

# The CATHOLIC TIMES

THE DIOCESE OF COLUMBUS' INFORMATION SOURCE  
AUGUST 11, 2024 • 19TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME • VOLUME 73:16



**DENNISON FESTIVAL  
A SUMMER TRADITION,  
PAGES 10-11**

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE



### QUO VADIS

Thirty high school students from around the diocese took part in the annual Quovadis retreat in late July at the Pontifical College Josephinum, Page 2



### TOTALLY YOURS

Students mix faith with fun during the summer Totus Tuus youth programs offered by missionaries in Chillicothe and other parishes in the diocese, Page 3



Hector Daniel Cruz, 15, (left) a member of Columbus Christ the King Church, speaks with Deacon Joey Rolwing at the Quo Vadis registration table on Sunday, July 28.



The 2024 Quo Vadis retreat included seminarians who served as organizers as well as 30 participants who were joined by Bishop Earl Fernandes after Mass on Wednesday, July 31 in the Pontifical College Josephinum's St. Turibius Chapel. *CT photos by Ken Snow*



Quo Vadis attendees and families attend the final Mass in St. Turibius Chapel at the Pontifical College Josephinum.

## Quo Vadis retreat assists high schoolers in vocation discernment

Quo Vadis retreats began in the diocese six years ago as a means to help high school students start to think about a possible vocation to the priesthood.

In the past few years, the number of young men entering seminary has skyrocketed. Whether or not there's a correlation is unknown, but evidence points to the retreats having an impact.

"I think having Quo Vadis in our diocese has led to a significant increase of interest in the priesthood," said Father Michael Haemmerle, the associate director for vocations and a parochial vicar at

**"It's really a time to step away from the world and enter into intentional fraternity and prayer with the aim of asking God, 'What do you want from me in my life?'"**

*Shane Gerrity, seminarian*

Westerville St. Paul the Apostle Church. "Most of the college seminarians (from the diocese) we have now come on a Quo Vadis retreat — some more than once — while they were in high school.

"You know, discernment is never just one thing. Usually, it's a whole combination of things. So we hope this is one more thing that contributes to guys discerning — and discerning well."

The recently ordained Father Haemmerle was joined by Father William Hahn, the diocese's director of vocations and vicar general, and current seminarians who welcomed 30 young men to the Pontifical Josephinum on Sunday, July 28 for this year's Quo Vadis retreat.

Participants are given an opportunity to experience the seminary while engaging in physical activities, learning to pray the Liturgy of the Hours, attending Mass and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, and listening to talks on faith formation and vocations.

The retreat concluded with a Mass celebrated by Bishop Earl Fernandes on Wednesday, July 31.

"Quo Vadis is a retreat in which you try to get away from everything to listen

to the Lord, and the talks and everything are focused on discernment, especially on discernment to the priesthood," Father Haemmerle said.

"The talks are important, but the most important part is that time for quiet and

prayer. And it's good for them to get to know the other guys who are doing the same thing — that there are other guys they can talk to and lean on in their discernment — and to build up a sense of fraternity."

Quo Vadis, which is a Latin phrase that means "Where are you going?", was started in the diocese in 2018 after seminarians heard about similar retreats in other dioceses.

"It's really a time to step away from the world and enter into intentional fraternity and prayer with the aim of asking God, 'What do you want from me in my

*See QUO VADIS, Page 12*



Gabriel Dzikowski (right) hands off a bucket of water to Isaac Mendez during one of the Quo Vadis outdoor activities.



Quo Vadis participants and leaders assemble for the first time in a classroom at the Pontifical College Josephinum.



*Front page photo*

### SUMMER TRADITION

Dennison Immaculate Conception's two-day summer festival in late July offered food, fellowship and fun for the 43rd year while raising funds to benefit the parish school. Pictured is seven-year-old Paige Aune working at the fresh lemonade stand.

*CT photo by Ken Snow*

**The CATHOLIC TIMES**

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

# Totus Tuus summer program helps students grow in faith

By Hannah Heil  
Catholic Times Reporter

Getting children to sit still for a 20-minute rosary might be challenging, but at Totus Tuus, the rosary comes to life, and not only for a matter of minutes – but for a week.

Totus Tuus, a weeklong summer catechetical program utilized by some parishes in the diocese, is assisting parents and religious education leaders in evangelizing and catechizing their youth by supplementing the work they are currently doing in church and at home.

Children in first through sixth grade meet daily at their parish for a week of catechesis, games, skits and the sacraments. Older children in seventh through 12th grade meet for two hours in the evenings for a week of games, catechesis, witness talks and prayer.

The faith and festivities are brought to the parish courtesy of Totus Tuus missionaries. Teams of four college-aged missionaries – two men and two women – travel for six weeks in the summer from parish to parish, spending a week at each while serving the youth.

A group of four Totus Tuus missionaries in the Diocese of Columbus spent their final week of the summer serving Our Lady, Queen of the Apostles parish (Chillicothe St. Peter, St. Mary and Waverly St. Mary churches) at St. Peter Church. Thirty-four children participated in the program at the parish.

Cecilia Davis, the director of evangelization at Our Lady, Queen of the Apostles, was eager for the program to come to the parish this summer.

"I was really excited to bring Totus Tuus here," she said, "plus, Father (Chris) Tuttle is a huge lover of Totus Tuus, so he was adamant on it as soon as he got here, which was great because we already wanted it

here, so our visions aligned there."

Davis is a former Totus Tuus participant. As a teenager, she attended the program's teen nights and served as a youth helper in the day program for younger children.

"I knew it was a good program," she said. "We had previously been doing Vacation Bible School, but I knew that we could do more than that, and the kids wanted more than that."

Sacred Scripture and the Catechism of the Catholic Church are the foundation of the program's catechetical instruction. Totus Tuus divides the four pillars of the Catechism – the Profession of Faith, the Celebration of the Christian Mystery, Life in Christ and Christian Prayer – into a six-year teaching cycle.

Each pillar is complemented by a set of mysteries of the rosary.

This summer, instruction is focused on the Apostles Creed and the five Glorious Mysteries: the Resurrection, Ascension, Descent of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, Assumption and Coronation of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Ellie Corcoran, 12, a seventh-grade student at Chillicothe Bishop Flaget School, participated in Totus Tuus this summer. As a middle-school student, she was involved in the program's teen nights.

"I've really liked the witness talks ... because they can be really relatable to my life, and it can help me grow in Christ and try to follow in their footsteps," she said of her experience with the Totus Tuus missionaries.

Corcoran also volunteered during the day program with the younger students. Immersion in the younger age group's catechesis was beneficial for her, too.

"You get to learn what they're learning," she said. "Sometimes you learn a lot of new things that you didn't know before, too; like, there was something in the class that I didn't know before yesterday. I thought it was really interesting to learn about."

Each day, students learn one of the five Glorious Mysteries. The rosary comes to life as missionaries debut their acting skills. They perform a "mystery skit" for students each morning, introducing them to the mystery they will focus on that day.

Students are then split into age-appropriate groups – first and second; third and fourth; and fifth and sixth grades – for learning and discussion.

Students have class time to review the mystery together. When learning about the first Glorious Mystery, the Resurrection, first- and second-grade students acted out a skit of St. Mary Magdalene looking for Jesus at the tomb on Easter morning. They then colored pictures of Christ's Resurrection.

Older grades prayed the first decade of the Glorious Mysteries together.

In addition to focusing on a mystery of the rosary, students are introduced to a line from the Apostles Creed each day.

"We also do a game every time before we start a class; I think just to get our energy out so that we're not rambunctious in class," participant Blaise Davis, 9, said.

Each day is complete with songs, more skits and an hour of recess. Blaise said he en-



Totus Tuus missionary Mikey Born, a member of Newark St. Francis de Sales Church, is entering his first year of seminary this fall.



Lexie Demange (left), a Totus Tuus missionary, plays a Noah's Ark game outdoors with the students.



Children react to a Dr. Seuss comedy skit performed by the Totus Tuus missionaries.

joyed getting to spend time with his friends.

"We really try to make it a fun environment for the kids, that they can grow in their faith, find friendship, and also, just have fun," Totus Tuus missionary Ashlyn Bohman, 20, said.

As the director of evangelization, Cecilia Davis is seeing the fruit of the program. "Totus Tuus focuses on things that are very applicable to their lives," she said.

"This year, like, the Creed, it's been lovely to go line by line through the Creed because that's very accessible to them, and they hear it often. And so, it's helping them identify their Catholic faith in a real way, instead of just a generalized Gospel message."

As part of the Totus Tuus program, the sacraments of reconciliation and the Eucharist are offered to students every day. Children in the day program attend Mass together daily.

"I like the daily Mass a lot because sometimes I don't get to go to daily Mass, and I just love going to Mass," said Lucy Thompson, 12, a seventh-grade student at Bishop Flaget.

"The games are just really fun. I get to

know people a lot better, and I like going to Mass because I like spending time with Jesus in the tabernacle."

As a seventh-grade student, Thompson participated in the teen nights. She also volunteered to help with the younger students in the day program.

During the evening program for teenagers, students pray Vespers, or evening prayer, together, which is part of the Catholic Church's Liturgy of the Hours. The Hours are prayed at certain times daily by clergy, consecrated religious and many laity.

Father Tuttle, pastor of Our Lady, Queen of the Apostles parish, said he hopes participants "encounter our Lord Jesus and maybe even start to hear their vocation call, especially the older kids – that might be more prominent for them, more important for them – that they grow closer to the Lord during the week, and they take it from there and receive whatever message He wants to give them."

It appears children are encountering



Father Chris Tuttle distributes Holy Communion during a Mass attended by Totus Tuus participants at Chillicothe St. Peter Church on Tuesday, July 23. CT photos by Ken Snow

# Msgr. Moloney reflects on years of service to diocese

By Hannah Heil  
Catholic Times Reporter

Msgr. Stephan Moloney retired from the diocesan Chancery earlier this summer after serving there for 36 years.

He held various positions in the Chancery, including vice chancellor, chancellor, vicar for spiritual life and, most recently, vicar general. He served under four bishops: Bishops Emeriti James Griffin and Frederick Campbell and Bishops Robert Brennan and Earl Fernandes.

He also served as administrator from December 2021 to May 2022 when the diocese was without a bishop.

In addition to his work in the Chancery, Msgr. Moloney, 68, served as a parish priest, including at Columbus St. Andrew Church, where he currently is the pastor, a role he has held since 2013. He is also vicar forane for the diocese's Northwest Columbus Deanery, which includes eight parishes.

Msgr. Moloney was born and raised in Ada, Ohio. He attended Ada Our Lady of Lourdes Church, where he was an altar server, and graduated from Ada High School in 1974.

His nearly four decades in Columbus directly assisting four bishops in the pastoral and administrative governance of the diocese could be considered a surprise to him.

"We didn't really have much of a con-

nection with Columbus," he recalled. "I remember coming to Columbus when I was in eighth grade. I got the Serra Club (altar serving) award, and it was like, coming to Columbus, I didn't know.

"Somebody called me from the Serra Club to tell me that I got the award; would I be at the ceremony? It was going to be whatever Sunday at St. Charles (Preparatory School). I said, 'Oh, St. Charles in Lima?'"

His roots in the diocese's northwest corner – about a 20-minute drive from Lima, located in the Diocese of Toledo – seemed to point somewhere other than a career in the Chancery.

"I did not ever envision that," he said. "When I felt the call to the priesthood, my role models were the pastors that I knew in Ada. I thought I would be a small-town pastor."

However, it seems God had other plans for him.

He entered seminary after high school and received his undergraduate degree from the Pontifical College Josephinum in Columbus. He then attended Mount St. Mary's Seminary in Emmitsburg, Maryland.

He was ordained a priest in 1982 by Bishop Edward Herrmann at Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral. His first parish assignment was Columbus St. Peter Church, where he spent his first few years as a priest.



Msgr. Stephan Moloney

It wasn't long before Msgr. Moloney's gifts and talents for administration were recognized.

He was asked by a priest in the diocesan marriage tribunal, which hears marriage nullity cases, if he had interest working there. Msgr. Moloney said he did not foresee being happy doing tribunal work.

Shortly after, as a young priest, he was approached about an administrative opportunity.

"Bishop Griffin asked me about working in the Chancery," he recalled. "That wasn't where I thought I would be going in my priesthood, but the bishop asked me, so that made a difference."

Msgr. Moloney began by serving in

the Chancery a couple of days per week. He said the arrangement gave him a flavor for the work. It also prepared him for studies in canon law, which he began shortly thereafter upon request from the bishop.

"I do remember him talking to me and saying, 'Now, if I send you away for studies in canon law, I don't want you to come back and then turn around and say you want to go be a pastor. I expect you to give me six to 10 years of service,'" Msgr. Moloney recalled his conversation with the bishop.

"I often think of that because I'm thinking, well, I'll be here six to 10 years, and then I can move on to something else, and, of course, ended up being there 36 years."

Msgr. Moloney completed his canon law studies at the Angelicum in Rome. There, he earned a licentiate in canon law (JCL, or juris canonici licentia in Latin) in 1988. He was then appointed vice chancellor for the diocese. He also served as vicar for spiritual life during that time.

In November 1997, he was named vicar general and chancellor by Bishop Griffin.

He served as chancellor for 10 years. He continued as the diocese's vicar general, serving under four bishops, until his retirement from the Chancery in July.

"Msgr. Moloney has been a trusted ad-

See MOLONEY, Page 5



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# Kissing at weddings

## 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.*



Dear Father,  
I'm a new bride and just returned from my honeymoon. I was perturbed during our trip because of the priest at our wedding. He was adamant that there was to be no, what he called, "carrying on at the wedding ceremony," like swooping kisses. He refused to say "you may kiss the bride" and wouldn't introduce us as husband and wife at the end of the event. I paid money to use that church and I don't feel like I got very good service. When I contacted the priest's boss, some higher-up told me the priest that married us did nothing wrong. I think you people should get with the times.

-Sullie

Dear Sullie,

It's precisely because we don't "get with the times" that the Church has survived for nearly 2,000 years. The Church responds to the times by proclaiming the Lordship of Jesus Christ. The Church responds to the times by rescuing people from the alluring charms of the devil and bringing them into the embrace of Jesus Christ. The Church responds to the times by telling people what they often don't want to hear: the truth.

We do this through the preaching of the Gospel and the celebration of the seven sacraments that Christ instituted. Holy Matrimony is one of those seven.

Catholic weddings are at the same time joyful but solemn because of their sacramental nature. The joy is the realization of living more deeply with Christ in married life. The solemnity is the act of giving glory to God in this sacred rite.

Each of the seven sacraments has an essential part as well as other rites that surround the essence of the sacrament. In the case of Matrimony, its essence consists in the free and mature exchange of consent between a man

and a woman to give themselves to each other for the rest of their lives, and to raise children, all to the glory of God. Matrimony is part of the means of the spouses helping each other to heaven.

All of the seven sacraments are sacred rites involving humans and Almighty God. Sacred rites are not to be toyed with for our own gratification. This includes the sacrament of Matrimony and the Mass within which it is oftentimes celebrated. We can't just do whatever we like with the sacred rites because, in the sacraments, we are "touching" God – or better, God is "touching" us. The sacraments are both a means of worshiping God and the means by which He brings us into union with Himself.

Matrimony, in particular, is a sign of our union with God. The bride and groom are signs of the Church and Christ. Just as Christ died on the cross for the Church, His bride, so the groom lays down his life for his bride. Just as the Church is perpetually proclaiming her love and surrender to Christ, so the bride gives herself to her husband. This event, so full of deep and self-sacrificing love, is a most solemn moment. Matrimony, beautiful and bursting with love and joy, is at the same time a divine encounter with Christ. This is no giddy moment.

The priest at your wedding did you a huge favor, one that I hope you will come to realize. We have all witnessed the "carrying on" at weddings, such as the deep kissing (to the point of embarrassment), the swooping

of the bride in the groom's arms, and the whooping and hollering as if we were in a dance hall rather than God's house. Not to take away the joy of such a great day, but a church is a church.

You said that you paid money to "use that church." It sounds like you think you rented the space just as you rented your reception hall. Rather, you most likely offered the church a fraction of the cost of your reception; the money is a gift to the church, partly for its upkeep, but especially as a sign of your appreciation for its dignity and your own desire to participate in that parish's continuation of preaching the Gospel.

The Second Vatican Council, acting as the highest authority of the Church, declared that no person, "even if he be a priest, may add, remove or change anything in the liturgy on his own authority" in the sacred rites. Thus, a priest may not add things to the wedding rite, be it within a Mass or apart from the Mass. This includes such things as "you may kiss the bride" and "I present to you for the first time Mr. and Mrs. XYZ," often found in non-Catholic weddings.

Concerning kissing, I have a couple of thoughts. First, if the Sign of Peace is celebrated at the Mass, that's an opportunity for a chaste kiss. I emphasize chaste. It's not a time to display an affecting that should be a private matter between husband and wife. Second, the priest doesn't say "you may kiss the bride" because you will have the rest of your lives to enjoy your marital bliss.

Finally, often when we attend joyous affairs, even when solemn, we sometimes cannot contain our enthusiasm and will spontaneously clap, such as when the bride and groom exit the church. This happens, too, when someone like the pope visits a church for Mass, or when new priests are ordained, and the like.

I wish you and your husband many happy years and a large family.

## MOLONEY, continued from Page 4

viser to many bishops for years. He is an outstanding canon lawyer and priest. I have been honored to work with him over the years, and he has always been a loyal and good friend," said Msgr. Joseph Hendricks, who preceded Msgr. Moloney as vicar general, serving from 1988 to 1997.

"I wish him every blessing and success as he continues to serve the Church and the diocese."

Msgr. Hendricks went on to become pastor at Dublin St. Brigid of Kildare Church in 1997, which he continued until 2023. He currently serves as the bishop's delegate for community relations.

Serving as vicar general for four bishops, Msgr. Moloney described each change in leadership as an adjustment for him. Every bishop was different.

"It's like, you go into a parish and people kind of expect you to be just like the priest who was there before, and of course, every priest is different. They have their own way of doing things, and even knowing that, it was hard for me to adjust to each bishop," he said.

Msgr. Moloney said he worked well with the bishops, and he expressed admiration for them.

Bishop Fernandes acknowledged Msgr. Moloney and his contributions to the diocese during a Mass at St. Joseph Cathedral on July 1.

"He followed Jesus into the beyond and remains faithful to Him in friendship,"

the bishop said in his homily.

"Monsignor, as your bishop but also as a friend, on behalf of a grateful diocese, thank you for decades of service."

As vicar general, Msgr. Moloney represented Columbus' bishops on different boards. He oversaw general diocesan administration, handling items and acting on behalf of the bishop.

Msgr. Moloney was first in residence at Gahanna St. Matthew the Apostle Church while working at the Chancery full time in Columbus.

"I really enjoyed having the parish connection and being able to separate from my work downtown," he said. "Having a regular parish involvement, I think that's one thing that helped me last so long."

He lived at St. Matthew during the span of three pastors who served there. Msgr. Moloney felt it important to be in residence at a parish and keep rooted in parish life.

"Those activities were the reason I became a priest," he said.

He was in residence at St. Matthew for 20 years until, in 2008, he was named pastor at Columbus Immaculate Conception Church in addition to working in the Chancery. He served as pastor at Immaculate Conception for five years until becoming pastor at St. Andrew.

He described his work in the Chancery and the parish as two full-time jobs.

While parish life kept him grounded, Msgr. Moloney also credited his natural disposition

as a reason for his 36 years in the Chancery. He described himself as "pretty patient."

"I don't get excited," he said. "I remain calm, so I think that served me well, too."

Msgr. Moloney witnessed several major changes during his time in the Chancery. Most notably, perhaps, was in 2002, when the Church faced a sexual abuse scandal.

"2002, my job changed dramatically and that situation persisted," he said.

In response to the crisis, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) drafted the "Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People." Later that year, the USCCB approved "The Essential Norms for Diocesan/Eparchial Policies Dealing with Allegations of Sexual Abuse of Minors by Priests, Deacons and Other Church Personnel," which implemented the charter.

Msgr. Moloney was named victim assistance coordinator for the diocese.

"As a victim assistance coordinator, I was dealing with those cases on all different levels," he said. "I dealt with the priests, I dealt with the victims, I dealt with the legal cases, I dealt with the canonical cases."

In addition to serving as vicar general and victim assistance coordinator, Msgr. Moloney had also been named promoter of justice, which is a person appointed in a diocese to provide for the public good. In penal proceedings – those relating to

crime and punishment – a promoter of justice brings an accusation on behalf of the Church and prosecutes it before the tribunal.

"I wore three hats, and it was very difficult work," he said.

Msgr. Moloney served as victim assistance coordinator for almost 20 years. He continued to serve as promoter of justice during that time as well. He was responsible for fulfilling the requirements of each role while continuing as vicar general.

"Doing all that work, it was difficult, but I am proud of it," he said. "I think I did a good job. I did my best to assist the victims. I did my best to be fair to the accused priests."

As part of his work in the Chancery, Msgr. Moloney had an opportunity to accompany two bishops to Rome on ad limina visits, which are obligatory visits for all bishops.

Bishops meet with the pope and Vatican officials on ad limina visits, typically held every five years, as well as pray at the tombs of St. Peter and Paul. The name comes from the Latin "ad limina apostolorum," meaning "to the threshold of the apostles."

Msgr. Moloney accompanied Bishop Griffin on ad limina visits with Pope St. John Paul II in 1993, 1998 and 2004. He also accompanied then-Columbus Bishop Brennan in 2019 to meet with Pope Francis.

## Turn to Mary when you need your mother

"I want my mommy." I whisper into my husband's shoulder. His shirt gathered into my fists as I hold onto him with such emotion and exhaustion. I crave guidance, a woman's knowledge of how to persevere as the journey gets harder.

There are so many changes in life happening: older kids who bring older worries, younger kids who are growing into adults being tested by the challenging influences of this world, my marriage growing and changing over 27 years, planning for my home to be empty in a few years, the stress of balancing caring for all the needs in this home, balancing my work and my husband's, trying not to ask too much of him but also not trying to take it all on myself.

Oh, dear figurative mother who I long to have, where are you? What would you say to me? Would you make me tea? Would you hold me, stroke my hair and tell me it's going to be OK, like I do my daughters and sons?

I long for your wisdom. I long for your comfort. I long for your smile. All those thoughts come rushing from my heart into my prayer as I cling to my husband. I am spent. I feel lost in this season of mothering, and I just don't know where to turn.

Trusting the Holy Spirit and this longing for a mother, I pause and really pray into this. Have you ever longed for your mother? Maybe she is far away, and you cannot physically be with her. Technology clearly helps, but there is something about person-to-person interaction. Some have this luxury, a close-knit tender, drop in for a cup of tea type of relationship. Some had it and cling to the memories and gifts for it. However, there are some of us

### 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.



that did not have that, and at times are left feeling bereft; without, alone. We could stay here and constantly wish for what others have or we can ask for what we need. Our Father in heaven is a provider. So I am trusting in this.

When I take this particular desire of my heart to the Lord (and I do so many times), he gently guides me back to mother Mary. Mary as the constant eternal mother is there longing to step in and listen. Though not physically in person on my front porch, I can sit with my cup of tea and pour out my heart to her. If we have the gift of being mothers ourselves, it is easier to understand the gift of being trusted and turned to. Just yesterday my son tagged along on an errand in the car and as he poured out his young adult thoughts, he said, "It is just good to be listened to Mom." I think that is a good deal of what we long for: to be heard, listened to, for our thoughts to be received and validated.

But how will I get through this, my heart asks (again). I am a visual person and so as I pray, I see our Father in Heaven smiling at me and then tilting his head with a knowing smile toward His mother. Images of her life and her apparitions as it continues to unfold, pouring out for us, appear, offering comfort, wisdom and guidance. Mary trusting in

God's provision as she and Joseph traveled to Bethlehem. Mary sheltering the infant Jesus as they fled to Egypt. Mary weary with worry when she cannot find Jesus who has stayed back in the temple. Mary wracked with pain as she watches her son suffer upon the cross. But we also have Mary at Guadalupe showing us gentleness and trust. "Am I not your mother?" At Lourdes, we have Mary reminding us to "go to the source, drink and wash yourself there."

From this, I am reminded to get myself to turn to the gift of the sacraments: to Mass where I can eat and drink of the source of life. Wash myself of my sins and go to confession. I am always amazed at how right ordered my life feels when I tend to myself spiritually. It is often last on my list of things to take care of when I am overwhelmed, and yet it is the one that sets me straight.

I think of the times when my children come and pour out their hearts to me. As an earthly mother, I try to solve their problems. It is this same desire to have my own problems solved that brings me to the point of crying out for that motherly comfort. The comfort I really seek is the desire to be right oriented and Mary does that so gently, yet perfectly.

Perhaps you are like me and have moments where life seems overwhelming; you don't have the answers and you are not sure which way to go. Join me in getting myself more frequently to Mass and confession to begin again. There is no mother who knows us better than our heavenly mother. Let us turn to Mary as that model of trust, surrender, gentleness and wisdom.

## Potholes on the road to Synod 2024

The ecclesiastical propaganda machine created for last October's Synod on Synodality for a Synodal Church is still grinding away, and it's getting both tiresome and worrisome.

As for tiresome: Cardinal Jean-Claude Hollerich, SJ, the General Rapporteur of Synods 2023 and 2024, informed us in a June 14 "news" release from the Vatican's Synod office that "the Holy People of God has been set in motion for mission thanks to the synodal experience." Well, no, Your Eminence, that's not quite right.

God's holy people were set in motion for mission by the Lord Jesus two millennia ago, when the apostolic band was instructed to "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit ..." (Matthew 28:19). The apostles were confirmed in that mission by the outpouring of the Holy Spirit recorded in Acts 3, and the Church has continued in mission ever since. The character and scope of the Church's 21st-century mission were identified by Pope St. John Paul II in the 1990 encyclical, *Redemptoris Missio* (The Mission of the Redeemer), which taught that every Catholic is baptized into a missionary vocation and that everywhere is mission territory. The

### 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.



living and vibrant parts of the world Church have embraced that teaching and are living it today.

The notion that the "synodal experience" has set the Church in motion for mission is thus preposterous historically. It is also propaganda for an exercise that has thus far been bogged down in the ecclesiastical navel-gazing against which Cardinal Jorge Mario Bergoglio, SJ, warned in the pre-conclave address to the General Congregation of Cardinals that helped bring him to the Office of Peter. Pope Francis repeated that admonition against ecclesial self-referentiality in a homily the day after his election.

As for Synod 2023, it bore no resemblance to the first Christian Pentecost. For after the descent of the Holy Spirit, the first Christians did not sit around as a small

group in the Upper Room, saying, "Wow. That was something. Let's talk about it." No, they went straight out into the streets on mission, "and there were added that day about 3,000 souls" (Acts 3:41). Nothing quite like that followed the tedious and manipulated small group "Conversations in the Spirit" at Synod 2024.

Will things change in October at Synod 2024? There are reasons to be skeptical.

From June 4 to June 14, a group of theologians

worked – my clumsy fingers almost typed "woked!" – to help prepare Synod 2024's working document, based on post-Synod-2023 reports the Synod General Secretariat had received. The theologians seemed to reflect the Synod office's DEI concerns, although their diversity was not notably theological. Catholic theology in the United States and American theologians working abroad (in some instances, a 10-minute cab ride from the Synod office) are among the Church's most creative thinkers today. Yet you would look hard (and unsuccessfully) to find members of the U.S.-based Academy of Catholic Theology or the U.S.-based Sacra Doctrina Project prominent among those called to Rome for this 10-day consultation – and this despite the fact that members of those organizations tick all the seemingly-requisite ethnic, racial and "gender" boxes. Is there an implicit bias at the Synod office, according to which the dynamically orthodox need not apply?

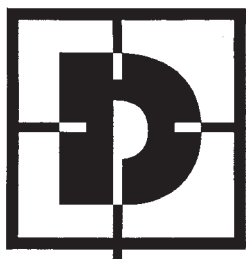
Cardinal Hollerich is not the only member of the College of Cardinals who is spinning tales of the "synodal process" that raise concerns about Synod 2024. The General Secretary of the Synod, Cardinal Mario Grech, has been traveling the world extensively since Synod 2023, on what some churchmen take to be a campaign for the papacy, or at the very least a campaign to be a Great Elector in the next conclave. Be that as it may, the cardinal's interview last March with a Swiss newspaper set off several alarm bells.

First, the cardinal allowed as how, "when we speak of unity, of communion, we are not referring to unity of thought." Really? Are we not in the communion of unified conviction when we recite together the Nicene Creed? The Apostles' Creed? Is local-option Catholicism – the kind of Catholicism in which a grave sin in Poland is a source of grace 10 miles away, on the other side of the Polish-German border – really Catholic (which, after all, means "universal")?

Then the cardinal said that he imagines the Church "as a rainbow." An interesting image, that. Grech is Maltese, which means that English is entirely familiar to him. So it is impossible for him not to grasp what referring to a "rainbow Church" signals in today's globalized culture.

It promises to be an interesting October in Rome.

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*“Let us dream, then, as a single human family, as fellow travelers sharing the same flesh, as children of the same earth which is our common home, each of us bringing the richness of his or her beliefs and convictions, each of us with his or her own voice, brothers and sisters all.”*

— Pope Francis, Fratelli Tutti

In Fratelli Tutti, Pope Francis teaches us the way of St. Francis of Assisi, who called all people his brothers and sisters and was a “saint of fraternal love, simplicity and joy.”

Just as St. Francis sought to live in harmony with all, Pope Francis calls us to value fraternity and friendship across all boundaries and division, as he and the Grand Imam Ahmad Al-Tayyeb demonstrated when they signed the “Document on Human Fraternity for World Peace and Living Together” in Abu Dhabi in 2019.

Also in Fratelli Tutti, Pope Francis gives a thorough description of the darkness he sees in the world today. First, political systems are regressing and the profit-based economic model “does not hesitate to exploit, discard and even kill human beings.” Second, that there is a culture of indifference. By employing a strategy of ridicule, suspicion and relentless criticism, one group can dominate and exclude another, creating a permanent state of disagreement, confrontation and even violence.

The pope wants to strengthen the idea of social friendship and social peace in the face of an all-pervasive social violence, which he sees running through the economy, politics and even through social media. I see it especially through social media. We need to stand up against social violence and disrespect; however, our responses need to be appropriate.

I missed the opening ceremony for the Paris Olympics. Two days later when I tried to find it, all the videos were gone reportedly because of the “Last Supper” display. In

### FAITH IN ACTION | Erin Cordle

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



searching to more insight, I was shocked at how quickly commentators on 24-hour chat shows and YouTube channels were responding with “Oh well, oh yeah!” responses that have become all too familiar. There were palatable gleeful conversations as another potential ratings-grabbing cultural war had landed in their laps. I almost immediately wondered, where is their righteous indignation when it comes to more legitimate experiences of Christian persecution?

Open Doors' 2024 World Watch List – an in-depth investigative report focusing on global Christian persecution – reveals that worldwide, more than 365 million (up from 360 million last year) Christians face high levels of persecution and discrimination for their faith.

According to Open Doors' report,

— North Korea continues to track illegal house churches and condemn Christians to “hard labor.”

— China increased its crackdown on house churches through a set of “old and new authoritarian measures.” Thousands of churches closed in the past year, and 83 percent of closures documented in the report happened in China and India.

— There is a degrading climate for Christians in Nicaragua due to President Daniel Ortega's anti-clergy policies. Last August, his government confiscated the University of Central America, a Jesuit-run institution, accusing it of being a “center for terrorism.”

— Open Doors also raised the alarm on the situation for

Indian Christians and reports a rise in Christian killings and attacks on Christian schools and hospitals in that country.

— Last May's ethnic violence in northeastern India between the Kuki Christian minority and the Meitei, Manipur's biggest and largely Hindu ethnic group, led to the death of 160 Christians and forced thousands more out of their homes.

American Catholics still are basking in the amazing experience of our National Eucharistic Congress. The next International Eucharistic Congress will be held Sept. 8-15 in Quito, Ecuador. The Eucharist is at and in the heart of every Catholic. It is our direct connection with Christ. Any denigration of what Jesus did at the Last Supper is wrong. And we are right to point that out. However, our indignation must not exude or provoke hatred.

Jesus said, “Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when they insult you and persecute you and utter every kind of evil against you [falsely] because of me,” (Matthew 5:10-11). Even if denigrated, we must react as Christ taught. We must pray for better and not be ugly criticizing what is ugly or offensive to us.

The Olympics remain a hopeful global vision of unity worth defending, but it is not an accurate depiction of the world we all know. There are plenty of reasons to be outraged when it comes to real, not tongue-in-cheek persecution of Christians. We should attend to those outrages and pass up the offenses that get prioritized on TikTok, Instagram, social media anger-generators, and ratings-seeking pundits.

Let us reserve the global strategic outrage for those issues and moments that can lead to actual mitigation of real suffering.

God bless all people of faith and be glad that you live in the USA, USA, USA!



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## KEYNOTE BY

*His Eminence*  
Cardinal Christophe Pierre



**DR. WILLIAM KUEHNLE**  
Associate Director for Social Concerns,  
Catholic Conference of Ohio



## MODERATED BY

*The Most Reverend*  
Bishop Earl K. Fernandes



**RYAN MICHELLE PETTIT**  
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## PDHC to feature pro-life work, national speakers at galas

Pregnancy Decision Health Centers (PDHC) has a rich history in central Ohio and its Celebration for Life Galas in September offer an opportunity to learn more about what is happening this year and the impact its work is having in the community.

PDHC's Celebration for Life Gala in Lancaster is set for Thursday, Sept. 12 at The Tree Church starting at 7 p.m. with Dr. Anthony Levatino, a former abortion provider, as the featured speaker.

In Columbus, the Celebration of Life Gala at 7 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 19 at Villa Milano will feature David Bereit, an author and former CEO of 40 Days for Life.

Both speakers will provide insights into the next steps for the pro-life movement.

In addition, a PDHC client will be on hand with her husband and baby daughter to share a successful abortion pill reversal story through PDHC. The couple will also recount their journey through healing after their abortion experience.

PDHC founders Mike and Peggy Harts-horn got involved in the pro-life movement after the Supreme Court decision of Roe v. Wade on January 22, 1973. With the support of their Catholic friends and other passionate, pro-life Christians, they envisioned the first pregnancy help center in Columbus.

PDHC opened its first center in German Village, known as the Pregnancy Distress

Center, on the eighth anniversary of Roe v. Wade, on January 22, 1981. Before the center opened, Mike and Peggy answered calls on an established 24/7 crisis hotline from a bedside phone and welcomed single pregnant moms who needed help into their home.

In 1998, Pregnancy Distress Center changed its name to today's Pregnancy Decision Health Centers. PDHC now operates four pregnancy resource centers and continues the 24/7 hotline.

Since 1981, PDHC has continued to grow and expand programs and services to further meet the needs of women and families in the community.

In 1984, PDHC was the first pregnancy center to receive a grant for abstinence education and initiated its prevention program for sexual risk avoidance and character development education known as Common Sense Culture (CSC). CSC is one of nine collaborating nonprofit organizations in the state with the Ohio Adolescent Health Centers Project (OAHCP) providing healthy choices education to students in middle and high schools.

"The Common Sense Culture Program is one we have been using for many years," a high school teacher said. "It is a great resource that gives teenagers an opportunity to look at their own relationships and future relationships.

"What do these relationships look like

5-10-20 years from now based on the habits they currently have? This program really gets them to think. I enjoy how (the program) gets students to realize how important self-love is when it comes to the many topics discussed in this program."

A participating high school student said, "I've learned a lot through these past few days. I appreciate you so much and will apply what you taught us to life."

In 1989, PDHC was the first pregnancy center to add after-abortion support programs and services. PDHC provides hope and healing to women and men struggling from a past abortion experience through a 24/7 CareLine that receives calls or texts at 614-721-2010, consultations, drop-in connection meetings, six- and eight-week study groups, weekend retreats and linkage to a community for ongoing support.

"I found this retreat to be extremely helpful with my healing process," a female retreat participant told PDHC. "Before this, I had no idea how to heal and was trying to suppress my feelings. I felt like I didn't deserve to feel sad about my decision. I now know that's not true at all.

"This retreat has brought me closer to God as well and I'm very thankful for all of the grace I've been shown by others this past weekend as well as immense support."

A male retreatant shared, "The retreat

was Christ-centered, Spirit-guided, safe, welcoming, and caring, I felt valued and important. It was well-staffed. I felt well-loved. It was purposeful and targeted. It was gentle and nurturing. It was a beautiful conduit for Christ to move."

In 1995, PDHC was the fifth pregnancy center in the United States to add ultrasound services. The impact of seeing and hearing a precious baby's heartbeat on an ultrasound is undeniable. It gives moms an opportunity to see the beauty and reality of life growing within them and begin bonding with their babies.

At PDHC, more than 90 percent of moms who are at risk for abortion who see their baby's heartbeat on the ultrasound choose life.

"I came to PDHC in tears. I knew I was pregnant. I just lost my job, broke up with my boyfriend, and it seemed like my life was going in the wrong direction," a PDHC mother who gave birth to a baby girl in April said. "The staff at PDHC gave me all the resources possible. I am really blessed to have come here. PDHC helped me with everything for my daughter, clothes, car seat, crib.

"When I felt defeated as a mom and as a woman, God led me to their office. I am forever grateful to PDHC and the staff."

In the fall of 2019, PDHC joined Heartbeat International's Abortion Pill Rescue

See PDHC, Page 19



*Here Am I.  
Send Me!  
2024 Gala Dinners*

*Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying,  
"Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?"*

*And I said,  
"Here am I. Send Me!"  
Isaiah 6:8*

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RSVP by Sept 9th

Dr. Anthony Levatino  
Former Abortion Provider, OB-GYN Doctor



**Columbus Gala - Sept 19, 2024**  
7:00pm - Villa Milano

RSVP by Sept 16th

David Bereit  
Author and Former CEO 40 Days for Life

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## Dennison IC festival offers fun while raising funds for school

Parish festivals are an annual rite of summer in many towns throughout the diocese. In Dennison, the two-day festival at Immaculate Conception Church is always an eagerly anticipated event for young and old alike that combines fun, faith, fellowship, food and fundraising.

This year's festival on July 26-27 was the 43rd for the parish and school.

"Not only is it a fundraiser for the school, but it brings people in the community together where they socialize and share a lot of fellowship," said Matt Fantin, who serves as business manager for the school. "Many of the former St. Mary (Immaculate Conception) High School graduates come to the festival and have the opportunity to get together in kind of an annual mini-reunion. It's a lot of fun for everyone."

The festival resembles many others taking place at Catholic parishes that include games, locally prepared food, raffles, music and more. This year, a Hail Mary Mile run was added to kick off the festival on Friday evening that attracted approximately 40 participants whose entry fee benefited the school.

"This is our first year for the run," said Hail Mary Mile organizer Adam Price, the 27-year-old Grand Knight of the sponsoring Knights of Columbus Council 576. "The school benefits mostly from this, but with a thriving school comes a thriving church."

"A priest recently told me, 'Get as many souls to heaven as you can,' and this run and the festival aim to do just that. So the Knights are here to serve and offer as much assistance as we can."

One of the runners and a volunteer ticket seller was Adam Price's brother Alex, 23, a Dennison resident and life-long member of the parish who attended Immaculate Conception School. A recent graduate of Youngstown State University with a degree in finance, he will enter his first year of seminary for the diocese in August.

He said he has felt a call to the priesthood since he was in junior high.

"In the last six months, I've been feeling the calling more and more and decided to go to seminary and 'let go and let God,'" he said.

Jackson Triplett, 20, crossed the finish line first in 4 minutes, 29 seconds. He attended grade school at Immaculate Conception and now lives in New Philadelphia, where he is a member of Sacred Heart Church.

"I'm really excited about the race," he said before the start. "Running is a great sport that can really bring people together. It's an awesome way to have a fundraiser for the parish and I think it will be a lot of fun."

Before the start of the Hail Mary Mile, diocesan seminarian Nick Love, a son of the parish, led the praying of a Hail Mary



Brenda Basiletti (right), selling Paddle Wheel raffle tickets, is a former parishioner who returns every year to help at the Dennison Immaculate Conception festival.



Alex Price, a member of Dennison Immaculate Conception Church, participates in the Hail Mary Mile on Friday, July 26 that was part of the parish festival. Price, a recent Youngstown State University graduate, is entering seminary this fall. *CT photos by Ken Snow*



Jackson Triplett, who attended Immaculate Conception School and now is a member of New Philadelphia Sacred Heart Church, won the Hail Mary Mile in 4 minutes, 29 seconds.



Hail Mary Mile organizer Adam Price announces the winners of the race. He is the Grand Knight for Dennison Knights of Columbus Council 576, a major festival sponsor.



Jake Love is the new principal at Immaculate Conception School, which receives the funds raised from the festival to aid students.



Proceeds from the festival benefit Dennison Immaculate Conception school.



The Paddle Wheel is also known as the Wheel of Fortune at the annual festival.

**FESTIVAL, continued from Page 10**

to send the runners off.

For the Loves, the festival is a family affair. Nick's older brother, Will, has served as co-chair for three years.

"There are five of us Loves and we're all working here tonight," said Will, a lifelong member of the parish.

Jake Love, the new principal of Immaculate Conception School, expressed gratitude for the support from the festival that will help provide funds to handle a growth in enrollment this fall.

"We have a pretty tight-knit community of people here," he said. "There's a long tradition of people who attended IC School and of families who've sent their kids here.

"Last year, we had only 123 students. However, this year we expect to have 148 or 149 students. We're actually looking to be pretty full."

Father Jeff Coning, pastor at Immaculate Conception and New Philadelphia

Sacred Heart churches, commended the Knights of Columbus and local businesses for sponsoring the festival.

"It supports Catholic education in our parish with proceeds going for books, technology and programs for reading, math and study," he said. "It's a big draw for people not only from our parish but from the surrounding area as well."

Brenda Basiletti is one of the school and parish alumni who return to their roots to help with the festival. She now lives in New Philadelphia and is a member of Sacred Heart Church.

Parishioners Kraig and Cyndy Host also are longtime volunteers at the festival who have been running the French fry booth for more than 10 years.

"We do the fry booth on Friday nights, my husband and I and his sister, Kendra," Cyndy said. "We enjoy it. It's our way to give back."



Athena Albright, 10, works at the fresh lemonade stand.



Assisting at the Divine Mercy booth are Ann Keller (left) and Marsha Thompson.



(Left) Kraig and Cyndy Host have been running the fry booth at Dennison Immaculate Conception's festival for more than 10 years.

(Below) The summer festival at Dennison Immaculate Conception always draws good crowds.

CT photos by Ken Snow



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QUO VADIS, continued from Page 2

life?" said seminarian Shane Gerrity, the organizer for this year's retreat who is entering his second year of theology at the Josephinum.

"Because of that, we take time to talk about discernment, prayer, the Mass, aspects of the priesthood and various aspects of religious life as well as for-

mation for a vocation. And through all of that, the retreat will hopefully be able to help them find God's will toward a vocation in their life, whatever it may be, whether it's in married life as a husband and father or to the priesthood."

For more information on vocations, visit [www.vocationscolumbus.org](http://www.vocationscolumbus.org).



Tire flipping proves to be a challenge requiring physical force.



Bishop Earl Fernandes celebrates the final Mass for Quo Vadis while being assisted by Deacons Kevin Girardi (left) and Sam Severance. *CT photos by Ken Snow*



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Totus Tuus missionary Ashlyn Bohman (left) leads a scripture-based activity in Chillicothe.



Maria Corcoran (left) and Lennex Shisko, both 6, participate in an activity. CT photos by Ken Snow

**TOTUS TUUS, continued from Page 3**

or growing closer to the Lord. Totus Tuus missionary Logan Figuerado, 18, witnessed a sense of growth in the students he served.

“It’s been amazing getting to see the kids grow throughout the week, especially the smaller grades starting to piece together some of the important bits, like why Jesus died,” he said.

Figuerado, who is a parishioner at Washington Court House St. Colman of Cloyne Church, also observed transformation in the older students.

“Especially during the teen nights in the evenings, a lot of times seeing the boys grow together in brotherhood and learn to talk about things they wouldn’t really talk about at home, it’s been really nice to see all the growth that’s happened,” he said.

Of the four Totus Tuus missionaries who served at Our Lady, Queen of the Apostles parish, two are local to the diocese and two are from the Archdiocese of Cincinnati.

“The missionaries seem really good, really focused,” Father Tuttle said. “I’ve only heard good things about them, and my experiences with them have been good.”

Mikey Born, 18, a parishioner at Newark St. Francis de Sales Church, served as a Totus Tuus missionary this summer. He will enter seminary this fall at the Pontifical College Josephinum to study for the priesthood in the Diocese of Columbus.

Born applied to be a Totus Tuus missionary at the recommendation of his pastor. He said the program could be a good experience, especially for his priestly formation.

Andrea McLean, the coordinator of middle and high school faith formation at Our Lady, Queen of the Apostles parish, is a former Totus Tuus missionary. She served in the Archdiocese of Chicago during college and had a positive experience with the program.

McLean credited Totus Tuus for her work in parish ministry today.

“I remember thinking, ‘Oh my gosh,’” she said. “I just didn’t know the Church needed people who loved Him, like, an ordinary person who could teach others about Him. I just didn’t know the Church needed me in that way, needed lay people in that way.”

McLean said she found that Totus Tuus



Logan Figuerado, a member of Washington Court House St. Colman of Cloyne Church, was one of the Totus Tuus missionaries in Chillicothe.

taught concrete theology to children. The program also went deeper with students in content, recognizing that the “Church is super rich,” while offering “this awesome pairing of fun as well.”

Several of the children McLean served as a missionary went on to be Totus Tuus missionaries themselves. “So, it actually does have a lot of fruit,” she said.

“I remember this little boy—he could only come for recess and the decade of the rosary—and he came back, like, the third day, and he was like, ‘The rosary is my favorite thing in the world, and I made my own out of pipe cleaners and beads, and now I’m teaching my parents how to pray it.’

“It’s just like, ‘Wow,’ it has so much potential.”

Davis said the weeklong summer program is also a great springboard. It offers students a “taste” of what they will learn in the fall.

“I am excited to see these kids use this information going forward in their school and then also in their faith formation classes,” Davis said.

Totus Tuus, Latin for “totally yours,” was the motto of Pope St. John Paul II. The phrase signifies a desire to give oneself entirely to Jesus through Mary. Since its inception in the Diocese of Wichita, Kansas, in 1987, Totus Tuus has expanded to numerous parishes throughout the United States.



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19th Sunday of Ordinary Time Year B

# Bread of life leads to eternal life

1 Kings 19:4-8  
Psalm 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9  
Ephesians 4:30-5:2  
John 6:41-51

*"The angel of the LORD ... touched him, and ordered, 'Get up and eat, else the journey will be too long for you!' He got up, ate, and drank; then strengthened by that food, he walked 40 days and 40 nights to the mountain of God, Horeb."*

The texts of Sacred Scripture chosen for the First Reading on Sundays are selected for their relationship with the theme of the Gospel. To get a clue as to what is being highlighted for a particular Sunday, it is helpful to read the Gospel text first, then to read the First Reading, and then to glance again at the Gospel to discover what jumps out.

This weekend, we cannot mistake what is highlighted. Besides the clue offered by the account of Elijah's desert feeding in I Kings, Jesus speaks solemnly with His emphatic "Amen, Amen."

*"Amen, amen, I say to you, whoever believes has eternal life. I am the bread of life. Your ancestors ate the manna in the desert, but they died; this is the bread that comes down from heaven so that one may eat it and not die. I am the living bread that came down from heaven; whoever eats this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give is my flesh for the life of the world."*

Belief, eternal life and the living bread are the themes emphasized. The Eucharistic discourse, which will continue for a couple more weeks, takes us into the very heart of the mystery of the gift of Himself that Jesus offers us. Receiving Him as the Bread of Life, we truly have the very life of God planted as a seed in us.

20th Sunday of Ordinary Time Year B

## Truly believing Jesus' presence in the Eucharist is transformative

Proverbs 9:1-6  
Psalm 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7  
Ephesians 5:15-20  
John 6:51-58

Skepticism can be a useful tool in the effort to understand the world. However, when we are learning about something beyond our experience, we must set aside our reticence. If we measure always according to our previous experience, we will never be open to something new. Eucharist is among those realities that stretch beyond our understanding, offering us something greater than we could ever imagine.

The first objection to Jesus' teaching on the Eucharist comes from the kind of skepticism that is closed rather than a useful tool for learning. "How can this man give us his flesh to eat?" To desire to comprehend something, asking "why?" or "how?" is praiseworthy. However, when the Lord of Life is speaking, we must first start with assent that what He says to us

### SCRIPTURE READINGS

Father Timothy Hayes

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



What has come before has pointed to this reality. Now we are invited to acknowledge what is offered. Believing, we taste the goodness of the Lord, and life enters us. "Taste and see the goodness of the Lord." We have eternal life even as we respond to the gift. Receiving it as food, we eat this bread, which is the very flesh of Jesus offered for the life of the world. Heaven enters us. We eat this bread and we already are given to know that we will live forever. The One who promises is worthy of our trust.

Many who receive the Eucharist express how much they have learned to rely on it to strengthen them as they face the challenges of this life. Parishioners who are ill and homebound appreciate that they can share the community's life through the Eucharist. Extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion who go to hospitals, nursing homes and to the homes where the ill are confined discover a joy that gives them strength through the faith-filled responses of those who receive their ministry. This life and life eternal are not so far apart. Through the Eucharist, Jesus, who has conquered ever human weakness through His Resurrection and glorification, touches us with His own life.

There are many reasons offered concerning why people stop going to church. The implication is always that if the Church, her ministers and her people change their ways more would be present. This may be true. If we who receive the Eucharist allow the Lord to change our

is true. To deny that Eucharist is Jesus or that He can give us His very flesh as food stands in the way of the gift being offered.

The answer to the question that is asked is the same answer that Mary is given at the Annunciation: "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you." God can do this by His own power and will. When we choose to deny that Eucharist is Jesus Himself, risen, ascended and glorified, we close ourselves off from the truth that has been revealed.

Jesus meets the skepticism, not with an answer to the disbelief but with a renewal of His claim: "Amen, amen, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you do not have life within you. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him on the last day. For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink."

There is an invitation like that proclaimed by Wisdom: "to the one who lacks understanding, she says, come, eat

THE WEEKDAY BIBLE READINGS			
8/12-8/17 MONDAY Ezekiel 1:2-5, 24-28c Psalm 148:1-2, 11-14 Matthew 17:22-27	THURSDAY Revelation 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab Psalm 45:10bc, 11-12ab, 16 1 Corinthians 15:20-27 Luke 1:39-56	8/19-8/24 MONDAY Ezekiel 24:15-23 Deuteronomy 32:18-21 (Ps) Matthew 19:16-22	THURSDAY Ezekiel 36:23-28 Psalm 51:12-15, 18-19 Matthew 22:1-14
TUESDAY Ezekiel 2:8-3:4 Psalm 119:14, 24, 72, 103, 111, 131 Matthew 18:1-5, 10, 12-14	FRIDAY Ezekiel 16:1-15, 60 or Ezekiel 16:59-63 Isaiah 12:2-6 (Ps) Matthew 19:3-12	TUESDAY Ezekiel 28:1-10 Deuteronomy 32:26-28, 30, 35-36 (Ps) Matthew 19:23-30	FRIDAY Ezekiel 37:1-14 Psalm 107:2-9 Matthew 22:34-40
WEDNESDAY Ezekiel 9:1-7, 10:18-22 Psalm 113:1-6 Matthew 18:15-20	SATURDAY Ezekiel 18:1-10, 13b, 30-32 Psalm 51:12-15, 18-19 Matthew 19:13-15	WEDNESDAY Ezekiel 34:1-11 Psalm 23:1-6 Matthew 20:1-16	SATURDAY Revelation 21:9b-14 Psalm 145:10-13ab, 17-18 John 1:45-51

### DIOCESAN WEEKLY RADIO AND TELEVISION Mass Schedule: Weeks of August 11 and August 18, 2024

#### SUNDAY MASS

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

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

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

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

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

#### DAILY MASS

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

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

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

#### WE PRAY WEEKS III AND IV OF THE LITURGY OF THE HOURS

hearts to be more like His, invitation and welcome would be better experienced by those who now stay away. Nonetheless, Jesus Himself offers the challenge and invitation to all: "Everyone who listens to my Father and learns from him comes to me. ... I am the living bread that came down from heaven; whoever eats this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give is my flesh for the life of the world."

How do we share our faith in the Eu-

charist? The Letter to the Ephesians gives clear direction: "All bitterness, fury, anger, shouting, and reviling must be removed from you, along with all malice. And be kind to one another, compassionate, forgiving one another as God has forgiven you in Christ. So be imitators of God, as beloved children, and live in love, as Christ loved us and handed himself over for us as a sacrificial offering to God for a fragrant aroma."

*of my food, and drink of the wine I have mixed! Forsake foolishness that you may live; advance in the way of understanding."* The Letter to the Ephesians likewise invites us to a wisdom that comes from God: "Therefore, do not continue in ignorance, but try to understand what is the will of the Lord. ... (B)e filled with the Spirit, addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and playing to the Lord in your hearts, giving thanks always and for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God the Father."

If we accept the truth being taught, we can perceive something more. Eating and drinking the Eucharist, we are given a new relationship with Jesus. "Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me and I in him." We become one with Him. We are in Him and He is in us.

Jesus goes on: "Just as the living Father sent me and I have life because of the Father, so also the one who feeds on me will have life because of me. This is the bread

that came down from heaven. Unlike your ancestors who ate and still died, whoever eats this bread will live forever." He does in us what the Father has done in Him. Being one with the Father is the very identity of the Son; He shares this unity with us when we allow Him to enter, through faith in Him and through consuming Him in the Eucharist. We who eat this bread experience life, the life that will never end.

The Eucharist is not a mere "thing" outside of us that we can take or leave, believe or deny, without consequences. When we set aside skepticism and rejection, we open ourselves to a new reality. When we believe and receive with faith, we are ready to enter life. Then, our responsibility is to live our faith and to invite others to share it by the witness we give. No one can ever be brought to faith by mere argument. Jesus Himself simply stated and affirmed what He said. Then He waited for a response, even as He promised the reward of life.

Solemnity of the Assumption

# Blessed Virgin Mary's faith, life transcend death

**Vigil Mass**

1 Chronicles 15:3-4, 15-16; 16:1-2  
 Psalm 132:6-7, 9-10, 13-14  
 1 Corinthians 15:54b-57  
 Luke 11:27-28

**Mass of the Day**

Revelation 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab  
 Psalm 45:10, 11, 12, 16  
 1 Corinthians 15:20-27  
 Luke 1:39-56

The Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary invites us to be aware of the reality of the promises that God has made to human beings through her Son Jesus Christ.

*"Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since death came through man, the resurrection of the dead came*

*also through man. For just as in Adam all die, so too in Christ shall all be brought to life, but each one in proper order: Christ the firstfruits; then, at his coming, those who belong to Christ. ..."*

The mystery of the Assumption wraps into one great gift given to Mary – and to all of us – many aspects of the promises God has made. Her Son comes to meet her as her earthly journey ends. In her, He fulfills the promise to meet us at our death. He Who has risen from the dead and ascended into glory shares the new life that is the very life of the Trinity with His mother, who gave Him life in her womb through her response to the Spirit, assenting to the invitation to become the mother of the Son of God.

The various mysteries associated with Mary are special privileges given to her as part of her role as the one chosen

by God to bear His Son – her holy and Immaculate Conception, her glorious Assumption, her glorification as Queen of Heaven and Earth. At the same time, they are reminders to us of the promises made by God to us and to the truth that He will fulfill them for us. Elizabeth greets Mary with an exclamation: *"Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled."* It is Mary's faith and trust in God's promises that is rewarded by the wonderful surprise of the Assumption. It is also a living sign to us of what is yet to be fulfilled for us. God fulfills His promises.

The Assumption reminds us that this world truly matters. The very "stuff" of this world is destined for a transformation so that it may participate in glory. Mary's earthly life, through the Paschal

Mystery revealed by Christ, transcends death and participates in the Resurrection. She enters the place prepared for her and us from the world's foundation. Mary's witness of faith calls us to believe in her Son and to trust in His promises. She shows us how to proclaim the greatness of the Lord as we marvel in the good works done for us by God.

In the Communion of Saints, Mary continues her role as Mother to those who follow her Son, interceding and continuing to serve her Son as a means of grace to bring Him to birth in the Church. She is with us as we continue our own journey of faith, believing that the promises made to us by the Lord will be fulfilled. As we celebrate the Assumption, let us rejoice with Mary and let us continue our journey of faith, trusting that the Lord's promises will be fulfilled.

**TRIBUNAL AUDITOR**

The Diocese of Columbus seeks to employ a Tribunal Auditor. This is a full-time position, with benefits, at the Diocesan Offices in Downtown Columbus. Free parking is available.

**JOB SUMMARY:**

Under the direction of the judge, the Auditor collects proofs for marriage annulment cases and assists the judge in processing the various cases according to canon law. The Auditor is expected to use sound canonical and personal judgment in carrying out the duties of his/her office and other routine duties and responsibilities of the Tribunal. Familiarity with Catholic teaching on marriage is a necessity. The qualified candidate should possess excellent oral and written communication skills. Excellent data entry, computer skills and knowledge of Microsoft software applications is required.

**REQUIREMENTS:**

The qualified candidate should be a Catholic in good standing in the Church, outstanding for good character, prudence, and doctrine. Qualified candidates should send cover letter, resume, and three references to Anne Streitenberger, HR Director at amstreitenberger@columbuscatholic.org.

**SHEETS - CHAMBERS**

In the marriage case styled SHELLIE REANA SHEETS CHAMBERS and JULIUS KEITH CHAMBERS, the Tribunal of the Diocese of Columbus, Ohio is currently unaware of the present address of JULIUS KEITH CHAMBERS. The Tribunal herewith informs him of the case and invites him to contact REV. ROBERT KITSMILLER, M.DIV, JCL, JUDICIAL VICAR, no later than – 26 AUGUST 2024, or call phone (614)241-2500 Extension 1. Anyone who knows of the whereabouts of JULIUS KEITH CHAMBERS, is herewith asked to make this Citation known to him or to inform the Tribunal of his current address.

Given this 11 AUGUST 2024;

REV. ROBERT KITSMILLER, M.DIV, JCL  
 Judicial Vicar

KAREN KITCHELL  
 Notary

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**Words of Wisdom**  
 by Pat Battaglia, aka Dr. Fun

Draw a path from letter to letter to spell the words given in capital letters that completes the wisdom statement. Move one square at a time, up, down, right, left or diagonally until all letters are used once. Ignore any black squares.

**It wasn't raining ...**

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**WHEN NOAH BUILT THE ARK**

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NOBLEMAN  
THEOLOGY

**Sister Karen Allen, OSF**

Funeral Mass for Sister Karen Allen, OSF, 97, who died Wednesday, July 31, was celebrated Tuesday, Aug. 6 at the chapel of the Sisters of St. Francis of Penance and Christian Charity in Stella Niagara, New York, followed by burial in the sisters' cemetery.

She was born Joan Allen on Feb. 28, 1927 in Buffalo, New York to Francis and Florence (Schaub) Allen.

She earned a Bachelor of Science degree in art in 1961 from Rosary College (now Daemen College) in Amherst, New York and a Master of Fine Arts degree in 1969 from the Rochester (New York) Institute of Technology.

She entered the Stella Niagara Fran-

ciscan congregation on Sept. 2, 1945 and made her first procession of vows on Aug. 18, 1947 and her final profession on the same date in 1950.

In the Diocese of Columbus, she was a teacher at New Lexington St. Aloysius Academy from 1948 to 1955. She also was a teacher and was active in retreat work and environmental programs in the dioceses of Buffalo and of Trenton, New Jersey. She retired in 2022 and had been a resident of the Stella Niagara Health Center since October 2023.

She was preceded in death by her parents and a brother, James. She is survived by nieces and nephews.

**PRAY FOR OUR DEAD**

**ALBERINI, Glennadean M. (McMullen), 98, July 18**  
Immaculate Conception Church, Columbus

**BECK, Suzanne "Sue," 81, July 28**  
Sacred Hearts Church, Cardington

**CAMPBELL, Joseph F., 79, July 22**  
St. Francis de Sales Church, Newark

**COLLINS, John Edward, 86, July 23**  
St. Mary Church, Marion

**COOK, Robert C., 94, July 25**  
St. Andrew Church, Columbus

**COWGILL, Michael J., 78, July 24**  
Holy Cross Cemetery, Pataskala

**FOX, Rebecca L. "Becky," 73, July 29**  
Formerly Basilica of St. Mary of the Assumption, Lancaster

**FREET, Virginia (Fuchs), 89, July 20**  
Church of the Resurrection, New Albany

**HILL, Karen (Covault), 61, July 18**  
St. Brigid of Kildare Church, Dublin

**HUGHES, Janice, 62, July 21**  
St. Mary Church, Delaware

**KESSLER, Myrna J., 83, July 30**  
Formerly Basilica of St. Mary of the Assumption, Lancaster

**MCCHESNEY, Simon J., 3, July 17**  
Our Lady of Victory Church, Columbus

**MCCLURG, Sherry Ann, 79, July 30**  
St. Francis de Sales Church, Newark

**NEIGHBOR, Melvin J. "Mel," 78, July 30**  
Basilica of St. Mary of the Assumption, Lancaster

**PERRY, Mary Sue (Whitlinger), 91, July 21**  
St. Ann Church, Dresden

**ROTONDA, Margaret "Janie," 88, July 18**  
Our Mother of Sorrows Chapel, Columbus

**SEXTON, Ronald, 76, July 14**  
St. Mary Magdalene Church, Columbus

**SHEETS, Mary A., 80, July 11**  
Holy Spirit Church, Columbus

**TEIGA, Edward, 85, July 30**  
Church of the Resurrection, New Albany

**WARNER, Margaret L., 95, July 21**  
St. James the Less Church, Columbus

**WAUGH, Becky L. (Reyna), 73, July 22**  
St. Edward the Confessor Church, Granville

**WILSON, Alvena Marie, 97, July 27**  
St. Francis de Sales Church, Newark

**ZIMMER, Harold J. "Zeke," 88, July 19**  
St. John the Baptist Church, Columbus

**Father Dennis D. Donovan, SDB**

Funeral Mass for Father Dennis D. Donovan, SDB, 70, who died Thursday, July 25, was celebrated Tuesday, July 30, at the Marian Shrine Chapel in Stony Point, New York. Burial was in Goshen, New York.

Father Donovan, a member of the Salesian Order for 50 years and a priest for 40 years, served at the former Salesian Center and Salesian Boys and Girls Club in Columbus from 1985 to 1994 as treasurer and from 1998 to 2004 as executive director.

During his earlier assignment, he also was chaplain for the Ohio Senate and the central Ohio chapter of the American Guild of Organists. During those years, he developed a secondary priestly ministry as a cruise chaplain, starting in 1990. Eventually, he became a member of the administrative board of the Apostolate of the Sea-U.S.A., which coordinates chaplaincies for seafaring men and women, both crews and tourists.

He studied at the Pontifical College Josephinum in Columbus from 1979 to 1983 and was ordained a priest by Bishop James Griffin on May 21, 1983 at Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral.

He was born on Feb. 26, 1954 in

Nyack, New York to Thomas and Helen (Rudolph) Donovan and studied for the priesthood at Salesian seminaries in Goshen; Ipswich, Massachusetts; and Newton, New Jersey before entering the Josephinum.

His first assignment was as a teacher at the Salesian Junior Seminary in Goshen from 1983 to 1985. He was development director at the Salesian provincial house in New Rochelle, New York from 1994 to 1998 and was stationed at Mary Help of Christians School and Parish and the Salesian residence for senior priests in Tampa, Florida from 2004 to 2012, when he returned to the provincial house. He was director of the Marian Shrine community in Stony Point from July 2021 until shortly before his death.

He is survived by a sister, Lynn (Andrew) Krakaur, and two nieces.

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## LOCAL NEWS AND EVENTS

## 18 local Dominican sisters celebrate jubilees

Eighteen Dominican Sisters of Peace living in Columbus are celebrating milestone anniversaries in 2024.

Being honored for 75 years as a member of the congregation are Sister Miriam Hazy, OP, and Sister Denise Bourgeois, OP, both now at the sisters' Motherhouse.

Sister Denise spent many years as an educator and as treasurer of a New Orleans congregation that is now part of the Dominican Sisters of Peace and today assists in creating quilts and other items for a women's shelter. Sister Miriam began her ministry as a teacher in Michigan in 1948 and spent much of her time in pastoral ministry at the sisters' Our Lady of Lourdes nursing home in Michigan.

Sister Colleen Gallagher, OP, and Sister Mary Ann Connolly, OP, are celebrating 70 years as sisters. Sister Colleen served in areas such as pastoral care to promoter of the arts in Columbus and Sister Mary Ann's service includes more than 10 years as a missionary and pastoral care in Peru.

Ten sisters who now make Columbus their home are celebrating 65 years as religious.

Sister de Chantal Lorenz, OP, is originally from Columbus. Sister Marlene Dimmerling, OP, spent much of her ministry in education and pastoral ministry and now volunteers in community service. Sister Catherine Malya Chen, OP, spent many years as a nurse at the Mohun Health Care Center in Columbus as well as serving as a nurse and missionary in Peru. Sister Maureen Flanagan, OP, spent years in the teaching and management ministry.

Sisters Colette Heck, OP, and Sister Agnes Gott, OP, spent many years in religious education and spiritual direction, respectively. Sister Rosalie Graham, OP, spent more than 30 years as an educator.

Sister Diane Holley, OP, and Sister Mary Catherine Kirkpatrick, OP, both previously served in religious education and pastoral ministry areas. Sister Mary Ann Wiesemann-Mills, OP, served the congregation in leadership roles and was on the Akron Area Interfaith Council.

Three sisters are celebrating 60 years of service.

Sister Carol Gaeke, OP, visits the homebound at Columbus Holy Spirit Church. She was the sisters' Midwest mission group coordinator from 2015 to 2022 and has been a religious education minister in several states.

Sister Mary Ann Fatula, OP, is a sacristan at the Mohun center and Sister Maura Bartel, OP, is a volunteer there. Sister Mary Ann served for more than 30 years at Ohio Dominican University as a teacher and theology professor and Sister Maura was a teacher and assistant principal at Our Lady of the Elms School in Akron.

Sister Carol Davis, OP, is celebrating 50 years of consecrated life.

She serves on the congregation's leadership team. She has extensive experience in spiritual direction and counseling and has ministered as a credentialed alcoholism and substance abuse counselor. In addition, she has worked with survivors of sexual abuse and has devoted time to fighting the problem of human trafficking.

### Holy Family to host mini-retreat for young women

A mini-retreat for women ages 18 to 30, with talks by Deacon Joey Rolwing and Sister Jose Mary, OSsS, of the Bridgettine Order, will take place at Columbus Holy Family Church, 584 W. Broad St., on Saturday, Aug. 24.

It will begin with Mass at 9 a.m., followed by a light breakfast and discussion of practical ways young women

can live the virtues of truth, beauty and goodness.

A donation of \$30 to cover event costs is suggested. For more information, contact Avery Hays at [averydixon32@gmail.com](mailto:averydixon32@gmail.com).

### Golf outing will honor Deacon Hawkins

The Stewardship Employment Ministry's annual golf outing on Sunday, Sept. 22 will honor the memory and legacy of Deacon Mickey Hawkins, who died on May 20 after 23 years of diaconal service at Westerville St. Paul the Apostle Church.

The event will be at Bent Tree Golf Club, 350 Bent Tree Road, Sunbury. Check-in time is noon with a 1 p.m. shotgun start.

The Stewardship Employment Ministry began 16 years ago at St. Paul Church and offers resources, advice and partnerships to help people find and obtain jobs.

For more information, go to <https://tinyurl.com/2t6abmzp>.

### Historian to speak to luncheon club

The Catholic Men's Luncheon Club will return from its summer break and resume its monthly schedule of meetings on Friday, Sept. 6 at Columbus St. Patrick Church, 280 N. Grant Ave., after the church's 11:45 a.m. Mass.

Don Schlegel of the Catholic Record Society will speak on the organization's 50 years of keeping diocesan history. Schlegel is the author of an illustrated history of the diocese and the biogra-

pher of its first bishop, Sylvester Rosecrans.

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

The club's next meeting will be on Friday, Oct. 4, when Bishop Earl Fernandes will present his annual report on the diocese to the club. It will be sponsored by The Catholic Foundation.

The September program does not have a sponsor. If you are interested in sponsoring this or another luncheon, contact Pat Foley at [foley513@gmail.com](mailto:foley513@gmail.com).

### Ladies Order of Hibernians sponsors essay contest

The Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians is sponsoring a nationwide essay contest for students in sixth to 12th grades on the subject "The Golden Age of Irish Literature."

The 1920s are known by that title in Ireland. Contest participants are invited to discover who the Irish novelists, poets and playwrights of the time were, what they wrote and how they brought Irish literature to the global stage. They also are asked to explain why this was a crucial time in Irish history and the effect these individuals had on that history.

Student essayists also are asked to describe which writer was most inspirational to them and the reasons they feel this way.

Cash prizes of as much as \$1,000 will be awarded to the winning essays.

For rules and entry details, contact [colleengwhite01@gmail.com](mailto:colleengwhite01@gmail.com). Information also is available at [www.LadiesAOH.com](http://www.LadiesAOH.com). The entry deadline is Friday, Nov. 15.



 "But some seed fell on rich soil and produced fruit, a hundred or sixty or thirtyfold."

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## CSS supports new Hispanic businesses

Nine emerging Hispanic food businesses will be featured at this year's Festival Latino in Genoa Park along the Scioto River in downtown Columbus on Saturday and Sunday, Aug. 10 and 11.

The aspiring entrepreneurs from Colombia, El Salvador and the Dominican Republic are participating in a six-month-long small business incubator program *El Mercadito Raices* through Catholic Social Services' Our Lady of Guadalupe Center on Columbus' west side.

In 2023, the Ohio Small Business Development Center partnered with the Our Lady of Guadalupe Center to offer *El Mercadito Raices*, which consists of 12 workshops and 60 hours of one-on-one coaching that helps participants secure a business license,

branding, marketing, packaging, presentation, food delivery, menu development, pricing and onsite support to ensure success. The nine businesses have met all the requirements.

"Coming to the United States as an immigrant is both exciting and challenging. As these new neighbors assimilate into our community and establish themselves in business to support their families, Catholic Social Services provides training in all aspects of starting and launching a new business to guide the business owners to success," said S. Kelley Henderson, president and CEO of Catholic Social Services (CSS).

The Our Lady of Guadalupe Center works to reduce poverty in the rapidly growing Hispanic population in

central Ohio by providing access to professional social services, emergency assistance and social connectedness. It is the only center in Franklin County offering the full services of a food pantry and case management to the Hispanic population.

"We are grateful to our partners and for the support of Accelerate Columbus and our Columbus City Council that helped us provide this program to the Latino community. We are launching 19 new Latino entrepreneurs (in the next training class) providing products and services that highlight the rich diversity of our culture in the Columbus community," said Ramona Reyes, vice president of community engagement for CSS.

### PDHC, continued from Page 9

Network (APRN) and began providing Abortion Pill Reversal (APR) Services to navigate the ever-changing landscape of abortion.

In Franklin County, at least 87 percent of abortions are now chemical abortions via the abortion pill. Individuals can order the pill online and have it delivered to their doorstep and initiate a self-managed abortion at home with no medical intervention services.

PDHC has been able to successfully help many women reverse their abortion decisions through APR and healthy babies have been born.

In 2020, PDHC opened the Family Empowerment Center due to the growing need for additional parenting education classes and material aid support for new moms, dads and families. Last year, this program provided over 14,000 in-person and online classes, over 2,200 material aid visits

for baby items and practical support and distributed over 121,000 diapers.

"Our staff and volunteers are truly a reflection of being the hands and feet of Christ every day at PDHC," PDHC president Kathy Scanlon said. "PDHC is rescuing lives and impacting generations, one heartbeat at a time."

For more information and to register for the galas, go to SupportLifePDHC.org.

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