

The CATHOLIC TIMES

THE DIOCESE OF COLUMBUS' INFORMATION SOURCE
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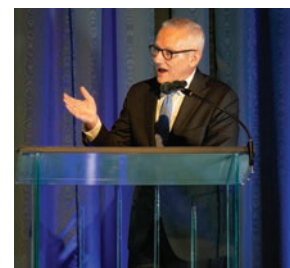
**WORLD MISSIONS
IN NEED,
PAGES 8-13**

INSIDE THIS ISSUE



ROSARY DEVOTION

As the feast of Our Lady of the Rosary approaches on Oct. 7, individuals, groups and parishes will continue their devotion to praying the rosary before and after Masses and at events in October, Page 3



DEFENDING LIFE

David Bereit, founder of 40 Days for Life, urged supporters of Pregnancy Decision Health Centers attending its annual gala last month in Columbus to get involved in the pro-life movement in some way, Page 5

Ohio bishops issue letter on migrants and refugees

The Catholic bishops of Ohio issued the following letter on Sept. 19:

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ and all people of goodwill,

In the Gospel of Luke, Jesus is asked by a scholar of the law, "And who is my neighbor?" when faced with upholding the greatest commandment. Jesus replied with the parable of the Good Samaritan. Today, our nation is divided by partisanship and ideology, which blind us to the image of God in our neighbor, especially the unborn, the poor, and the stranger. These negative sentiments are only exacerbated by gossip, which can spread quickly across social media with no concern for the truth or those involved.

From the beginning, the human race was made in the image of God, which distinguishes us from all other created things. The arrival of Jesus Christ in human history confirms the dignity God has given to each of us, without exception. It is our belief in the dignity of human life that guides our consciences and rhetoric when engaging in politics or personal conversation. Each of us, therefore, must turn to God and ask for eyes to see the infinite dignity of every person.

Throughout our nation's history, Catholic immigrants have come to our shores seeking freedom to worship and raise their families. Over 70 years ago,

Pope Pius XII urged the Body of Christ to understand the Christian responsibility to care for migrants and refugees, writing, "Indeed, there never has been a period during which the Church has not been active in behalf of migrants, exiles and refugees." Today, we witness newcomers to our dioceses who have escaped extreme violence and poverty and are seeking work to support themselves and their families.

Some are Catholic, some are not, but all are welcome in our parishes, and all are individuals loved by God. What is our duty, as Catholics, to ensure all segments of our society, including our political leaders, view newcomers first as children of God while understanding the need to enforce reasonable limits to legal immigration? Do we ask ourselves how we would want to be received if forced to flee our homes?

Though national attention has turned to Springfield, we know that throughout Ohio our neighbors include Haitians and others fleeing inhumane conditions in their countries. Our Haitian brothers and sisters in Springfield have been granted "Temporary Protected Status," a humane federal program that protects foreign nationals from deportation to unsafe home countries. Like all people, these Haitians should be afforded the respect and dignity that are theirs by right and allowed the ability to contribute to

the common good. The recent influx of so many migrants in a brief time has caused a strain on the city's resources. We applaud all those community groups working hard to advance the flourishing of Springfield, given the need to integrate newcomers into the social fabric. If we remain true to our principles, we can have a dialogue about immigration without scapegoating groups of people for societal issues beyond their control.

The Letter of Saint James warns, "Consider how small a fire can set a huge forest ablaze. The tongue is also a fire... With it we bless the Lord and Father, and with it we curse human beings who are made in the likeness of God" (James 3:5-6, 9). As the residents of Springfield, Ohio struggle with violent threats and life disruptions fueled by unfettered social media posts, we exhort the Catholic faithful and all people of goodwill not to perpetuate ill will toward anyone involved based on unfounded gossip. Instead, we ask for prayers and support for all the people of Springfield as they integrate their new Haitian neighbors and build a better future together.

Pope Francis, like Pope Benedict XVI and Pope St. John Paul II before him, reminds us that we are all migrants on this earth headed toward the "true homeland," the Kingdom of Heaven. On September 29, the World Day of Migrants and Refugees, we are asked by the Holy

Father to reflect upon the need to open our eyes to those brothers and sisters who might live in the shadows of our parishes and communities. The Catholic Church continues to pray and work in places of violence and economic despair so that individuals and families do not have to flee their homeland. In the meantime, let us reject a mindset of judging who belongs to our community and put on the mind of Christ to understand that God walks with all his people, especially those in need.

With you in Christ Jesus,
The Most Rev. Dennis M. Schnurr
Archdiocese of Cincinnati

The Most Rev. David J. Bonnar
Diocese of Youngstown

The Most Rev. John Michael Botean
St. George Byzantine Catholic Diocese

The Most Rev. Bohdan J. Danylo
Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of St. Josaphat in Parma

The Most Rev. Earl K. Fernandes
Diocese of Columbus

The Most Rev. Edward M. Lohse
Diocese of Steubenville

The Most Rev. Edward C. Malesic
Diocese of Cleveland

The Most Rev. Robert M. Pipta
Byzantine Catholic Eparchy of Parma

The Most Rev. Daniel E. Thomas
Diocese of Toledo

The Most Rev. Michael Woost
Diocese of Cleveland

BISHOP EARL K. FERNANDES

Immigrants enhance our parishes, diocese

While much attention has been focused on the situation with Haitians, especially in Springfield within the Archdiocese of Cincinnati, the issue of migration is affecting us all.

Some migrate because of persecution, poverty, war and violence, and the like. Others migrate in search of a better future. When I say "others" – I mean, other people who bear the image of God and who are worthy of care and respect.

Earlier this month, Cardinal Christophe Pierre, the Apostolic Nuncio to the United States, was in Columbus to speak at our Catholic Social Services function about *Fratelli Tutti: On Fraternity and Social Friendship*. We are

brothers and sisters to each other in the human family. We are called by faith to love our neighbor, and the parable of the Good Samaritan answers the question of "Who is my neighbor?" Jesus asks at the conclusion of the parable, "Who was neighbor to him," and the response given by the scribe is "the one who treated him with compassion." Jesus commands and exhorts: "Go and do likewise." This is what I ask of you as part of our local church: to treat others with compassion.

I also wish to highlight how our local church and its parishes are benefiting greatly from the new wave of immigration, not only in our Hispanic population but also in the new African migrants as

well as those from India and other parts of Asia. Our church is enriched by the presence of these members of the flock, and the Spirit of God knows how to harmonize these gifts, preserving unity in diversity.

As the son of immigrants, I know personally what it is like to be looked at with suspicion. I recall, not without pain, people saying to me, "Why don't you go back to your own country?" Our nation is a "melting pot" and a land of opportunity. How many are looking for us simply to live in peace, with freedom, and be able to provide for their families? The Holy Father calls us not merely to welcome the stranger but also to help in-

tegrate them. I am proud of the efforts of our parishes and our Catholic schools in our Diocese, and I encourage you to help the Church carry out her mission of welcoming, integrating and evangelizing.

In his 2022 Message for the World Day of Migration, Pope Francis called us to "build a better future together." Let us take his words to heart.

I encourage you to read the letter from Ohio's bishops on migrants, knowing that I stand firmly with them, with you, and with all of our brothers and sisters in this crisis.



Front page photo

WORLD MISSIONS IN NEED

A child holds a plate of food at the Tsehafe Werdi Primary School in Ethiopia that was made possible through contributions to Mary's Meals.

Photo courtesy Mary's Meals

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Lancaster priest named monsignor

Father Craig Eilerman, rector at Lancaster Basilica of St. Mary of the Assumption, has been named a monsignor. He received the honorary title on Aug. 24.

The official decree will be presented to Msgr. Eilerman on Saturday, Dec. 14 during a 4:30 p.m. Mass at the Basilica of St. Mary of the Assumption.

The monsignor designation is an honor from the Holy Father recognizing long and dedicated service to the Church and its people. The official ecclesiastical title is "chaplain of His Holiness."



Msgr. Craig Eilerman

The Vatican limited the title in 2014 to priests who have reached the age of 65 and for those who hold certain major offices in the Roman Curia or as a vicar general or chancellor in dioceses. There were previously three grades of monsignor until the Vatican's changes nine years ago.

Msgr. Eilerman has served as pastor at St. Mary since 2011. He was installed as rector on Aug. 14, 2022 when St. Mary Church was raised to a minor basilica.

Msgr. Eilerman, 67, was ordained by Bishop Emeritus James Griffin at Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral on June 6, 1987. He graduated from Columbus Bishop Ready High School.

He is currently the vicar forane for the deanery consisting of Fairfield, Hocking, Muskingum and Perry counties.

Before serving as pastor and rector at the Basilica of St. Mary, his assignments included pastor at Columbus St. Cecilia and Christ the King churches; associate pastor at Lancaster St. Mary, Zanesville St. Nicholas and Newark St. Francis de Sales churches; and administrator at the former Lancaster St. Mark Church.

He also served as a chaplain at Newark Catholic and Zanesville Bishop Rosecrans high schools and Doctors West Hospital.

Other previous assignments include serving as dean of the West Columbus and Fairfield-Hocking-Pickaway deaneries. He also served on the Priests' Personnel Board, College of Consultors and Priests' Senate, and as a parochial examiner and personnel board and presbyteral council member.

In the diocese, there are currently 13 other priests living here who received the monsignor designation: Msgrs. John Cody, John Dreese, William Dunn, Paul Enke, Anthony Frecker, David Funk, Patrick Gaughan, Joseph Hendricks, John Johnson, Frank Lane, Anthony Missimi, Stephan Moloney and James Walter.

Rosary events planned in diocese

Thousands of faithful Catholics in the diocese pray the rosary every day, but special attention is paid to the traditional devotion during the month of October when the feast of Our Lady of the Rosary is observed on Oct. 7.

This year, the Holy See is encouraging Catholics to pray the rosary at 7 p.m. local time on Oct. 7 in preparation for the Jubilee Year in 2025. More information can be found at www.worldrosaryday.com.

A number of parishes, groups and individuals in the diocese will honor the Blessed Virgin Mary throughout the month with special prayer services, novenas, processions and activities.

One of the first events took place on Saturday, Sept. 28 in Somerset, where the Order of Preachers (Dominicans) have been in residence since the 1800s when the first Mass in Ohio was celebrated in the Perry County area 216 years ago.

A Mass was led by Father Andre-Joseph LaCasse, OP, pastor of Holy Trinity and St. Joseph churches, followed by a rosary procession in honor of Our Lady at the site of the first Mass, 5000 Stage Coach Road NW. (See story, Page 4)

The origin of the rosary is historically traced to St. Dominic, the founder of the Dominican order who received a vision from the Blessed Mother in the early 13th century that inspired him to put together a series of prayers that make up the devotion.

The Oct. 7 feast of Our Lady of the Rosary is celebrated on that date in remembrance of the miraculous victory

at the Battle of Lepanto in 1571 when the thoroughly outmanned Christian fleet defeated the forces of the powerful Ottoman Empire after Pope St. Pius V, a Dominican, asked the sailors and all of the faithful to pray the rosary the night before the famous battle for her intercession.

The Dominican fathers, who have staffed Columbus St. Patrick Church for 150 years, have planned several activities surrounding the feast at the downtown parish.

On Oct. 6, the Dominicans celebrate Rosary Sunday, when blessed roses will be distributed by the friars after each Mass. Following the noon Mass, there will be an outdoor rosary procession and then a solemn enrollment ceremony in the Confraternity of the Most Holy Rosary.

On Oct. 7, the date that the universal Church observes World Rosary Day, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and confessions begin at 6:30 p.m. at St. Patrick Church. The Joyful Mysteries of the rosary will be prayed at 7 p.m., with meditations on each mystery by Father Stephen Dominic Hayes, O.P., prior of St. Patrick Priory. The rosary will be followed by Benediction and a Dominican Salve Regina procession.

The parish's newly formed Rosary Confraternity gathers on the third Thursday of the month from 7 to 8 p.m. in the Kolbe classroom for a meeting, a talk and to pray the rosary. Confraternity members lead the Dominican method of

praying the Rosary every Saturday at 4:30 p.m. and every Sunday at 8:30 a.m. before weekend masses.

Also on Oct. 7, Bishop Earl Fernandes will lead a virtual rosary for all Catholic schools from Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral starting at 10 a.m.

Several representatives from diocesan schools will join Bishop Fernandes at the Cathedral to pray the responses during the rosary, which will be livestreamed to students at schools throughout the diocese to pray along with the bishop. Intentions will include the dignity of the human person, vocations from among Catholic school students, spiritual and temporal needs of all members of the school communities and for Bishop Fernandes, the clergy and their intentions.

At Marysville Our Lady of Lourdes Church, a rosary will be prayed before all Sunday Masses in October, led by various groups and individuals beginning about 25 minutes before the start of Mass.

At Columbus St. Cecilia Church, a parish group will lead families in a bilingual rosary (Spanish and English) every Monday evening in October beginning at 6 p.m. in the church. Children are encouraged to bring flowers to offer to Our Lady after the recitation of the rosary.

Other activities are planned throughout the diocese in addition to many of the faithful praying the rosary after daily Masses at parishes. Check parish websites and bulletins for more details.

WORLD ROSARY DAY
7 OCTOBER 2024

'I would greatly desire that we devote 2024, the year preceding the Jubilee event, to a great "symphony" of prayer'

POPE FRANCIS

WWW.WORLDROSARYDAY.COM

UBILANIN A. MHEKZY
ROSE IN
PEREGRINANTES

Rosary, anniversary of first Mass in Ohio celebrated near Somerset

A rosary and Memorial Mass of the Virgin Mary honoring the 216th anniversary of the first Catholic Mass in Ohio took place on Saturday, Sept. 28 with Father Andre-Joseph LaCasse, O.P. and Father Donald Franks as the celebrants.

The Mass was held near Somerset, on Stagecoach Road where Father Edward Fenwick, O.P., the first bishop of Ohio, followed the sound of an ax to find the Dittoe and Fink families to offer Holy Mass and the sacraments for them in 1808.

Historical accounts indicted that Bishop Fenwick cherished the beginning of his apostolic labors in Ohio, often with a tear in his eye. From these humble evangelistic beginnings, Fenwick established the first Catholic church in the state, St. Joseph in Somerset on land donated by Jacob Dittoe and his kinsmen.

A soft rain did not deter the faithful from gathering Sept. 28 at the first Mass site and rosary garden that the Diocese of Columbus preserved under the direction of Bishop Emeritus James Griffin.

Following the recitation of the Joyful Mysteries of the rosary, which was prayed in conjunction with the National Dominican Rosary Pilgrimage in Washington, D.C., the St. Joseph and Holy Trinity choir sang Marian hymns.

The rosary originated with St. Domi-

nic, the founder of the Order of Preachers (Dominicans), in 1216.

The Dominicans are devoted to the prayer and encourage participation in the Confraternity of the Most Holy Rosary, whose members make a lifelong promise to recite mysteries of the Rosary over the course of each week.

Bishop Fenwick was an ardent supporter of the Confraternity as was Pope Leo XIII, who in 1898 reorganized and reinforced the importance of rosary confraternities throughout the world.

Enrollment is entirely free and there are no meetings or dues. Membership in the rosary confraternity is open to all the lay faithful, priests and religious. To enroll online, visit <https://rosaryconfraternity.org>.

Father LaCasse, the pastor of Somerset Holy Trinity and St. Joseph churches, encouraged all Catholics to join and reap the spiritual benefits of membership. He then announced that in early 2025 the Dominican Province of St Joseph will issue a new Confraternity Charter for the Somerset parishes.

After the choir led the singing of the hymn *This Is Holy Ground*, Father LaCasse also announced the intention to make the anniversary Mass and rosary procession an annual event.



Father Andre-Joseph LaCasse, OP, (center) and Father Donald Franks (right) follow altar servers while taking part in a procession on Saturday, Sept. 28 at the site of the first Catholic Mass in Ohio near Somerset. A Mass and the Joyful Mysteries of the rosary were offered at the historic site, which includes a rosary garden. The Somerset event was held in conjunction with the National Dominican Rosary Pilgrimage in Washington, D.C. in anticipation of the feast of Our Lady of the Rosary on Oct. 7.

Photos courtesy Peter Thomas



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40 Days for Life founder issues call to action at PDHC gala

By Hannah Heil
Catholic Times Reporter

This year's Pregnancy Decision Health Centers (PDHC) gala dinner, held Sept. 19 in Columbus at Villa Milano, offered a personal invitation.

The event followed PDHC's Lancaster gala held the previous week on Sept. 12 at The Tree Church.

The theme, "Here am I. Send me!" was inspired by the same verse in Isaiah 6:8. The prophet recorded hearing a voice asking, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" and he responded, "Send me!"

The gala's special guest was David Bereit, the founder of 40 Days for Life, an internationally coordinated 40-day campaign that aims to end abortion locally through prayer and fasting, community outreach and an all-day vigil in front of abortion businesses.

Bereit encouraged his audience to answer God's call of "Whom shall I send?" today by making abortion personal and standing in the gap for preborn children and their mothers.

In attendance were Darlene Yost, wife of Ohio Attorney General Dave Yost, and PDHC founders Mike and Peggy Hartshorn. Mike sits on PDHC's Board of Directors and Peggy is chairman emeritus.

Bereit shared the story of 40 Days for Life's beginnings in College Station, Texas. He and his wife, Margaret, had hosted a potluck for couples involved in marriage preparation ministry at their church.

One young couple, David and Monica, attended that night, and David proposed an idea to pray for an end to abortion 24 hours a day in front of a Planned Parenthood abortion facility that had recently opened in College Station.

Bereit said that idea would help to "galvanize an international movement that has saved more than 24,000 lives, closed abortion centers, spread to Columbus, Ohio, and helped people to leave the abortion industry because one young man heard and answered the call."

Shortly after hearing David's idea, Bereit discussed it at the local pro-life organization office. He and three others prayed around a table together and were inspired with an idea to pray and fast for 40 days (a biblically significant number), keep a constant vigil by peacefully gathering outside of Planned Parenthood for 24 hours each of the 40 days, and engage in community outreach to get as many people involved as possible.

"I was terrified," Bereit recalled. "I didn't think we could pull this off. I was so scared about what will people think? What will it look like? What if it fails?"

"But we thought to ourselves, if we fail to do this, we have to be accountable to God for those women who, next week, will be going into that abortion center. We have to be accountable to God for those children who will perish on our watch in our town.

"We said we have to try. And so, we de-

ecided to hold the first-ever 40 Days for Life."

The campaign was a success. Day and night, individuals prayed in front of the local Planned Parenthood every hour for 40 days.

Crediting the young man, David, for his original idea, Bereit said, "Because of that man's determination, his idea, his passion, he awoke something in our community.

"Because he was saying, 'Here am I. Send me,' that sparked over 1,000 people getting involved in our local 40 Days for Life campaign. And by the end of that campaign, abortions went down in our town by 28 percent, more than 100 lives saved."

The idea spread quickly. It was soon adopted in Dallas; Green Bay, Wisconsin; Houston; Kitsap County, Washington; and Charlotte, North Carolina.

Individuals leading the various campaigns felt called to organize a nationally coordinated 40 Days for Life campaign. Bereit said his "biggest vision at that time" was maybe 10 or 12 cities.

The leaders began spreading the word. Their efforts resulted in 89 cities, including in Columbus, across 33 states joining the first nationally coordinated 40 Days for Life campaign.

"My family hit the road, and we visited many of them, and I remember driving through Columbus and visiting that 40 Days for Life back in 2007," Bereit said. "Here we are, 17 years later, and look what God has done."

The campaign has since reached about 1,000 cities across every U.S. state and 64 countries. Bereit said, to his knowledge, it has spared 24,853 lives from scheduled abortions.

Because of the prayers of the faithful in the campaign, 155 abortion clinics closed, and 263 workers left the abortion industry.

"In every city where 40 Days for Life happens, the most important connection is with the pregnancy center," Bereit said. "That's why I've worked so closely with Peggy (Hartshorn) and Heartbeat (International) and so many other pregnancy centers around the country and also with PDHC and other pregnancy centers because it's not enough for us to just say 'no' to abortion.

"We have to have a place where we can send someone, where they can say 'yes' to life and have the support, the love and help that they need to carry through the pregnancy and then to be with them even after the child is born."

About seven or eight years after 40 Days for Life took off, Bereit said, he heard from his friend David. He learned why David was so passionate about praying for 24 hours a day outside of Planned Parenthood.

When David proposed the idea, his father was dying of cancer, and he had asked his son to pray with him for an end to abortion. His father then shared that he had wanted to abort him.

David's mother and father conceived



David Bereit, founder of 40 Days for Life, speaks at the PDHC gala at Villa Milano in Columbus on Sept. 19. Photo courtesy PDHC

him out of wedlock, and his father paid cash for his mother to get an abortion. However, she never showed up for the scheduled appointment.

Bereit recalled David's father telling him, "The person I wanted to get rid of in the dumpster at that abortion's facility," he said, "David, that was you." He said, "Little did I know, on that morning, when I was so angry, that the person I wanted to get rid of would be the only person standing at my side as I lay here dying."

He encouraged the audience to imitate David in making abortion a personal is-

sue.

"This affects all of us," he explained. "There are people in our church congregations who are right now facing unexpected pregnancies. There are people in our neighborhoods who are right now at risk. There are people in our children's schools. There are people in our families who are carrying the pain or regret of an abortion that they've never told anybody about.

"We need to make this personal, and then, we need to say, 'God, who do You want to send?' And He will say, 'I want you.'"

Addressing the status of abortion nationwide, Bereit shared statistics demonstrating that abortions have increased since in 2022 the U.S. Supreme Court overturned Roe v. Wade (1973), which held that a right to privacy protected by the 14th Amendment included abortion.

The U.S. Supreme Court's Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization (2022) decision returned abortion regulation to elected branches. Bereit shared that of the seven states that put abortion on the ballot – California, Kansas, Kentucky, Michigan, Montana, Ohio and Vermont – the pro-life movement lost in each state.

This year, 10 additional U.S. states will vote on abortion.

"What was already an open Pando-

See LIFE, Page 14



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It's a blessing to be poor in spirit

The Beatitudes offer a Christian training program to develop specific capabilities always in the context of a loving relationship to God: empathy, meekness, a strong spirit, mercy, personal integration, reconciliation and unlimited self-offering. These are the stepping stones to eternal life.

I want to focus on the first Beatitude: Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven (Matthew 5:3).

We all know what it means to be in material need. A poor person lives day by day and does not have an abundance of possessions saved up for the future. Each day, a poor person needs to earn or receive the things needed to survive for that day. A poor person's life and work are concerned with necessities: food, clothing and shelter.

So we know who the poor are, but who are the poor in spirit? A person is poor in spirit who lives a spiritual life the way a person who is poor in body lives in a physical life. The physically poor work each day to receive bread. The spiritual poor pray each day to receive spiritual nourishment from the Lord: "Give us this day our daily bread." The physically poor do not have time for unnecessary distractions. The spiritually poor see that they must always attend to the necessities of the spiritual life: prayer, works of mercy, confession of sins, and they do not give in to unnecessary distractions. The physically poor sometimes lack even necessary food for a time; the spiritually poor will sometimes feel abandoned by God

FAITH IN ACTION | Erin Cordle

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



and desolation in prayer, yet all the while will continue trusting in the heavenly Father to provide.

To be poor in spirit means recognizing that everything good in our nature comes from God. Anything worthy of praise in us comes from God and God alone. It means acknowledging our deepest human need for God on a daily basis. It's only when we realize how badly we need God and how we are nothing without Him that we become worthy of the Kingdom He promises us.

The "poor in spirit" are not tempted to credit their cleverness or God's special favor for any success they might have. Because the "poor in spirit" are immersed in God's truth, neither wealth nor political influence can give them a false sense of security.

There are three ways we can practice to recognize our total dependence on God and live out spiritual poverty.

1. Receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation that helps us recognize our need for God by recognizing our own sinfulness.
2. Use the trifecta of phrases: "May I?" "thank you" and "sorry."
3. Give alms to those in need.

There is a list of Beatitude-esque options to help us become more "poor in spirit" that I gleaned from a variety of sources:

1. Blessed are those who realize their constant need for God over, above, and beyond everything else.
2. Blessed are those not chained to the material and passing pleasures and luxuries of this finite world.
3. Blessed are those free from anything and everything that would interfere with an ever-growing awareness of their dependence on God's mercy and love.
4. Blessed are those who recognize that no matter how their lives are going in the eyes of the world, they are successful in heaven when they are faithful on earth.
5. Blessed are those who need nothing more than God's love and want nothing more than to share that love with all they encounter.
6. Blessed are those souls with nothing to lose on earth as those souls will lead many to heaven.

In short, the poor in spirit are those who are humble, those who depend upon God completely for every good. They also have the following in common. They all see the need to trust in God to provide for their needs; they all are detached from defining themselves with things; and they all love God more than wealth or honor. Whoever has these qualities will know that theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven.

I pray that you become poorer in spirit as you continue your faith journeys. Please pray the same for me.

Keeping (or making) Catholic education great

According to the Vatican yearbook, the *Annuario Pontificio*, there are north of 5,000 Catholic bishops in the world today. They share certain characteristics and attributes. But I doubt that there is any other among them who would open a pastoral letter on "The Joy and Wonder of Catholic Education" as Bishop James Conley of Lincoln, Nebraska, recently did:

"I am not one of the millions of children who received a Catholic education in this great country. Nor was I Catholic when I showed up as a freshman at the University of Kansas in the early 1970s. My main interests at the time were basketball and the Grateful Dead, and KU had them both!"

Bishop Conley is a friend of long standing, although I have never been able to appreciate his appreciation for the Grateful Dead – any more than I could appreciate the affection of distinguished Polish Dominicans I know for Deep Purple. "60s Gold" is one of my most-listened-to stations on Sirius XM (which may confirm the views of some that I'm a closet Modernist). But I draw the line on electrified Sixties' music at the Byrds, the Mamas and the Papas, Chicago, the Grass Roots, and Creedence Clearwater Revival. Or thereabouts.

But I digress.

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.



In his pastoral letter, which should be read by every Catholic educator at every level of Catholic education, Bishop Conley describes his conversion to Catholicism amidst his undergraduate experience of classic liberal learning and the Great Books at KU. He then borrows from our mutual friend, Vancouver's Archbishop J. Michael Miller, CSB, to propose five "essential marks" of an authentically Catholic education. Let me briefly note those, offering my own reflections on each as a supplement to Bishop Conley's explanation of what we might call "Miller's Marks."

An authentic Catholic education is inspired by a supernatural vision. We are not congealed stardust, the fortuitous result of impersonal cosmic biochemical forces that just happened to result in...us. No, we are creations, formed by a loving creator for eternal communion with-

in that creator's light and love. We learn our true dignity as human beings when we come to know that we are made in the image and likeness of God. Catholic education thus liberates us from cynicism and its cousin, despair, to live in awe and wonder at what we are, and how everything that is came to be.

An authentic Catholic education is founded on a Christian anthropology. We are not made for self-satisfaction alone. Nor are we individual monads, sentient

billiard balls careening around a terrestrial pool table and occasionally colliding. There is a human nature, and that human nature is ordered to holiness. We are made to be saints, and we become saints through relationships with others called to holiness by the sanctifying, triune God. Catholic education should thus inspire a burning desire to be more, rather than just to have more, even as it helps us understand that "being more" is a work of grace, not merely of my efforts. Catholic education should draw us to be like Christ, who, as Vatican II taught, reveals the truth about us as well as the truth about God.

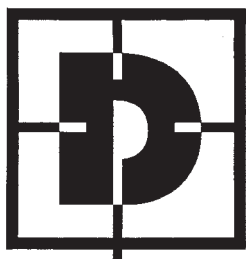
An authentic Catholic education is animated by communion and community. The "actors" in Catholic education – students, parents, teachers, coaches, administrators, consecrated religious, priests, deacons, bishops, philanthropists – are like the cells of a living body: each distinctive, but each intrinsically related to all the others. That communion is best experienced in a Catholic school's spiritual and sacramental life (especially in the Eucharist), but also through a Catholic education that immerses us in beauty through music and the visual and dramatic arts. Catholic education is also education for responsible citizenship, not a bunker in which to hide from the surrounding cultural chaos: catholically educated Catholics work to convert the culture, and thereby renew public life.

An authentic Catholic education is imbued with a Catholic worldview throughout the curriculum. Chemistry is chemistry, physics is physics, and math is math. A Catholic education, though, will approach those disciplines as doors through which we come to know the divine ordering of the universe, not just the periodic table, relativity theory, or quadratic equations. All truths tend toward the Truth, who is God. Catholic education fosters that sensibility.

And authentic Catholic education is sustained by Gospel witness. Truly Catholic schools are shaped by truly Catholic teachers and staff, who model Christian virtues in their own lives and urge their students to live those virtues in service to others.

In that kind of education lies the hope for rescuing our culture, our nation, and indeed, our civilization.

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What in the world does “ordinary time” mean?

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 keep hearing at my parish about ordinary time. The announcers at the beginning of Mass say things like “Today is the 13th Sunday in ordinary time” and I read things like that in the bulletin. The deacons and priests also use it in their homilies but never explain what it means. What in the world does ordinary time mean?

-Horatio

Dear Horatio,

I agree that speaking about ordinary time at church is a strange sounding concept. Sadly, it gives the impression that we're in a rather blah season, that there's nothing special about this Sunday or the Mass in ordinary time. Fortunately, that's not true.

Each day for a Catholic is a celebration of the mysteries of Christ's life. The greatest of the events or mysteries of Christ's life is the Resurrection, which we especially highlight every Sunday. That's why we go to church every Sunday. Every Sunday is like a mini-Easter celebration. Sunday is set aside to worship and thank God with your whole being. Every Sunday is an opportunity for astonishing transformation by God touching your life with His own divine life.

That said, just as our civil calendar year has different seasons, so too does the calendar year of the Church. Earth's seasons center around the sun and its effects on our planet. The Church's season center on The Son and the effects of His rays of grace on our souls.

The four major seasons of our Catholic calendar are Advent (in preparation for Christmas), Christmas (to celebrate Christ's coming into our world), Lent (to do penance and prepare for Easter) and Easter (to celebrate Christ's resurrection from the dead).

The Sundays between Christmas season and Lent used to be called “Sundays after Epiphany” before our calendar was revised after the Second Vatican Council. And the Sundays between Easter season and the next Advent season used to be called “Sundays after Pentecost.”

We now refer to those “Sundays after ...” as Sundays in Ordinary Time. If you look in the Latin edition of the Roman Missal, the title for Sundays in Ordinary Time is *Tempus per annum*, or “time through the year.” When the word “ordi-

nary” was chosen to translate that Latin phrase as “through the year,” it was to indicate the succession of the Sundays outside of major seasons. They are “ordered,” that is, they start with the number one and keep going till we get to the end of the Catholic year. Thus, we see the connection between the word “ordinary” and ordinal numbers, such as first, second, third, and so on.

This article is appearing in The Catholic Times weekend edition for the 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time. In other words, it's the 26th Sunday running through our year that is not situated in the Advent, Christmas, Lent and Easter seasons.

Also, the entire week following the Sunday is named for the number of the Sunday. Thus, the 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time begins the 26th Week in Ordinary Time.

During the Sundays of Ordinary Time, you will hear gospel passages that are mostly a successive reading of the Gospel. This is your opportunity to reflect on how Christ's words and actions are meant for you. The prayers that the priest offers also are occasions for you to unite your heart to the prayer of the entire Church and to ask God for all the graces you need.

Here's what our U.S. Bishops tell us: “Ordinary Time is a time for growth and maturation, a time in which the mystery of Christ is called to penetrate ever more deeply into history until all things are finally caught up in Christ. The goal, toward which all of history is directed, is represented by the final Sunday in Ordinary Time, the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe.”

Much of life is like the ordered Sundays of the year: there is no special season or momentous event much of the time. However, we don't just sit around waiting for the next big season or event. We live life fully as each day unfolds... or so we should. Take advantage of every minute that God gives you on this earth. That includes going to Mass on weekdays to be formed by God in ways that you can't imagine. Nothing is ever ordinary with God. His providence weaves each moment of each day of our lives with all the moments of the lives of every other person in order to create a beautiful tapestry. We'll see the finished product on the other side of the grave.



Catholic Diocese of Columbus

DECREE OF EXTINCTIVE UNION

of the Parish of Holy Trinity, Jackson, Ohio
of the Parish of Sts. Peter and Paul, Wellston, Ohio
of the Parish of St. Sylvester, Zaleski, Ohio

WHEREAS, due to the decline in priestly vocations in the Diocese of Columbus, the parishes in question have shared a pastor in various iterations over the years, most recently all three being placed under the pastoral care of one priest for the past five years;

WHEREAS, the offertory of Sts. Peter and Paul and Holy Trinity have shown significant decline in recent years; The offertory of St. Sylvester has demonstrated some stability, but is dramatically lacking in being of the amount and stable enough to provide for the true needs of the parish particularly the remuneration of the parish priest;

WHEREAS, the population of the parishes has declined to the point of having 88 registered households at Sts. Peter and Paul, 65 registered households at Holy Trinity, and 50 registered households at St. Sylvester; The number of infant and adult baptisms is increasingly low at all three parishes; The Mass attendance at Holy Trinity and Sts. Peter and Paul has decreased steadily since before 2015, almost 10 years, and the Mass attendance at St. Sylvester is half of what it was at its most recent peak in 2000; The decline in population in the area, Catholic or otherwise, is not a temporary issue due to the decrease in industry and employment opportunities;

WHEREAS, the resources available to the united parish can be better allocated to furthering initiatives in evangelization and social outreach to the faithful in the current parish boundaries;

WHEREAS, a plan has been carefully developed through the Real Presence Real Future Pastoral Planning initiative in which parishioners were consulted about the pastoral needs of their parishes and those recommendations were accepted by Bishop Fernandes that the parishes of Jackson and Vinton Counties should be united together as one parish;

WHEREAS, a transition team was assembled consisting of parishioners and staff from all three parishes who aided in assisting with the implementation of the Real Presence Real Future recommendations; The transition team held meetings in March, April and May of 2024 to meet with the parishioners of each parish and hear their concerns; Information sessions were held at each parish in the above-mentioned months following the Sunday Masses to answer questions and concerns about the recommendation of the extinctive union of the three parishes of Jackson Holy Trinity, Wellston Sts. Peter and Paul and Zaleski St. Sylvester into one new parish under the title of DIVINE MERCY Parish;

WHEREAS, having consulted with the pastor of the three parishes in question according to c. 50; having heard the Presbyteral Council which was provided with the necessary information and lawfully convoked according to cc. 127 and 166 on 26 September 2024 and offered genuine consultation according to c. 515 §2 in the form of unanimous agreement with this plan;

THEREFORE, having considered the law and the facts I, Earl K. Fernandes, Bishop of Columbus, hereby decree the following:

The extinctive union of the parishes of Holy Trinity Jackson, Sts. Peter and Paul Wellston, and St. Sylvester Zaleski to form one new parish given the title “Divine Mercy” which assumes the ecclesiastical goods as well as debts and obligations of the three parishes.

This extinctive union is to take effect on 1 January 2025.

The parish boundaries of Divine Mercy Parish will be the entirety of Jackson and Vinton Counties together.

There is no change to the status or title of the parish churches of Holy Trinity Jackson, Sts. Peter and Paul Wellston and St. Sylvester Zaleski, which remain parish churches for Divine Mercy Parish.

This decree shall be promulgated by publication on the Diocesan website, in The Catholic Times diocesan newspaper, and disseminated in the affected parishes in the Sunday bulletin and other means of social communication as deemed appropriate by the pastor.

Given at the Chancery Office, 198 E. Broad St., Columbus, Ohio this 27th day of September, 2024.

+ Earl K. Fernandes

Most Reverend Earl K. Fernandes
Bishop of Columbus

Deacon Tom Berg, Jr.

Deacon Tom Berg, Jr.
Chancellor

Mission Sunday: 'Go and invite everyone to the banquet'

By Sister Zephрина Mary, FIH
Director, Diocesan Missions Office

As we approach World Mission Sunday, Oct. 20, I write to you with a heart full of hope, reflecting on the theme chosen by His Holiness Pope Francis: "Go and invite everyone to the banquet (cf. Matthew 22:9)." This message, rooted in the parable of the wedding banquet, calls us to a renewed sense of mission, inviting all to partake in the Lord's feast of love and salvation. On behalf of our Bishop Earl K. Fernandes and the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, one of the four pontifical mission societies, I extend my heartfelt gratitude for your generous support. Last year, the amount collected in the diocese for World Mission Sunday was \$60,435.11.

His Holiness Pope Francis has exhorted to us in his Mission Sunday message that "In the footsteps of the Second Vatican Council and my predecessors, I recommend to all dioceses throughout the world the service of the pontifical mission societies. They represent the primary means 'by which Catholics are imbued from infancy with a truly universal and missionary outlook and also a means for instituting an effective collecting of funds for all the missions, each according to its needs' (Ad Gentes, 38). For this reason, the collections of World Mission Day in all the local Churches are entirely destined to the universal fund of solidarity that the Pontifical Society of the Propagation of the Faith, then distributed in the Pope's name for the needs of all the Church's missions."

Pope Francis reminds us that "mission, we see, is a tireless going out to all men and women, in order to invite them to encounter God and enter into communion with Him." Let us inspire our communities with the joy and urgency of this mission. Let us encourage them to contribute financially and to deepen

Bishop to celebrate Mass for missions on Oct. 20

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,
As we gather in communion for World Mission Sunday on Oct. 20, I extend to you a heartfelt invitation from Pope Francis, inspired by the Gospel: "Go and invite everyone to the banquet (cf. Matthew 22:9)." This call to mission resonates deeply with our faith's core, urging us to share God's love with the world.

More than 100 years ago, the United States was considered mission territory. The Catholic community here was nurtured and supported through the generosity of the worldwide Church that contributed to the World Mission Sunday collection. It is our turn

to extend that same generosity to our brothers and sisters in more than 1,150 mission territories across Asia, Africa, Latin America, the Pacific Islands and the Middle East.

I invite you to join me for the 5:15 p.m. Mass at St. Joseph Cathedral on Sunday, Oct. 20. During the "Year of Mission" of the National Eucharistic Revival, it is good for us to gather for the Eucharist, to engage actively in the missionary work of the Church around the world, and to unite ourselves in prayer and solidarity with the universal Church.

Even if you cannot attend the Mass, I invite you to join me in prayer for

the success of the Church's missionary activities and for the missionaries themselves, who dedicate their lives to spreading the Gospel. Your generosity is a powerful witness to the love and compassion at the heart of our faith.

Together, let us rejoice in the opportunity to share God's love with the world, inviting everyone to the banquet of the Lord.

Grateful for your continuing generosity and support, I remain,

Sincerely yours in Christ,
Most Rev. Earl K. Fernandes
Bishop of Columbus

their commitment to missionary discipleship.

The word "mission" always has authenticity because it means being sent by someone to fulfill a goal. It has a concrete or solid foundation with a meaningful purpose. World Mission Sunday fosters the financial contribution that we receive from the laity, who generously contribute to a call to the missions. Jesus himself was the missionary sent by God the Father to us. As we read in the Bible, "As the father has sent me, so I sent you" (John 20-21). Jesus is asking us to promote His mission and the reign of God to the ends of the earth. Jesus is the only savior. Only in Him is there salvation for all mankind. Therefore, all humanity should get to know Him personally and remain faithful and trust in Him alone.

Every dollar raised is a testament to our collective commitment to the Great Commission (cf. Matthew 28:19-

20). These funds are entirely devoted to evangelization efforts, including the support of seminaries, future religious sisters, catechists, Catholic schools, and health care centers that offer life-changing education and care to those most in need.

Let us urge one another to share the story of our Church's missionary journey, highlighting how the seeds planted by those before us have flourished into a global communion of faith, hope and charity. This collection is a tangible expression of our "yes" to God's call to be missionaries, extending His invitation to the banquet to everyone, everywhere.

As we prepare for World Mission Sunday, may we be inspired by the words of Pope Francis to "set out anew, each according to our state in life, to inaugurate a new missionary movement, as at the dawn of Christianity." Let us pray that the Lord may help us to be a more missionary Church, reaching out to every

corner of the earth with His message of love and salvation.

May the Holy Spirit invigorate our missionary zeal and deepen our commitment to sharing the joy of the Gospel with all. I thank you for your dedication to this cause and for your continued prayers and support for the Church's mission. Thank you for your unwavering dedication to our mission to make disciples of all nations and for inspiring our faithful to share in this vital work of the Church. Let us continue to pray for the pope's missions and for the grace to always invite others to the banquet of the Lord.

Once more, I express my sincere thanks for all you do annually to foster World Mission Sunday in your parish and for nurturing a missionary spirit of prayer and sacrifice. Be assured of my continued prayers for you and know that the recipients of these offerings are also praying for you in gratitude.

Sisters of Kilimanjaro practice 'Simplicity and Readiness'

The Sisters of Our Lady of Kilimanjaro serve parishes, hospitals, schools and institutions for orphans and needy chil-



dren with a charism of "Simplicity and Readiness to do the will of God for His glory and for the salvation of humanity." Their motto is "Do all things for the praise and glory of God and for the salvation of His people."

The congregation was founded in 1931 in the Diocese of Moshi, Tanzania and has 879 professed members. Their apostolate focuses on holistic evangelization in the spiritual, social, educational and physical realms. They provide these services in several African nations, Italy, England, the Diocese of Columbus and elsewhere in the United States.

Their work includes the care of orphans and children with various disabilities who are in most cases rejected by their families because of high levels

of poverty. Their needs include food, education, learning materials, clothing, shelter and health support.

Some live with their grandparents, who can hardly meet their daily basic needs, while others live with their siblings, with older children caring for the young ones. This makes them become house managers at a very tender age and removes them from school if they are not helped. The sisters provide care, shelter, food and educational needs to these children through accommodating them in the orphanages and boarding schools.

Their sincere desire is to maintain existing orphanages and schools and expand or build new ones, especially in rural areas where many poor children have

no access to education. The orphanages and schools provide the stepping stones for each child's career or the road map to their success and to a better future. Through the help of your contributions, the sisters will be able to continue educating needy and orphaned children and enable children with disabilities to become independent, making them useful and productive members of society.

The sisters are most grateful for being allowed to share their mission with you. Your contributions toward this mission will go a long way in assisting and improving the standard of living of needy children and will help to better their future, especially the children with disabilities in Tanzania.

Catechetical Sisters educate, evangelize, empower and dig wells

By Sister Stella Kambala, CSA

The Catechetical Sisters of Arogyamatha were founded in 1982 in the Diocese of Kadapa in southern India. We are a young diocesan congregation with no local resources. Our primary work is to evangelize the poor and to catechize newly baptized Catholics in rural villages.

Your encouragement through participation in the Mission Cooperation Plan of the Diocese of Columbus truly has enabled us to continue our ministries and to educate many of our sisters, novices and candidates.

Financial support from your diocese has been a great support to the following ministries:

1. We are educating our candidates and junior sisters and supporting their formation houses with food and main-



The Catechetical Sisters of Arogyamatha in the Diocese of Kadapa in southern India have a number of young women in formation.

Photo courtesy Sisters of Arogyamatha

tenance. We sent nine postulants to the novitiate and four junior sisters are studying in various fields in universities.

2. Evangelization is our charism and we give priority to this in the rural villages. We organize camps for different age groups of children, young people, men and women to give them faith formation classes. We teach free tuition

classes for the poor kids in the villages. We conduct health hygienic programs and provide medical help in the interior or villages where there is no electricity, transportation, safe drinking water or good sanitary conditions.

3. Our little angels in our schools and orphanages are our great strength for the future. Our three schools and two orphanages are full of little angels. They are given free food, education and accommodations by us, which is a most satisfying ministry.

4. We empower women through legal aid and counseling and teaching life skills such as sewing, embroidering and handicrafts that enable them to be independent. As part of our mission, we care for the sick, elderly and those suffering with tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS.

5. We are digging borewells (water plants) to provide clean and purified

drinking water to rural villages where there is no electricity or public transportation.

On behalf of my order, the Catechetical Sisters of Arogyamatha, I express my sincere thanks for your financial support this year. Both St. Thomas Aquinas Church and St. Nicholas Church in Zanesville and the priests at these churches were very kind and introduced us to the people at all the Masses during our weekend visit and encouraged them to be generous.

Honestly, we enjoyed sharing our mission experience in these parishes. And we could utilize the mission collection in a better way. Thank you for everything. We hope to visit your diocese in the future.

We promise our prayers for you. Kindly pray for us.

Diocese in western India devastated by rains

By Bishop Alwyn Barreto

Diocese of Sindhudurg, India

The Diocese of Sindhudurg, in Maharashtra in western India, is 300 miles south of Mumbai and is a missionary diocese. It is a spiritual home to Catholics who make up fewer than 1 percent of the population, while Hindus make up the majority.

This year, a freakish monsoon wreaked considerable devastation. It began with the start of the rainy season in early July and continued unabated until the season ended in September, bringing unprecedented fury, flooding villages, destroying crops, submerging homes and simply causing untold suffering, damage, and economic losses to families at a level nev-

er seen before.

I express my immense gratitude to God and to the Diocese of Columbus and His Excellency, Bishop Earl Fernandes, for partnering with us in our 2024 mission appeal.

My association with Ohio runs deep. About five years ago, I visited and celebrated Mass at Sacred Hearts Church in Cardington and the prison in Marion. It was the will of God, as it gave the inmates a feeling of love and respect. I blessed them and their little vegetable gardens. I was deeply humbled and honored to be able to serve.

As a microscopic minority in the diocese, Catholics face severe challenges, as can be imagined. We are building a new cathedral for the diocese. The cathedral may not be completed in our lifetimes,

so we are honored by the generosity and support of other Catholics.

We are happy to report that we have been able to carry forward our missionary activities. For instance, we publish Bibles in the local language and assist many flood-affected families whose homes have been destroyed. The work of restoring their houses continues in phases, and we are doing the best using the funds we receive.

Despite our limitations, we have been actively reaching out to the poor, who have no means of support from any agencies or external support. We especially support daily wage laborers who have no consistent source of income and are often without proper food. We have identified more than 500 such families.

Our five diocesan schools have been

financially hit by government orders to exempt tuition fees from the students. Many parents are not able to pay tuition, with the result that we are struggling to pay the salaries of our teachers. A significant percentage of these families are poor and marginalized and we have to reach out to them.

Our work of restoring dilapidated church buildings has come to a standstill because of the lack of funds. But our hope is in the Lord who will restore all things.

We thank the Diocese of Columbus for its support. Our success is possible only with your great partnership with the Diocese of Sindhudurg. The efforts of Dr. Lionel de Souza, an award-winning educator from Marion and Cardington, Ohio, as

See RAINS, Page 12

Community in India challenged by industrial growth

In the heart of the region of Haryana in northern India, Father Anil Walder embarks on his humble yet profound mission to the remote village of Dharuhera. His motorbike, a simple and ordinary means of commuting in India, carries him through the narrow lanes, or "galis," of this evolving industrial town.

What was once a quiet village whose name translates to "a piece of level land" is now home to a growing workforce, many of whom are Catholics hailing from distant states such as Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh. These workers, seeking better livelihoods, are daily-wage employees in Dharuhera's expanding industrial hub.

Father Walder, the parish priest of Mata Mariam Catholic Church, tirelessly visits these faithful few, providing them with spiritual nourishment, catechetical

instruction and sacramental care. He is also the servant leader of the Oratory of St. Joseph Vaz, a missionary initiative envisioned by Archbishop Anil J.T. Couto of the Archdiocese of Delhi.

Situated in the civil district of Rewari, about 70 miles from Delhi, Dharuhera has witnessed a significant transformation in recent decades. No longer a remote village, it has a thriving industrial base, with several companies setting up businesses that provide employment to unskilled laborers. Among these workers are about 25 Catholic families, many from tribal communities, whose connection to their faith remains strong despite their challenging circumstances.

The Catholic mission in Dharuhera dates back to 1988, when the late Archbishop Angelo Fernandes of Delhi granted permission for two missionary

priests, Father John Bosco and Father. Balaswamy, to purchase land in the area. These priests, originally from Tamil Nadu, were sent to northern India to gain mission experience and establish a Catholic presence in Dharuhera. The land they acquired would eventually become home to Mata Mariam Catholic Church.

Leaders of the archdiocese had grand plans for the land. They envisioned a Catholic school that would serve as a beacon of faith and education in the region, as well as a Catholic ashram where people from all walks of life could find peace in the Eucharistic presence of Christ. Though the idea of the school was eventually set aside, the desire for the ashram persisted.

It wasn't until 2014 that this dream began to take shape. The arrival of Her-

mit Aniyam, fondly known as "Babaji Sahodaran Aniyam," breathed new life into the mission. His presence brought hundreds of people, many of whom belonged to other faith traditions, to listen to the Word of God and experience the healing touch of Christ's redeeming love. Under his guidance, a simple house was transformed into an Adoration chapel, where the Blessed Sacrament was venerated for 72 hours in continuous prayer and solitude.

As the spiritual needs of the community grew, it became increasingly clear that Dharuhera was to become a center of Catholic apostolate, rooted in the Ashram tradition. In 2015, a temporary hall was built to accommodate Sunday worship and "Kripa Satsang," a Catholic

See DHARUHERA, Page 10

Liberian carpentry shop combines faith with skills training

By Brother Wisdom Agbovi, SVD

As a young religious brother, I studied carpentry, joinery, building and construction in Ghana. I came to Liberia in 2017 to oversee the Divine Word Missionaries' project in Grand Gedeh County. While building our new rectory in Zwedru City, I encountered problems purchasing doors and cabinets. I decided to open a small table carpentry shop on-site so I could make some of the items myself.

I started the shop with the help of a young layperson. We were able to fix almost all the carpentry and joinery issues in the rectory. The shop became so successful that many people who saw our craftsmanship asked us to do jobs for them. With this increased interest in our work, I sought funds from friends to help me implement a business plan and buy some small carpentry equipment for the new shop.

The idea of having this carpentry shop was not only to make items for the rectory or to take in jobs to raise funds for the mission but more importantly to train



Brother Wisdom Agbovi, SVD of the Divine Word Missionaries is helping people in Liberia learn carpentry skills.

Photo courtesy Divine Word Missionaries

the area's young men in carpentry skills they could use for employment. I saw this as a way to reduce the poverty rate

among the youth in Zwedru.

I have about eight young men apprenticing under me. But apprenticing has its challenges. Many of the apprentices do not live in Zwedru City. When they are here to study carpentry in the shop, they often cannot find a place to stay in the city. This hampers their training.

Also, road conditions in Liberia can be terrible. During the rainy season, roads become impassable with deep mud. This hinders the students from getting to the shop and affects our travel to job sites. However, despite these many challenges, we have come a long way.

The newest projects on our schedule involve infrastructure within the Diocese of Cape Palmas and project work such as building a health center for the diocese in Zwedru. We are also constructing a front porch extension for a Divine Word parish, Christ the King, in Zwedru City and building a convent for the Sisters of the Holy Family in Monrovia, the capital of Liberia.

The busy schedule is exciting, but as business grows, so do the challenges. We need

more equipment in the shop. Without it, our production time slows and we can't finish projects as quickly as we should. Also, materials are often in short supply, sometimes delaying work by one to two weeks. As the output from our current schedule raises income, we hope to purchase new equipment in the fall and continue to invest in our carpentry shop and the training of Liberia's youth.

Despite all the activity with the carpentry shop, nothing has distracted me from active pastoral work. I make time to visit the outstations and serve the people there. I find joy in caring for others.

I hope that my pastoral activities and work in the carpentry shop bring a positive image of Divine Word missionaries to the people of Liberia. I pray that the shop will grow and become useful for all of Grand Gedeh County and that it promotes vocations for future Divine Word missionaries.

Brother Wisdom Agbovi, SVD, is a Ghanaian carpenter turned Divine Word missionary. He joined the Liberia mission in 2017 as his first assignment.

Zhavame's Catholics: a story of resilience through adversity

Zhavame, a picturesque village at the foot of Kapamodzu peak, holds the distinction of being the birthplace of Catholicism in the Phek District of Nagaland, a province of India. The village name, meaning "people of the enchanted lake," resonates with its historical significance.

Zhavame's Catholic community, which today numbers more than 1,500 faithful and 262 households, has a deeply rooted and inspiring legacy of perseverance marked by imprisonment, persecution and, ultimately, triumph in faith.

The Catholic faith found its way to Zhavame in a series of divine coincidences. On Oct. 18, 1964, a group of traders encountered a Catholic who introduced them to the faith. This led them to Father Bernick, SDB. The priest sent a group of young Catholics led by Sousahie Philip in 1965, marking the first formal evangelization in Zhavame. Although language differences posed a challenge, a local teacher, Sasu Dukru, interpreted Philip's sermons, eventually becoming a prominent Catholic leader in Zhavame.

The faith quickly took root and on March 20, 1966, a Catholic church dedicated to St. Francis Xavier was blessed. On the same day, Father Bernick baptized 11 people, marking the official establish-

ment of the Catholic Church in Zhavame.

As the Catholic faith gained momentum in Zhavame and nearby villages, resistance from the established Baptist community grew. Some members of the Naga Army, driven by the belief that Nagaland was a Baptist stronghold, began to persecute the Catholics.

The first to suffer was Akha, who was imprisoned on Dec. 18, 1966. He was thrown into a dark, underground dungeon and threatened with death if he did not renounce his faith. On Christmas Eve, Akha returned home, but under duress he renounced Catholicism and reverted to animism. However, the rest of the Catholic community remained steadfast.

A second wave of persecution occurred in July 1967 when five Catholics were arrested and subjected to 89 days of imprisonment. During their incarceration, they endured hunger, unsanitary living conditions and mental torment. Despite these hardships, their faith remained unshaken, a testament to their courage and determination.

In November 1967, seven men, including those five and two others, were imprisoned in the same dungeon. The cruelty intensified, with the prisoners being fed only a kilogram of cooked millet for seven

people daily and being forced to perform hard labor. Yet the resilience of these men won over even their captors. One of the Naga Army captains remarked in admiration, "You are really brave and strong. I appreciate your determination to put up with any hardships for the sake of the crucified Savior and the Catholic religion."

The persecution came to a turning point on Jan. 25, 1968, when the men were released, having endured immense suffering but standing firm in their faith. Despite the hardships, their courage inspired others in neighboring villages to embrace Catholicism.

The struggles of the early Catholic pioneers bore fruit as the faith spread across the Chakhesang region. In 1974, the Chakhesang region was separated from Kohima Parish and became its own entity, with Chizami Parish as the first in the area. Father Castelino, SJ, the first parish priest, tirelessly worked to establish a permanent base for Catholicism among the Chakhesang tribe. Supported by Ursuline Franciscan Sisters, he oversaw the growth of Catholicism in many villages.

In Zhavame, the Catholic community continued to flourish. A Catholic school, St. Joseph's, was opened in 1981, contributing to the formal education and

spiritual growth of the village's children. Over the years, many faithful from Zhavame have taken up vocations, including priests, sisters and brothers.

By 1993, the Zhavame community had outgrown its original church. With prayer and faith, the community built a larger church, which was blessed by Right Reverend Abraham, bishop of Kohima, on January 24, 1993. This new church was a symbol of the enduring faith of the Zhavame people.

On Oct. 18, 2014, a devastating fire destroyed the Zhavame church. Yet amid the ashes, a crucifix remained untouched, symbolizing that while the church building had been consumed, the spirit of Christ lived on. The community rallied together to rebuild. With support from the broader Catholic community, the foundation for a new church was laid in 2015.

Today, Zhavame's Catholic community stands as a beacon of faith and perseverance. The sacrifices of the early pioneers, who endured persecution and imprisonment, have borne fruit in a vibrant, growing Catholic Church that continues to thrive. The story of Zhavame is a powerful testament to the resilience of faith in the face of adversity.

DHARUHERA, continued from Page 9

charismatic prayer service. This humble hall, which absorbed the existing Adoration chapel, serves as a gathering place for both Catholics and non-Christians alike.

Most of the Catholics who reside in the area are daily wage laborers. About 100 regular worshippers attend Sunday

services, and many non-Christians also participate in the prayers and spiritual gatherings. The thirst for the Word of God is evident and the priests at Mata Mariam Catholic Church work tirelessly to meet the spiritual needs of this growing community.

Despite the challenges, the mission

in Dharuhera has been sustained by the support of the Archdiocese of Delhi and the generous assistance of the Diocese of Columbus. This support has helped provide the basic necessities for the priests who serve in the area, but much more is needed to continue building and expanding the mission according to

God's will.

We humbly ask for your prayers and support as we strive to reach the unreached with the love of Jesus Christ. May the mission in Dharuhera continue to grow, bringing hope, healing and salvation to those who hunger for the redeeming love of the Lord.

Mary's Meals provides food, education to 2.4 million children

Beginning in 2002 with a school feeding program in Malawi serving 200 children, Mary's Meals, a growing global movement, today serves more than 2.4 million children in 5,000 schools in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean.

Around the world, an estimated 309 million people face acute food insecurity and 250 million children are out of school. While the numbers and scale of both problems are daunting, Mary's Meals addresses childhood hunger and enables access to education in the world's poorest nations with a simple solution: feed children where they learn.

A fruit of Medjugorje, Mary's Meals was founded in 2002 by Magnus MacFarlane-Barrow. After a decade of collecting and delivering humanitarian aid from his native Scotland to Bosnia, Magnus realized his life's calling through a chance meeting with a little boy in Africa.

During an aid stop in Malawi, Magnus met Edward, who told him that he'd like to have enough to eat and to be able to go to school one day. Inspired by those words, Magnus started Mary's Meals and named it for the Blessed Virgin Mary, who knew what it was like to raise a child in poverty.

The unique school feeding model of Mary's Meals invites everyone to be



Children are provided food at the Beati Akor Primary School in Ethiopia through Mary's Meals.

Photo courtesy Mary's Meals.

part of the solution to child hunger and missed education. Through a community-based feeding program, Mary's Meals supports in-country partners to source food that integrates with local cultural needs. Volunteer cooks are trained to

prepare and serve the meals, and staff members monitor educational impacts. This efficient model makes the program scalable and cost effective: only \$25.20 feeds a child for a school year.

School feeding has become a lifeline

for millions of children affected by conflicts and displacement, climate and extreme weather. Vulnerable children often bear the burden of poverty and hunger. That's why Mary's Meals serves in some of the world's most hostile and challenging environments, where food insecurity dictates everyday life and the need is acute.

Thousands of supporters, donors and volunteers around the world help to make school feeding possible. In Columbus, the diocese has a deep connection with Mary's Meals. Supporters have spoken at mission appeals, raised funds and sponsored events such as last month's Concert for a Cause. Magnus MacFarlane-Barrow has spoken twice at the Columbus Catholic Women's Conference and made a presentation at Columbus St. Charles Preparatory School.

"Mary's Meals as a provider of hope – in the life of one child and in the world more broadly – is more important than ever. And so are each of our actions in support of this mission – no matter how small they might feel to us. They are not small. They are truly enormous in the life of that child," he said.

To learn more about Mary's Meals, please visit www.marysmealsusa.org



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Papua New Guinea villagers celebrate first Mass in 20 years

By Bishop Siby Mathew Peedikayil, HGN
Diocese of Aitape, Papua New Guinea

Earlier this year, I took part in a remarkable demonstration of faith in a remote village in the Diocese of Aitape in Papua New Guinea, of which I am bishop.

I celebrated Mass there and afterward the villagers thanked me for the Mass, which was their first in 20 years. Although they had no sacraments for all this time, they had kept the faith. Representatives of many religious denominations had invited the people to join them, but their response was, "We are born Catholics and we die Catholics."

I felt that they were like sheep without a shepherd and felt the truth of the words of Jesus: "The harvest is rich, but the laborers are few."

The diocese is in the far northwest of Papua New Guinea, bordering the Indonesian province of Irian Jaya. It is a remote and underdeveloped region, with about 160,000 Catholics distributed in 33 parishes. Spiritual leadership is carried out by 19 priests, religious, many lay parish leaders and the diocesan team of



Children and adults are pictured after Mass.

Photo courtesy Diocese of Aitape

pastoral animation.

Growth of the Church there has been accompanied by challenges, including logistic and economic problems, lack of personnel, long distances and difficult communication routes, depriving the faithful of a regular sacramental life. Despite these challenges, our people are in

general industrious, loving, caring and generous. They accompany the clergy on mission journeys to distant villages that may take hours or even days.

The diocese has few resources and little infrastructure. Our parishes are poor, many are in the mountains and they have dilapidated facilities. Most of the

facilities in the diocese urgently need renovation. In the short term, there is an immediate need for more missionaries. At the same time, investing in the formation of local seminarians and laity is a priority. Therein lies our future. The diocese runs schools, health facilities, vocational centers and a pastoral center.

At the recent National Eucharistic Congress in Indianapolis, Cardinal Luis Antonio Tagle, prefect of the Vatican's Dicastery for Evangelization who presided at the closing Mass, said in his homily, "We should not keep Jesus to ourselves. That is not discipleship. That is selfishness. The gift we have received we should give as a gift. A Eucharistic people is a missionary and evangelizing people."

Today, we are invited to give Jesus to others. As people of the Eucharist, we can continue the proclamation of the Gospel among our brothers and sisters of Papua New Guinea by assisting them spiritually and financially. Remember, "Acts of love and kindness never die, but in the lives of others they multiply."



The Diocese of Sindhurg in Maharashtra, located in western India, was hit by catastrophic floods this year.

Photos courtesy Diocese of Sindhurg

RAINS, continued from Page 9

the chief executive officer of Global Caring for Humanity, are tireless in support.

As bishop of the diocese, I express my gratitude to you for your wonderful camaraderie. I assure you of my prayers for all your intentions as I seek the intercession of Our Lady of Miracles, the Patroness of our diocese. May God immensely bless you, your shepherds (bishop and priests), and your diocese for your support, and may you always find favors in God's sight for your charity and support.

For more information on our diocese, go to www.sindhurgdiocese.org



Floodwaters inundate villages in the Diocese of Sindhurg in India.

Spiritans persevere through difficulties in Haiti

The Spiritans, officially the Congregation of the Holy Spirit (formerly known as the Holy Ghost Fathers), have missions in more than 60 nations, including in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, where they founded the Petit Seminaire College St. Martial in 1870. Today, it is recognized as Haiti's leading boys high school.

In the early evening of April 1, the tranquility of the campus was destroyed when armed bandits broke in by climbing a poorly protected wall around the school on a back street. After neutralizing two guards, they began burning vehicles parked in the courtyard and vandalizing the school premises.

Confreres, house staff and school administrators were not able to escape but had to hide, hoping for police intervention. Unfortunately, that did not happen despite repeated calls. For more than six hours, the bandits continued to loot and set fires.

Finally, the fathers were able to escape, taking refuge in the Spiritan Formation House, a 30-minute walk away. There were no physical casualties in the attack, but the material damage was considerable: cars burned; the school set on fire; offices and the school premises looted; refrigerators, computers, electronics, solar panels, even a water purification system stolen.

More than Spiritan missionaries have ministered and worked in Haiti over the years, demonstrating their unwavering commitment to the community through education, faith and social justice. Despite being expelled during the Duvalier regime in 1969, the fathers had a new hope with the election of Jean Bertrand Aristide, a former priest, as president, allowing them to return in 1986.

This recent setback serves as a stark reminder of the ongoing struggles in Haiti, but the presence of the Spiritans speaks volumes about their resilience. It has been said that "the only hope for the regeneration of Haiti lies in the education provided by the Spiritans."

To learn more about them, visit their website at www.spiritans.org.



Armed bandits broke into the Spiritans' complex in Haiti on April 1 and wreaked considerable havoc.

Photo courtesy Spiritans

Piarist Fathers sponsor high school in Kentucky

The Piarist Fathers, a missionary order founded by St. Joseph Calasanz in Rome, have a history of educating young people that dates to their formation in Rome in 1597.

Their province of the United States and Puerto Rico sponsors missions in Mexico, Puerto Rico, Guatemala and Cuba, but this article will concentrate on their fifth and most recent mission -- the Piarist School in the Diocese of Lexington, Kentucky, which is one of only two Catholic high schools in the diocese.

In 1985, Father Thomas Carroll, SchP, convinced his fellow Piarists to open the school in Hagerhill, Kentucky in eastern Appalachia. The region, which used to depend highly upon the coal mining industry, is one of the nation's poorest. Although the percentage of young people graduating from high schools in the area is almost 80 percent, only about 15 percent go to college.

Substance abuse, health issues and a lack of decent housing and food are all-too-frequent problems. Belief in Jesus as "God and Savior" is high, but the total Catholic population in the region is only about 1 percent.

Three Piarists were transferred to the school to continue Father Carroll's mis-

sion. They are Father John Callan, SchP; Father Sunil Damiyanose, SchP; and Father David Powers, Sch.P.

The school has never charged tuition. When students cannot provide their own lunches, the school makes sure that they do not go hungry. It provides free transportation to and from school for the students, who live in six counties.

The school is renovating its technology, art, music and athletic facilities. Since its first graduation, every senior has been accepted into a college -- a success rate that is unmatched in the region.

In addition to the school, the Piarists also sponsor an outreach program providing food, clothing, household supplies, emergency home repairs and Christmas gifts. The area where the school is located and the surrounding counties have a wealth of natural resources. However, many of the inhabitants are poor.

In addition, decreased levels of educa-



Young people receive the Sacrament of Confirmation at St. Joachim Academy in Adjuntas, Puerto Rico. Photo courtesy Piarists

tion and a lack of infrastructure such as highways, developed cities, businesses and medical services has perpetuated the region's impoverished standing. The Piarist outreach program has impact!

The Piarist School's efforts extend to the order's beginnings with St. Joseph Calasanz, who opened the first free school in all of Europe at St. Dorothy's Church in Rome, Italy. The concept of a school for the poor grew exponentially, and eventually his co-workers began the order.

As religious priests or brothers, they profess the vows of poverty, chastity and obedience. They also take a special fourth vow, "to educate the young, particularly the poor." Today, about 1,300 Piarists worldwide minister to about 131,000 students in 198 schools in 42 nations.

For administrative purposes, the worldwide order is divided into 16 geographical regions called provinces. Each province is asked to sponsor at least one mission.

Besides the Kentucky school, the other missions of the Piarists' Province of the United States and Puerto Rico are: The Piarist Fathers Summer Latin Mission in the Diocese of Tabasco, Mexico; St. Joachim Academy in Adjuntas, Puerto Rico and Colegio Calasanz in San Juan, Puerto Rico; St. James the Apostle Church, its 31 chapels and its three schools in Cabrican and Huitan, Guatemala; and St. Jude and St. Nicholas Church in Havana, Cuba, the Chapel of the Sacred Heart of Mary in Guanabacoa, Cuba and their two respective cultural centers.

For additional information about the Piarists' ministry, visit their web pages: <https://piaristchallenge.com> and <https://piarist.info>.

PIME missionaries endure in Myanmar despite military coup

The PIME missionaries have served in Myanmar, formerly known as Burma, since 1868. Since the first four missionaries arrived there, six have been martyred, two have been beatified and others are on their way to sainthood.

After the COVID-19 pandemic devastated the nation in 2020, Myanmar experienced a military coup in February of the following year. During the last three years, many people have died, many churches have been burned down and many families have fled into the forest. Unfortunately, this turmoil is still ongoing, so specific PIME missionaries and areas cannot be named directly.

Since 2020, the World Bank estimates a drastic reduction in Myanmar's economic conditions. The nation faces multiple financial challenges, including Western sanctions, withdrawal of Western investments, a sharp increase in unemployment, the collapse of the local currency, a lack of liquidity and frequent internet disruptions. Local businesses have experienced a dramatic decline in sales and profits.

Schools in Myanmar closed in March 2020 and reopened in June 2021. The Ministry of Education estimated that out of approximately 9 million school-aged children, only 900,000 -- 10 percent -- registered to return to school. Tens of thousands of teachers who had joined the nation's civil disobedience movement deserted schools.

The education ministry dismissed



Schoolchildren gather in Taunggyi, Myanmar.

Photo courtesy PIME

120,000 of the nation's 451,000 teachers. Nearly 300 education employees were charged with inciting disobedience, with a maximum penalty of three years in prison.

Even before 2020, education in Myanmar was neglected: Myanmar is among the bottom 10 nations in the world for educational spending, with expenses amounting to 1.9 percent of its gross domestic product in 2019. Education is compulsory only until age 10, one of the lowest standards in the world. The civil war has further eroded an already fragile education system.

Additionally, the government has maintained a rule in place since the 1960s that mandates that all education must be public and cannot be delegated to private entities (except for preschools).

In January 2022, the city of Taunggyi saw the arrival of thousands of displaced individuals fleeing the fighting. In response to this crisis, establishment of an informal, primary school in Taunggyi for displaced children ages 6 to 18 was proposed.

A nongovernmental organization supported by the PIME missionaries is the

last such agency allowed to operate in Myanmar and coordinated this endeavor.

The school, launched in early February 2022, aimed to accommodate 180 children. Its educational approach combines the study of traditional Burmese subjects with the organization of workshops and group activities overseen by a psychologist.

The school's name is "Do Giaong" -- "Our School" -- and was chosen by the children themselves. This is a school desired by children, built with the help of parents, an anthem to the freedom of education and the desire for a peaceful childhood. After a successful first academic year, it was decided to continue the school for a second year because of the ongoing conflict and the impossibility for the students to re-enter the official school system.

Coordinators of the school wish to increase enrollment to 350 for the new year. Support for their work will help pay for more subjects and activities, fostering holistic learning and development. The aim is not only to enroll these children in school but also to ensure they attend at their appropriate grade levels, receiving education suitable for their ages.

Will you help provide a sense of normalcy for these children? Learn more about how you can change lives with us www.pimeusa.org.

Diocese kicks off worksite wellness initiative

When most people hear the word “wellness,” it’s natural for them to think of physical health. But wellness is so much more than just physical; it also incorporates spiritual, emotional, social and intellectual/vocational health.

Earlier this year, a team composed of representatives from the Office of Catholic Schools and the diocese’s human resources and insurance departments gathered to discuss wellness topics and the effect of positive employee wellness on job satisfaction, productivity and an overall well-lived life. After months of discussion and a \$10,000 grant from the diocesan health insurance provider, on September 29, the Feast of the Archangels, the Diocese of Columbus officially launched the St. Raphael Worksite Wellness Initiative.

One of the seven Archangels, St. Raphael was selected as the patron saint of the worksite wellness initiative because the name Raphael means “God has healed.” It is the diocese’s hope that St. Raphael’s intercession will bring good health and increased overall wellness to all diocesan employees.

“Employees who take advantage of the wellness and preventive health care programs offered by their employer are more productive, are less likely to miss work, and are less likely to have workplace injuries because these employees are mindful of their own and their co-workers’ health and safety,” said Anne Streitenberger, the diocese’s director of human resources.

Though launched by the diocese, the St. Raphael Worksite Wellness Initiative was created in a manner that allows individual parishes, schools and even departments at the Catholic Center in downtown Columbus to take ownership and create their own wellness committees at their respective worksites. For example, parishes and schools that submit a wellness plan to the diocese for the year will be entered into a drawing for a \$500 gift card to put toward their own wellness initiatives.

Michele Faehnle, who serves as the Office of Catholic Schools’ school nursing adviser in addition to her full-time role as the nurse at Columbus St. Andrew School,



Runners participate in the Josephinum 4-Miler Run/Walk on Saturday, Sept. 28 at the Pontifical College Josephinum.

Photo courtesy Office of Catholic Schools

echoed the importance of putting on an emphasis on wellness. She said, “As a nurse for 25 years, I’ve seen the

impact of unhealthy living on people’s lives and how, oftentimes, those of us in the medical world focus on responding to illness rather than encouraging wellness. I believe focusing on wellness for all employees will empower staff members, no matter how busy, to take a look at their activity levels, eating habits and stress management.”

The first event of the initiative was the Josephinum 4-Miler Run/Walk fundraiser held at the end of September on the grounds at the Pontifical College Josephinum. Diocesan employees who participated were eligible to win one of \$50 Amazon gift cards.

Other programs planned for the remainder of 2024 and through June 2025 include:

- SoulCore, which integrates “... the prayers of the rosary with core strengthening, stretching and functional movements to nourish the body and soul and encourage deeper reflection on the virtues.” Classes are held via Zoom through December and are provided at no cost to diocesan employees.

- Mary’s Meals Virtual Walk – Schools and parishes are invited to fundraise and participate in a virtual walk during November to benefit Mary’s Meals, a nonprofit serving nutritious meals in some of the poorest countries. Each participating school or parish will be entered into a t-shirt giveaway and a drawing for a \$500 gift card.

- New Year Healthy Eating Challenge during January, February and March 2025

- “Step Into Spring” Step Challenge during the months of April, May and June 2025

“Our wellness initiatives are unique compared to secular programs because we incorporate the spiritual aspect of wholeness and holiness with SoulCore, and the theological virtue of charity with the Mary’s Meals virtual walk,” Faehnle added.

“If every parish, school leader and department head encouraged wellness, employees would feel less stress, have improved health and even have fun participating in activities with their co-workers.”

LIFE, continued from Page 5

ra’s box has been blown wide open, and things are only going to get worse in the short term, unless we answer the call,” Bereit said.

“Think about a woman who is facing an unexpected pregnancy; she’s scared: all the fear mongering in the media, all of these headlines right here in Ohio as well as the national political debates. Right now, she is more at risk of abortion than ever before. That child within her womb is at greater risk than ever before.”

The evening included a message from PDHC president Kathy Scanlon.

She shared that, as of August, PDHC has served more than 1,500 individuals among its four locations in the past year, providing upward of 1,000 pregnancy tests and 830 ultrasounds.

More than 90 percent of mothers assessed as “abortion vulnerable” or “abortion-minded” choose life, Scanlon said, after seeing their baby and hearing the heartbeat on an ultrasound. A total of 671 life decisions have been made this year, she shared.

PDHC also offers a parenting education program. So far this year, more than 800 new mothers and fathers participated in

the program through more than 11,000 online and 620 in-person classes offered to them.

“Due to the growing need, PDHC has also added interpretation and translation services, mental health counseling and a community health advocate to provide one-on-one support to moms,” Scanlon said.

Since 2019, PDHC has provided Abortion Pill Reversal (APR) services under the direction of a medical doctor. Scanlon shared that chemical abortions via the abortion pill account for at least 87 percent of abortions in Franklin County.

The audience heard from Sierra, a local woman whose daughter, Sawyer, was saved by APR services after Sierra was connected to PDHC.

Using the natural hormone progesterone, the APR has enabled medical professionals to save between 64 percent to 68 percent of pregnancies with no increase in birth defects, Scanlon said.

“PDHC has continued to adapt and adjust our programs and services over the last 43 years to make sure that we continue to be there for women and families, providing the love, hope and ongoing

support they need to choose life for their babies despite what others may be telling them or what is going on in the world around them,” she said.

With voters passing state Issue 1 in Ohio last November, enshrining abortion in the state’s constitution through all nine months of pregnancy, several of Ohio’s pro-life laws are being challenged in court.

A Franklin County Court of Common Pleas judge issued a preliminary injunction in August against enforcing a state law requiring a 24-hour waiting period for women seeking abortion. The injunction also blocked an informed consent requirement, which informed women of options available to them regarding their pregnancy before obtaining an abortion.

“The 24-hour waiting period has saved countless lives from abortion, and many of the women coming into our centers are in crisis, and they benefit from this time of reflection,” Scanlon said. “They receive education on their developing baby, discover all the options and community resources available to them, and receive an ultrasound to see their baby’s heartbeat and the life of their baby growing

inside them before making a life-altering decision that they later regret.”

Also in August, a Hamilton County Court of Common Pleas judge issued a preliminary injunction against laws governing distribution of the abortion pill mifepristone.

The ruling opened the door for non-doctors, including advanced practicing nurses, physician assistants and midwives, to prescribe and provide the abortion pill.

It also challenged a requirement that the abortion pill be distributed in accordance with FDA health and safety guidelines. The change means doctors and advanced practitioners can now prescribe drugs off label after 10 weeks’ gestation, which can cause a higher risk of severe side effects and complications.

“Our Ohio State University campus center is located right next door to Planned Parenthood at 17th and High, and we are starting to see Planned Parenthood making changes to their website stating the abortion pill can now be used up to 11 and 12 weeks,” Scanlon said. “We verified with a supervisor that said changes are probably coming soon.”

Three diocesan schools honored for STEM excellence

By Kayla Elrich

Principal, Lancaster St. Mary School

The Ohio Academy of Science recently selected 40 Ohio schools to receive The Governor's Thomas Edison Award for Excellence in STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) Education and Student Research.

The Governor's Thomas Edison Award was established in 1985 and recognizes Ohio schools and educators who promote scientific student research and hands-on learning opportunities that extend beyond conventional classroom activities. Three of our 50 diocesan schools were honored with this prestigious award for the 2023-24 school year: Mount Vernon St. Vincent de Paul, Chillicothe Bishop Flaget and Lancaster St. Mary schools.

At St. Vincent de Paul, the science curriculum is inquiry-based and employs

hands-on activities and projects such as bottle rocks and hydraulic arm building.

A science fair was held for all students in sixth through eighth grade. The judges at the fair included engineers from Ariel Corporation (a leading producer of separable reciprocating gas compressors for the energy industry), employees from Battelle (an independent nonprofit organization that advances science and technology) and Kenyon College students majoring in science.

Among 46 student participants, 25 received superior ratings and 21 received excellent ratings. Twenty-five students chose to participate in the District 4 Science Day at Ashland University with eight of them receiving a superior rating.

Bishop Flaget, honored for the 17th consecutive year with The Governor's Thomas Edison Award, also hosted a science fair for the students in sixth through eighth grade. Forty-eight participated with 19 receiving superior ratings. The science fair was judged by qualified volunteers from local STEM partners including Kenworth Truck Company, Corcoran Farms and Fluor-BWXT Portsmouth LLC as well as retired military personnel.

Nineteen students also participated in the Southeast District Science Fair sponsored by Ohio University and the Ohio Academy of Science, resulting in 10 receiving superior ratings and nine receiving excellent ratings. In addition to the Science Fair, students from different grade levels participated in activities, including a pumpkin investigation, invention convention and agricultural awareness day.

At St. Mary School's science fair, 46 seventh- and eighth-grade students participated. Judges at the science fair included members of the local community from a variety of backgrounds, including health, education, technology, nutrition and agriculture.

Of the students who participated, six advanced to District 8 Science Day, where all were honored with excellent or superior ratings. Three students who received superior ratings advanced to the state competition, and two were among a select group of individuals who received a



Mount Vernon St. Vincent de Paul students participated in a school science fair and in the District 4 Science Day at Ashland University.

superior rating at the state competition.

Students at St. Mary also participate in a STEM elective and practice buddy science activities, 3D printing, topography and glacier studies through the use of augmented reality.

Anita Yaple received St. Mary's teacher award.

"I am grateful for this recognition, but it is really the student's hard work, perseverance and dedication that has resulted in many incredible achievements," she said. "Science opens the door to a world

of possibilities that incorporate critical thinking, investigation and curiosity. Being a part of this process is not only rewarding but also exciting."

Through the use of science, technology, engineering and math, students receive an opportunity to grow academically and spiritually. Helping students understand the incredible connection between faith and science is an important component of what we strive to accomplish in Our Catholic Schools, and we are proud of the innovative ways our schools meet this goal.



Lancaster St. Mary School students work on a project.

Photos courtesy Office of Catholic Schools



Chillicothe Bishop Flaget students work with seedlings. The school was honored with the Thomas Edison Award for the 17th consecutive year.

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Changes underway at London Saint Patrick Catholic School

Since its founding 150 years ago, London Saint Patrick Catholic School has been a mainstay in Madison County, providing a Catholic education that marries Gospel values with superior academics and opportunities for students. As part of its 150th anniversary celebration this year, Saint Patrick is doubling down on its efforts to foster a strong sense of community and virtue, implement a number of changes to enrich the curriculum and roll out a new brand grounded in tradition but with a fresh look for the future.

For the 2024-25 school year, the school is embracing the theme "Be the Light," inspired by the Gospel of Matthew. In this passage, Jesus encourages everyone to let their God-given talents shine and use them to better the community. It will be a constant reminder to students of the importance of sharing their unique gifts and making a positive impact on those around them.

The school also introduced a weekly virtues program, where the school community will gather as a whole to discuss a specific virtue to promote a culture of character, moral development and where each student feels valued and empowered to contribute.

From a curriculum perspective, the school introduced Spanish for high school credit for eighth-grade students this year, providing them a valuable head start in language studies. In addition, this school year, Saint Patrick is integrating STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) lessons into the curriculum, featuring hands-on, technology-rich activities to foster critical thinking and problem-solving skills critical to applying classroom lessons to real-world situations.

Perhaps the most noticeable change is the school's new brand, complete with new logos for the school, the parish and Saint Patrick athletics. The logos and new athletics mascot were unveiled to the parish and school community at the

Family Fun Fest in mid-September.

The new school logo is a nod to the school's patron saint, incorporating his mitre, the traditional headpiece worn by bishops. The graphic serves as a reminder of the school's dedication to spreading the faith while connecting to its rich history and mission of Catholic education.

In addition to the new school logo, Saint Patrick Catholic School proudly revealed its new mascot: the peregrine falcon. The choice of the peregrine falcon pays homage to the community's historical and cultural ties to St. Patrick. Native to Ireland, these falcons are admired for their hunting prowess and their symbolic meanings of power, freedom and grace.

Principal Rick Logue expressed excitement about the new mascot, stating, "The peregrine falcon perfectly represents the spirit of our school. We want our students to soar to new heights, embodying

the excellence, vision, resilience and rich cultural heritage that the peregrine falcon represents.

"Our community is filled with optimism and enthusiasm for the future, and I am humbled to have the opportunity to lead the continued growth and success of Saint Patrick Catholic School into its next 150 years, ensuring we remain a beacon

of faith, education and excellence for generations to come."

Saint Patrick Catholic School continues to accept applications for enrollment this school year. Families interested in joining the community are encouraged to contact the school at 740-852-0161 for more information or visit <https://stpatricklondon.org/school>.



London Saint Patrick unveiled new logos in September for the parish, school and athletic teams.



London Saint Patrick students and parishioners enjoy a family fun fest in mid-September. Photos courtesy London Saint Patrick

DeSales students hear message of mercy



After an All-School Mass on Friday, Sept. 20, Rachel Muha, founder of The Brian Muha Foundation and the Run the Race Club, shared a powerful message about forgiveness and mercy with the student body at Columbus St. Francis DeSales High School. The school's Common Read this year is *Legacy of Mercy*, a book based on Rachel's personal experiences. The book, as well as her message, further highlighted the school's 2024-25 theme, Eleos: Live with Kindness. Muha was joined for a photo by members of the school's Run the Race Club.

Photo courtesy St. Francis DeSales High School

Our Lady of Perpetual Help honored as Wild School Site

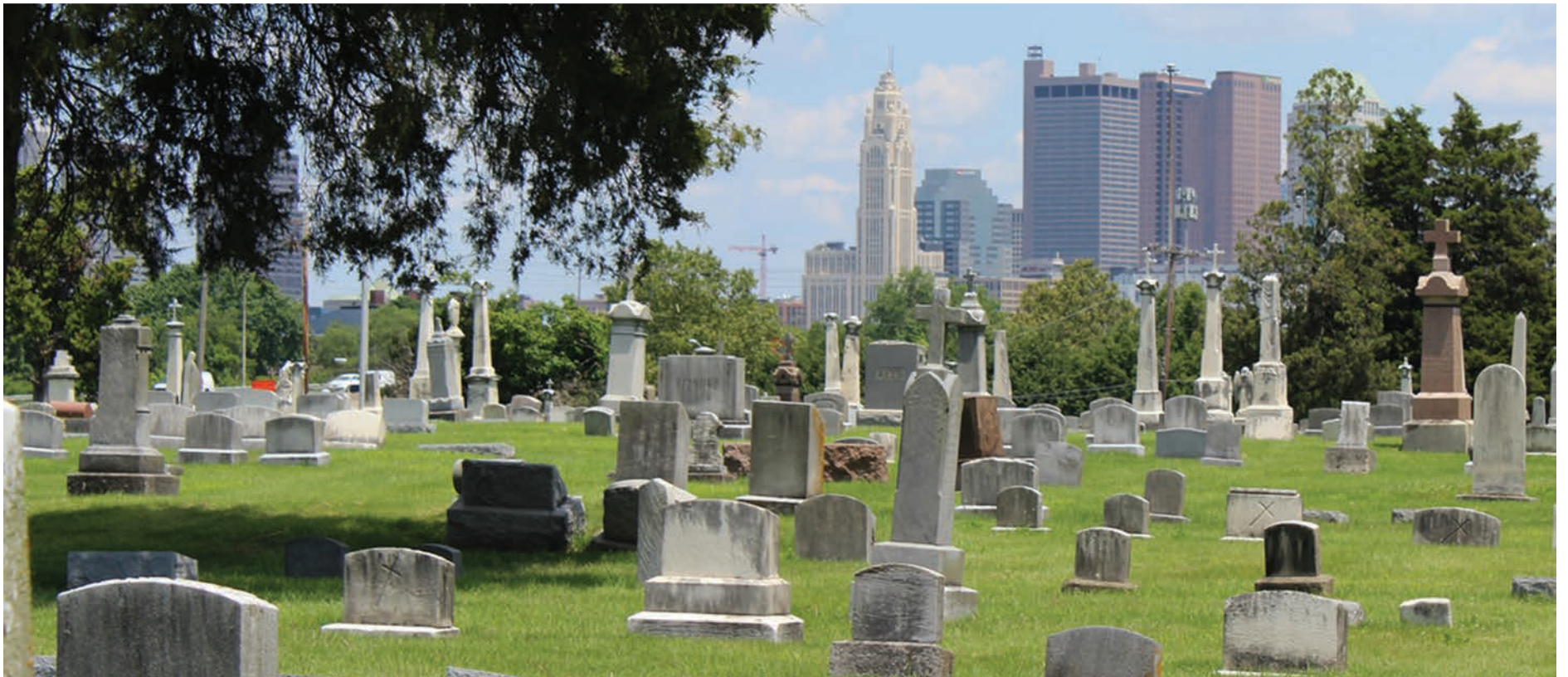
Grove City Our Lady of Perpetual Help School has received official designation from the Ohio Division of Wildlife, Department of Natural Resources, as a Wild School Site. This distinction recognizes the school's commitment to promoting environmental stewardship by implementing "informed, constructive actions to benefit people, wildlife and the environment on the school grounds." School principal Julie Freeman and gifted education instructor Kirsten Harberts received a plaque that recognized the school's efforts in educating students about environmental care. Abby Ditomassi, wildlife education coordinator for the Ohio Division of Wildlife, presented the award. In addition, the school was awarded a \$500 Wildlife Education Grant that was used to purchase a bird box, a wireless camera, and plants and seeds for a new bird observation station. Further grants from the Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District and the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency helped fund the rehabilitation of the school's rain garden and the installation of a Monarch butterfly conservatory. The Wild School Site (WSS) program, established in 1994, encourages schools to enhance their outdoor environments to provide educational opportunities and improve habitats for wildlife. "Our Lady of Perpetual Help School has taken a small urban plot and turned it into three valuable habitat components that wildlife and students alike can utilize," Ditomassi noted, highlighting the school's innovative use of its grounds to benefit both wildlife and education.



Photo courtesy Our Lady of Perpetual Help School

CEMETERY SATURDAY

NOVEMBER 2, 2024 | 9AM



As a complement to the Feasts of All Saints Day and All Souls Day, the Catholic Cemeteries of Columbus invites you to pray with us Morning Prayer from the Divine Office in remembrance of your deceased loved ones. We also invite you to bring your broken Rosaries, torn Bibles and other damaged religious items for proper burial at the Cemeteries.

RESURRECTION CEMETERY

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9571 N. High St.
Lewis Center, OH 43035
(614) 888-1805

ST. JOSEPH CEMETERY

Our Mother of Sorrows Chapel
6440 S. High St.
Lockbourne, OH 43137
(614) 491-2751

HOLY CROSS CEMETERY

Chapel Mausoleum
11539 National Rd. SW
Pataskala, OH 43062
(740) 927-4442

Watterson seniors named National Merit Semifinalists

Columbus Bishop Watterson High School seniors Megan Goshe (left) and Emily Schmidt have been named National Merit Semifinalists based on their performances on the 2023 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT). Goshe is a Student Ambassador and a member of National Honor Society. She serves on Student Council and is chairperson of the STUCO Charity Committee. In addition, she is co-captain of the cross country team and volunteers at the Worthington Resource Pantry. She also knits/crochets for charities and does online SAT tutoring as a volunteer. She plans to major in biochemistry in college. Schmidt is the field commander and flute section leader for the marching band and a member of the concert and jazz bands and the pit orchestra. In addition, she is a member of the swim team, volunteers at Friendship Village of Dublin and is a music and companionship volunteer at Bella Care Hospice. She plans to major in neuroscience and psychology in college.



Photo courtesy Bishop Watterson High School

Hartley student honored as National Merit Semifinalist



Columbus Bishop Hartley senior Jillian Reeb has been named a National Merit Semifinalist based on her performance on the 2023 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT). She is three-year varsity member of the Bishop Hartley Theatre Department with a role in the Beauty and the Beast musical this fall. She has played field hockey and is a member of the Ultimate Frisbee team. She plans to study in an area of science in college.

Photo courtesy Bishop Hartley High School

St. Charles seniors receive National Merit recognition



Four Columbus St. Charles Preparatory School students from a senior class of 128 have been named 2025 National Merit Semifinalists. They were among 16,000 honorees nationwide who scored in the top 1 percent of the 1.3 million high school students who took the Pre-Scholastic Aptitude/National Merit Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT) last year as juniors. Semifinalists will be eligible for 6,870 National Merit Scholarships worth nearly \$26 million that will be offered next spring. In addition, six St. Charles seniors were named Commended Scholars after scoring in the top 5 percent of all test-takers. Honorees are (from left) Alexander Dininni (Semifinalist), John Orenchuk (Commended), Arav Fernandes (Semifinalist), John Miller (Semifinalist), Eli Mackim (Commended), Ian Rotruck (Commended), Emmett Galvin (Commended), Miles Hockenberry (Commended), Jackson Soder (Semifinalist) and Quaid Cahill (Commended).

Photo courtesy St. Charles Preparatory School

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27th Sunday of Ordinary Time Year A

Family relationships build strong foundation of faith

Genesis 2:18-24
Psalm 128:1-2, 3, 4-5, 6
Hebrews 2:9-11
Mark 10:2-16

Jesus is confronted in the Gospel today with two situations concerning human relationships that are “set” by accommodations that do not work very well in any society: an established order of family relationships that fails to acknowledge both diversity and equality, and a way of responding to children that ignores them entirely. The culture of the day did not concern itself with the persons involved but rather with external matters.

First, the approach to marriage that takes into consideration only the needs and desires of one party (the husband) and the external “laws” that miss the real purpose of the marital relationship are presented to Jesus as a question to be judged: “Is it lawful for a husband to divorce his wife?” Behind the question there is no real desire for a solution, but the intention to make Jesus appear incompetent, where Moses gave an accommodation that gives the man his own way. Jesus’ response points to God’s own original plan for relationship. He quotes the passage from Genesis and emphasizes the real consequences of the husband’s rejection of his wife and God’s intention for marriage. Claiming a “right” that tramples the personhood of the other is not God’s desire for human relationships. Such a principle can easily be applied to many situations we face today.

Second, an approach to children that fails to see them as persons deserving of attention is taken up even by Jesus’ disciples. This perturbs Jesus and He demonstrates another way: “Let the children come to me;

28th Sunday of Ordinary Time Year A

Are we willing to give up everything to follow Christ?

Wisdom 7:7-11
Psalm 90:12-13, 14-15, 16-17
Hebrews 4:12-13
Mark 10:17-30

“Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, ‘How hard it is for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!’ The disciples were amazed at his words.”

The world tends to view earthly success as a sign of favor from God. He has promised to bless us, and we see material prosperity as the blessing. Jesus offers the real blessing, a relationship with God that begins in this world and lasts into eternity. The kingdom of God is among us, but it is entered by detaching ourselves from what we think we possess.

Human beings are body, mind and spirit. Unless we give the spirit primacy, our material reality and our emotional and mental states can dominate us and keep us from entering the relationship that is offered. The Spirit works through nature

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Father Timothy Hayes

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



do not prevent them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Amen, I say to you, whoever does not accept the kingdom of God like a child will not enter it.”

We are living in a time of great turmoil in terms of relationships. At every level, there is a rejection of an approach that sees things from God’s perspective. What may appear to be following “traditional ways” may in fact include a judgment of persons that goes beyond a defense of true interpersonal relationships. A false notion of personal identity may lead to a “accommodation” made to the spirit of the age that does not accept permanence or a vision of eternity. God’s way, the truly “original way” is above our current battles. Respect and dignity for persons made in God’s image necessarily leads to a better approach.

Truth remains truth. It cannot be changed or imposed without real respect. Jesus’ approach to marriage shows that it is even more complex and simple than we tend to think. His openness to children – who had no standing before the law in the common custom of the day – is likewise a novel approach. Both show us a new and better way.

Spouses are meant to mirror God’s love for His people and Christ’s love for His bride, the Church. They are in a relationship that gives witness to the very love at the heart of triune life, the communal reality of Father, Son and Spirit. This is not a mere “contract” but a “covenant of life and love” that gives a hint about eternity

and the material world but always leads us beyond what is visible.

Relationship with the living God is more like a rollercoaster ride than an experience of smooth sailing. We experience challenges that are beyond us. With God, we meet them and we grow in our capacity for relationship with God and with others. God can fill us with His love only when we clear out space for that love. Attachment to things and to our own desires blocks us. Acknowledging God’s gifts to us, we put our trust in Him to be generous, even when we have to let go of those gifts.

The interchange between Peter, who speaks about our experience, and Jesus, who explains the truth about the life He offers, illustrates the steps that must be taken so that the Spirit may lead us into the depths of real relationship with God. “Peter began to say to him, ‘We have given up everything and followed you.’” He starts to speak of the cost of discipleship, what he feels that he and the others who follow Jesus have al-

THE WEEKDAY BIBLE READINGS

| 10-7/10-12 MONDAY | THURSDAY | 10/14-10/20 MONDAY | THURSDAY |
|---|--|--|---|
| Galatians 1:6-12 Psalm 111:1-2,7-10 Luke 10:25-37 | Galatians 3:1-5 Luke 1:69-75 (Ps) Luke 11:5-13 | Galatians 4:22-24,26-27,31-5:1 Psalm 113:1-7 Luke 11:29-32 | Ephesians 1:1-10 Psalm 98:1-6 Luke 11:47-54 |
| TUESDAY | FRIDAY | TUESDAY | FRIDAY |
| Galatians 1:13-24 Psalm 139:1-3,13-15 Luke 10:38-42 | Galatians 3:7-14 Psalm 111:1-6 Luke 11:15-26 | Galatians 5:1-6 Psalm 119:41,43-45,47-48 Luke 11:37-41 | 2 Timothy 4:10-17b Psalm 145:10-13b,17-18 Luke 10:1-9 |
| WEDNESDAY | SATURDAY | WEDNESDAY | SATURDAY |
| Galatians 2:1-2,7-14 Psalm 117:1-2 Luke 11:1-4 | Galatians 3:22-29 Psalm 105:2-7 Luke 11:27-28 | Galatians 5:18-25 Psalm 1:1-4,6 Luke 11:42-46 | Ephesians 1:15-23 Psalm 8:2-7 Luke 12:8-12 |

DIOCESAN WEEKLY RADIO AND TELEVISION

Mass Schedule: Weeks of October 6 and October 13, 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 III AND IV OF THE LITURGY OF THE HOURS

in time. “So they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore, what God has joined together, no human being must separate.”

Each child, conceived in the womb and given a place in the family, raised to responsible adulthood is already a person made in the image and likeness of God. We baptize children and parents are charged to bring up their children in a community of faith, teaching them God’s commandments by word and example, and educating them in the ways of faith at home and in church.

Children share in both the promise of eternal life and in the responsibility to witness to Jesus’ love at work in the world.

These approaches are not relics of an earlier era that must be given up. They are the foundation of the new world waiting to be born that establishes a full human response to God’s invitation to relationship. Spouses must commit and choose to love one another sacrificially and children must be welcomed into the world and raised in families that live in unity, centered on God.

ready paid. He never gets to finish his statement and the litany of losses that he wants to convey. The Lord interrupts with a statement that covers everything.

Jesus responds acknowledging what has already been sacrificed but indicating also that there will be an even great price to be paid: “Amen, I say to you, there is no one who has given up house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or lands for my sake and for the sake of the gospel who will not receive a hundred times more now in this present age: houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions, and eternal life in the age to come.” The Paschal Mystery is learned by plunging into it with all that we are.

God offers great rewards in this life. Places to live, experiences that are unimaginable and relationships as deep as family are promised. Anyone who has chosen to respond to Jesus’ invitation to follow Him will meet new friends who

become as dear as brothers and sisters, parents and children that are part of natural relationships.

Along with these “good things” that may be experienced in time, Jesus includes the hard truth that there will be persecution and suffering that remind us that this life is not our goal. These experiences serve to stretch us and to open the inner recesses of our heart. They forge relationships that are built on trust, commitment, and mutual responsibility. Eternal life, God’s own reality, is given a place in the very being of any person open to receive what is offered. Union with God includes a greater capacity for unity among His children.

Fulfilling God’s will for this life prepares us to respond to an invitation. Jesus looks at each one of us, loves us and tells us how to enter the kingdom: “You are lacking in one thing. Go, sell what you have, and give to the poor and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.” How do we respond?

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| BLOOD | HOST | REAL PRESENCE |
| BODY | INITIATION | RECEIVE |
| BREAD | MASS | WATER |
| CHALICE | PALL | WINE |

PARISH RAFFLE AND BAKE SALE
 Visit our Parish Raffle and Bake Sale at Our Lady of Victory Catholic Church:
Saturday, October 19, 9 am-2 pm,
1559 Roxbury Rd. 43212
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Thanks, Blessed Mother, for helping me once more even though I have disappointed you many times. Patty

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.

Thank God for dirty dishes ...

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YOU HAD FOOD TO EAT

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BELL - THOMPSON

In the marriage case styled CLARA FRANCES BELL THOMPSON and AARON QUINTON THOMPSON, the Tribunal of the Diocese of Columbus, Ohio is currently unaware of the present address of AARON QUINTON THOMPSON. The Tribunal herewith informs him of the case and invites him to contact REV. DR. HILARY IKE, JCL, no later than - 5 NOVEMBER 2024, or call phone (614)241-2500 Extension 1. Anyone who knows of the whereabouts of AARON QUINTON THOMPSON, is herewith asked to make this Citation known to him or to inform the Tribunal of his current address.

Given this 20 OCTOBER 2024;
 REV. DR. HILARY IKE, JCL | Judge
 KAREN KITCHELL | Notary

ST. BRIGID OF KILDARE, DUBLIN | EVENING SUPPORT STAFF

JOB DESCRIPTION: This position involves working directly with the Facilities Manager and Office Manager to determine evening needs for all campus activities. This person supports parish staff, ministry chairs and coaches with their evening meetings and special events. This person will also canvas the property to ensure safe environment policies are enforced, ensure the facilities are returned to pre-event status, and secure the buildings at the end of the evening.

RESPONSIBILITIES: Parish and School evening event support: Confirm room and technology set up before and during each event, adjust as needed; help parish staff and ministry chairs with event readiness; assist with tear-down, clean-up, prep for next day, lights out and secure area; ensure Safe Environment Policies are always in effect; point of contact for any issues that arise in the evenings or weekends; report issues to Facilities Manager or Safe Environment Coordinator as needed. Additional duties: Miscellaneous repairs and maintenance as assigned by Facilities Manager; ensure technological equipment is in working order and is functional; ensure smooth transition to overnight school cleaning crew; emergency cleaning as needed.

QUALIFICATIONS: Knowledge of or willingness to learn Diocese Safe Environment policies, building policies, and ability to learn how to use building technology and equipment. Proven record of managing own schedule and completing all tasks and duties without direct supervision. Candidates must be at least 21 and PGC/BCI compliant via completing a Protecting God's Children training and a BCI fingerprint background check.

Interested candidates should submit a resume and cover letter to Becky O'Connor, at boconnor@stbrigidofkildare.org.

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Sister Lucy Dorn, OSF

Funeral Mass for Sister Lucy Dorn, OSF, 92, who died Wednesday, Sept. 4, was celebrated Saturday, Sept. 7 at the Holy Family Convent in Manitowoc, Wisconsin. Burial was at the convent cemetery.

She was born Marie Dorn on Nov. 13, 1931 in Kiel, Wisconsin to Peter and Bernadine (Walsdorf) Dorn.

She entered the convent of the Franciscan Sisters of Christian Charity in Manitowoc in 1945 and professed her vows in 1950. She earned a Bachelor of Science degree from Cardinal Stritch College in Milwaukee and a Master of Science degree from Stout State University in Menomonie, Wisconsin.

She served as a dietician from 1957 to 1958 and from 1977 to 1979 and a pastoral care minister from 1987 to 1993 at Good Samaritan Medical Center in Zanesville. She also was a teacher in Wisconsin, a dietician in Nebraska and Wisconsin and a pastoral care minister and community service worker in Wisconsin. She had been a resident of the St. Rita Health Center in Manitowoc since 2016.

She was preceded in death by her parents; brothers Peter (Betty) and James; and sisters Bernadette (Wayne) Engelman, Jane (Peter) Salm, Janet and Patricia. Survivors include a sister, Sister Marie Bernadette Dorn, OSF; a brother, Patrick; and nieces and nephews.

Donna M. Grubb

Funeral Mass for Donna M. Grubb, 60, who died Friday, Sept. 20, was celebrated Friday, Sept. 27 at West Jefferson Ss. Simon and Jude Church. A private burial service will be conducted later.

She was born in Big Spring, Texas to Ruth and Wendell McNew and was a graduate of Columbus Independence

High School. She was employed as a dental technician and at the Wendy's restaurant at the Columbus Zoo.

Survivors include her parents; a son, Christopher; a brother, Father Dwayne McNew, pastor of Ss. Simon and Jude Church; and a sister, Patsy (Ryan) Cooper.

ST. BRIGID OF KILDARE, DUBLIN

CHURCH AND SCHOOL SAFE ENVIRONMENT COORDINATOR

St. Brigid of Kildare Church and School, located at 7179 Avery Rd in Dublin, is seeking a part-time Safe Environment Coordinator to work onsite for an average of 20 hours per week.

OVERVIEW:

The Safe Environment Coordinator will manage the compliance of Diocesan Safe Environment Policies for St Brigid Church and School for all staff and ministry volunteers, especially those involving minors. This person will report directly to the Pastor. The ideal candidate will have experience in law enforcement, the military or criminal justice, and be an effective communicator and collaborator.

RESPONSIBILITIES:

Review existing safety protocols across campus to ensure best practices and procedures are implemented. Communicate and train staff to adhere to newly established safety protocols; direct contact and communication with key ministry leaders to establish and enforce procedures so that relevant information can be quickly communicated and potential issues resolved in a timely manner. This may require attendance at select ministry meetings; communicate Safe Environment requirements to volunteers through established communication channels; manage the database of all campus volunteers and staff, confirming compliance with all

Diocesan policies before any contact with minors. This includes verification of BCI/FBI/Selection, Virtus Protecting God's Children training, and any other training according to Diocesan, Athletic Association and/or Scouting policies; screen and direct follow up with staff and volunteers, ensuring compliance with all policies before involvement with minors; Coordinate Protecting God's Children and other training programs on our campus at least twice a year; prepare for and ensure all requirements are met for the annual and three-year Diocesan Safe Environment audits by maintaining accurate and organized records; attend and report current activity and issues at monthly staff and quarterly Steering Committee meetings.

DETAILS:

This is a part-time position, expected to average 20 hours PER week. There will be times when work demands are higher and other times much lower. This position starts at \$30/hour and is not eligible for benefits. Candidates must be at least 21 and must be PGC/BCI compliant via completing a Protecting God's Children training and a BCI fingerprint background check.

Interested candidates should submit a resume and cover letter to Becky O'Connor, at boconnor@stbrigidofkildare.org.

PRAY FOR OUR DEAD

AGRIESTI, Rose K., 67, Sept. 9

St. John the Baptist Church, Columbus

BONAMICO, Joseph, 68, Sept. 21

Immaculate Conception Church, Dennison

COLOSIMO, Lisa (Murtha), 66, Sept. 10

St. Michael Church, Worthington

CROSS, Colin Perry, 53, Sept. 21

St. Paul the Apostle Church, Westerville

DEGEN, Marion J., 87, Sept. 23

Sacred Heart Church, New Philadelphia

DEIBEL, Darlene Catherine (Irwin), 67, Sept. 7

St. Joan of Arc Church, Powell

FOX, Patrick N. "Pat," 93, Aug. 10

Basilica of St. Mary of the Assumption, Lancaster

HAMILTON, Irene M. (Wagner), 91, Sept. 1

Our Lady of Victory Church, Columbus

HOOK, Karen (Potter), 56, Sept. 13

St. Rose of Lima Church, New Lexington

JONES, Mary Jane, 82, Sept. 6

St. Bernadette Church, Lancaster

KARGA, Frances M. (Magrath), 90, Sept. 14

St. Pius X Church, Reynoldsburg

KEIBLEY, Jerome M. "Jerry," 80, Sept. 12

St. Paul the Apostle Church, Westerville

KIMBERLEY, Jacqueline Lee, 79, Sept. 15

Sacred Heart Church, Coshocton

LONERGAN, Paul, 101, Sept. 11

St. Bernadette Church, Lancaster

LUPICA, Joyce Ann, 89, Aug. 31

St. Mary Church, Marion

MOHRE, Joseph N., 90, Sept. 21

Church of the Resurrection, New Albany

MOULD, Elizabeth Louise "Betty," Sept. 17

St. Paul the Apostle Church, Westerville

NORTH, Cecilia (D'Souza), 91, Sept. 19

St. Brigid of Kildare Church, Dublin

NUGENT, Helen M., 82, Sept. 25

St. Paul the Apostle Church, Westerville

RHOADS, Jonathan D., 42, Sept. 21

St. Joseph Church, Circleville

RIDENOUR, Jean D. (Doersam), 88, Sept. 14

St. Catharine of Siena Church, Columbus

SALERNO, Joseph R., 38, Sept. 9

St. Paul the Apostle Church, Westerville

SCHMELZER, John, 92, Sept. 10

St. Bernadette Church, Lancaster

SEGNA, Mafalda, 96, Sept. 11

St. Joan of Arc Church, Powell

TURNER, Carl J., 44, formerly of Westerville, Aug. 25

Holy Family Church, Orlando, Fla.

UHL, Lawrence Francis "Larry," 83, Sept. 18

St. Mary Church, Marion

WEDEKIND, Linda D., 75, Sept. 8

Church of the Resurrection, New Albany

WELKER, Anlee (Marty), 88, Sept. 6

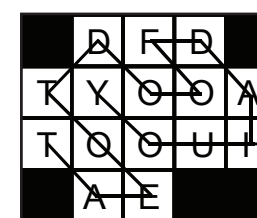
Sacred Heart Church, New Philadelphia

WILLETT, Glenn J., 95, Sept. 16

St. Andrew Church, Columbus

WORK, Agnes, 92, Sept. 22

St. Mary Church, Delaware



WORDS OF WISDOM SOLUTION

ST. BRIGID OF KILDARE, DUBLIN | WEEKEND SUPPORT STAFF

JOB DESCRIPTION: This position involves working directly with the Facilities Manager and Office Manager to determine weekend needs for all campus activities. This person will set up rooms and restock bathroom facilities in preparation for meetings and special events. This person will also ensure the facilities are returned to pre-event status and secure the buildings at the end of the evening.

RESPONSIBILITIES: PConfirm room and technology set up before and during each event, adjust as needed; Help parish staff and ministry chairs with event readiness; Emergency cleaning as needed; Assist with tear-down, clean-up, prep for next day, lights out and secure area; Point of contact for any

issues that arise on the weekends; Report issues to Facilities Manager as needed; Be aware of Safe Environment policies and report any issues to the Safe Environment Coordinator.

QUALIFICATIONS: Proven record of managing own schedule and completing all tasks and duties without direct supervision. Candidates must be at least 21 and must be PGC/BCI compliant via completing a Protecting God's Children training and a BCI fingerprint background check.

Interested candidates should submit a resume and cover letter to Becky O'Connor, at boconnor@stbrigidofkildare.org.

Annual Sacred Heart Congress set for Nov. 9 at St. Paul

The 13th annual Sacred Heart Congress will be held Saturday, Nov. 9 at Westerville St. Paul the Apostle Church, 313 N. State Street.

The event will begin with the recitation of the rosary at 7:30 a.m. The morning will follow with Mass celebrated by Bishop Earl Fernandes at 8:15 a.m. and conclude at 12 p.m.

The congress, the largest Sacred Heart event nationwide, provides spiritual renewal rooted in Catholic tradition. This year's theme, "Encounter Love, Hope,

Healing and Renewal through the Sacred Heart," is based on a belief that restoration begins with one heart and home and expands to the greater community.

The mini-retreat will include prayer, speakers and formation on how to better abide in the Sacred Heart of Jesus and spread the devotion to others. Confessions will also be available.

This year's keynote speaker will be Father Nathan Cromly, a priest of the Archdiocese of Denver and the founder and president of the Saint John Institute and

Eagle Eye Ministries, which forms, unites and inspires young Catholics for the new evangelization.

Attendees will also hear from Father Jonathan Wilson, pastor at St. Paul the Apostle; and Emily Jaminet, founder of Welcome His Heart ministries, will provide a ministry update. Adoration and benediction will be led by Father Stash Dailey, pastor at Worthington St. Michael the Archangel Church.

The Daughters of Holy Mary of the Heart of Jesus will provide a children's

program during the event. The sisters regularly lead a D.O.Y.M.A.R. (an acronym in Spanish for "Prayerful and Marian-Apostolic Disciples of the Redemption") prayer program each month at St. Paul the Apostle for young girls.

Individuals can register at www.WelcomeHisHeart.com. The cost is \$20 per person or \$30 for a family. Scholarships are also available. Those interested should contact info@WelcomeHisHeart.com.

LOCAL NEWS AND EVENTS

Diocesan Mass of Inclusion to be celebrated Nov. 17

The annual diocesan Mass of Inclusion, sponsored by Special People in Catholic Education (SPICE), will take place at 11 a.m. Sunday, Nov. 17 at Columbus St. Catharine of Siena Church, 500 S. Gould Road, with Bishop Earl Fernandes as celebrant. A reception with refreshments will follow.

The Mass will be a celebration of people with special needs who are engaged in learning in Catholic schools and parishes. It also will honor the programs, teachers, intervention specialists and other resources that enable the schools to successfully include, nurture and support all our students.

SPICE, founded at St. Catharine School, seeks to foster a deeper reverence for the uniqueness and the inherent human dignity of every person made in the image and likeness of God.

For more information, contact Lynn Sweeney at Lynnnann9570@yahoo.com.

St. Agatha hosting special Mass in October for breast cancer

A special Mass for those who have been affected in any way by breast cancer will be celebrated at 6 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 13 in Columbus St. Agatha Church, 1860 Northam Road.

October is breast cancer month and St. Agatha is the patron saint of breast cancer. This Mass is considered a special Mass and will not count for the Sunday obligation.

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

Keynote speakers at the Columbus young Adult Conference on Saturday, Oct. 19 will be Father Patrick Schultz, parochial vicar at Sacred Heart of Jesus parish in Wadsworth, and Sister Meredith Boquiren, OCD, of the Carmelite Sisters of the Most Sacred Heart of Los Angeles.

This year's conference, for anyone ages 18 to 35, will take place at Powell St. Joan of Arc Church, 10700 Liberty Road.

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

dinner.

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

Diocesan schools plan virtual hiring event

Are you looking for the perfect job? Have you thought about switching careers? Do you want to feel like you belong while making a difference in the lives of young people?

Discover a fulfilling career in Catholic education. The Catholic schools in the Diocese of Columbus are seeking candidates to fill a variety of positions, including teachers, paraprofessionals, counselors, nutrition workers, development, IT and more. They are holding a virtual hiring event this month and would love for you to apply.

Visit education.columbuscatholic.org/ hiring event to learn more about the opportunities being offered and to apply.

St. Brigid School sponsoring open house in November

Dublin St. Brigid of Kildare School, 7175 Avery Road, honored three times by the U.S. Department of Education as a blue-ribbon school, will have an open house for prospective preschool and kindergarten families for the 2025-26 school year from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 14.

Prospective first- to eighth-grade families may call the school at (614) 718-5825 to schedule an individual tour.

Applications for new families for the next school year will open on Friday, Nov. 15 for preschool through eighth grade. The deadline to apply is Friday, Jan. 24.

Visit stbrigidofkildare.com/apply for more information.

Bishop to celebrate White Mass on Oct. 17

Bishop Earl Fernandes will celebrate the annual diocesan White Mass for those involved in health care professions

at 6 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 17 at the Columbus St. Thomas More Newman Center, 64 W. Lane Ave.

The Mass will be followed immediately by the annual meeting of the Catholic Medical Association (CMA) of Central Ohio, which will include remarks by CMA board member Dr. William Perez and his wife, Shelley, about living their faith at work and home. CMA members will vote on a proposed board slate for 2025.

A reception with food and drink will follow. All health care workers, students of the health professions, their families and friends are invited.

Flame of Cenacle prayer group meets at Holy Family

The Flame of the Cenacle prayer group will meet at the parish center of Columbus Holy Family Church, 584 W. Broad St., after the church's 9 a.m. Mass on Saturday, Oct. 5.

A cenacle is a small lay faith community of prayer, learning and fellowship that promotes a way of life dedicated to a deeper trust in God, a greater desire to forgive and to be merciful to others and an appreciation of the gift and beauty of all human life.

The group said in the parish bulletin that its main purpose is "to fight the flame of Satan with the merciful flame of love." The program for the event will involve learning the basics of cenacle devotion and what blinding Satan looks like. After a talk, the Flame of Love Rosary will be prayed.

Class at St. Dominic Church learns CPR techniques

Columbus St. Dominic Church hosted an American Heart Association class on cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), automatic external defibrillation (AED) and other first-aid techniques on Saturday, Aug. 24.

One trainer and a fireman/medic from the Columbus Division of Fire presented the interactive, hands-on eight-hour training. Each participant practiced CPR and AED techniques, including masked breathing resuscitation, on mannequins.

All participants met requirements to receive a two-year American Heart Association certification. The instructors kept the attention of those in attendance not only with explaining the techniques but with questions and answers and real-life stories showing the need for such training.

Serra Club young men's vocations luncheon scheduled for Nov. 5

The annual diocesan vocations luncheon for young men, sponsored by the Serra Club of North Columbus, will be held at the Jessing Center of the Pontifical College Josephinum, 7625 N. High St., from 11 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 5.

Speakers will be Fathers David Johnstone and Michael Haemmerle, newly ordained priests of the Diocese of Columbus. The program will include a tour of the college.

Those interested in taking part are asked to respond by noon Monday, Oct. 28 to annemallampalli@comcast.net or mmwjjeff@gmail.com.

St. Mary German Village School receives architecture award

Columbus St. Mary, Mother of God Church and School's renovation and expansion project was recently honored with Columbus Landmarks' highest honor, the James B. Recchie Design Award.

The \$18 million project by MKC Architects at the German Village school was launched in 2021 after renovation was completed of the historic church on the St. Mary's campus that was damaged by a lightning strike. The parish rectory, Our Lady of Guadalupe Hall and Heritage Hall were also renovated.

The preservation group's award has been presented since 1984 for projects that rehabilitate historic landmarks.

"The jury's heart was warmed by the sensitivity of the Saint Mary School Renovation & Addition Project, as it responds to the contemporary education needs of students from all economic backgrounds as well as to its own historic location," Columbus Landmarks CEO Rebecca Kemper said.

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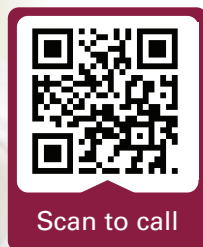
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Impressions of a pilgrimage to the Our Lady of Lebanon Shrine

By Malinda Bostick

“When Mary, the mother of Jesus, declared ‘My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,’ she was expressing her gratitude, her humility and her deep love for God. She did not exalt herself as the mother of God, though indeed she was, but instead, as at the marriage feast at Cana, she spent her life telling everyone who would listen: ‘Do what Jesus tells you.’” These were the words of Bishop Elias Zaidan of the Eparchy of Our Lady of Lebanon of Los Angeles in his homily on the Feast of the Assumption of Mary during a Divine Liturgy at the Shrine of Our Lady of Lebanon in North Jackson, Ohio.

Thirteen pilgrims from the Columbus Our Lady of Lebanon and Our Lady of Victory parish communities, led by Father Jacques Kik, traveled to the shrine on Thursday, Aug. 15 for a daylong celebration of Mary’s Assumption into Heaven. The day began as we departed Columbus with a blessing by Father Kik and a rosary and small cups of Lebanese coffee shared along the way. Once we arrived at the shrine, there were many spiritually uplifting experiences from which to choose. There were opportunities for solitary prayer and contemplation as well as community camaraderie.

Some of us began the day by climbing



Pilgrims from the diocese traveled to the Basilica and National Shrine of Our Lady of Lebanon in North Jackson on Aug. 15 for the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Submitted photo

the steps that wind around the outside of the shrine to stand at the top with Our Lady of Lebanon gazing out at the beautiful Ohio countryside. Inside the shrine, we looked up at the resplendent icons painted on the ceiling, most notably the one of the coronation of Mary as queen of Heaven. We reflected before the tabernacle, a smaller version of the shrine itself, which contains the Eucharist and sits atop an altar held up by a magnifi-

cent angel carved of white marble.

Others walked the path of the stone pillars of the Stations of the Cross, which edges the forest at the back of the shrine. Another opportunity for private reflection was offered in the courtyard garden of St. Joseph, where many pilgrims sat in contemplation and prayer.

Inside the spacious reception hall, volunteers served a sumptuous Lebanese buffet of lamb, chicken, rice,

stuffed grape leaves, salad, pita bread and an array of Lebanese sweets. Diners enjoyed the big-band style tunes of the Mount Carmel Society Italian American band from Lowellville, which has provided music for the celebration for more than 50 years and which accompanied the procession after the Divine Liturgy. And, of course, we all visited the gift shop, which had many religious articles for purchase, either for our own remembrance or as gifts for loved ones and friends (icons, statues, books, medals, holy pictures, banners of Our Lady of Lebanon, etc.).

Late in the day, the Divine Liturgy was concelebrated by Bishop Zaidan, Bishop Gregory Mansour of the St. Maron Eparchy of Brooklyn, 20 priests (including Father Kik) and many deacons and subdeacons. The choir that provided the music for the Liturgy came from Massachusetts and was led by Msgr. Joe Root of Boston.

After the Liturgy, a candlelight procession followed a statue of Our Lady of Grace on a quarter-mile path to the road and back, accompanied by Knights of Columbus. As we walked, we recited a litany honoring all the titles that have been bestowed on the Blessed Mother. Back at the base of the shrine, we sang

See LEBANON, Page 27



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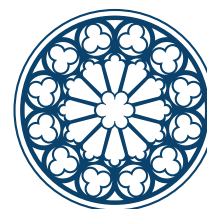
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LEBANON, *continued from Page 25*

Marian hymns and received a blessing from the bishops. Our pilgrimage ended with a fireworks display under a huge, glowing August moon, then the long trip home, during which we reflected on the many ways we had been blessed by our experience.

Following are the impressions of the pilgrimage in the words of those who journeyed there together:

It was Lindsey Beachy's first visit to the shrine, but she noted that nobody there is a stranger; there was an immediate feeling of welcoming community. In contrast, Adele Busch has visited the shrine many times and it was a chance for her to reconnect with friends from the Maronite Catholic Church she has known through the years. It brought back fond memories from when she was a child and visited the shrine with her mother on a bus filled with Lebanese women singing, praying and eating Lebanese food. Sheila O'Sullivan also has been to the shrine a number of times, but said she was especially blessed this time when she "got to visit the Stations of the Cross in the back of the property, which I never knew were there."

Everyone was thrilled with the fireworks display at the end. People commented that it was like the Fourth of July, only better. Suzanne Smith said with enthusiasm, "The fireworks were my favorite part. They were breathtaking!"

Daniel Tonneman said, "What impressed me about the day was the fact that I have lived my whole life knowing nothing about the Maronite Church, in particular this basilica and national shrine at our doorstep. The number of people of all ages that took part in the Mass and especially the final procession lifted my heart. The fireworks presentation over the shrine was the culmination of the evening. What a tribute to Our Lady!"

As for me, I have 12 new friends from the Our Lady of Lebanon and Our Lady of Victory parish communities with whom I just shared a deeply spiritual experience.

New delegate for religious getting to know communities in diocese

By **Hannah Heil**
Catholic Times Reporter

Sister Antoinette Cedrone, FMA, Daughters of Mary, Help of Christians, is the new sister on the block.

She began serving the diocese in September after her appointment as the bishop's delegate for religious.

Still becoming acclimated to the diocese – she arrived in August – Sister Antoinette will help other consecrated religious do the same. Her work will be dedicated to welcoming and helping male and female religious communities settle in and make the diocese their home, much like she is doing.

As delegate for religious, Sister Antoinette said she will serve as a direct extension of Bishop Earl Fernandes in supporting and caring for religious communities who serve in the diocese.

"Right now, I am connecting with all the communities: getting to know the sisters and the religious priests, learning about their charisms, their mission here in the diocese, as well as their needs and challenges and their dreams for the future," she said.

She said the diocese currently has 23 communities of women and about 14 communities of men.

Sister Antoinette will be responsible for cultivating and strengthening relationships among the various religious communities in the diocese. She said her work will involve ensuring that communities are supported, connected and equipped to fulfill their mission.

Religious communities have a unique charism, which is given by the Holy Spirit to enrich and build up the Church and serve God's people.

Sister Antoinette's community, the Daughters of Mary, Help of Christians, commonly known as the Salesian Sisters of St. John Bosco, is dedicated to serving the youth. The community was founded in Italy in 1872 by St. John Bosco and co-founded by St. Mary Mazzarello.

Sister Antoinette previously ministered to youth at Catholic schools in Paterson, New Jersey; Louisiana and British Columbia, Canada. She served as a teacher, principal and as a director of religious education in several parishes. She particularly enjoyed teaching young women in formation for the Salesian order, which, she said, was her assignment before coming to Columbus.

She made her profession of vows with the Salesian order in 1977 in New Jersey. "It was not too hard to decide which community I would join," she said. "The (Salesian) Sisters' joy and especially their love for working with the young won me over."

Sister Antoinette currently lives with five Salesian Sisters in a convent on Patterson Avenue by Columbus Our Lady of Guadalupe, Star of the New Evangelization parish.

Now in her position as delegate for religious, she will help discern which religious communities to bring to the diocese going forward.

"I want to be open to discerning the Father's designs for the diocese, what it is that the Lord wants, and the bishop," she said.

"Bishop Fernandes, who is very aware of the needs of the diocese, will definitely welcome communities whose charism will meet the needs of the community."

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| Membership Offerings | \$47,773.38 |
| Undesignated Gifts | \$122,789.90 |
| Total SPOF | \$230,998.39 |

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| Missionary Cooperation Plan | \$344,653.08 |
| Mass Offerings | \$33,942.00 |
| Latin American Collection | \$45,506.27 |
| Home Missions | \$56,334.52 |
| Black/Indian Missions | \$48,343.20 |
| Peter's Pence | \$61,919.44 |
| Total Special Designated Funds | \$590,698.51 |

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