270 and Sawmill Road.

"Bringing Catholic health care to this community is very important to us," Bishop Fernandes said. "The tenants of service, especially of charity; witness, which recognizes the power of Christ to heal; and the healing power of prayer will be present in the care delivered here."

The bishop encouraged clergy members to make parishioners aware of Mount Carmel Dublin and learn more about the facility that opens next spring.

Jordan Smith, senior project manager for Danis, the construction company building the campus, has been involved in the planning and construction of the campus since its inception in 2021. Before the tour, he detailed some of the company's advanced techniques and innovations employed at the site.

Onsite prefabrication of exterior walls and electric infrastructure are just two of the techniques the construction company has used to improve efficiency, safety and quality in the construction process.

"A project like this would typically take 28 months, but with the onsite prefabrication, we saved four months and the project will be completed in 24 months," Smith said.

"Danis has been an exemplary partner to Mount Carmel," said Deanna Stewart, president of the Mount Carmel Foundation. "We especially admire the compassionate way they treat their employees and subcontractors."

In two groups, participants toured the 240,000 square foot, five-story hospital, getting a first look at the chapel, operating rooms, surgery waiting area, emergency department and diagnostic areas.

"I was here for the ground blessing," said Msgr. Joseph Hendricks, the bishop's delegate for community relations and the former pastor at Dublin St. Brigid of Kildare Church. "I'm struck today by the amazing progress of the project and how big and fabulous and open it is, and especially all of the intricacies built in to make this a state-of-the-art hospital and medical campus."

Msgr. Hendricks is a board member of the Mount Carmel Foundation and co-chairs the capital campaign raising funds to support the construction of the Dublin campus.

"Mount Carmel is striving to shorten hospital stays because people heal better at home, and this hospital is de-



Deborah Carvalho, senior development officer for the Mount Carmel Foundation, shares information on the project with attendees.



Diocesan clergy and leaders tour the Mount Carmel Dublin medical campus currently under construction. Photos courtesy Mount Carmel

signed specifically to help achieve that," he said.

Mount Carmel reports that it's currently a leader in lowering average length of hospital stays, which average 4.6 days, a full day less than other central Ohio hospitals.

Deacon Frank Iannarino, who serves at St. Brigid of Kildare, is excited about Catholic health care being so close for his parishioners.

"Having a Catholic hospital serving our community is so welcomed. We're excited to share what we learned today about this beautiful facility with the people we serve," he said.

Fellow Deacon Paul Zemanek, also representing St. Brigid, said, "The overall feel of the hospital is healing. To see all of the planning that went into it and the new technology that will be used here – like the virtual nursing program – is exciting."

"The transformational care model that we are integrating in the new hospital will include a new virtual nursing component, which helps bedside nurses with checking on and educating patients, as well as speeding up the discharge process so our patients can go home sooner to continue healing," Mount Carmel Foundation senior development officer Deborah Carvalho said.

"The complexities of the construction and the amount of information and energy that it takes to heal is impressive," said Deacon Thomas Berg Jr., the diocesan Chancellor. "More importantly, God is part of the healing that will happen here. Catholic care is about mind, body and spirit. It's uniquely strong and a pure reflection of Christ's ministry."

The 35-acre, \$250 million hospital and medical campus will feature 60 pri-

vate inpatient beds (30 when the facility opens in April and an additional 30 by August 2025); 14 emergency department beds; intensive care unit; four licensed operating rooms; 10 short stay unit beds; cardiology, neurology, orthopedics, primary care, women's health and surgical services; endoscopy, radiology and interventional lab; community health and well-being programs; community meeting space and a chapel.

"We're excited to bring Mount Carmel's radically compassionate care to Dublin and the surrounding area," Stewart said. "We believe the community is excited for this, too. We already have a waiting list of volunteers who want to work here with us."

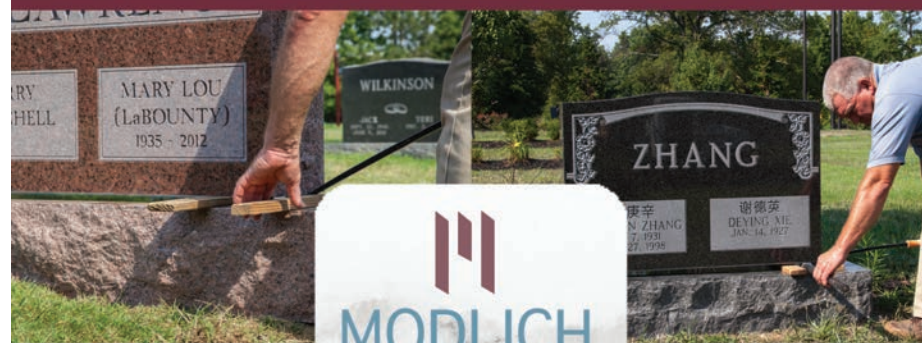
For more information about Mount Carmel Dublin and ways to support the capital campaign, visit Mount Carmel Dublin | Mount Carmel Health System.

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EDUCATION, *continued from Page 5*

the meaning of life with authority, not in a dogmatic and 'authoritarian' manner, mainly by the power of their convictions," he said.

"In his encyclical 'Redemptoris Missio,' Pope John Paul II said, 'The Church proposes; she imposes nothing.' This supposes that we are always ready to be challenged and to give the 'reasons' for our positions and convictions," Cardinal Pierre said.

In his remarks on "The Risk of Education," Bishop Fernandes explained that his parents, who were educators, were "incredible witnesses."

As a child, he recalled wondering if his parents believed and practiced the values that they instilled in him and his brothers. He recounted spying on them late one evening and observing his parents fasting, each eating an egg for their dinner, while his father gave his mother the larger egg.

Bishop Fernandes explained the importance of educators being individuals who students want to imitate, as well as parents for their children, and the role of an educator as a mentor.

Educators should train students' minds to be critical and ask questions, which, he said, is the purpose of education.

The bishop explained that students are human beings who have desires, and



Members of the audience listen to the speakers in the Walter Commons at Columbus St. Charles Preparatory School on Wednesday, Sept. 11.
CT photo by Ken Snow

it is an educator's responsibility to help students encounter the true, good and beautiful.

He said educators "ought not to give up" on their students, and they should see their students' true potential.

Pettit, who is in her fourth year as principal at Cristo Rey, concurred that educators can never give up on their students. She noted that God made the

human heart. Thus, there is always hope for each student.

Pettit also explored the idea that understanding is not the full purpose of education.

She added that self-awareness is critical as well as vulnerability. Describing herself as having a tendency to be guarded, she explained the positive impact that resulted from being vulnerable with her students.

Guslandi, who teaches Italian and comparative literature in addition to being a literary translator at Kenyon College, focused on the importance of tradition and handing on values. She explored the idea of education as a proposal through lived experiences.

She was born and raised in Milan, and she attended high school at Berchet, where Giussani began his teaching career. She later graduated from the University of Milan and the University of Genoa. She formerly taught humanities and writing at the University of Chicago, where she earned a Ph.D. in Italian.

As an educator, Guslandi offered questions for self-reflection, including: Are we engaging? Do students want to be like us?

As a parent, considering her children,

she asked: Do they see in us something attractive or compelling?

In Kuehnle's remarks, he focused on Giussani's idea of conviction. He explored conviction as something that generates authority.

A former high school teacher, Kuehnle shared a story from an out-of-state field trip to the nation's capital that was particularly challenging for him. He recalled that, one evening at dinner with his students in Washington, one by one they shared their wounds: divorce, alcoholism and drugs in their families. Kuehnle said the "weight of their sorrows hit like a wave."

He recalled that night being the night he truly became a teacher.

Kuehnle, who received a Ph.D. in political theory from Ohio State University, explained that educators and students share the same wounds. He said conviction binds individuals to reality.

Noting the gospel story of the good thief who was crucified next to Christ, Kuehnle said the Good Teacher, Jesus, and the good thief were bound together. On the cross, he said, the good thief moved from "doubt to conviction."

He noted that authority derives from conviction. On the cross, Christ offered conviction. In the same way, educators should offer conviction to their students, particularly the convictions of the gospel.

In his current position with the Catholic Conference of Ohio lobbying on behalf of Ohio's bishops, Kuehnle acknowledged that, while he might not have as much to offer as other lobbyists, he can offer conviction to the senators he meets with.

He referenced Acts 9:4-5, when St. Paul heard a voice saying, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?" and the voice said, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting." Kuehnle explored the correlation between the persecuted Christ and those persecuted today: the single mother, preborn child and migrant.

As a Catholic lobbyist, he explained that he shares these convictions in meetings with senators, and they can share that conviction together.

SENIORS, *continued from Page 21*

quality of life for seniors and their companions.

Downing recognized that many likely could not attend the day's celebration because of being homebound or due to transportation issues.

For those who could attend, the response was positive.

"Just to see this many people want to come and be here –," Rovnak said. "It was so funny – the same man that sat with us last year sat with us today."

JoEllen Fancelli Vickers, a parishioner at St. Matthew, also saw several familiar

faces. She saw individuals she grew up with decades ago at Columbus St. James the Less Church.

"Several people came over to me that were way back where I got married and all that," she said.

The day was also a celebration for Vickers as it was her 72nd birthday.

"That made it special," she said.

"I enjoyed it. Being with seniors and being with Catholic people is a joy for me. I love being with these people, and I love coming to these kinds of things because they are important – we are important."

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OLPH students start year with Mass, procession



A Eucharistic procession led by Father Joseph Yocum followed the first all-school Mass at Grove City Our Lady of Perpetual Help School. After Mass, the students went to their classrooms and lined the halls while the altar servers vested for the procession. The Eucharist was processed through the school while the children were led in praying a rosary. Students then gathered again for Benediction in the gymnasium. *Photos courtesy Our Lady of Perpetual Help School*

St. Pius School encourages students to 'shine'



The Reynoldsburg St. Pius X School community is embracing the message of Matthew 5:16, encouraging everyone to "let their light shine," and the staff is leading by example. At the first all-school Mass, teachers, known as the Panther Praisers, shared their gifts by cantoring; on the first day of school, staff members enthusiastically greeted each student with the annual clap-in, and during the Back-to-School Assembly the staff "literally" let their lights shine with a lively dance in the dark, followed by hysterical Staff Olympics. Recognizing the strong link between student engagement

and academic success, the St. Pius X staff is dedicated to building meaningful connections with students and creating a joyful learning environment where students are formed into disciples of Christ. *Photos courtesy St. Pius School*

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PRIEST, continued from Page 2

es and as a guest lecturer at the Catholic University in Seoul, he was appointed Catholic chaplain at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and part-time chaplain at the University of Massachusetts at Boston.

Father Moloney relocated to Denver in 2020 to serve as a visiting professor of theology at the Augustine Institute. He then became assistant professor at St. John Vianney Theological Seminary in Denver.

He was asked if he would like to remain in Denver permanently. However, his family – formerly living in different places – had all returned to Columbus in the Upper Arlington area and were parishioners at Columbus St. Andrew Church, so he began considering the priesthood in Columbus.

Father Moloney said he knew Msgr. Stephan Moloney, the pastor at St. Andrew, and he admired Bishop Earl Fernandes.

He expressed interest in serving as a seminary professor or college chaplain in Columbus. After a conversation with the bishop, he was placed at the New-

man Center.

His first impressions of Buckeye Catholic ministry were positive.

“It’s very impressive for me to move here and see how competent Buckeye Catholic already is, how professional it is, how well-formed the students are,” he said. “I’m very excited to be walking into a situation where we can just add. There’s not a lot of remedial work that has to be done.”

Having spent most of his adult life in academia around universities and professors, Father Moloney said he developed some opinions of how college campus ministry should be done. Having been in the trenches of campus ministry, he could identify what works and what does not.

“Part of my opinions is that I don’t think there’s enough resources,” he said. “The Church as a whole in the United States doesn’t put enough resources into college campus ministry. And so, I wanted to put my resources into that.”

Father Moloney has a wealth of knowledge to offer.

In addition to his degree in religious studies from Yale, he earned a bachelor’s of sacred theology from the Pontifical University of the Holy Cross in Rome. He also received a doctorate in philosophy from the University of Notre Dame in 2004, where he earned a master’s degree as well.

He served as a lecturer in the politics department at Princeton University and worked at think tanks in Princeton, Washington and New York. He also served as associate editor of “First Things,” a magazine featuring articles on religion, culture and politics published by The Institute on Religion and Public Life.

A prolific writer, Father Moloney has published more than 30 articles and book reviews in publications including “The Wall Street Journal,” “National Review,” “Crisis” and “First Things.” He is also the author of “Mercy: What Every Catholic Should Know,” a book partly based on his dissertation for his doctorate.



Father Daniel Moloney

A few years before his ordination, Father Moloney had returned to the United States from earning his degree in Rome in 2007 and was job searching. He was simultaneously discerning the priesthood.

“Before I started the job search, I was praying, like, I think I want to be a priest, but I want to make sure that it’s not out of failure,” he said. “So it was even before I got the job in D.C. that I was thinking this

for some time.”

His contacts had led him to The Heritage Foundation, a think tank in Washington. It was there that Father Moloney decided to leave his present life behind and answer the call to the priesthood.

“I had this great job where I was having meetings in the West Wing of the White House and being involved in major legislation and dealing with social conservative issues and marriage and family, and it’s a great job, but – no – I want to be a priest,” he recalled.

“What I knew was that the priesthood couldn’t be my backup, like, ‘Oh, I didn’t do this; I wasn’t successful in this; therefore, I can be a priest.’ I want it to be instead, ‘No, I’m really successful at something, and being a priest is better.’”

With a doctorate in philosophy and degrees in religious studies and sacred theology, he had met nearly all of the seminary requirements – enough that he was told he could be on faculty. He was ordained to the priesthood after a relatively short period.

Father Moloney said, for him, seminary was less about academics and more about “making sure I was a good guy.”

With his academic background, he recognized the importance of a Church that ministers to young, educated individuals.

St. John Henry Newman, an influential teacher, distinguished theologian and the namesake of Catholic centers on college campuses – “Newman centers” – described campus ministry as being pastoral care but for younger and more educated people. Father Moloney agreed with his philosophy.

“In addition to ministering to them as young people, you also have to minister to them as educated people and appeal to their intellects and model for them how to be a college-educated Catholic,” he said.

As an example, he noted, “If you’re studying medicine at a high level and your own Catholic intellectual formation is topped out at eighth grade, it’s not a fair fight. We’re going to lose all the time. The smart people will leave the

Church.

“But, if we can reach out, if we can say, we’re going to have talks, and we’re going to give talks, and we’re going to explain the faith in as many ways as possible, and we’re going to give people, like, ‘Here’s a good book to read,’ and basically show how to be an intellectually confident Catholic among other intellectually confident people, I think that’s one way we’re going to keep our hold on these people who are going to college.”

Father Moloney also highlighted the importance of college students being part of small groups. Such groups offer students a core group of like-minded individuals and can create or foster conversations. He added that mission trips and service projects are also beneficial for college students.

Men’s and women’s small groups, as well as small-group Bible studies, are offered at the Newman Center by the Fellowship of Catholic University Students (FOCUS) and Saint Paul’s Outreach (SPO) ministry apostolates serving at Ohio State.

Father Moloney noted that larger events are also good for students to attend about once a year. Events such as World Youth Day, the March for Life and FOCUS’ annual SEEK conference feed students spiritually. He said it is important to be in the presence of thousands of other young Catholic individuals enthusiastic about the faith.

Heeding Christ’s command to “go and make disciples of all nations” (Matthew 28:19), the Newman Center is working to form students as missionary disciples. Father Moloney said FOCUS and SPO, in different ways, have a vision of college students forming their peers to go out and be apostles.

Rather than try to reach each student on campus himself, Father Moloney explained the importance of well-formed people forming people.

“Ohio State’s so big that everything that I do is a drop in the bucket, so part of what we’re strategizing is how to multiply our resources,” he said.

“I shouldn’t necessarily be going out and shaking hands with people in the middle of campus. I should be forming people to be able to go out and shake hands in the middle of campus so that we don’t have just one person doing it – we have an army of students and people who can do that, so, that multiplying.”

Buckeye Catholic is seeing results. An increasing number of students are taking advantage of the sacraments offered to them.

“This last weekend (Aug. 24-25) we had a record number of students show up (for Mass),” Father Moloney shared. “We had over 1,000, which is up from the peak of last year, but I’m not surprised at that because every year the students get better formed in how to be apostles.”

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OUR LADY OF LOURDES

St. Timothy hosts annual Blue Mass



The annual Blue Mass for police, fire, first responders and public safety professionals was held Wednesday, Sept. 11 at Columbus St. Timothy Church. A procession included traditional bagpipes (upper left photo). Representatives from the Columbus Division of Police, Franklin County Sheriff's Office, Columbus Division of Police, Columbus Division of Fire and the Ohio Highway Patrol brought the gifts to the altar (lower right photo) at the Mass celebrated by Father David Poliafico, pastor at St. Timothy, and Father Leo Connolly, longtime Franklin County Sheriff's Office chaplain. *Photos courtesy Larry Pishitelli*

St. Dominic women go on retreat



"God is Our Refuge and Our Strength" (Psalm 46) was the theme of the 14th annual Columbus St. Dominic Parish Women's Bible Study Retreat on Aug. 16-18 at the Spiritual Center of Maria Stein. Thirty-nine women from St. Dominic, surrounding parishes, Cincinnati, and Arizona attended this year's gathering of prayer, breakout sessions, song, reflection and fellowship. Two presenters spoke on the retreat's theme. Each participant left the retreat with two tote bags filled with spiritual guides in the forms of prayer cards, Catholic books, medals, journals and mental health resources to foster and maintain the blessings received during the weekend. Due to the COVID pandemic, this year's retreat was a return to the annual event, held during a span of 20 years, for the first time since 2019. Previous retreats took place in Columbus at the St. Therese Retreat Center and St. Mary of the Springs; Newark Ss. Peter and Paul Retreat Center, St. John Bergamo Retreat Center in Dayton; and Maria Stein. The Bible study group, which studies Scripture from September through May, planned and hosted the event. *Photo courtesy St. Dominic*

ANNIVERSARY ROSARY PROCESSION and MASS at FIRST MASS SITE in the State of Ohio

**SATURDAY, SEPT. 28, 2024,
10AM**

Rev. André-Joseph LaCasse, O.P., celebrant

5000 Stage Coach Road NW | Somerset, Ohio 43783
Please bring your lawn chairs.

**COMMEMORATING THE
216TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FIRST MASS SITE.**

*After Mass, plans will be shared for
the further development of the First Mass Site.*

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