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AWARENESS WEEK,**
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Holy Father writes beautiful encyclical on Sacred Heart

My Dear Friends in Christ,
 This past June, I led a diocesan pilgrimage to Paray-le-Monial as part of the celebrations for the Jubilee Year in honor of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, marking the 350th anniversary of the apparitions to Saint Margaret Mary Alacoque. On the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, which the pilgrims and I celebrated in the Basilica, it was announced that the Holy Father intended to write an encyclical letter on the Sacred Heart of Jesus. On Thursday morning, Oct. 24, the encyclical letter *Dilexit nos* was published.

It is a beautiful letter which describes the notion of the "heart"; reviews devotion to the Heart of Jesus in the scriptures and the Fathers of the Church; reviews recent Magisterial teaching on

the Heart of Jesus, including the encyclical on the Sacred Heart of Pius XII and many of Saint John Paul II's writings; and which delves into the spirituality of the devotion to the Heart of Jesus, exploring, in a special way, the ideas of Saint Therese, Saint Francis de Sales, our diocesan patron, and Saint Charles de Foucauld.

The encyclical concludes with an important chapter on reparation, developing the ideas proposed by Saint John Paul II and re-emphasizing Pope Francis' ideas regarding social responsibility, human fraternity, and the common good. I had encouraged Holy Hours of Reparation of Thursdays before First Fridays and on First Fridays, as well as abstinence from meat on Fridays in the Diocese, in reparation for sins against

human life. With this encyclical letter, the Pope expands the idea of reparation so that we might truly build a civilization of love.

I encourage you to read this encyclical, to meditate on it, and to prayerfully consider how it might be incarnated in our parishes and in our Diocese. The Sacred Heart Congress will be held in Columbus in early November and participating in the Congress, promoting devotion to the Sacred Heart and the Enthronement of the Sacred Heart in homes could be an excellent way to renew our Diocese and to help us carry out our mission, especially as we enter more deeply into Year 3 of the Eucharistic Revival.

Near the end of his letter, Pope Francis writes (206):

"Saint John Paul II spoke of the social

dimension of devotion to the heart of Christ, but also about "reparation, which is apostolic cooperation in the salvation of the world". Consecration to the heart of Christ is thus "to be seen in relation to the Church's missionary activity, since it responds to the desire of Jesus' heart to spread throughout the world, through the members of his Body, his complete commitment to the Kingdom". As a result, "through the witness of Christians, love will be poured into human hearts, to build up the body of Christ which is the Church, and to build a society of justice, peace and fraternity".

Entrusting you to the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, I remain

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



Front page photo

NATIONAL VOCATIONS AWARENESS WEEK

Supporting seminarians and encouraging men and women to consider religious life are the focus of National Vocation Awareness Week on Nov. 3-9.

Photo courtesy Andy Long

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Events provide opportunities to explore vocations

Bishop Earl Fernandes speaks frequently about creating a culture of vocations in the diocese and providing pathways to discernment. Several opportunities to learn more about religious life were planned during National Vocation Awareness Week that started Nov. 3.

The first event took place on Wednesday, Oct. 30 with the annual Marian Dinner at Columbus St. Andrew Church's Nugent Hall for young women from eighth grade through college. The annual gathering gave young women the opportunity to learn more from sisters about religious life and the charisms of their various orders. Vespers and dinner were to be followed by talks from Bishop Earl Fernandes and a sister.

A vocations awareness luncheon for young men in junior high and high school is scheduled for Tuesday, Nov. 5 at the Pontifical College Josephinum's Jessing Center. The annual event, sponsored by the Serra Club of North Columbus, includes a talk on vocations by a clergy member.

Also during National Vocation Awareness Week, a Fall Come and See Weekend at the Pontifical College Josephinum for high school- and college-age men is to begin at 4 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 7 and run through noon on Sunday, Nov. 10.

Come and See Weekends allow young men to live in the seminary for a weekend to experience prayer life, classes, communal worship and interaction with

Seminarian Support Fund collection set for Nov. 2-3

The Diocese of Columbus has established a Seminarian Support Fund second collection for the weekend of Nov. 2-3 that coincides with the start of National Vocation Awareness Week.

The new second collection, scheduled annually for the first week of November going forward, will aid the ongoing formation of seminarians and future priests in the diocese.

The second collection is not an extension of the special "Good and Growing Need" campaign earlier this year to help offset a budget deficit that resulted from an unexpectedly large

number of vocations.

Bishop Earl Fernandes expressed his gratitude for the ongoing support of future priests in the diocese.

Contributions may be made through the QR code, parish collections or online at <https://www.columbus-catholicgiving.org/seminarian-support-fund>.



seminarians, faculty and staff. Presentations on discernment, student life and the college seminary formation program are offered.

A winter Melchizedek Project day is set for Saturday, Dec. 28 at the Pontifical College Josephinum. The Melchizedek Project is a spiritual discernment group for high school and college men considering the priesthood.

Regional Melchizedek Project monthly meetings take place around the diocese during the school year at Columbus St. Patrick and Worthington St. Michael churches for high schoolers, and at Sunbury St. John Neumann, Lancaster St.

Bernadette, Newark St. Francis de Sales and Portsmouth St. John Paul II parishes for high school and college students.

A Melchizedek Project college-only group has a meeting set for Sunday, Nov. 24 at the St. Thomas More Newman Center adjacent to Ohio State University. And for post-college and older men, regular Melchizedek sessions are scheduled on the fourth Tuesdays of the month at Columbus Sacred Heart Church.

Meanwhile, each of the diocese's 10 deaneries includes at least one priest who serves as a regional vocations promoter. Two priests are responsible for ethnic communities.

Additionally, an Andrew Dinner is slated for Tuesday, Jan. 28 at the Pontifical College Josephinum. Andrew Dinners allow high school- and college-age men who are open to a religious vocation to gather for food and fellowship and to listen to vocation stories.

The diocese's various initiatives to attract vocations have paid dividends the past two years with large classes entering seminary formation, said Father Michael Haemmerle, associate director of vocations for the diocese and a parochial vicar at Westerville St. Paul the Apostle Church.

"And things are looking good for next year," he said. "We have a number of guys already in the application process and a few more who are looking to get started."

Father Haemmerle, who was ordained in May, encouraged the faithful to continue to pray for vocations to the priesthood and religious life.

"That's something that everyone needs to be aware of," he said. "A lot of good things are happening and there's still more work to be done."

Father Haemmerle stressed that a religious calling often starts at home and that families should be "willing to encourage discernment and vocations."

For a schedule of events and more information on vocations in the diocese, visit vocationscolumbus.org.

Two diocesan seminarians studying in Rome

For the first time in nearly 20 years, two seminarians from the Diocese of Columbus were sent to Rome to continue their studies for the priesthood.

Michael Rhatican and Christopher Dixon started classes this fall at the North American College (NAC) in the Eternal City. Both are in what is known as the Configuration stage of their vocational journey, which includes the study of theology, pastoral formation and cultivation of leadership virtues.

The two seminarians, who previously studied at the Pontifical College Josephinum, took time out from their schedules before the start of National Vocation Awareness Week in the United States to answer some questions about their experience so far in Rome.

Michael Rhatican

How did it come about that you were selected to study in Rome?

Bishop (Earl) Fernandes asked Chris and I to study in Rome with the goal of receiving a Licentiate in Sacred Theology (STL) after five years. The STL will allow us to teach at a seminary level when we return as priests to the USA. Since Chris and I are both academically inclined, the bishop asked us to come to Rome.

What has the experience been like



Diocesan seminarians Michael Rhatican (left) and Christopher Dixon (right) are joined by Fathers Seth Keller (second from left), Ty Tomson (third from left), Nic Ventura (fourth from left) and Brett Garland at the Casa Santa Maria in Rome. The seminarians and the four priests from the diocese are studying in Rome.

Photo courtesy Christopher Dixon

so far?

The experience has been very positive overall. While it is certainly difficult being away from family, diocesan brother seminarians, friends, a familiar way of a life, and a country where everyone speaks English, the Lord has helped me to surrender more to him each day and

to trust in his grace and providence. Already within a few months of being in Italy, I've had the opportunity to see a lot of amazing things and have many beautiful experiences, as well as to get accustomed to the way of life here. So far, apart from Rome, I've spent a few weeks in Assisi learning Italian. I've

been to Florence, San Marino, Budapest, Bratislava and Vienna. Also, St. Peter's Basilica is a 10-minute walk from the seminary, which is an indescribable blessing.

Tell us a little about your day.

At the NAC, we have Morning Prayer at 6:15 a.m. followed by Mass. Chris and I are currently taking classes at the Angelicum, which is about a 35-minute walk from the seminary. Those classes are from 8:30 a.m.-12:15 p.m. Our next commitment is not until Evening Prayer at 6:45 p.m., so I typically use the afternoons for prayer, studies and exercise. On the days I have more free time, I typically go explore the city of Rome and visit different churches or historic sites.

What courses are you taking?

I am currently taking intro-level theology courses, such as fundamental theology and courses in Sacred Scripture.

How long will you be studying there?

Studies are not completed at the NAC, but at different universities in Rome. The NAC is the house of seminary formation where the seminarians live. After three years of studies at the Angelicum University, I will receive a Baccalaureate in Sacred Theology (STB). During the last

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Latino couple helps others as lay missionaries

By Jessica Schira

Octavio Mendoza and Adelia Cruz de Mendoza say working through the difficulties in their own marriage led them to become members of the MCSP community in Columbus so they could inspire other couples facing problems.

MCSP is an abbreviation for the group's Spanish name, Matrimonios Catolicos Servidores de la Palabra. This translates in English to Catholic Married Couples, Servants of the Word, an apostolate of the Missionaries of the Word (MSP), who serve the central Ohio Latino Catholic community. MCSP members help married couples discuss their concerns and conduct marriage preparation retreats.

Octavio is originally from Mexico City and Adelia is from Oaxaca, Mexico. They have two daughters and this year are celebrating their 25th wedding anniversary. They have been lay missionaries since 2015 and have been in Columbus since 2004.

They were raised in different ways,



Adelia Cruz de Mendoza (left) and Octavio Mendoza are married lay missionaries.

Photo courtesy Christ the King Church

which created conflict in their marriage. Adelia said she came from a very devoted, traditional Catholic family. Octavio's

family was not as religiously observant. Their jobs and family commitments made it difficult for both to practice their faith in the first years after the birth of the children.

"We hit rock bottom, but God's grace helped us," Octavio said. Adelia often told her husband that she and her daughters were praying for him, and he said that when he realized their concern for him, it left him speechless.

A significant turning point in the family's life came in 2009, when Adelia felt it was time for her daughters to make their first communion. Sisters belonging to the MSP order were offering Bible classes in Columbus to parents whose children were preparing for communion. Octavio and Adelia felt the need to know more about God and took the classes.

What they discovered during the course made them feel more in love with God. They also learned how to improve their lives as a couple through good communication. At the end of the sessions, they received a wooden cross of the Holy

Spirit, renewed their baptismal vows and reaffirmed that they were children of God.

Later, they received a teaching guide, learned the Lectio Divina method of meditating, praying and reading the Scriptures and became part of the CERS community. CERS stands for Comunidad Evangelizadora para la Reconciliación y el Servicio, which means Evangelizing Community for Reconciliation and Service in English.

They made a commitment to "evangelize the laity to evangelize with the laity" and received a wooden cross with the letters CERS. When they renewed this promise in 2015 after three years, they received another cross made of metal, identifying them as Lay Servants of the Word, and a perpetual promise was made.

Since then, they have gone wherever God has called them to give others the tools they need to persevere.

The community celebrates Jesus and

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two years of studies, I will specialize in a particular field of theology to receive the STL, but I do not yet know which university I will attend for the STL. Overall, I will be studying in Rome for five years.

What kinds of things do you do in your free time?

I like to lift weights and play pickup basketball with some friends at the seminary. I also enjoy exploring Rome with my brother seminarians and going to different churches for prayer, going to different restaurants and getting to know Italian culture.

Do you return to the states over Christmas and in the summer?

I will not return to the U.S. during my first two years at the NAC, but after that I will return home each summer before ordination.

How has the experience impacted you spiritually and vocationally so far?

Spiritually, I've been growing a lot closer to the saints in prayer, seeking to imitate them in their holiness and asking for their intercession. There are countless relics of the saints in churches around Rome. On the feast days of most saints, it is usually not hard to find a relic of that saint in a church in Rome, so many of us like to go and visit the churches of the saints on their feast days to pray and ask for their intercession. In terms of vocation, the Lord has only been confirming my call to the priesthood during my time in seminary.

Have you gone to the Vatican?

I have been to the Vatican multiple times. I met Pope Francis during a private audience for new seminarians at the NAC. I've also had the opportunity to meet other bishops and cardinals, in-



Seminarian Christopher Dixon (left) meets Pope Francis at the Vatican.

Photo courtesy Christopher Dixon

cluding Bishop Robert Barron, since the NAC is hosting many American bishops and cardinals while they are in Rome for the Synod on Synodality.

Christopher Dixon

How did it come about that you were selected to study in Rome?

Last year, Michael and I were asked to discern coming to Rome for theological studies. Over the course of a few weeks, we decided together to come to Rome. During that time of discernment, we prayed much and talked to many priests (especially our spiritual directors).

What has the experience been like so far?

The experience has been a whirlwind. We are coming up on three months in Rome and in some ways it seems like

we arrived just yesterday. At first, it was very hot (90-100 degrees every day) and pasta for every meal was a big change in diet. Once those things subsided some, it has been much easier to enter into learning Italian, getting to know the other seminarians, and go visit the tombs of saints.

Tell us a little about your day.

The first thing on our schedules most days is Morning Prayer and Mass at 6:15. By 7:40, I'm walking the 35-minute commute to classes on the other side of the city. This usually provides me an opportunity to get to know another seminarian or encounter the poor of Rome. When classes end at 12:15, I walk back to the seminary for lunch, which is at 1:15. If I get out earlier, I'll sometimes take that time to visit a new church. After lunch,

our schedules are free, allowing time for meetings, study, prayer or a passeggiata (a little walk). Evening Prayer is at 6:45 with dinner afterward. After dinner, I usually have an hour or two to hang out with the other seminarians or continue studying before I need to go to bed.

What courses are you taking?

I am taking classes on Introduction to Theology (in Italian), Pentateuch, Synoptic Gospels, Theology of Creation, and Fundamental Theology. The scripture classes (Pentateuch and Synoptic Gospels) have been great to encounter the Word of God in a new way. The other classes are really building on my past philosophy studies, so seeing the fruits of the past few years of study has been wonderful.

How long will you be studying there?

I will be in Rome for the next 4 1/2 years. The next 2 1/2 years, I will be completing a Baccalaureate in Sacred Theology at the Angelicum. The following two years are a little more murky. At some point around that time, God willing, I will be ordained a deacon and begin pursuing a Licentiate in Sacred Theology. The license will be in a particular theological topic, to be decided at a later date between myself and the bishop. After that (or maybe during that), I will be ordained a priest.

Have you met seminarians from other dioceses and countries?

We live with over 100 seminarians from across the United States, with two of the largest dioceses here being Washington, D.C., and Portland, Oregon. There is also a large contingent from the various Texas dioceses and the north-

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Two seminarians embrace Spanish immersion experiences

Diocesan seminarians Matthew Waldman and Zack Goodchild spent the past summer working on their Spanish language skills as part of their formation for the priesthood.

Bishop Earl Fernandes has identified an urgent need for Spanish-speaking priests in the diocese to minister to the rapidly expanding Latino population in the diocese.

As National Vocation Awareness Week begins Nov. 3, Waldman and Goodchild shared their summer experiences in Brooklyn, New York, and outside of Lima, Peru, respectively.

Waldman and Goodchild are both in the Configuration stage of seminary, which is the third stage of formation that includes the study of theology and pastoral formation, at the Pontifical College Josephinum.

Matthew Waldman in Diocese of Brooklyn

I had the opportunity to spend eight weeks in the Diocese of Brooklyn at Our Lady of Sorrows Parish in Corona, New York (Queens) this past summer.

The parish is home to the largest Hispanic community in the Diocese of Brooklyn, averaging about 10,000 people each weekend during the year (except during the summer months when many native Spanish speakers travel back to their home countries and the attendance is cut in half to about 5,000 every weekend).

The parish has a pastor, three full-time parochial vicars and various other priests that come to assist throughout the year at 12 weekend Masses (two in English, 10 in Spanish; 3 for the Saturday Vigil and nine on Sunday).

There are two daily Masses (both in Spanish, one in the morning, one in the evening) and confessions are available Monday-Friday from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., Saturday from 3 to 5 p.m. and Sundays from 6 a.m. to noon. Confession was most popular on Sunday.

There are various devotions that take place throughout the week and a Perpetual Adoration Chapel.

I served Mass every day in Spanish (with the exception of my day off). I had the opportunity to serve as lector and



Matthew Waldman

made several announcements to the faithful in Spanish.

I attended various prayer groups, youth programs and also was able to visit the school to spend time with the Our Lady of Sorrows Academy students. The children mostly preferred to speak in English, but their parents spoke Spanish primarily.

It was a unique opportunity for me to participate in a Spanish Immersion program outside of the Diocese of Columbus. This was my second Spanish Immersion program during my time in seminary. The first was last summer (2023) when I participated in a local Spanish Immersion program here in the diocese.

The priests and I gathered for lunch Monday through Friday. I also had the opportunity to pray the Liturgy of the Hours with the pastor at least once a week.

I visited parishioners' homes and tried to meet with a parishioner for a meal at least once a week.

My biggest role was as the coordinator of altar servers. Upon arrival at the parish, I was tasked with implementing a new scheduling system and new altar server training guidelines. The parish has over 150 active altar servers, so this was quite the task to undertake!

I was affectionately known as "Mateo," which is 'Matthew' in Spanish. Many of the parishioners called me "padrecito," which is a term of endearment. The literal translation is "little Father."



Zachary Goodchild

It was an extremely difficult summer for various reasons, but I was able to get a lot of experience with the Hispanic community. I also was blessed to visit my family on Long Island during my day off.

I received 1:1 tutoring from a native Spanish speaker twice a week for a couple of hours. We mainly focused on improving my conversational Spanish skills.

Prior to going on this unique Spanish Immersion, I had taken four semesters of Spanish (in seminary) and did a local Spanish Immersion program here in Columbus.

I am definitely more comfortable speaking the language now. I made several mistakes (and still do!), but it is the best way to learn a language.

I would already consider myself bilingual, but I hope to further develop my Spanish skills so that I can be even more confident in the future.

I did have the opportunity to see Bishop Robert Brennan several times! We are both native New Yorkers, and he was the Bishop of Columbus when I first entered the seminary, so it was great to reconnect with him. He is doing well!

Bishop Brennan came to Our Lady of Sorrows multiple times during my time there to celebrate Holy Mass. I also was blessed with the opportunity to have dinner with him for my birthday at a nearby Brazilian restaurant. It was delicious, but more importantly, I was grateful that the bishop had taken time out of his busy schedule to cel-

brate my birthday. Father (William) Hahn and Father (Adam) Streitenberger of our diocese were also present for the occasion.

Some of the interesting experiences included:

- A 1.5-hour Eucharistic procession through the streets of Corona. We made a few stops at altars set up outside of parishioner's homes.

- United weddings "Bodas Unidas" — 10 couples were married during one Mass.

- Attended the funeral, alongside Bishop Brennan and Father Manuel Rodriguez (pastor of Our Lady of Sorrows) for a young girl in her early teenage years who died in a horrific accident involving a New York City bus.

I have found that parish assignments are the most enjoyable as a seminarian summer assignment. You get a feel for what future ministry might be like and get to experience things that you can only experience in a parish and not in the seminary.

I most enjoyed getting to know the staff and some of the parishioners of Our Lady of Sorrows. It is difficult because you only have eight weeks to develop these relationships, but they often turn out to be some of the best. I still remain in contact with my Spanish tutor, the clergy and staff of the parish, as well as some parishioners.

The most moving experience was during my farewell celebration. Members of each of the parish groups took turns speaking (in Spanish, of course) about how I impacted their specific group or the parish in general. I had no idea that was going to happen and was very humbled by their words.

The most moving, however, was when the altar servers spoke. I couldn't help but smile and feel a deep sense of gratitude to know how much they appreciated the changes that we implemented and my presence during the summer.

I then had the opportunity to address all of them in Spanish. I hadn't prepared anything and don't quite remember what I said, but thankfully everyone was able to understand me!

Zachary Goodchild in Peru

I spent 2 1/2 months just south of Lima,

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Knights of the Chair instituted at Cathedral

A new group of altar servers, called Knights of the Chair, have been formed to serve some of the Masses celebrated by Bishop Earl Fernandes at St. Joseph Cathedral. All of the Knights are current students at Columbus St. Charles Preparatory School.

The name, Knights of the Chair, refers to the cathedra, which is the name for the special chair reserved for the bishop in his cathedral. The name for the mother church of the diocese, cathedral, is named for the chair of the bishop.

The idea came to Father Paul Keller, O.P., director of the Office of Divine Worship, when he found it difficult to find enough servers for various pontifical Masses at the Cathedral. Father Keller says he was told that St. Charles used to be a minor seminary and that the seminarian-students were regular servers for bishops of Columbus over the years.

When St. Charles was no longer a seminary, the expectation of having the students serve the bishop also ended. Father Keller spoke with Dr. Adam

Dufault, superintendent of Catholic schools in the diocese, about the possibility of St. Charles students helping at some cathedral Masses. Jim Lower, then principal but now head of school at St. Charles, also thought highly of the idea.

Five students currently serve at some of the Masses with Bishop Fernandes. Father Keller anticipates that the St. Charles group will grow in coming months, especially because the current Knights are enthused by the notion of serving the bishop of Columbus.



Knights of the Chair with Bishop Earl Fernandes at St. Joseph Cathedral are (from left) Isaac Dryfuse, Zachary Utt, Gus Dury, Grant Dine and Arav Fernandes.

Photo courtesy Office of Divine Worship

Diocese establishes Order of Widows

By Hannah Heil

Catholic Times Reporter

When thinking of vocations, the priesthood comes to mind along with consecrated religious life and marriage. For Cecilia Cortes-Peck, her vocation took a turn that she was not quite expecting.

She is in formation for the Ordo Viduarum, or the Order of Widows. The decree for this order was published by the diocese on Oct. 16, the feast of St. Hedwig, a widow.

Widows belonging to the order declare freely a proposal to remain permanently in their widowed state of life. The secular order is open to women only who live in the diocese typically in their current home.

Through a vow of perpetual chastity, they dedicate themselves to prayer and the service of the Church. By a liturgical rite of blessing, they are consecrated to a form of life in which they live more deeply their baptismal consecration and confirmation, just as they lived their marriage.

Before the promulgation of the decree, there was no such order in effect for widows in the diocese.

Cortes-Peck is one of six widows in the diocese who desire to be consecrated to the order and will begin formation, which includes various stages before receiving a formal blessing from the Church or local bishop.

"God is turning my sorrows into joy," she said. "We just have to be patient. His plan is perfect."

Born to a large Catholic family in the Philippines, Cortes-Peck moved to the United States in the 1980s and married her husband.

For many years, they lived in Maryland. She volunteered at their parish and in the Archdiocese of Washington's Office of Missions. Her husband worked for the Defense Intelligence Agency.

In 2011, her husband died from an aggressive form of brain cancer. Six years later, their only son, Nathan, 30, a raider in the U.S. Marine Corps, was killed in an auto accident.

Cortes-Peck was left alone with no family. She leaned on her faith and the Blessed Mother for support.

Years earlier, Cortes-Peck had experienced a significant encounter with the Blessed Mother during a pilgrimage to the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico City.

She said she received a deeply personal call. She became aware of Mary's full surrender and call to be the mother of God. The fruits of the encounter remained with her and, she said, she felt the Blessed Mother accompanying her ever since.

She remembered the powerful encounter with Our Lady years later after



Cecilia Cortes-Peck

the tragedy of losing her family.

"If it were not for my faith, I would not have known what to do with my life," she said. "All I knew was to stay with her. All I knew was to stay praying, to persevere in prayer, that that encounter with her was not for nothing. It was an encounter to lift me off, even before things happened – way, way before things had happened."

After her husband's death, Cortes-Peck said she thought she might be called to religious life. She visited two communities of contemplative religious sisters.

While discerning consecrated life, Cortes-Peck said she came to understand that being a religious sister was not the only path to a holy life.

After much prayer, she discovered that her thought of entering religious life was a "misplaced desire" and not her calling. It was difficult to accept, she said, but she knew she needed to surrender to God's will.

"I was convicted, first and foremost, in my mind, heart and soul that in order to please God, my preoccupation must be only of Him, with Him, in Him, for Him and through Him – not anyone else – not me, not man," she said. "I'm not satisfying anyone, including myself."

"I am to satisfy only His call, His thirst, His calling for me. At the same time, I had to learn to stay out of the way and let God's plan unfold in the best way it can."

With the help of her spiritual director, Cortes-Peck continued discerning. She said she knew God was not done with her. Yet, she did not know the way forward.

"I thought I came to a dead end or a cul-de-sac, where I cannot go anywhere else forward but go in a circle," she

said. "We believe that steadfast prayers can move mountains, so we prayed and prayed and asked for the help of our Blessed Mother. Who else?"

She said she began researching and discovered ways that widows have served and supported the Church. As an example, the prophetess Anna, recorded in the Bible, stayed in the temple, praying and fasting until the coming of the Messiah.

Cortes-Peck acquired information on the role of widows from the Church Fathers and saints, including Ss. Augustine and Ambrose. St. Paul, in his letter to St. Timothy (1 Timothy 5:3-16), also wrote about widows.

Cortes-Peck said she placed all of her trust in God and pursued the path of a widowhood consecrated to Him. She did not know how that role might take shape, but she continued to pursue it.

"Embracing His cross, I placed my trust in the hands of God that, if this is His will for me and my vocation, He will help me accomplish it for His glory," she said. "I could not do it alone – I can't do it alone. I only saw it as a truly, truly beautiful, covenantal espousal, a sacred relationship. I lost my husband, my earthly husband, but there is a greater espousal that He's leading me to."

In January 2022, Cortes-Peck moved to Ohio at the invitation of the Children of Mary, a community of religious sisters who reside near Newark. The sisters were willing to accommodate her as she further discerned a vocation of consecrated widowhood.

Cortes-Peck now lives in one of the residences on the sisters' property in Newark but not in their convent.

She said she participated in three annual retreats with the Children of Mary before officially accepting their invitation on September 15, 2021, which happened to be the feast of Our Lady of Sorrows.

She said it was difficult to leave home, but she was confident God was leading her.

"Of course, the human attachment of serving my dearest parish in Maryland for 25 years – imagine the network of support and friends around me as a widow," she said. "They were weighing heavy on my heart, but I was convicted that there's something greater in front of me, and it's the cross. I could not refuse that."

She wrote to Bishop Earl Fernandes at the end of 2022 regarding an order for widows. A year later, she had an opportunity to meet with him. At that time, there were still no guidelines for such an order.

Cortes-Peck continued praying and discerning. "The short answer is trust," she said, "aided by prayer, faith and unconditional surrender. There's no other formula."

In May, Bishop Fernandes met again with Cortes-Peck and others discerning the order. By October, the decree establishing the Ordo Viduarum was signed.

Beginning Nov. 6, six widows will meet monthly during the course of their formation period. Formation will last at least two years. Father Paul Keller, OP (Order of Preachers), director for the diocesan Office of Divine Worship, was assigned as the delegate of the bishop and will oversee the widows' formation.

"Our formation consists of being obedient to the decree and the statues and the rule of life and the plan of formation, plus a spiritual director," Cortes-Peck said. "Each one of us should have an experienced, knowledgeable (spiritual director), equipped for ministry, for directing souls."

"It is a vocation with promises. We will be vowed to this way of life, consecrated vows with responsibilities to serve the Church."

Once consecrated in the order, widows unite themselves in a renewed marriage bond with the Lord. According to the decree, the offering of their lives is a participation in the cross of Christ. A widow's life is consecrated to the service of God in the Church and for the Church.

Prayer and service are two main components of the Order of Widows. Consecrated widows pray Morning and Evening Prayer, part of the Church's Liturgy of the Hours prayed daily by clergy and many laity. Widows in the order continue to be guided by their spiritual director.

They receive the sacraments of the Eucharist and penance regularly.

"It is high on the list to help us remain rooted, grounded and disposed to the graces that God bestows on those He called to perpetuate His work of salvation," Cortes-Peck said.

The heart and mind of the widow must also be turned toward Mary: Virgin, Mother, Spouse and Widow. Consecrated widows recite the rosary and participate in Marian feasts.

A consecrated widow must be at least 60 years old, aside from particular cases, and have been united in a canonically valid marriage and received the sacraments of baptism and confirmation.

Before their consecration, a proposal to live as a consecrated widow must be formally expressed in writing to the bishop.

"What we ask for is not of the secular world," she said. "It's elevated. It's supernatural because, you ask for something supernatural, you have to respond supernaturally too."

Stella Niagara Franciscan sisters celebrate 150th anniversary in U.S.

The Sisters of St. Francis of Penance and Christian Charity celebrated their 150th anniversary of ministry in the United States at a gathering on Sunday, Oct. 27 at the Cavello Center of Columbus St. Charles Preparatory School.

The theme of the anniversary is "Crossing the Threshold - Then and Now!", recognizing the first four sisters — Mother Aloysia Lenders and Sisters Veronica Conradi, Felicitas Dues and Leonarda Hannappel — who left their convent in Germany to sail to America, arriving in New York on June 5, 1874.

They came to the United States because of an invitation to teach in Buffalo, New York. Some of them arrived in Columbus just a few months later, on Feb. 2, 1875, at the request of Bishop Sylvester Rosecrans, to open the St. Vincent Orphanage on the city's east side.

The orphanage became the Ohio nucleus from which the sisters expanded their ministries in the state: teaching in several elementary and secondary schools in the Diocese of Columbus, establishing St. Ann Infant Asylum (eventually becoming St. Ann's Hospital); founding St. Aloysius Academy, a boarding

school in New Lexington; and serving in a variety of capacities in local parishes and social service agencies.

Many sisters devoted their lives to these institutions and those they served. For example, Sister Callista and Sister Rose Hardy remained at Columbus Sacred Heart School for 47 and 46 years, respectively. St. Vincent Orphanage grew and adapted to meet the needs of the community, continuing today as St. Vincent Family Services.

Today, six members of the order live in the Diocese of Columbus. They are Sisters Regina Snyder, Christella Ritchey, Marilyn Sue Hopkins, Mary Caryl Perkinson, Theresa Schneider and Joanne Fogarty, OSF (Order of St. Francis). All are fully retired except for Sister Joanne, who continues to volunteer in many capacities at Hilliard St. Brendan the Navigator Church.

The order is popularly known as the Stella Niagara Franciscans because of the name of its motherhouse, which honors the Virgin Mary in her title as Star of the Sea and is above the banks of the Niagara River, where the sisters' provincial headquarters have been since 1907.

SPANISH, continued from Page 5

Peru, on the Pacific Coast at an orphanage called Casa Hogar Juan Pablo II. It is a mission funded by the people of the Diocese of La Crosse, Wisconsin.

The mission was started by a priest named Padre José Walijewski in the 1980s who had a desire to help the kids living in the streets of poor and rural Peru. Nowadays, there are eight families that consist of two "maestros" (adults/married couples) and about eight foster children each. The kids range from 7 to 18 years old. Many of them have families, but their living situation at home is rough due to poverty, drugs, abuse and/or crime.

Although many of these kids have families, I only met or heard of a couple good male influences in their lives. Part of my mission became trying to be a positive and loving male influence in the lives of these children.

Much of this was making time for the kids by taking interest in their lives. Many of the boys liked to play "fútbol" (soccer), and some liked to play guitar. Because I play guitar, we bonded over that. We spent many evenings after dinner just jamming on the guitar, playing everything from music for Mass to Christian contemporary to American Rock and Roll. I laughed so much singing/screaming "Born to be Wild" with a few of them one evening.

Other than this, I spent time under the wing of the priest there, Padre José Hirsch, who is from the Diocese of La Crosse. He is a true missionary and has a true fire for the Lord in him. He works so hard to help direct these kids toward normal lives.

The kids went to Padre José whenever they needed to talk. I learned a great deal from being with Padre José. I saw how he sacrificed his time, energy, comfort, and routines for the kids. He was always available to them. They were his priority, like a good father.

I visited the local seminary and met the seminarians of the Diocese of Lurin (the diocese

where Casa Hogar is located). I met many of the priests in the diocese at gatherings. The priests and seminarians there do not receive financial help from the diocese, so they live much simpler lives. Their faith and witness amid poverty was eye-opening.

I spent a few weekends in an area called Pampacta, a rural village, with a priest named Padre Miguel. He was the first priest to live in this village, and he had only been there two years when I arrived.

We taught the children in the town each Saturday small articles of the Catholic faith. I had never experienced a place where the faith was so new. We were teaching basic things about God to kids who were not baptized. I learned how slow a process it takes to educate and share the faith in an area where there is little to no faith background.

Overall, the experience was not like I expected. And I am glad! I was going there to learn Spanish, but it became so much more.

I learned what it was like to be in the minority, not speaking the language that well and not knowing the norms and culture.

I also learned how missions ought to be. They should not simply give money and things to people in need. They need to be a mix of that while helping to educate and lead people to take care of themselves. Simply giving to people in need can often create a disposition (especially in children) of always receiving and never giving. Man is made to give of himself, and missionary efforts need to move people toward that.

My favorite part of the summer (winter down there) were the last few weeks when we began to walk to the houses of some of Casa Hogar's neighbors. We would pray the rosary with them and bring them food or clothing. Some of the kids would come with us, and I hope that this gave them the experience and feeling of giving to another in need.



Catholic Diocese of Columbus

DECREE

THE ORDO VIDUARUM (ORDER OF WIDOWS) IN THE DIOCESE OF COLUMBUS

WHEREAS, the diocesan Bishop has all the ordinary, proper, and immediate power required for the exercise of his pastoral office, except in those matters which the law or a decree of the Supreme Pontiff reserves to the supreme authority or to some other ecclesiastical authority (c. 381);

WHEREAS, the diocesan Bishop must in a very special way foster vocations to the various ministries and to consecrated life, having a special concern for priestly and missionary vocations (c. 385);

WHEREAS, there as yet does not exist in the Universal Law for the Latin Church an order of widows, and diocesan Bishops are to endeavor to discern new gifts of consecrated life which the Holy Spirit entrusts to the Church (cf. c. 605);

WHEREAS, an order of widows, like an order of virgins, does not intend a new religious institute or association destined for recognition as a religious institute of diocesan rite or of pontifical rite, which requires the recognition of the Apostolic See (cf. cc. 605, 579; Vita Consecrata 62), but rather denotes an entrance into a special class of persons in the Church who are received into that order by a proper liturgical rite and consecratory prayer;

WHEREAS, proper statutes have been drawn up which describe the formational path necessary before the reception of the consecration, the expected continued formation and rule of life, the relationship to the diocesan Bishop, and conditions for definitive departure from the order of widows;

THEREFORE, I, Most Reverend Earl K. Fernandes, decree the following:

- 1) The approval of the statutes for the Ordo Viduarum in the Diocese of Columbus which are attached.
- 2) This decree takes immediate effect upon legitimate promulgation in The Catholic Times diocesan newspaper and on the Diocese of Columbus website.

Given at the Chancery Office, 198 E. Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio this 16th day of October, 2024.

+ Earl K. Fernandes

Most Reverend Earl K. Fernandes
Bishop of Columbus

Deacon Tom Berg, Jr.

Deacon Tom Berg, Jr.
Chancellor

Gratitude helps others see Jesus

Everyone who enters our home is greeted by a sign that says “May all who enter here be welcomed as Christ.” It’s a promise to them and a reminder for us. Everything we have, both exterior and interior, is a gift from the Lord and we are called to share it with those along our journey, bringing them closer to Him through this recognition.

I am pondering this as I sit watching leaves turn color outside my windows, reminding us that seasons have cycles. Our lives are seasons and as we walk through times of joy, sorrow, suffering, wonder and awe, I have found it life changing to embrace it all with a profound sense of gratitude. We often think of what we have to share as physical, but the reality is that most growth in relationships happens when we share the intangible, the interior and the personal.

Gratitude in the beautiful is easy. I can sit on my front porch and watch my children throw a frisbee while I sip tea and thank the Lord for this moment of them being connected and engaged with each other. I am beyond grateful for the relationships they are forming with each other outside of me. I see the Lord working and smile, for His plans are so much bigger than my own. Thank you, Father.

I can wake up in the morning, roll over and be in awe of the man I have the privilege of spending every day with. I close my eyes and in awe and laughter quietly call out to the Lord, “Are you kidding me that life is this rich and beautiful? How good you are to me!”

At night, as my children file down to my room to say

ALL THAT WE HAVE

MaryBeth Eberhard

MaryBeth Eberhard writes about marriage, life experiences of a large family and special needs. She attends Sunbury St. John Neumann Church.



good night and one by one share their thoughts, my heart literally overflows in amazement with the abundance of God’s generosity for this family I have been given. I am able to see the love my husband and I poured out for so many years (and continue to do so) being poured back into us. Lord, forgive my worry. Lord, forgive my doubt. I am not deserving of this love, but you continue to show yourself in it. Thank you. Gratitude in the beautiful is easy.

Having a heart of gratitude in the suffering is painful and profound. It stretches you, breaks you and builds you back up. Gratitude for me is the rope I cling to that keeps me bound to the Lord.

As parents, we walk through seasons where our children are pushing, challenging or perhaps even so caught up in the holds of this world that we lose touch with them. What is there to be grateful for then?

We can get caught up in worry and doubt. Hindsight is 20/20, we are told, and it is so true. I’m reminded of the Footprints prayer where the author wonders where the Lord was in all of his suffering and in a moment of privileged conversation, the Lord reminds him that in times of sorrow and suffering He was carried; it is the Lord’s

footprints in the sand that walk the path.

You see, God is working for us, in us, and for those we carry so tenderly on our hearts through it all, and living a life of witness to that trust is the crux of being a Christian. In seasons of sickness where my husband and I have passed like ships in the night bouncing from hospital to hospital tending to our kids, we have passed notes, sent each other meals, marveled at God’s provision, even when the path ahead is unknown.

Often, we are asked, how can you be so joyful? What is it you have? Ahh, friend, it is not what we have but rather Whom we know. We know Jesus.

Our lives are a witness story — and like the two men who journeyed on the road to Emmaus in Luke Chapter 24:32, talking with Jesus and not knowing it was Him until He left, where they then looked at each other and said, “Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?” — we are changed by knowing Him.

Gratitude stems from having a relationship so connected to Jesus that you cannot but help speak of his goodness working in your life, and that gratitude is contagious. It is so contagious that when you greet others, they are moved to know you more deeply. So let them.

Take a moment to reflect on how God has worked and is working in your life in the profoundly difficult and the abundantly beautiful. Let us challenge ourselves in every season to share these moments with others as we welcome them into our homes and into our hearts.

Catholic hospitals and ‘gender reassignment’ for minors?

In October 2024, a group known as “Do No Harm” released the Stop the Harm Database (STHD), a searchable internet resource that comprehensively catalogs sex change treatments performed between 2019 and 2023 on minors in healthcare facilities throughout the United States.

Do No Harm profiled children’s hospitals and examined their advertised services to determine which medical interventions they provide. They also analyzed insurance claims data to determine which sex change procedures each healthcare facility had administered to minors. The data come from medical billing codes, which are submitted to insurance companies to claim payment.

The public release of the database revealed that a number of Catholic healthcare facilities have been involved in “gender reassignment” practices. According to the findings, Providence Health & Services, which owns 51 hospitals across seven western states, is the Catholic health system that performed the largest number of transgender interventions on children, carrying out 81 transgender surgeries and prescribing hormones or puberty blockers to 113 children. The National Catholic Bioethics Center, which has years of experience in working with the same types of medical billing codes, has analyzed the STHD report and issued a statement on its homepage (ncbcenter.org) addressing the report and its findings.

The best interpretation of authoritative Catholic teaching and moral principles is that a person should not cause damage to his or her healthy body (via surgery or hormones) based on a mistaken and subjective impression that he or she was “born in the wrong body.” The corollary would be that Catholic healthcare institutions should not perform or cooperate with any gender-transitioning surgical procedures or provide puberty-blockers or cross-sex hormones for gender transitions.

The fact that some Catholic hospitals are involved in sex reassignment procedures reminds us of the need for continued vigilance on the part of diocesan bishops and

MAKING SENSE OUT OF BIOETHICS | Father Tad Pacholczyk

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



Catholic healthcare leaders when it comes to Catholic healthcare facilities within their purview. There may also be a need for more thoroughgoing ethical formation for employees and administrators to assist them in countering the pro-transgender ideological messaging that has recently become commonplace.

When a Catholic hospital appears in a database as having offered hormones or carried out gender reassignment surgeries, it should be noted that this may not be indicative of current policy or practice. Some Catholic hospitals, for example, have had pediatric endocrinologists on staff who had prescribed puberty blockers or cross-sex hormones, but when the fact was discovered, and meetings were arranged to review and discuss the situation, the practice came to a stop. The cessation of such practices would not typically be indicated in such databases.

The Ethical and Religious Directives for Catholic Health Care Services (ERDs) are a set of authoritative ethical guidelines prepared by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops for Catholic hospitals and healthcare facilities. As of 2024, there was no directive dealing explicitly with transgenderism in the ERDs. The bishops are poised to address this matter in upcoming editions of the ERDs and have offered other definitive guidance through their March 2023 “Doctrinal Note on the Moral Limits to Technological Manipulation of the Human Body.” This latter document clarifies that gender reassignment interventions are not licit, even as some Cath-

olic hospitals may have continued to operate under the impression that definitive guidance is not yet available.

Catholic hospitals clearly must hold to a higher standard than that of their secular counterparts. Secular hospitals may promote practices that violate human dignity, by harming, mutilating, or even ending the lives of those whose health they are supposed to be serving and protecting.

Catholic hospitals may never condone or participate in these unethical practices, whether they be vasectomies, tubal ligations, direct abortions or physician-assisted suicides, or may they condone or participate in the range of practices coming under the heading of “gender transition.” This is especially important when these involve offering puberty blockers, cross-sex hormones, “top surgeries” and “bottom surgeries” to children and young people.

Our sex is a fixed reality of our being, given by God, not a personally-negotiable or otherwise malleable quantity, even if we may face significant struggles in accepting and fully integrating this remarkable gift.

To treat our human maleness or femaleness as “re-assignable” is to invite serious harm into the lives of those who may be dealing with genuine and deep-seated psychological challenges regarding their own “gender identity.” Catholic healthcare facilities serve the best interests of their patients with gender confusion by directing them toward supportive psychotherapy that works to address the underlying psychiatric issues prompting them to seek gender transition.

By holding firmly to the impermissibility of immoral procedures and safeguarding their patients’ dignity in the practice of medicine, Catholic healthcare leaders serve the Lord’s restorative designs and assure that medical practice remains an authentically healing art.

Can I bypass the fires of purgatory?

Dear Father,
Your column on purgatory in the Oct. 20 edition of *The Catholic Times* made me wonder if we can bypass purgatory altogether. If so, how do I do it? Also, I heard that purgatory is a painful fire. Is that true?
-Marve

Dear Marve,
Yes, we can bypass purgatory altogether. Well, sort of. Purgatory is not a place but a state of purification. To get to heaven, that is, in order to see God face to face, we need to be purified of all disordered attachments. Whatever has gotten out of hand in our lives needs to be set right in purgatory.

As Christians, we are meant to live free of disordered attachments. In other words, we can “do” our purgatory in this life, as it were. This means that at our death we could enter immediately into the beatific vision of the Blessed Trinity.

But this is only part of the process of purification. Being free of disordered attachments is not the main “project” of the Christian life. To live as a Christian means to be as completely conformed to Jesus Christ. This means that we love God and neighbor just as Christ loves the Father and the Holy Spirit and all of our brothers and sisters.

To love God and neighbor in right order drives out disordered desires and disordered attachments. We can’t just get rid of evil in our lives; we need to fill our lives with all that is good and holy. Living the life of Christian virtues, especially the virtue of charity toward God and neighbor, means that we have less and less room for anything that is contrary to divine charity.

Purgatory, then, doesn’t consist so much in getting

I come from a long line of farmers – crop and animal. Our dad owned feed and grain mills in Centerburg and Croton. Depending on what was on the farm that season, he was the Corn King, Bean Baron, Pork Prince, etc.

Food was and still is the primary concern for our family. Food for us and food for our neighbors. Mom canned more than 1,000 jars of vegetables every year – much more than our family of five could consume. However, most of the shelves were empty every fall. Many baskets of vegetables and meats were delivered to those in need in such a way that their dignity was preserved.

Mom and a local computer store owner provided food to hundreds of families. Mom, as the Salvation Army person, would fill out a form, the family would take it to the computer store and food would be put in computer bags so others didn’t know they were receiving food.

After our parents both passed, my siblings and I started a family foundation to provide food during school breaks to families who qualified for free or reduced-priced school meals. We provide three meals and a healthy snack for each member of the family for every day away from school. The Centerburg community supported this initial initiative and slowly took over the responsibility for food distribution and created a pantry that provides food when needed. I now am on the governing board only as a family representative with voice but no vote. I love Centerburg.

For decades, we have known that there is more than enough food to go around. The problem is in the distribution. The same goes for love. To start with, God’s love

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.



rid of bad things as much as it means getting the right things into our lives and keeping them there. That’s how we live purgatory on earth now so as to avoid the need for it when we die.

That said, St. Catherine of Genoa (1447-1510) helps us to understand purgatory. She was a mystic who had experienced her own disordered attachments in her life. At a certain point, she had a deep conversion experience and later shared her wisdom about purgatory.

Her conversion was the beginning of living totally for Christ as a married woman. We often think that only priests and nuns can live totally for Christ, but that’s a lie. Everyone can live for Christ and live for Him alone.

Catherine of Genoa devoted her life to God and was dedicated to caring for the sick. Her husband, who had been a gambler, was moved by her love and joined her in her work at the hospital she organized.

Catherine did think of purgatory as a fire. But it was not an exterior fire pit into which we are placed. It was an interior fire that purifies the person.

Think of someone you love and for whom you would give up your life. That deep love makes you want to do anything possible to care for the beloved. It’s a burning fire in your soul. You would go to any length to get rid of anything that prevented your love for your beloved from growing hotter. You would want your life purged

Fall is harvest time

FAITH IN ACTION | Erin Cordle

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



is limitless! Christ’s message was to love one another. But that distribution thing keeps getting in the way. “The harvest is abundant, but the laborers are few.” (Matthew 9:37) Verse 38 says, “so ask the master of the harvest to send out laborers for his harvest.”

Jesus does that in Matthew 10 when He summons his 12 disciples and charges them to “go rather to the lost sheep ...” Are not we called to do the same at the end of each Mass? “The Mass has ended. Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.”

He also lets the disciples know that He is sending them like sheep in the midst of wolves. He also reminds that them to “not worry about how you are to speak or what you are to say ... For it will not be you who speak but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you.” Again, we are given the same mission. In this polarized environment, we are in the midst of wolves who do not want to hear Christ’s message to love one another.

In reflecting on these things my mind turns to the judgment of the nations in Matthew 25, I must mention the judgment of

of anything that separated you from your beloved, anything selfish, anything hurtful.

So it is with our love for God. That’s the gift of love that Christ gives us when He gives us the virtue of charity. Even if it starts small, it can become a conflagration that devours all selfishness, all disordered attachments, all sin and the effects of sin.

The pain of purgatory is the “temporary” separation from God that we experience. Catherine says that the souls in purgatory are happy because they are being cleansed.

She also compares purgatory to a hungry person seeing a loaf of bread and craving it but not being able to get to it. Purgatory is like enduring the pain of getting to the loaf. The bread is, of course, Christ.

Finally, Catherine bluntly tells us that the pains of purgatory are most grievous. Like gold in the furnace that burns away all dross, so purgatory purifies us so that we are able to be completely in union with God whom we love and desire.

Yes, you can bypass purgatory. It’s not a matter of just acquiring a bunch of indulgences, though, as if indulgences work like magic. An indulgence is a grant of pardon from the merits of Christ and the saints for the effects of our sins. Obtaining an indulgence, a remission from the punishments of purgatory, is intimately tied to living for and loving God and neighbor with all of our being.

Go to confession often; go to Mass and worship God; pray incessantly with a thankful heart for all the benefits God has given you; live for others. This is the road to heaven, for which every person is made.

And pray for the souls in purgatory, especially by having Masses offered for them.

the nations at the end of Matthew 25. Christ will come again to sort the sheep from the goats. (In this context, goat does not mean greatest of all time.) The sheep feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, welcome the stranger, clothe the naked, and visit those in prison.

I have grown to realize that the best thing Jesus did for me was help me recognize that helping others is helping myself. Showing kindness, sharing a kind word, helping to improve the lives of those around me is what makes for a better world. “The Kingdom of God is at hand,” He tells the 72 before they set out. The kingdom of God is here and everywhere. We are called to make our little slice of heaven better for us all. When we do this, we all reap the benefits.

This fall, what kind of harvest are you reaping for Christ?

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Purgatory, the last things and All Souls Day in November

By Thomas Storck

During the month of November, the Church has traditionally turned her attention to the suffering souls in Purgatory. Thus, we start the month on the second day with All Souls Day, the commemoration of the faithful departed who have passed from this life but have not yet achieved the glory of Heaven. They need our prayers, sacrifices and indulgences as long as their time of purgation lasts, and they in turn can aid us by their prayers.

But thinking of the souls in Purgatory ought to remind us of what are known as the Four Last Things: death, judgment, Heaven and Hell. Purgatory will not last

forever, but Heaven and Hell will. We can assume that our faithful Catholic relatives and friends will one day reach Heaven, but what of those not so faithful? What of the world's many great sinners, or of Catholics lax in their practice, missing Mass or practicing contraception? Well, even here we do not lose hope of their salvation. In the first place, we do not know and can never know their subjective dispositions. Did they realize that they had a serious obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation? Did they really understand the gravity of their misuse of marriage? We do not know and should not judge.

Moreover, according to the private revelations given to St. Faustina Kowal-

ska (1905-1938), a Polish religious sister whose feast we recently celebrated on October 5, the Lord appeals to souls at the moment of their death, offering mercy, if they will accept it. "I cannot punish even the greatest sinner if he makes an appeal to my compassion, but on the contrary, I justify him in My unfathomable and inscrutable mercy." God had already told the Prophet Ezekiel in the Old Testament that "I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live." But we sinners must accept God's mercy in order to receive it. As Our Lord further said to St. Faustina, "He who refuses to pass through the door of My mercy must pass through the door of My justice."

So during this month in which we especially remember the souls in Purgatory, let us recall also God's immense mercy, offering our prayers and sacrifices for all who have died, not presuming to judge, but leaving that to God alone.

Thomas Storck has written widely on topics of Catholic interest since the 1980s. His latest book is *Economics, An Alternative Introduction* (forthcoming, Arouca Press). He is a contributing editor of *New Oxford Review*, a member of the editorial board of *The Chesterton Review* and the host of the WCAT program, *The Open Door*. He and his wife, Inez, are members of Westerville St. Paul the Apostle Church.

Meditation on a Roman pizza

ROME – Pizza in the Eternal City tends to exemplify a proposition I have long defended: what crossed the Atlantic going west was usually improved in the process. I like Roman pizza, as I like Rome, but I like New York pizza, Chicago pizza, Detroit pizza, and just about every other variant of American pizza – Hawaiian excepted – more. Still, when in Rome, do as the Romans. So in recent years, I have formed the happy habit of dining with a cadre of young friends I have dubbed the Pizza Group on each of my Roman excursions.

We meet in the early evening at the apartment in which I stay, and for an hour, we share wine, snacks, recent personal histories, and observations – sometimes sardonic – on matters ecclesiastical, cultural, and political. Then we decamp across the Borgo Pio to a local trattoria, where most of us order pizza – there is one spaghetti carbonara addict among us – and continue the conversation. The group is largely European, flavored by fellow Americans. Several of them are my former students in the Cracow-based Tertio Millennio Seminar on the Free Society. Others have taken my course on the life and thought of St. John Paul II at the Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas, the Angelicum. Still others are friends of friends.

Despite the differences in their national backgrounds, educational attainments, and professional experiences, these young Catholic adults display several common characteristics.

They are all thoroughly converted Christian disciples who love the Lord Jesus and Our Lady. They have a deep but not cloying piety. They embody dynamic orthodoxy, meaning that they firmly believe what the Gospel and

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.



the Church proclaim to be true, even as they seek ways to make those truths come alive in the 21st-century world. They worry about the toxic waste dump of contemporary culture – not least because they've seen the damage it's done to their friends and relatives – but I don't sense in them any desire to retreat into the bunkers of sectarianism. They intend, in their various vocations, to try to change the world for the better. They have robust senses of humor and can laugh at the absurdities of the moment without becoming cynics. Each of them would be a candidate for any sane parent's dream son-in-law or daughter-in-law.

And none of them seems to have the slightest interest in the "hot-button issues" that obsess Catholic progressives.

They believe that the Catholic ethic of human love is life-giving, not cramped, puritanical, or oppressive. Their example invites their struggling or confused peers to conversion, not to membership in the cohorts of the perpetually aggrieved who insist that the Church must conform itself to the libertine spirit of the age to be "credible." They know there is a virtual infinity of ways to serve Christ and the Church without receiving Holy Orders. They seem to have internalized John Paul II's vision of a Church of missionary disciples who evangelize culture, society, economics, and

politics as Christ's faithful laity.

They might be deplored in some quarters as "culture warriors," but my young friends understand that there are wars that must be fought and that the Lord calls the Church in every age to be a culture-reforming counterculture. Those of them pursuing advanced studies in theology and philosophy are equipping themselves to be the intellectual leaders of just that kind of revolution.

And here's a point to underscore: These are all happy people. They undoubtedly have their trials and tribulations, and they understand that they're facing stiff cultural headwinds personally, professionally, and in their lives as citizens. Still, they are happy people, and their enthusiasm is infectious.

Across from the Pizza Group, in this particular trattoria on a recent night, were two very senior American churchmen, both fully identified with the progressive Catholic agenda. They were in conversation with two middle-aged men, whom I assumed to be priests in mufti. It was easy to imagine that they were slicing and dicing the Synod on Synodality, which was in its second week, especially in terms of those "hot-button issues."

And a thought occurred, as I pondered my friends and my pizza diavola: Who's got the future? Aging proponents of a march back to the Catholic Seventies under the rubric of "paradigm shifts?" Or these young friends of mine, who are inspired by the teaching and example of John Paul II and Benedict XVI and who think we can still learn a lot from Augustine and Aquinas?

Time will tell. But if the goal is evangelizing a broken world with the healing, saving message of the Gospel, my bet is on the Pizza Group.

LATINO, continued from Page 4

Mary in their titles of Our Lady of the Magnificat and Christ the Missionary. Members pray the Magnificat and focus on Our Lady's words, "My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord." They also meditate on the words of John 20:21, "As the Father has sent me, so I send you."

They now have a new cross with the letters MCSP, representing their current apostolate. They have gone through trials and have persevered. Octavio said he was amazed to learn that 80 percent of Catholics think the Eucharist is not the living Christ but merely a symbol. He and he and his wife want to help others know the real presence of Jesus in the Eucharist.

Language once was a barrier for the couple, but now they can participate in English events that help them as married persons and practicing Catholics. "Sadly, in our diocese, there are not many events in the Spanish language so that more people can benefit from them," she said.

Adelia thought that being a missionary was for younger people, but understands through her and her husband's calling that it is never too late to help the church.

Octavio now is very loyal to his faith, ministry and prayer life. He and Adelia also like to dance and share that gift at retreats and other events. They serve the Church with joy, love, humility, and

obedience and are an example for their daughters, other family members and the MCSP community.

As missionaries, they walk with couples and help them to know God more and embrace his love and mercy. They are willing to go with the Bible to evangelize wherever the Lord sends them and to spread love, hope, faith and compassion. That example has spread to their daughters, who are volunteers at the couple's parish, Columbus Christ the King.

They try to create balance, prioritizing family and coordinating when and how to serve. Through their faith, the Lord blessed the family with unity and the gift

to overcome challenges in life through prayer, trust and abandonment. Praying for and with the family is very important.

An important Scripture verse in Adelia's life is 1 Corinthians 13:7 – "Love bears all things, believes all things, hope all things, endures all things." She said it makes her realize that she and her husband need to always support each other to maintain their marriage and missionary life and that it requires an openness of mind and heart to accept God's call.

Jessica Schira is communications director at Columbus Christ the King Church.

Multicultural congregation present for World Mission Sunday Mass

By Hannah Heil

Catholic Times Reporter

A diocesan celebration of World Mission Sunday at Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral on Oct. 20 attracted between 300 and 400 people for a 5:15 p.m. Mass with Bishop Earl Fernandes as the principal celebrant.

More than 300 individuals also attended a reception that followed in the cathedral undercroft.

This year's World Mission Sunday theme, "Go and invite everyone to the banquet," (Matthew 22:9) was selected by Pope Francis. The theme, which comes from the parable of the wedding banquet, is a call to invite all men and women to the Lord's feast of love and salvation.

A second collection was taken during Masses throughout the diocese to support world missions. Last year's collection raised more than \$60,000.

The World Mission Sunday collection, which began in 1926, sustains the work of missionaries in Asia, Africa, Oceania, Latin America and the Middle East.

At this year's celebration of World Mission Sunday at the cathedral, approximately a third of individuals present represented international communities, including descendants from Filipino, Indian, Hispanic and African nations.

During the prayers of the faithful, petitions were recited in five languages: English, Tamil, Malayalam, Polish and Swahili. The Mass' second reading was proclaimed in Spanish.

Funds support communities where the Church is young, poor or persecuted. In those communities, the money helps with evangelization efforts, which include support for seminaries, vocations – including to the consecrated religious life – catechists, Catholic schools and health care centers.

The diocesan Missions Office promotes the universal missionary life of the Church.

Directed by Sister Zephрина Mary, a Franciscan Sister of the Immaculate Heart of Mary and native of India, the diocesan office serves as a resource for mission animation, education and awareness. It represents the Pontifical Mission Societies in the United States.

The Pontifical Mission Societies USA is part of a worldwide network under the Pope's direction. It supports the Church's missionary activities in more than 1,150 mission territories, spreading the Gospel and meeting the spiritual and material needs of the Church in those areas.

During this year's celebration of World Mission Sunday, approximately 20 priests joined Bishop Fernandes at the altar in the cathedral as well as several deacons.

The bishop was also accompanied by Bishop Emeritus Jude Paulraj of the Diocese of Palayamkottai, Tamil Nadu, India.

Priests concelebrating the Mass included Father Jan Sullivan, rector of the cathedral, and Fathers William Hahn and



Bishop Earl Fernandes preaches the homily for the World Mission Sunday Mass on Oct. 20 at St. Joseph Cathedral.

Photos courtesy William Keimig



Religious sisters who serve in the diocese and ethnic communities attend the World Mission Sunday Mass at St. Joseph Cathedral.



Religious sisters and the lay faithful pray during the World Mission Sunday Mass at St. Joseph Cathedral.

Michael Hartge, who serve as vicars general. Father Hahn is the director of priest-

ly life and vocations, and Father Hartge serves as moderator of mission advancement and moderator of the curia.

Other priests concelebrating the Mass included Father David Arroyo, a member of the Clerics Regular (Theatine Fathers) who serves as vicar for Hispanic ministry; and Father Tesfaye Petro Botachew, diocesan director of multicultural ministry.

Priests in attendance represented several religious orders: the Congregation of the Holy Spirit (Spiritans), Missionary Servants of the Word, Dominicans, Pallottines, Theatines, Apostles of Jesus, Capuchin Franciscan Friars and Benedictines. Missionary brothers were also present.

Several orders of consecrated religious sisters who reside in the diocese were present as well.

Consecrated religious communities in attendance included: Order of the Most Holy Savior of St. Bridget (Bridgettines); Congregation of the Sisters of Our Lady of Kilimanjaro; Daughters of Mary Help of Christians (Salesians); Congregation of Sisters of St. Dominic, Immaculate Conception Province (Dominicans); Franciscan Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary; Little Servant Sisters of the Immaculate Conception; Missionary Sisters, Servants of the Word; and Daughters of Holy Mary of the Heart of Jesus.

In Bishop Fernandes' homily, which he delivered partially in Spanish, he reflected on the theme, "Go and invite everyone to the banquet."

"Indeed," he said, "God does not exclude anyone from salvation – not the poor, nor the rich. He doesn't condition things the way we do with our human prejudices. He wants to save each and every soul, and for that, He founded His Church. For that, we need missionaries."

The bishop expressed gratitude to the 180 lay missionaries serving in the diocese. He also recognized missionary priests, who, he said, have come to the Diocese of Columbus to proclaim Jesus Christ and offer the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass and other sacraments.

Bishop Fernandes thanked consecrated religious sisters serving in the diocese for teaching in schools, ministering to the sick and poor, praying and contemplating Christ.

Oct. 20 also marked the solemnity of the anniversary of the consecration of St. Joseph Cathedral. The cathedral was consecrated on the same day in 1878.

The bishop acknowledged that the Church's mission, initiated by Christ, was later started in the Diocese of Columbus by its first bishop.

"Bishop Sylvester Rosecrans, the first bishop of the diocese – he died the day after this cathedral was consecrated," Bishop Fernandes recalled. "It was as if he was like holy Simeon saying, 'Lord, now let Your servant go in peace.'

"His initial mission was finished, but our mission continues: to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the ends of the earth."

“Bible in a year” priest’s tour comes to diocese

By MaryBeth Eberhard

Father Mike Schmitz, the popular priest known for “The Bible in a Year” and “The Catechism in a Year” podcasts, spoke to a sold-out crowd at the Palace Theatre in downtown Columbus on Monday, Oct. 21 during the first stop of his four-city tour to Midwest cities.

The event, titled “The Hour That Will Change Your Life,” was part of a fundraiser to help build a new Catholic campus ministry center and a recording studio for his digital evangelization at the University of Minnesota-Duluth, where he serves as a chaplain for Newman Catholic Campus Ministries and also as director of the Office of Youth Ministry for the Diocese of Duluth, Minnesota.

The tour, sponsored in part by Ascension Press, continued after its opening night in Columbus with stops in Akron, Indianapolis and St. Louis on successive evenings.

The Columbus event began with a deep and profound talk on the Eucharist filled with the priest’s signature humor and forthrightness.

During the second half of the evening, the audience was invited to submit questions through Brian Miller, the host and senior director of evangelization and discipleship for the Diocese of St. Louis who shared a warm rapport with Father Schmitz while telling stories of his own.

The gathering of Catholics in attendance resembled a family reunion. Many of the attendees brought a guest and it was delightful to see them using the evening as an opportunity for evangelization and outreach.

The theater was filled with people of faith and people seeking faith, creating a welcoming environment of hearts ready to receive the Eucharistic message of



Father Mike Schmitz, host of the popular Bible in a Year and Catechism in a Year podcasts, speaks to the crowd at the Palace Theater in downtown Columbus on Monday, Oct. 21 during the first stop of a four-city tour.



A sold-out crowd listens to Father Mike Schmitz at the Palace Theater in Columbus. Photos courtesy Ascension Press

love that Father Schmitz came to share.

“If we do not love the Eucharist, we do not love Jesus,” he proclaimed boldly to a crowd desiring closeness with Jesus.

Father Schmitz articulated clearly the gospel of the Real Presence, walking the crowd through the Bread of Life discourse from the Gospel of St. John with clarity and his usual anecdotes.

After Jesus declared himself to be the Bread of Life when He said, “Whoever shall eat of my flesh and drink of my blood shall have eternal life,” the disciples started to murmur among themselves, Father Schmitz explained. “This teaching is hard,” they said. “Who can accept it?” But Father Schmitz said their response raises questions to ponder: If it was just a symbol, how could it be hard

to accept? And why would disciples leave if it was just a symbol?

The priest also shared a beautiful message about the goodness of God the Father who desires closeness with His children. Father Schmitz said that if God were to fully reveal Himself in His abundant love and mercy, mortal humans would not feel comfortable or worthy coming close to Him despite being created for that intimacy. He went on to say the Eucharist is God giving Himself to His people as a gift to come closer to Him and know that each person is loved.

His presentation ended with a reflection and the priest asking those in attendance if the Lord had their permission to draw close to them and invite Him to enter their vulnerable space.

The second half of the evening was a

question-and-answer session. Sharing humorous family stories ranging from when he first understood the meaning of the Real Presence to helping to comfort parents who worried that their children were pulling away from God, Father Schmitz made all in attendance feel touched by his thoughtful responses.

To learn more about the capital campaign “Seeds of Faith” at the University of Minnesota-Duluth or to donate, visit BulldogCatholic.org/donate.

The project will help Father Schmitz continue his global outreach of evangelization while also providing worship space to accommodate the 500-600 students attending Mass, which is currently held in a converted two-car garage and livestreamed on a tripod that the priest set up.

ROME, continued from Page 4

east. The NAC is also home to three seminarians from Australia. In our classes at the Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas, there are students from all over the world. I have classmates from across Europe, China, Philippines, Lebanon, India, England, Cameroon, and many more.

What kinds of things do you do in your free time?

Being here at the NAC, free time looks different than it was in the states. We have less free time insofar as we spend over an hour each day walking and certain hobbies are harder to do here than in the U.S. One of the important things I do in my free time is write a couple paragraph update to the parishioners of my home parish, New Albany Church of the Resurrection, each month. This allows me to stay in touch with them.

Do you return to the states over Christmas and in the summer?

As of now, the plan is for us not to return until Summer 2026. Of course, if our bishop wanted or there was a family emergency, we could return home sooner. After that, we will regularly return home for the summers. Once ordained, the NAC also allows seminarians to come home for Christmas to serve their dioceses. Until that time, we have had and will continue to have family and friends who come to visit us.

How has the experience impacted you spiritually and vocationally so far?

One of the most impactful experiences for me was when we were on a trip in Rimini, Italy. (Once a month, the NAC encourages us to travel Italy and Europe to take advantage of our time here.) There, we walked into a convent and asked to enter the nearby church, which was closed, to pray. Upon entering the church, we looked to our right

and saw a saint and to the left and saw another saint. It was very moving to know that the saints are on every corner here. Overall, the experience here has strengthened my faith and vocation — I am living out a five-year pilgrimage.

Is it beneficial to have a seminary experience outside Columbus?

It is amazing to have the experience of seminary formation in Rome. Our rector calls Rome the fifth dimension of priestly formation because it plays into our spiritual, intellectual, human and pastoral dimensions. A major example of this is how everything we do here, everything we see here, we will one day be able to take back to the parishioners of the Diocese of Columbus. We also have four (diocesan) priests studying here in Rome, which is a huge blessing as they witness the priesthood I one day hope to have. I am thankful that our diocese is sending to more seminaries now as

hopefully it will allow for a diversity of formation experiences that will in turn enrich the presbyterate of the diocese.

Have you gone to the Vatican?

We have been to the Vatican many times, as it is just a 10-minute walk from where we live. Every time I see St. Peter’s it is a magnificent sight. Each visit there or to any other church in Rome I realize that some people never get to do or only do once — and I can do it every day. During orientation, we had a private audience with Pope Francis and I was able to shake his hand. It reshaped the way that I consider the Church hierarchy because of his humility, humor and joy. The NAC also hosts the visiting U.S. bishops, so I have met a number of U.S. bishops and cardinals.

Is there anything else you’d like to add?

Please continue to pray for me and all my seminarian brothers.

Medical professionals gather for annual White Mass

By Hannah Heil

Catholic Times Reporter

Members of the Catholic Medical Association (CMA) of Central Ohio, health care professionals, medical students and other faithful gathered at the Columbus St. Thomas More Newman Center, located adjacent to the Ohio State University (OSU) campus, for the annual White Mass on Oct. 17.

Bishop Earl Fernandes celebrated the Mass on the vigil of the feast of St. Luke the Evangelist, the patron of physicians. The bishop was joined by several clergy, including priests who serve as chaplains at local hospitals and deacons active in the health care field.

After Mass, Dr. Nicole Shirilla, a palliative medicine physician at OSU's Comprehensive Cancer Center, delivered a presentation to those gathered.

The White Mass recognizes the work and dedication of those in the medical profession. The Mass takes its name from the white coats traditionally worn by health care workers.

All faithful were invited to come and support their brothers and sisters who serve in the field.

In Bishop Fernandes' homily, he recognized the efforts of medical professionals who reflect Christ, the Divine Physician. The bishop acknowledged clergy present who serve as hospital chaplains, bringing the Church's sacraments to the sick.

"You, as health care providers, as those who visit the sick as a corporal work of mercy, also minister to them, banishing their loneliness, reminding them that Christ, the Good Shepherd, the Divine, is with them," he said.

"We show forth the might and splendor of the Lord through the healing we bring to others, whether physical or spiritual."

The bishop also reflected on the Gospel reading (Luke 10:1-9). The beginning of the gospel's 10th chapter recounts Christ appointing 72 individuals to go forth, two by two, to heal the sick and proclaim the good news.

"We need all of you, the symbolic 72, to go out into the world to the sick and to the suffering, to the disabled, to the elderly who feel that they have lost their dignity," Bishop Fernandes told the congregation.

He recognized the difficulty in heeding Christ's command, particularly in sharing the Gospel of Life.

"Jesus tells His disciples, when He sends them forth, 'Go on your way. Behold, I am sending you like lambs among wolves.' This could not be (truer) than today," the bishop said. "You say you are pro-life, you say you are against abortion; you are demonized, you are a hater of women, rather than one who loves women – born and unborn."

The bishop encouraged the faithful to imitate Christ in demonstrating compassion to all. He reminded them that Christ, Who sees what they do in secret, will repay them.

The CMA of Central Ohio, a local Catholic physician-led group dedicated to



Dr. Nicole Shirilla CT photos by Ken Snow

practicing medicine in faithfulness to Jesus Christ, held a discussion after Mass in the Newman Center's gathering space. The CMA upholds the principles of the Catholic faith in science and medicine.

Dr. Michael Parker, one of the local guild's board members and past president of the national CMA, provided updates on the local organization.

Parker, a practicing obstetrician-gynecologist with Mount Carmel Medical Group, shared that the guild was one of five to receive the national CMA's St. Luke Award in recognition of its achievements.

Shirilla spoke about entering the medical field in her presentation, "Michelangelo and a Blinding Darkness: A reflection on finitude and transcendence in a vocation of end of life care."

"The reflection tonight is about ... one vocation of being called into the field of medicine, and we all have a unique and beautiful calling within the field, and we're all here for the reasons that God called us to do this work," she said.

Shirilla, a graduate of the University of Notre Dame and the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, is an assistant professor at OSU's Center for Bioethics and a physician educator in the Division of Palliative Medicine at the university's College of Medicine. She also holds a master's degree in bioethics from OSU.

She said her journey to medicine began in Calcutta, India in 2004. A friend had invited her to visit the Missionaries of Charity religious order founded by St. Teresa of Calcutta.

Shirilla recalled a particular person there. She said she did not know the story or how much longer the person had to live, but she remembered the impact of their interaction.

"Something very profound happened in my own heart, where I just had this deep sense that there was a calling in that moment, and it's really hard to describe it and to say much more about it except ... that everything that I think has happened since then began from that moment," she said.

Shirilla, then a high school teacher and associate director for Notre Dame's Vision Program, a faith-formation program for high school students, returned from Calcutta and began pre-medicine classes.

"There I am, studying these things and



Medical professionals attend the White Mass at the St. Thomas More Newman Center.

praying that all these moments of study will be brought to fulfillment in the future at some point in time, in an act of loving service to a brother or sister in the human family, and for many years that was the prayer because it was a lot of years of going back to school and studying things that just didn't really come naturally to study for me personally, but the journey continued," she said.

During medical school, Shirilla visited a missionary priest and physician in Haiti. She said she continued to return there about 10 times during her residency.

She recalled spending time in St. Philomena Chapel located inside St. Damien Pediatric Hospital in Haiti.

"In this chapel, I saw more of what I saw in Calcutta, which was honoring the dignity of every person in life and in death," she said.

She recalled that daily Mass in the chapel each morning was also a funeral for individuals who had died at the hospital. The priest there would collect corpses of individuals who were left in public morgues. Shirilla accompanied the priest to collect the bodies.

"In medicine, we encounter this so closely – the finitude of this body, the earthly experience – knowing that the person we're encountering, like us, has an eternal soul – eternal – and so, whether we're in specifically end-of-life care – whatever the aspect of medicine that we're in – it's all about the relationship that we're establishing and creating with another human being," she said.

A few years ago, Shirilla joined individuals she volunteered with in Haiti for a pilgrimage to Rome. They visited the Sistine Chapel in Vatican City.

As they toured the famous chapel, which features a fresco by Michelangelo, she learned that the artist almost went blind while painting.

Michelangelo painted the chapel during a span of four years (1508-1512). He experienced very low vision. Being in the scaffolding for long periods in low light affected his eyesight.

She contemplated on Michelangelo's suffering in painting the chapel while, today, people who visit the chapel often focus on its beauty and are awestruck by

the masterpiece, unaware of the suffering the artist endured.

"It just hit me, like how true I think that analogy or that reflection is sometimes with our own work in medicine, or in whatever vocation I think God is calling us to," she said.

"Maybe it's a blessing we don't always see the full picture. Maybe things are revealed slowly or in time or little gifts of starting to see how things connect and what the story is actually all about."

Shirilla reflected on a letter Michelangelo wrote, addressed to Giovanni Da Pistoia (1509), about the physical suffering he endured in his work.

"In this mystery of our limits and our finitude and the ways that we feel that so acutely like Michelangelo did trying to paint that ceiling, when we come up against the limits and the challenges, and where we don't feel like we even know what we're doing sometimes – we are participating in, in health care, taking care of persons with eternal souls," she said.

"We might lose sight of that, or we might not even realize it a lot of the time, but when we think about the big picture, I think it really can help us to see what we're doing on a day-to-day basis, give meaning, give clarity, help us to recommit ourselves to the calling that we've been called to."

Dr. Ashley Fernandes, a board member for the local guild, reflected on the value of Catholic health care.

Fernandes is a professor of pediatrics and bioethicist and stresses that his own personal view is that while non-believing health care professionals are earnest and caring and learn the same science and take the same classes, "what separates Catholic health care professionals is exactly what Nicole talked about – a belief in the transcendent dignity of the human person, and it's what makes Catholic personalist medicine superior to the atheistic or materialist model. I'm just going to use that word ("superior") because it is," he said.

"Which kind of health professional would you rather have: someone who believes that you are this transcendent being that's created in the image and likeness of God, or someone who thinks that all you are is matter that is here accidentally? It is a huge difference."

Catholic War Veterans recruiting new members

By Tim Puet

For The Catholic Times

As the observance of Veterans Day on Monday, Nov. 11 approaches, the Catholic War Veterans (CWV) organization is conducting a statewide recruiting drive and wants prospective members to know that despite its name, you don't have to have served in a war to join.

"That requirement has changed," said Mary Ann Janning, commander of CWV Post 1936. "Anyone can join who is a baptized Catholic, has served in the armed forces, including the Reserves and the National Guard, for 90 days or more of active duty and has been honorably discharged."

Janning was in the Air Force from 1978 to 1982 and joined the CWV in 2012.

The CWV also has an auxiliary open to men and women. A member must be a baptized Catholic and be related to a living or deceased veteran within two degrees – that is, be a veteran's parent, spouse, sibling, grandparent, aunt or uncle. This can include step-relatives.

The post, founded in the 1990s, is one of 17 CWV posts in Ohio, located mostly in the dioceses of Cleveland, Youngstown and Toledo and including one at the Ohio Veterans Home in Sandusky. There also is an at-large post open to anyone in Ohio.

The state's first CWV post was founded at the end of World War II in 1945. There are about 900 CWV members statewide.

The state commander is Michael Blau,

a cousin of Father Thomas Blau of the Columbus St. Patrick Priory. The state CWV's annual Corporate Communion was on Sunday, Sept. 8 at an outdoor Mass at Euclid Our Lady of Lourdes Church.

Post 1936 meets after the 8:15 a.m. Mass on the second Saturday of each month at Westerville St. Paul the Apostle Church, 313 N. State St. Dues are \$35 annually.

The post has about 40 members and, as in most veterans' organizations today, the majority of them served during the Vietnam War era.

"COVID had a considerable effect on us, as it did for most organizations, but in the last couple of years we've been able to resume most of our programs," Janning said.

"One of the post's main activities for years has been visiting and supporting patients at the Veterans Administration hospital in Chillicothe. We visit the hospital four times a year for lunch and bingo and to talk with the patients and listen to their stories. We also have an annual spaghetti dinner there.

"We provide 'goodie bags' for arriving patients which include shaving cream, personal care items, colored pencils for drawing and activity books. We also bring those bags on our visits and send goodie bags and Rosary bags to troops on active



(Above) Jamie Russell (left), chief of voluntary services at the VA Medical Center in Chillicothe, accepts donations from Commander Mary Ann Janning of the Catholic War Veterans. (Left) CWV Post 1936 member Arminda Crawford tends the recruiting table at the Ohio Veterans Conference at Ohio State University hosted by the Ohio Department of Veteran Services in August. Photos/CWV

tient centers in Columbus," Janning said. "We've always helped at the Chillicothe VA hospital, which has been around since the 1920s. The Wylie center is relatively new, having been built in 2008, and we have been encouraged to be more active there.

"Having more members also would mean more camaraderie with people that have gone through some of the same experiences, which ultimately leads to friendships and emotional support."

Arminda Crawford of Galena, a member of the Women's Army Corps from 1966 to 1968, joined the CWV in 1999 and became the organization's national commander from 2015 to 2017. She is the only woman to hold that post.

"In those two years, I was able to help the families of many veterans across the nation in time of need," she said. "That was the best thing about being national commander."

"The Catholic War Veterans and its auxiliary in Ohio have an 80-year tradition of serving veterans and their families, parishes and communities," Crawford said. "You can count on us to continue our service to them.

"With that in mind, the officers of both organizations look forward to working with all Catholic veterans to building a bigger, stronger, more vibrant Catholic War Veterans and auxiliary. Join us in our campaign."

The Ohio CWV's membership drive is taking place through ads in The Catholic Times and other Ohio diocesan newspapers and on the state's Catholic radio stations and mailings to Ohio's 775 Catholic parishes and to CWV members.

More information on the CWV and membership may be obtained by calling (614) 221-7601, emailing ohiocwv@sb-cglobal.net, going to the organization's website, cwvohio.org or mailing Catholic War Veterans, 35 E. Chestnut St. #510, Columbus, OH 43215.

duty overseas."

Janning said other CWV activities include providing \$1,000 college scholarships to four high school seniors each year; placing flags on veterans' graves at St. Joseph Cemetery in Columbus, sometimes in partnership with Scouting USA or American Heritage Girls units; and donating and placing 10 memorial wreaths at Forest Lawn Memorial Gardens as part of Wreaths Across America.

In addition, the post helps the Knights of Columbus in Delaware County with a golf outing benefiting the annual Central Ohio Stand Down for homeless veterans; sponsors a Keep Christ in Christmas coloring contest; takes part in Honor Flight Columbus events; conducts flag retirement ceremonies; offers spiritual bouquets for the pope; teaches flag etiquette; provides funeral and wake honor guards and helps veterans prepare benefit claims.

Every two years, it takes part in a statewide veterans' conference sponsored by the Ohio Department of Veterans Affairs.

The national CWV, based in Bellerose, New York, was founded in 1935 by Father Edward J. Higgins, has about 7,500 members and is one of three federally chartered veterans' organizations with a distinctly religious nature. Its auxiliary also was founded in 1935 for women and became the first such unit of a major veterans' organization to open its membership to men.

"Founded on the cornerstone of faith, the organization's ethos is deeply rooted in the Catholic tradition, fostering a sense of camaraderie, compassion, and duty," the organization's website says. "Through their actions and initiatives, they exemplify the teachings of their faith by providing support, advocacy, and resources to those who have served their country, reflecting the belief in service to others as a core tenet of Catholicism."

"If we can get more members, one thing we want to do is increase our presence at the VA's Chalmers Wylie ambulatory care, behavioral health and veterans' outpa-

Mass with the Bishop

November 19
ST PETER CHURCH
6899 Smoky Row Rd, Columbus

Rosary 5:30 pm
Worship 6:00 pm
Mass 6:30 pm

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MUSICIAN: STEVE KEBE

Retired four-star general puts Catholic faith first

By Hannah Heil
Catholic Times Reporter

A pathway to get closer to Him.

While she might not have recognized it at the time of her commissioning, that is how Gen. Maryanne Miller, retired four-star general and pilot, now considers her 39 years of service in the U.S. Air Force.

A Columbus native, Miller was commissioned in 1981 as a distinguished graduate of the Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps program at Ohio State University.

She ascended the ranks of the military, making history as she did. Miller, a cradle Catholic, is the first Air Force Reserve officer to achieve the rank of four-star general, the highest rank attainable. She was also the first woman to serve as chief of the Air Force Reserve.

While her military career brought numerous accomplishments, Miller ultimately considers her time in the service as God's way of bringing her closer to Him, and in turn, leading others to Him, too.

"Just being that witness for others, it's powerful," she said. "God made me a four star not because I earned it, deserved it – none of that – He made me a four star to open doors, to put me in front of a lot of people to tell His story."

In 2020, Miller retired from the service and relocated to Buckeye Lake to care for her father, 93, who is battling dementia. She now serves as his full-time caretaker. While leaving a nearly four-decade career in the Air Force was difficult and caring for her father can be challenging, Miller said she knows it is what she is called to do.

"I didn't want to do it," she said, "but God just asked me to do that. It was so clear."

As a four-star general, Miller was in charge of the Air Mobility Command (AMC), one of the Air Force's 10 major commands. She oversaw 1,100 airplanes and 110,000 people.



Retired Gen. Maryanne Miller (center) is surrounded by her father and siblings.

Men and women in the AMC consist of active duty, Air National Guard, Air Force Reserve and civilians. They provide airlift, aerial refueling, special air mission, aeromedical evacuation and mobility support.

As a three-star general, Miller ran the Air Force Reserve. In that role, she oversaw 80,000 reservists around the globe.

While she was running airplanes and air refueling tankers throughout the world, God was at the forefront.

"I don't know how people get through the day without thinking about Him, without thanking Him, without praying to Him," she said. "I can't conceive a life without Him. He's everything."

However, it was not always that way for Miller.

She recalled walking away from the Lord and His Church before finding Him.

Miller was raised in Hilliard. She attended Hilliard St. Brendan the Navigator Church growing up and described her parents as devout Catholics. Miller, one of six children, said she had a wonderful upbringing.

She fell away from the faith later as an Air Force pilot and stopped attending Mass.

Miller recalled the time as God being on the "back burner" and not "number

one" in her life.

"Flying airplanes and traveling the world, doing worldly things was where I was, and then, eventually, you find that you're lost," she said. "You really find you're lost. No matter what the world can give you, it's never enough."

"There was a lot of notoriety," she recalled. "You become proud. You become all the things that the world can keep telling you, that you're a good person and you're doing great things and you're working your way up, and that was the focus. You find that that's just an empty focus."

Feeling lost, Miller began reading a book on Buddhism. Surprisingly, her exploration of the Buddhist faith brought her back to the Catholic Church. She said she learned that God is within her and had never left her.

Miller described that revelation as the "changing point." She returned to the Church and began attending daily Mass at 6:30 a.m. before arriving for work at the Pentagon.

"In the days I couldn't get there in the morning, the Pentagon has Mass every day, so I'd go to Mass at the Pentagon every day," she said. "It just became a response. I just wanted to do that and be with God. I had to have it in my day."

Miller's colleagues in the Air Force began taking notice.

"I was able to take the life that God rejuvenated in me and say, 'Maryanne, this is who you really are,' and I was able to totally take that into the world of a four star and draw other people to me," she said.

"People could see His presence, and it was beautiful. I was not judged by anything. People knew my faith. The Air Force knew my faith, and it was never an issue. It was awesome, and people would seek me out."

Her faith was often a source of consolation for those around her.

"Sometimes it's the military, sometimes it's the young airman who's having a struggle, sometimes it's the general – the two-star general – who's having family issues and he comes to me and says, 'Help me out with this. I don't know where to turn.' Your whole walk is walking with God's children and helping each other to stay on the path," she said.

"That's the power of God. When we can serve and walk the path – try to walk the path that He walked – and then others watch us, they want to be part of that. They want that. They're not sure what to call it, but they absolutely want that."

While in Washington, Miller developed a relationship with the Missionaries of Charity religious order.

After her mother died, Miller had planned a visit to Calcutta, India, where St. Teresa of Calcutta, who founded the Missionaries of Charity, lived and cared for the poor. She canceled plans when her father became ill.

Once he recovered, she contemplated taking the trip. Her father encouraged her to get to know the religious sisters first locally.

After her first visit with the order in 2013, Miller, then a two-star general, began serving with the Missionaries of Charity in Washington regularly on weekends. She was able to bring 10 of

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Somerset Holy Trinity students support veterans

The Somerset Holy Trinity School Student Council recently organized a bake sale fundraiser to support the Perry County veterans' extravaganza that was scheduled for Wednesday, Oct. 30 at the Perry County Fairgrounds to honor and celebrate local military veterans in the community.

The student council members raised enough money to purchase 15 \$25 gift cards for gas, food and groceries for the veterans. In addition to their fundraising efforts, the younger students at Holy Trinity also made cards to thank the veterans for their service and sacrifice.

"We are incredibly proud of our students for their dedication and hard work in supporting our local veterans," said Principal William Noll, a veteran himself. "It's important for our young people to understand the

sacrifices that these brave men and women have made for our country, and to show them our appreciation and support."

The Perry County veterans' extravaganza included activities for the veterans and their families.

"We are proud of our students for being so supportive of our community," student council advisers Mary Hannan and Sarah Luzadder said. "Their support will help make the veterans' extravaganza a success and will show our veterans just how much they are appreciated and valued in our community."

The bake sale fundraiser is one of many ways the Holy Trinity student council is making a positive impact in the community through serving others and giving back, particularly to those who have served the country.



Somerset Holy Trinity School students (from left) Levi Reichley, Matthew Holstein, Emily Fink, Joseph Hill, Emma Emmert, Kohen Bateson, Ava Reichley, Jace Gardner and Ariel Ribble hold the gift cards to be given to veterans.

Photo courtesy Holy Trinity School

Workshop focuses on integrating sacred music into Mass

A workshop held at Columbus St. Andrew Church on Oct. 25-26 introduced sacred music and its role in the Mass before concluding with the annual Gold Mass for musicians celebrated by Bishop Earl Fernandes.

Dr. Richard Fitzgerald, the diocesan director of music, said in his remarks that a need for sacred music in accord with Church teaching had been identified in the diocese.

Fitzgerald, who is also the director of music and organist at Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral, said the desire is to sing the Mass and not merely singing songs during the Mass.

Adam Bartlett, the founder and creator of Source & Summit worship resources, offered sessions at the workshop, including “The Church’s Vision for Music and Liturgy in the Context of the Whole of the Church’s Life and Mission” and “Singing the Mass, a Practicum.”

Source & Summit provides sacred music resources to parishes through its print and digital products.

Bartlett, who also serves as a sacred music consultant for the Fellowship of Catholic University Students and has served as a parish and cathedral music director, said between 80 and 90 diocesan priests attended the first day of the workshop on Oct. 25.

The second day of the workshop was open to anyone interested in learning more about sacred music, including school administrators, parish and school choir directors, music teachers, cantors and choir members.

“The diocese has provided opportunities for Church musicians to gather together in worship, in fellowship and in learning to further expand our skills, repertoire and knowledge of beautiful and worthy music for reverent and prayerful Masses,” said Sharon Silleck, the director of Sacred Music at Lancaster Basilica of St. Mary of the Assumption, who attended the workshop.

“Each Mass is intended to bring the hearts and minds of believers toward



Choir members sing at the Gold Mass on Saturday, Oct. 26 at Columbus St. Andrew Church. Photo courtesy William Keimig

the ‘feast that is to come,’ to have one’s mind and heart focused on heaven and our eternal home with the Triune God.”

Bartlett, speaking about the Church’s vision for music and liturgy, explained that, while the Mass is intended to be a sacrament of unity, often there is a battle in the context of the liturgy due to different forms of music.

A battle in music used during the liturgy presents challenges that are unnecessary and counterproductive, Bartlett said. He noted that music in the Mass is intended to unify the various liturgical actions, not to fight against itself.

Bartlett referenced the Church’s instruction on sacred music from the Second Vatican Council’s *Musicam Sacram*, or the instruction on music in the liturgy.

The Church concluded that prayer is expressed in a more attractive and beautiful way when sung, as beauty draws individuals to the Church. The document also states that a unity of hearts is more profoundly achieved by a union of voices, and it prefigures the heavenly liturgy.

“Music has a tremendous power to evangelize,” Bartlett said, and it is also a very powerful tool for prayer and catechesis.

Gregorian chant is the supreme model for sacred music in the liturgy, he said. Bartlett described Gregorian chant as music that sets the words of the liturgy to music.

The Source & Summit liturgical resources offer chant settings grown out of the Gregorian chant tradition. In Bartlett’s presentation, he guided attendees in practicing English chant settings for the Mass, which can be easy for a congrega-

tion to sing. He explored using Gregorian chant as a guide, setting the words to be sung.

Fitzgerald added that chant settings draw worshippers out of the temporal, or earthly, experience and into something that is holy, eternal and of a transcendental nature. He said it reflects the eternal nature of the liturgy, which is heaven on earth.

Unlike common trends in liturgical music, which often includes four hymns to be sung, employing chant idioms allows for singing the already-existing words of the Mass, such as the Creed, Entrance, Offertory and Communion Antiphons.

Hymns, which are brought in from the outside, are drawn from non-liturgical sources and added into the Mass.

“Hymns are generally four-square, easily learned, steady rhythmic pieces, which are designed to allow many voices to come together in proclaiming a prayer as one voice,” Silleck said. “Often, the texts of hymns are an important avenue of catechesis for the singers. Songs stay in the mind and heart and need to be chosen wisely and carefully.”

In liturgical music, Bartlett said the

human voice should be leading.

Accompaniment is an “underlay,” he said, to what is happening vocally. He said the organ is the primary instrument for accompanying voices during the Mass, as it mimics the human voice.

Jordan Werring, the director of Sacred Music at Grove City Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, has used several forms of music in the liturgy. She said the parish noticed a difference with sacred music.

“We’ve experienced a wide form of music for liturgy, from the music of the St. Louis Jesuits to praise and worship to a contemporary liturgical style to traditional hymnody to chant, both vernacular (English) and Latin, and even some Gregorian ordinaries,” she said.

“However, in beginning to utilize more of the vernacular antiphons and traditional hymnody, we have observed a stillness of reverence within the congregation. There’s this sense of increased listening to the texts that are being sung.

“Parishioners are drawing connections between the texts of the antiphons and the Scriptural readings of the Mass, which is exactly what the Church desires. Overall, we’re experiencing a deeper invitation to contemplation and reverence.”

Sacred music in the Mass has begun to spread to other parts of the parish. Werring said it is being taught in the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd program for young children and in school liturgies.

“We’ve also been working with our permanent deacons who have desired to sing more of the Mass, such as leading the Kyrie, the proclamation of the Gospel or the dismissal,” she said. “We are also blessed with priests who desire to sing the Mass, which is such a delight.”

For more information on Source & Summit, visit www.sourceandsummit.com.

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the sisters on a tour of the White House and to the Pentagon.

“It was really interesting for people to see,” she said, “to walk your faith, even while in uniform, to walk your faith openly.”

Miller said it became routine for her to arrive at the Missionaries of Charity convent in Washington after work on Friday and stay until Sunday evening.

“When I’d show up Monday morning at the Pentagon, all my friends were like, ‘What’d you do with the Sisters?’ It wasn’t, ‘What happened in Afghanistan?’ It had nothing to do with what we do every day. It had to do with what fed them, I realized, was my stories of going on the streets to see the homeless,” she said.

Miller recalled bringing Gen. David Goldfein, then-U.S. Air Force chief of staff, on a visit to the Missionaries of Charity one Sunday.

As chief of staff, Goldfein was responsible for the organization, training and equipping 685,000 active-duty, guard, reserve and civilian forces serving in the United States and overseas. The Air Force chief of staff and other service chiefs serve as military advisers to the secretary of defense, National Security Council and the president.

“It was just amazing to see,” Miller said. “This man is over 600,000 people, the biggest air force, the best air force on the planet, and he’s in a bright yellow apron, and we’re about ready to mop floors. I mean, amazing, his humility.”

Miller said she could easily relate to the religious sisters there.

“Their day is so structured, and I relate to a very structured day,” she said. “The military was all, from the time you get up to the time you get to bed, it was structured. We had so much in common. It was so easy to be with them, and I was able to, by being with them, recognize myself.”

Spending time with the Missionaries of Charity was “life changing” for her. Once she became involved with serving at the convent, she said “it was a quick immersion back into the Lord.”

Miller credited her family for that. Her parents provided the base for her Catholic faith. While she had left the faith for some time, Miller said, it was easy to re-

turn because of the foundation her family had given her.

In addition to caring for her father for the past four years, Miller is active at Buckeye Lake Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church, where she volunteers with the food pantry and speaks to parish groups.

Miller currently serves on the boards of Manhattan College; Bristow Group, a leading provider of helicopter transportation to energy customers, search and rescue, and aircraft support solutions to government and civil organizations; and Leaven Kids, a non-profit organization serving children in poor neighborhoods with more than 20 learning centers.

Young adults attend sixth annual conference

The sixth annual Columbus Catholic Young Adult Conference (CCYAC) was held at the Powell St. Joan of Arc campus of Columbus St. Peter and St. Joan of Arc parishes on Saturday, Oct. 19, with more than 200 young adults and volunteers in attendance.

A number of priests and religious also attended the one-day event, which carries out the mission of CCYAC to empower young adults to transform their communities through their identity in Jesus Christ.

Father Patrick Schultz, a priest from the Diocese of Cleveland, was one of the featured speakers. He joked that he knew the event was for young adults when he spotted a fancy coffee bar.

He began his presentation with a question about God's proposal to man. Father Schultz asked the attendees if they are "turning off the lights and hiding when the 'Solicitor' (Jesus) comes and knocks?"

The priest reminded his listeners that the love of God the Father is in every detail and that He is the Creator of all



Father Patrick Schultz, a priest from the Diocese of Cleveland, was one of the featured speakers at the Columbus Catholic Young Adult Conference on Saturday, Oct. 19 at Powell St. Joan of Arc Church.
Photo courtesy Columbus Catholic Young Adult Conference

things, including a snowflake.

Father Schultz concluded with asking the attendees to consider opening the door of their hearts because everyone matters to Him.

The conference included multiple breakout sessions with topics that included Theology of the Body, building community and faith and mental health. The day's schedule also allowed for per-

sonal time, lunch and fellowship.

A priority for CCYAC since its inception has been Eucharistic Adoration, which was made available during the day to provide an opportunity for face-to-face meetings with the Lord in the Blessed Sacrament. Young adults expressed their gratefulness for his sacred time.

The second feature speaker was Sis-

ter Meredith Boquiren, a member of the Carmelites of the Most Sacred Heart of Los Angeles who shared her story about woundedness and struggles with receiving God's love.

She explained that her first encounter with Eucharistic Adoration was accidental and a turning point for her life. She realized she was in the presence of God, who revealed to her that the deep desires in her heart were unmet.

That moment was the catalyst for her to begin a new life in Christ. She returned to the sacraments and joined a young adult community.

Sister Meredith offered the young adults four practical life challenges: daily prayer; an open disposition to the Holy Spirit; detachment; and to live in the present moment.

She closed by saying "Each moment is a Eucharistic moment because God is present now. He waits at the door of our heart."

The event ended with the parish's Vigil Mass and an optional dinner in the social hall.

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She is also in the process of writing a children's book on virtue. She said she is working with an editor from Word Among Us, and the book will be geared toward children in sixth grade.

While she maintains a full schedule between caring for her father and serving her parish and several organizations, Miller makes time to keep in touch with the men and women active in the Air

Force.

"I miss my time with the airmen; I miss my time with the mission, but I stay connected with them. I stay connected with the mission and what the airmen

and families are doing out there," she said. "That's very fulfilling to be there to support them, to help them while they're still serving."



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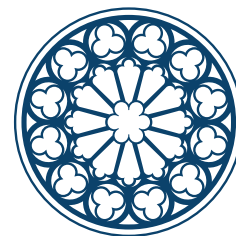
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Bishop Earl Fernandes elevates the host with Fernando Bonilla, pastor at Columbus St. Agnes Church, next to him at the altar on Thursday, Oct. 24 during a 70th anniversary Mass to commemorate the placement of the church's cornerstone on Oct. 24, 1954.



Columbus St. Agnes Church parishioners kneel in prayer during Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. Photos courtesy William Keimig



The faithful pray during the celebration of the Mass on Thursday, Oct. 24 at Columbus St. Agnes Church.

St. Agnes Church celebrates 70th anniversary

By Jessica Schira

The neighborhood around Columbus St. Agnes Church has changed significantly in the 70 years since its founding, but it has retained an identity as what its pastor, Father Fernando Bonilla, describes as a “church community that is small but very warm.”

When its cornerstone was laid on Oct. 24, 1954, it was rare to find anyone in the Columbus west-side neighborhood the church serves who spoke Spanish. Today, the Latino community plays a significant role in the area. About 540 people of Hispanic origin attended a recent Spanish Mass.

For the past several years, the parish at 2364 W. Mound St. has been served by priests from the Missionary Servants of the Word, who also provide pastoral care for St. Stephen the Martyr Church, another primarily Latino parish on Columbus' west side.

Tom Nanc, a retiree who has been a parishioner for 65 years, said there was a time after the parish school had closed when there were fears that closing of the church would follow. One day while praying about the situation, he felt a tap on his right shoulder. A Hispanic priest told him, “Church is open,” and he said that at that point, the fear left him.

Nanc and many other English-speaking parishioners helped those who had newly arrived in Columbus with the transition. Banc volunteered for three years to assist at English as a Second Language classes. One of those who have worked with him is Isabel Placencia, who arrived at the church in 2011 with her husband, Rosendo Montalvo.

She said that at first, a small group of volunteers did most of the work of serving at Mass, maintaining the church and conducting events. But more people became involved, and she estimates that about 100 people now volunteer regularly at the parish, with the number

of Spanish- and English-speaking volunteers about equal. “Speaking to people with humility and love, groups are formed for service,” she said.

Nanc said the church had bilingual songbooks until they were removed because of the COVID pandemic, but he now can follow the songs in Spanish. He also has learned about Hispanic traditions such as quinceaneras to celebrate a girl's 15th birthday and posadas, a custom of visiting homes in the days leading to Christmas.

He is impressed by Hispanic people's reverence in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament. “I didn't understand why they were walking backward to leave the church, but later, I learned they didn't want to turn their backs to Jesus,” he said.

Father Bonilla is assisted by the members of his order who are stationed at St. Stephen Church and by two young missionaries, Geovanni Baeza Zarazua and Salomón De la Cruz Andrés, who are bilingual and interested in doing more with the English-speaking community. Evangelization and preaching are very important for them.

One missionary said he wants to plant seeds in the community that will bear fruit with an attitude of joyful service.

“We may be announcing, but we must preach the Word. When people hear the Word, they respond,” Baeza Zarazua said.

The missionaries are grateful for Father Bonilla's willingness to work with parishioners. “It is a blessing that the pastor trusted young people to organize the church festival,” Baeza Zarazua said.

The church building is small and is being renovated, with the changes creating an intimate atmosphere for prayer, and everyone is very welcoming. The Knights of Columbus and other volunteers sponsor fundraising events including breakfasts, festivals and a monthly produce market.

The church is adding a Spanish Sunday Mass at 1 p.m. Other Mass times are 7 p.m. Saturday (Spanish), 9 a.m. Sunday (bilingual); 11 a.m. Sunday (Spanish); 7 p.m. Tuesday (Spanish) and 9 a.m. Thursday (English). There are English-speaking parishioners who attend Spanish Mass and participate with joy, even though they don't understand most of what is said.

Bishop Michael Ready purchased the land on which the parish is located on June 1, 1946, but it was not dedicated until nearly a decade later on March 20, 1955. Father Bennett Applegate, diocesan superintendent of schools, was its first administrator and Father Robert Schmidt was the first pastor.

On the day of the church's dedication, Bishop Ready wrote a letter to the people of St. Agnes. Here is an excerpt of

that letter: “The elements which entered into the construction for this church are about a symbol of yourself. ... You have been blessed with specific talents to build up a parish life marked by unity, harmony and peace. ... May God grant you the increase of holiness and fortitude, Christian example among your neighbors, and a tower of strength to the community.”

Throughout the years, St. Agnes parishioners have continued to be blessed with the talents and virtues of serving and building up community with humility, harmony, unity and peace. May the Lord provide more years of unity, peace and prosperity to the people of St. Agnes.

Jessica Schira is the communications director at Columbus Christ the King Church.

Mommies Matter holds Fall Fundraiser



Mommies Matter held its sixth annual Fall Fundraiser on Wednesday, Oct. 9 at Columbus St. Catharine of Siena Church with (from left) Bishop Earl Fernandes; founder and executive director Monica Flynn; Father Dan Dury, pastor at Sunbury St. John Neumann Church; and Father Jason Fox, parochial vicar at St. John Neumann. The event included music, silent auction and testimonies from mothers who are part of the program. The Fall Fundraiser is the organization's most significant annual fundraising effort of the year and provides money needed to support the services and operating costs of Mommies Matter, which serves single mothers during pregnancy, the birth of their child and beyond.

Photo courtesy Mommies Matter

Hilliard parish steps up in big way to provide hurricane relief

By Tim Puet

For The Catholic Times

When Deacon Doug Yglesias of Hilliard St. Brendan the Navigator Church first saw news reports on Thursday, Oct. 3 of the destruction caused by Hurricane Helene in North Carolina, "The Holy Spirit was pulling on my heart," he said. "I knew I had to do something."

Initially, he thought he would see what he could collect in a rented truck and possibly take two people with him. Within five days, the Holy Spirit gathered enough people for a convoy of eight vehicles, including three trailers filled with power equipment and other needed items, to head for the afflicted region with aid for two Catholic churches in isolated areas.

St. Brendan's parishioners collected needed items and a large sum of money at weekend Masses on Oct. 5 and 6 to purchase additional items.

"I've helped with other collections over the years, but the Lord was tugging on many hearts for this one," said Deacon Yglesias, who has served the Hilliard parish since his ordination to the diaconate in November 2020. "I could understand what those people were going through because my family and I survived Hurricane Andrew in Florida in 1992. We remember the hope we received when someone showed up with a simple thermos of water."

Deacon Yglesias said that once he decided to provide help, he found out how much it would cost to rent a U-Haul truck to carry items to North Carolina, then searched for the locations of Catholic churches in the Diocese of Charlotte that were in the vicinity of Asheville, the largest city in the region affected by the hurricane, but far enough away that help may not be easily available.

"I finally made contact with two churches – Sacred Heart in Brevard, a town of about 7,000 people 25 miles from Asheville, and St. Andrew's in Mars Hill, which has about 2,000 people, is about 18 miles from Asheville and is a town with a Biblical name" honoring the site of one of St. Paul's most famous speeches, he said.

Directors of religious education (DREs) of the two parishes told him their greatest need was for generators, propane stoves, propane canisters, diapers, wipes, baby food, garbage cans, trash bags for debris collection and water.

"They were getting food donations, so that wasn't an immediate concern," he said. "Electricity was out for the whole region, so the bigger need was for larger items which could provide an alternative source of power."

"One of the DREs was in Louisiana when Hurricane Katrina struck there in 2005 and said the situation in western North Carolina was much the same. Both DREs said they had reached the point of



Volunteers from Hilliard St. Brendan the Navigator Church traveled to North Carolina in October to bring supplies and to assist with relief efforts and repairs in the hurricane-ravaged Asheville area. Photos courtesy Deacon Doug Yglesias

exhaustion after working 15-hour days and were extremely grateful for any help."

Deacon Yglesias said he started calling people he knew at around 4 p.m. on Oct. 3 to see who might be willing to provide the requested items and to go to North Carolina with him.

"Things spread like wildfire," he said. One parishioner, Brian Quinn, spent his last three days of vacation to help. Many others stopped everything and began to pitch in.

"People asked about writing checks to me to help the hurricane victims. I felt it would be better to have the parish handle donations, so I called the pastor, Father Sean Dooley, and he was awesome. 'Let's do it,' he said. He had to ask the parish staff to set up a special account and work with the parish communications team. I was worried that this would be disruptive, but they said it was no problem," the deacon said.

"I got in touch with Heather Carrier with our parish St. Vincent de Paul conference who called the diocesan St. Vincent de Paul thrift store. By 7 p.m., we had the store's collection trailer lined up to store donated items."

"Lee Salcone, our communications director who was in Pennsylvania, sent an email blast that went to all sorts of parish organizations and the response was tremendous. I felt it had to be God's hand working through all of us to open our hearts."

Father Dooley invited Deacon Yglesias to speak at that weekend's Masses to ask for donations to the account and help with the hurricane recovery effort.

"I requested four things," the deacon said. "Donations of supplies; donations of cash so we could buy supplies; volunteers who might be able to help do things like pull out ruined carpets and drywall or do home repair; and prayer."

"We set up a staging area in the St.



Brendan's parking lot to collect items and it became apparent by the time

the last weekend Mass had ended that we would need more trucks," he said. "We delivered 29 generators, 37 camp stoves, more than 200 propane canisters, plus shovels, baby items, canned food and an abundance of all the other things the parishes had requested."

Another truck was donated by Penske Leasing. Steve Dickson, a parishioner with a commercial driver's license, offered to drive the truck, and by 5:30 a.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 8, the Hilliard convoy, which included about 20 people, was headed south. "Much thanks to Father Jacob Stinnett, the parochial vicar, who got up extremely early to say Mass before our departure," Deacon Yglesias said.

The group reached North Carolina by about 7 p.m. that day, splitting the load so that each of the two parishes requesting help would get about the same number of items, and started unloading.

"Both DREs were in tears because of all the help they were receiving," Deacon Yglesias said. "We met at St. Brendan's a little before 4:30 in the morning and the relief missionaries were still unloading trucks at 11 at night in North Carolina, all with smiles on their faces."

"Besides getting stuff from our trucks, we helped unload other trucks in assembly-line fashion. One truck from another church arrived after being scared off because of the chaos involved at another location, so we helped unload it, too." He

said the items were set up in supermarket-style fashion so people could quickly find the things they most needed.

On Wednesday, Oct. 9, the group helped with recovery efforts. "We began the day in prayer and then went to work. Some of us were part of a group of Catholics, Lutherans, Methodists and people from Habitat for Humanity who went to a trailer park where several families needed assistance removing their flooded belongings and removing damaged drywall," the deacon said.

"Many of us from Hilliard went to a trailer that was the home of a handyman and had a wooden deck precariously hanging that was just waiting to hurt someone," he said. "We went right to work cutting the deck into thirds so the danger could be removed. The gentleman there was heartbroken because of the water damage to all his tools."

"Our team helped him pull the tools out and started oiling them to see what could be salvageable. We finished the deck teardown and began pulling drywall and started putting the debris in a dumpster, but it was so overloaded with items from that home and others that we started shoveling debris into one of our trucks and taking it to the local dump. The Habitat for Humanity people went to the nearest Home Depot to get new insulation and drywall."

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Parishioners offer public witness, prayer for end of abortion

By Hannah Heil
Catholic Times Reporter

As more than 50 individuals gathered outside of a local Planned Parenthood abortion center the morning of Saturday, Oct. 19, it seemed to be a perfect day for prayer – clear skies and no sign of rain.

With the sun shining, parishioners from Westerville St. Paul the Apostle and Sunbury St. John Neumann churches lined the sidewalk on East Main Street in front of Planned Parenthood. They prayed for the preborn little ones who died and would die in the building directly ahead of them, and for a conversion of hearts.

“What we plant today can manifest itself still 10 years from now,” said Kathy Malagisi, a parishioner at St. Paul who came to pray outside of the clinic.

Members of the two parishes, both located northeast of Columbus, were present as part of the international 40 Days for Life campaign. Catholic and other Christian churches often coordinate a time for their congregation to pray outside of a local clinic.

The 40-day campaign, which runs through Sunday, Nov. 3 this year, includes peaceful prayer and fasting for an end to abortion. The effort is taking place in thousands of cities across the United States and 64 countries around the world.

Father Michael Donovan, O de M (Order of the Blessed Virgin Mary of Mercy), the pastor at Columbus Holy Family Church, was present, as well as several consecrated religious sisters.

As defenders of life held signs and prayed rosaries, litanies and the Chaplet of Divine Mercy together, the adverse shouts and honks of passersby could not dampen their spirits.

“I find it a mission,” said Kitty Whyte, a parishioner at St. John Neumann.



Westerville St. Paul the Apostle and Sunbury St. John Neumann parish members pray outside Planned Parenthood on East Main Street in Columbus on Saturday, Oct. 19, as part of the 40 Days for Life fall vigil. CT photos

Whyte and her husband, a member of the Knights of Columbus, drove down from their home in Mount Vernon to defend life on behalf of the Knights. It was the couple’s second time praying in front of the Planned Parenthood clinic.

Whyte followed the example of her mother, who did the same thing decades earlier.

“My mother, a double amputee, would go out and pray across the street from the clinics, and they finally closed them all down in Cincinnati,” she said. “It was wonderful, and she was so happy that day when that happened. They’ve slowly started to open up more, but they still pray.”

“Never assume that you don’t impact anything – that’s the big message.”

Malagisi, who attended with her hus-



band, Joseph, was happy to pray for life alongside many other faithful.

“The first thing that I loved was just the amount of the faithful, that you’re not alone,” she said. “You really do see the brothers and sisters in Christ step up because we know the truth, and we know this is life.”

Malagisi said it was great to have a large number of people praying together. She said, for her, seeing that reinforces the faith.

“We know, with prayer, answers come,” she said.

For years, the Malagisi family has braved the elements to pray outside of abortion clinics in various parts of the country. Kathy said they have endured freezing temperatures and rain. They were blessed with the sunshine this time.

She recognized the impact that a presence outside of abortion clinics can have on individuals. She welcomed the positive and negative reactions garnered by the group’s presence in front of Planned Parenthood on Oct. 19.

“As far as the people that go by, the ups and the downs that we get, that just makes us want to pray and be present more because we’re doing good on both sides of the fence – those that are glad to see us here and those that are mad,” she said.

“They know it has to be something really going on there for them to be angry about it, because, if it doesn’t upset them, then they wouldn’t care to make that impression to us. So, both ways, we need to be present.”

Joyce Dobson, who also belongs to St. Paul, joined her fellow parishioners to pray outside of the abortion clinic.

She added that while some consider abortion a matter of politics, she believes it is not.

“It’s not a political issue,” she said. “It’s a matter of life and death. We’re just trying to save innocent lives, and who is more innocent than the unborn? Life is such a gift.”

The first 40 Days for Life campaign took place in Bryan, Texas in response to the opening of a Planned Parenthood abortion clinic in the area. Volunteers prayed outside of the clinic every hour for 40 days.

In 2007, the first nationally coordinated campaign was launched. Since then, more than 100 abortion centers where campaigns were hosted have permanently closed.

According to the 40 Days for Life website, the movement’s goal is to continue, with God’s grace, until there are no more abortion centers.

HURRICANE *continued from Page 20*

“I saw the father we were helping, his shirt drenched in sweat, crouched down in an awkward position, adjusting some of the plumbing,” team member Joe Boroi said in a written reflection.

“In that moment, I felt a wave of Christ’s love for him, for his family, for all of us, as if it were too immense to contain. As I stood there in that room, almost two days into this journey, with little sleep and long hours of hard work, I realized I could still feel Christ’s presence radiating within me. He was alive in every aching muscle, every action.

“It was as if the Mass (of the previous day) had just ended, and we had stepped out of the chapel into the parking lot of the church. As I looked around the room, seeing the tired yet determined faces of my fellow travelers, I felt the depth of that love. It was sustaining all of us.”

“While we waited for supplies, we

helped gut another home’s first floor with all its flooring, insulation and drywall ruined,” Deacon Yglesias said. “Once supplies arrived, we went back to work on the trailer and by 9 p.m. it had some of the floor, the insulation and much of the drywall replaced. We felt God with us the whole time, enabling us to do a hurricane of work to replace a hurricane’s worth of damages.

“The schoolchildren at St. Brendan’s packed and decorated paper bags with lunches for us and the people we were helping. We really appreciated having those meals with us on both days we were working on cleanup,” Deacon Yglesias said.

“We heard amazing stories regarding what people did with the items donated. In one case, young people from an adventure summer camp were able to bring two generators to people whose

homes were on an isolated mountain road by taking the generators on all-terrain vehicles, going as far as they could and carrying them the rest of the way. In another, a child was able to return home from the hospital, since there was a generator available to run lifesaving medical equipment.

“The morning we went to work on the homes, we left a fully stocked hub filled with food, cleaning supplies, stoves and so forth. To our surprise, most of the material was gone by the time we got back. The churches served more than 700 people in need that day

“After two days of intense work, we headed back home on Thursday the 10th. We were on the ground in North Carolina for less than 60 hours, but what I saw and what we did will stay with me for the rest of my life,” Deacon Yglesias said.

He said another \$25,000 has been

raised in Hilliard since the group got back. Another trip to the stricken area with more supplies is planned early this month.

“Thanks to all the men’s groups, Knights of Columbus, St. Vincent De Paul, the moms of St. Brendan’s and students of the school, the Good Samaritans group from Sunbury St. John Neumann Church and all the business and individuals who helped,” he said. “The response of the people of the Columbus area to our request for help was amazing. So much good came from the generosity of the people who gave up their time, talent and treasure to perform a corporal work of mercy.

“It just shows what people can do when they decide to get past the restrictions of any bureaucracy and become the hands and feet of Christ.”

ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

5858 Cleveland Ave., Columbus 43231

20th Annual Christmas Cookie Sale**DECEMBER 14 | 10:00AM UNTIL 2:00PM**

PLACE YOUR ORDER BEGINNING OCT. 27th
(Preferred method) Go to the Cookie Sale page of our website: www.byzantinecolumbus.com
OR call (614) 882-7578 and follow the prompts
ORDER DEADLINE IS DECEMBER 8th

• Trays of 6+ Dozen assorted **CHRISTMAS COOKIES** \$55 ea

• **GOURMET PIROGI:** \$7/pkg Pkg Fillings: Potato/Cheese, Sauerkraut, Sweet Cheese and Whole Prune - sold frozen in pkgs of one dozen per filling

• **NUT AND POPPYSEED ROLLS:** \$17 each (sold frozen)

• 8" x 8" pan of **BAKLAVA** \$30 ea

• **CASH, CHECK OR CARD ACCEPTED - ALL PREORDERS MUST BE PICKED UP BY 1PM OR THEY WILL BE OFFERED FOR GENERAL SALE**

• The church will be open from 11am to 12pm during the sale for those who may wish to visit. Church Tour begins at 11:30am

• **All Preorders must be picked up by 1:00pm or items will be offered for general sale.**



PLEASE NOTE: ALL PRODUCT QUANTITIES ARE LIMITED and may run out prior to order deadline

Catholic Social Services to be part of 'giving machine' program

Catholic Social Services (CSS) and six other local and national agencies are making it as easy to make a charitable donation as it is to buy a soft drink from a vending machine this holiday season.

For the first time, Columbus has been chosen as a host city for Light the World "giving machines." As part of the annual #LightTheWorld campaign, visitors to Polaris Fashion Place Mall will be able to provide an instant act of service by making donations at the machines.

With a simple tap of a card, individuals can purchase items including meals, shelter, clothing, health care, education

and livestock for needy neighbors and for individuals in developing countries, with 100 percent of all donations going directly to the selected charity.

The machines will be at Polaris Fashion Place from Friday, Nov. 15 to Saturday, Dec. 7. They made their debut in 2017 and have raised more than \$32 million since then. The initiative continues to expand each year, with approximately 600,000 people visiting the machines last year. They will be available this year in more than 100 cities in the United States and around the world.

Besides CSS, participating agencies include Ronald McDonald House Charities of Central Ohio, the Mid-Ohio Food Collective, the Center for Healthy Families, the Reeb Center, Lifting Hand International and the World Food Programme.

CSS has been a source of compassion, dignity, and hope for those Christ calls us to serve throughout the community. Serving more than 10,000 individuals annually, CSS is supported in its mission by dedicated volunteers who help senior citizens find connection, guide families toward a brighter future and assist young adults in transitioning to the workforce.

HOLIDAY BAZAAR ST. ANDREW PARISH

1899 McCoy Road, Columbus
Saturday, Nov. 9, 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

Table space available for vendors with crafts and wares to sell. Rental fee is only \$50. Perhaps you have created that special gift someone is looking for to gift the special people on their shopping list!

Would you like to join us?
For further information, email
Judy McCombs at judyzumba09@gmail.com
or leave a message at **614-446-4812**.



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*Speak with a licensed sales agent during call center hours: April 1 to September 2, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., Monday through Friday; September 3 to March 31, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., seven days a week.

Mount Carmel MediGold (HMO/PPO) is a Medicare Advantage organization with a Medicare contract. Enrollment in Mount Carmel MediGold depends on contract renewal. Benefits vary by county. Not all plans have \$0 Premium or Cash Back (\$1,942.80 per calendar year, which is \$161.90/month). Other pharmacies, physicians or providers are available in the plan's network. ATENCIÓN: si habla español, tiene a su disposición servicios gratuitos de asistencia lingüística. Llame al 888-546-2834 (TTY: 711). 注意: 如果您使用繁體中文, 您可以免費獲得語言援助服務。請致電 888-546-2834 (TTY: 711).

LOCAL NEWS AND EVENTS

St. Colman choir, string quartet to present concert

The choir of Washington Court House St. Colman of Cloyne Church, 219 S. North St., will join with a string quartet for a concert titled "In Memoriam – With a Smile" at 3 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 3 in honor of All Saints Day on Friday, Nov. 1 and All Souls Day the following day.

The performance will begin with the Requiem by Gabriel Faure, with soloists David Scott, baritone and choir director of Washington Court House High School, and Teresa Ford, soprano. It will conclude with four movements of contemporary composer John Rutter's Requiem.

In explaining the program title, parish music director Craig Jaynes said, "For anyone who still carries fond memories of deceased loved ones, especially in the last year or two, this music is almost guaranteed to bring a smile. It contains some of the most beautiful melodies and lovely harmonies ever put down on paper."

There is no admission charge but a free-will offering can be made. There is ample parking on the streets and in the lots around the church.

St. Andrew hosts prayer service for the deceased

Columbus St. Andrew Church, 1899 McCoy Road, will be the site of a special service of Evening Prayer and song at 3

p.m. Sunday, Nov. 3 in remembrance of loved ones who have passed away.

This service will include psalms, choral anthems, congregational hymns, readings and reflections of remembrance, hope and consolation within the Church's celebration of Evening Prayer.

Relic of St. Thomas Aquinas to be venerated in Columbus

Columbus St. Patrick Church, 280 N. Grant Ave., will host the relics of St. Thomas Aquinas's skull for public veneration on Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 7 and 8.

This is part of a tour of the relics throughout the Dominican Province of St. Joseph in celebration of the Dominican Order's triple jubilee in honor of St. Thomas Aquinas that runs until January 2025.

The triple jubilee marks the 700th anniversary of the canonization of St. Thomas Aquinas (July 18, 2023); the 750th anniversary of his death (March 7, 2024); and the 800th anniversary of his birth in 2025.

Bishop to celebrate Feast of St. Cecilia

Bishop Earl Fernandes will visit Columbus St. Cecilia Church, 434 Norton Road, at 7 p.m. Friday, Nov. 22 for a Mass

and musical program celebrating the feast of the parish's patron saint, who also is the patron of music and musicians.

Music for the Mass will include selections from the Mass of St. John of God, composed in 1774 by Franz Joseph Haydn. Members of the parish choir and Ensemble Una Voce will sing, accompanied by organ and a small orchestra, directed by Dr. Caroline Salido-Barta.

Wonder of Eve presentation set for Nov. 10 at St. Michael

The lower meeting room of Worthington St. Michael Church, 5750 N. High St., will be the site at 1 p.m. for a presentation of The Wonder of Eve, an event designed to help young women understand how naturally amazing their bodies are and the impact their choices can have on their future health and fertility.

The program covers the design and function of the female body and reproductive system/menstrual cycles; a brief introduction to tracking cycles; and ways for young women to take care of themselves now to benefit them in the future.

Geared for young women in grades eight to 12 and their mothers, the program will be presented by a fertility care practitioner and features a 60-minute presentation followed by a ques-

tion-and-answer session.

The cost is \$20 per family and registration is required. To register or for questions, contact Emily Mauro at emilyfmauro@yahoo.com.

Newark St. Francis to host program on teen anxiety

A program titled Helping Anxious Teens Thrive will be presented in Johnson Hall of Newark St. Francis de Sales Church, 40 Granville St., at noon Sunday, Nov. 17.

The speaker is Jim Beckman, former director of evangelization and catechesis for the Archdiocese of Cincinnati.

"Parents, teens and families are meant to thrive – not be crippled by fear, anxiety, and stress," he said. "The goal with this session is to help parents and teens know how to recognize issues they or their friends may be dealing with, but more importantly, provide some very practical things we can do to help, and even preventative actions we can take to get ahead of emotional issues before they even happen."

The event is free and lunch will be provided with advance registration. For information and to RSVP, go to stfranciscparish.net/Register.

Parishes sponsor holiday craft events

Several parishes in the diocese are sponsoring bazaars featuring vendors selling handicrafts and other times for the Christmas season. The following is an updated list of such events reported to *The Catholic Times* as of Thursday, Oct. 24:

ST. BRENDAN THE NAVIGATOR SCHOOL

4474 Dublin Road, Hilliard

- 30th annual craft show Saturday, Nov. 2, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- 80-booth show sponsored by Knights of Columbus Council 11208
- Free admission and parking; hot food and sweets available
- Questions, contact Fred Kierner at stbcraftshow@gmail.com

CHURCH OF THE RESURRECTION

6300 E. Dublin-Granville Road, New Albany

- 26th annual Holly Day craft bazaar Saturday, Nov. 2, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in parish center
- More than 70 vendors, bake sale, food available in cafeteria, raffle. \$2 admission. Sponsored by parish women's club. Craft items for sale, gift card raffle, quilt raffle, concessions, including homemade soup. Free admission.

- No strollers; service animals only

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI CHURCH

386 Buttles Ave., Columbus

- Crafts and collectibles fair Sunday, Nov. 3 after 8 and 11:30 a.m. Masses
- Handmade and collectible items at reasonable prices
- Vendors, contact marti.joy.damm@gmail.com

ST. ANDREW CHURCH

1899 McCoy Road, Columbus

- Holiday bazaar Saturday, Nov. 9, 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
- Table space available for vendors. Rental fee \$50.
- Baked goods, Buckeyes, vendors. Proceeds support scholarships for graduating eighth graders in spring 2025.
- Contact Judy McCombs at judyzumba09@gmail.com or leave a message at (614) 446-4812

ST. MATTHEW THE APOSTLE SCHOOL

795 Havens Corners Road, Gahanna

- Hometown bazaar Saturday, Nov. 9, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- More than 100 vendors and a new area for junior vendors, plus homemade goods, cafe, raffle baskets, and more

- Reduced admission fee of \$3 with a nonperishable food item donation to support St. Matthew Church food pantry

ST. JOHN NEUMANN CHURCH

Carters Corner Road & State Routes 36/37, Sunbury

- Holiday craft bazaar, Saturday, Nov. 9, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- Homemade crafts, bake sale, baskets raffled and food served.
- Email sjnholidaybazaar@gmail.com with questions.

STS. SIMON & JUDE CHURCH

9350 High Free Pike, West Jefferson

- 51st annual holiday craft bazaar Saturday, Nov. 9, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Crafts and collectibles fair Sunday, Nov. 3 after 8 and 11:30 a.m. Masses
- Homemade crafts and gifts, baked goods and basket raffles; free admission

ST. NICHOLAS CHURCH

925 E. Main St., Zanesville

- Christmas bazaar Saturday, Nov. 9, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- Craft items for sale, gift card raffle, quilt raffle, concessions, including homemade soup. Free admission.
- For more, contact (740) 607-6386

HOLY FAMILY CHURCH

584 W. Broad St., Columbus

- Confraternity of Christian Mothers Christmas bazaar Sunday, Nov. 10, 10 a.m. to 4 pm. In church undercroft
- Vendors, children's activities, chicken and noodles, hot dogs, chips, desserts, soft drinks, water and coffee

ST. MARY CHURCH

82 E. William St., Delaware

- Holiday craft bazaar Saturday, Nov. 16, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- Handcrafted holiday décor, home goods, jewelry, bath and body products, fashions and much more.
- Schmidt's sausage food truck available after 11 a.m.; smoothies and specialty coffee all day
- More at www.delawarestmary.org/bazaar

WESTERVILLE ST. PAUL THE APOSTLE SCHOOL

61 Moss Road, Westerville

- Craft bazaar, vendors, bake sale, children's area, raffle, Saturday, Nov. 23, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- \$5 admission, \$2 seniors, \$15 family cap. Enter through the school main door or the Klinger Center breezeway

31st Sunday of Ordinary Time Year B

Love God and one another

Deuteronomy 6:2-6
Psalm 18:2-3, 3-4, 47, 51
Hebrews 7:23-28
Mark 12:28b-34

“Hear, O Israel! The LORD is our God, the LORD alone! Therefore, you shall love the LORD, your God, with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength. Take to heart these words which I enjoin on you today.”

God is the only God. For us as Catholics, it is a matter of faith that there is only one God in the universe and that all that is good comes from that one God. There is a phenomenon in our time that Pope Benedict XVI used to call “the dictatorship of relativism” that claims this matter is open to debate, even for people of faith. The only “truth” permitted under this dictatorship is the idea that all ideas are relative, even that there is an underlying truth beneath, beyond, above everything that we experience.

Our faith in the one God who has revealed to us the triune life of Father, Son and Holy Spirit does requires us to believe and freely acknowledge that all knowledge is relational. It is addressed to us as persons who discover our own reality through relationships. The primary relationship is with the God who created us and all that is. But since we are made in God's image, it is also in relationship to every other person created by God.

Philosophers discover at the heart of being the I/Thou relationship with God. Faith reminds us that we also have an I/thou relationship with other human beings that is unique and that gives us insight into who we are as persons in our own right.

Jesus reminds us of this truth when He an-

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Father Timothy Hayes

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



swers the scribe's question as to what is the greatest commandment of the Law with the statement: “The second is this: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. There is no other commandment greater than these.”

When the scribe forgets himself in seeing the wisdom of Jesus' direct answer, he earns high praise of his understanding and Jesus tells him, “You are not far from the kingdom of God.” The kingdom of God is Jesus Himself. Opening to the truth by receiving Jesus' answer and acknowledging its wisdom puts the scribe in touch with his own true identity. The same is so for us too, when we are open to the truth revealed through the Church.

It is good for us to ask questions, but this serves us well only when we really desire the truth. Some ask questions, as the scribe did originally, to trip up those who want to share their wisdom with us. We are in a season when truth is rejected without a hearing. As one wise person commented: “When all is said and done, not much is said and not much is done.” If we want to experience the reality that can satisfy our hearts, we must learn to relate to God as God. We must also put this relationship into practice in the manner that Jesus teaches: by loving our neighbors as ourselves.

The Letter to the Hebrews expresses this with the image of priesthood. Levitical priests conducted animal sacrifices in accord with dictates of the Torah, serving as intermediaries, having to be renewed

THE WEEKDAY BIBLE READINGS			
11-4/11-9	THURSDAY	11-11/11-16	THURSDAY
MONDAY	Philippians 3:3-8a	MONDAY	Philemon 7-20
Philippians 2:1-4	Psalm 105:2-7	Titus 1:1-9	Psalm 146:7-10
Psalm 131:1-3	Luke 15:1-10	Psalm 24:1-6	Luke 17:20-25
Luke 14:12-14	FRIDAY	Luke 17:1-6	FRIDAY
TUESDAY	Philippians 3:17-4:1	TUESDAY	2 John 4-9
Philippians 2:5-11	Psalm 122:1-5	Titus 2:1-8, 11-14	Psalm 119:1-2, 10-11, 17-18
Psalm 22:26-32	Luke 16:1-8	Psalm 37:3-4, 18, 23, 27, 29	Luke 17:26-37
Luke 14:15-24	SATURDAY	Luke 17:7-10	SATURDAY
WEDNESDAY	Ezekiel 47:1-2, 8-9, 12	WEDNESDAY	3 John 5-8
Philippians 2:12-18	Psalm 46:2-3, 5-6, 8-9	Titus 3:1-7	Psalm 112:1-6
Psalm 27:1-4, 13-14	John 2:13-22	Psalm 23:1-6	Luke 18:1-8
Luke 14:25-33		Luke 17:11-19	

DIOCESAN WEEKLY RADIO AND TELEVISION

Mass Schedule: Weeks of November 3 and November 10

SUNDAY MASS

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

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

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

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

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

DAILY MASS

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

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

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

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

and replaced in each new generation. We now have a “High Priest,” whose role as mediator between God and His people is based not on physical descent or stipulations of law, but on His identity as the Son who has lived and died and risen, taking His seat in glory. This is foundational to the life of the Church. In and through the Son, we worship the Father in spirit and in truth. We allow the very love that is the life of the trinity to rest in us and among

us, making present in time the kingdom of God.

Let us “take to heart these words which have been enjoined on us today.” Let us cry out with the psalmist: “I love you, Lord, my strength.” Let us love God with all that we are and put this truth into action as we love one another, acknowledging that we owe each other the love God has poured into our hearts. Together, we shall discover the kingdom of God.

32nd Sunday of Ordinary Time Year B

Answer the Lord's call to give your all

Kings 17:10-16
Psalm 146:7, 8-9, 9-10
Hebrews 9:24-28
Mark 12:38-44

I have always loved the image of “Jesus the people watcher.” Today's Gospel tells of a time when He sat outside the temple, across from the collection box of the treasury. As He was observing those who brought their gifts, He called His disciples to pay attention to one poor woman whose offering stood out from all the others. The Scriptures reveal that Jesus is able to read hearts. He could see that that among all those who made a contribution, there was a poor widow whose gift, though small in earthly measures, was proportionally the greatest of gifts. She gave from her want and all the others gave from their surplus.

Jesus is always teaching His disciples by example. Parables offer them an opportunity to learn the Gospel by seeing

everything from a different perspective. The woman who caught Jesus' notice served as a living parable. To give much is not necessarily to give an amount that is great. Rather, it is to give out of one's own heart. Jesus says, “Amen, I say to you, this poor widow put in more than all the other contributors to the treasury. For they have all contributed from their surplus wealth, but she, from her poverty, has contributed all she had, her whole livelihood.”

Elijah's experience with the widow of Zarephath gives us a model of God's providence and reveals a truth that can be missed. There is a famine throughout the land of Israel. It was initiated by the Word of God spoken by Elijah to teach the people of Israel that God is the source of everything we have, not the gods we create in our own image. Elijah also suffers from the drought. The woman and her son are among the poor who suffer most. Elijah trusts in God's word and in His provi-

dence. He dares to ask one who is poor to give her all. Her response of faith to the man of God supplies food for the prophet and for herself and her son through the full cycle of the drought.

God expects us to respond to Him. He is not satisfied with mere reactions. Participation just so we get the “trophy” of notice or public acclaim does not impress God. Disciples, members of the community of faith, are expected to give our all. Giving is not primarily an external act. It is something that includes our whole persons, “all that we have to live on.” God's power, intermingled, incarnated in and through our actions offers something abundant. This sustains us and gives us the capacity to sustain others as well.

We live in a time where we tend to reduce “need” to that which is material of this world. As human beings, however, our real needs are physical, emotional and spiritual. The priesthood of Jesus Christ, who has passed through into the

very sanctuary of Heaven, clothed in our flesh, which has been raised and glorified, encompasses all who believe and gives us a share in the divine power to bring grace into the world. Our faith in Jesus Christ, putting our trust in the One who is the true man of God, allows this to penetrate our lives and enter our world. This sustains and nourishes us in the face of spiritual drought and famine.

God invites and expects us to put this into practice here and now, even as we await Christ's return. “Just as it is appointed that human beings die once, and after this the judgment, so also Christ, offered once to take away the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to take away sin but to bring salvation to those who eagerly await him.” May we open our eyes to see what God can do when someone chooses to give all. May our inner response, expressed through actions great and small, draw the attention of the Lord who is watching.

CATHOLIC WORD SEARCH

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**51ST ANNUAL
HOLIDAY CRAFT BAZAAR**
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Ss. Simon & Jude Church
9350 High Free Pike, West Jefferson, Ohio
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Home-made crafts and gifts, baked goods
and basket raffles • Free entry

**SAINT LUKE PARISH
TURKEY DINNER**
Sunday, November 3 - 11am-2pm
St. Luke Community Center
Market & Rambo Streets, Danville
Turkey, Mashed Potatoes & Gravy, Stuffing
Green beans, Roll, Cranberry salad,
Beverage, Pie
Adults - \$14, Children 10 & under - \$7
Carry-out available

ST. ANDREW'S PARISH IN UPPER ARLINGTON is hosting its annual "Holiday Bazaar," on **Saturday, November 9th!** We will also have baked goods along with candy Buckeyes for sale. Proceeds will support scholarships for our 8th graders in the spring of 2025. Come and check out the vendors in our parish hall between the hours of **9:00 a.m. until 2:30 p.m.!** That special gift for someone special is waiting for you!

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Words of Wisdom

by Pat Battaglia, aka Dr. Fun

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

Nothing is opened by mistake ...

	H	E	O	
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S	S	O	E	T
A	F	T	H	

AS OFTEN AS THE MOUTH

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**ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
BASILICA OF ST. MARY OF THE ASSUMPTION, LANCASTER**

The Basilica of St. Mary of the Assumption is seeking to hire a full-time Administrative Assistant. This position provides administrative support, performs clerical/receptionist duties and other duties as assigned. Interested applicants should submit their resume to the Parish office or by email (dburley@stmarylancaster.org) no later than November 15, 2024.

Job summary: This is a full-time position, supervised by the Parish Administrator and accountable to the Pastor. This position coordinates and facilitates the day-to-day operations of the daily activities of the Parish. The administrative assistant also provides administrative support, performs clerical/receptionist duties and other duties as assigned. This position is expected to use personal judgment in carrying out routine duties and responsibilities of the parish. Normal work hours are from 8:00 to 4:30 Monday through Friday. **Essential job responsibilities:** Coordinate all clerical aspects of the Parish office; coordinate and produce weekly Parish bulletin; perform

customer service functions by answering parishioners' requests and questions; answer the phone, door and receive all visitors; register new parishioners, maintain census information, and forward to the Diocese; scheduling and reserving meeting spaces; post offerings and maintain contribution records; schedule and record Mass intentions; record all sacraments in the appropriate sacramental books and forwarding sacramental information to other parishes as needed; to maintain all information in a highly confidential manner; to work with others in a collaborative team environment **Other responsibilities:** To gather information for genealogies when time permits; to prepare certificates for sacramental celebrations as needed and requested; to assist Social Concerns committee in providing addresses for cards sent to: (prayer list, homebound, monthly birthday cards, Christmas cards, etc.); to prepare and mail Welcome Packets when necessary; to undertake "ad hoc" tasks as assigned by the Pastor **Position qualifications:** Proficient in Microsoft Office

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Mary Ann McCarrick

Funeral Mass for Mary Ann McCarrick, 95, who died Tuesday, Oct. 22, was celebrated Monday, Oct. 28 at Columbus St. Patrick Church. Burial was at St. Joseph Cemetery, Columbus.

She was born to Bernard and Anna Welsch Lang and was a graduate of Columbus St. Joseph Academy and St. Mary of the Springs College (now Ohio Dominican University).

She was a St. Patrick parishioner for more than 80 years, served as a mem-

ber and president of the parish women's club and was a member of the Elizabethan Guild.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband of 64 years, Bill; brothers, Bernard (Dorothy), James (Jeanne), and an infant brother; and sister, Martha Carter. Survivors include daughters, Patty Cooley, an employee of the Diocese of Columbus; Molly, Peggy (Scott) Irion and Terre (John) Orenchuk; 10 grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

George Blubaugh

Funeral Mass for George Blubaugh, 92, who died Saturday, Aug. 3, was celebrated Thursday, Aug. 8 at Columbus Our Lady of Victory Church. Burial was at St. Luke Cemetery, Danville.

He was born on Oct. 16, 1931 to Hillary and Henrietta (Schlairet) Blubaugh, was a 1953 graduate of the University of Notre Dame and served in the U.S. Army during the Korean War era.

He spent his working life in the operations sector of the transportation industry with five different companies, retiring as vice president of marketing for the U.S. Cargo and Courier Service.

He was active in several programs for lay persons, including the Cursillo movement, where he was diocesan director for two years in the 1970s; Cum Christo, where he held the same position in the 1990s; the Downtown Columbus Serra Club, which he served as president for 3 1/2 years; the Knights of Columbus, where he was a past grand knight of Our

Lady of Victory Council 12900 and was selected as the Columbus area's Knight of the Year in 2012; and Teens Encounter Christ.

He also was involved in many parish activities, first at Mount Vernon St. Vincent de Paul Church and later at Our Lady of Victory, where he and his wife were co-directors of the Christ Renews His Parish program for three years and where he was a lector and a catechist for the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults for decades.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his wife of 65 years, Jean Ann (Moushey); and a sister, Marjorie Selby. Survivors include sons Stephen (Vicki), Michael (Jennifer), Thomas (Kimberly), James (Kristi Swihart) and Kevin (Gretchen); daughters Julie and Susan (William) Mitchell; brothers Kevin (Caroline) and Thomas (Judy); seven grandsons, six granddaughters, three great-grandsons and one great-granddaughter.

Sister Valerie Noone, OP

Funeral Mass for Sister Valerie Noone, OP, 83, who died Friday, Oct. 11 at the Mohun Health Care Center, was celebrated Tuesday, Oct. 29 at the Motherhouse of the Dominican Sisters of Peace. Burial was at St. Joseph Cemetery, Columbus.

She was born on Feb. 14, 1941 in Jersey City, New Jersey to John and Ida (Feeney) Nooner.

She received a Bachelor of Science degree in education in 1967 from St. Mary of the Springs College (now Ohio Dominican University), a Master of Arts degree in Montessori education in 1971 from Xavier University in Cincinnati and a Master of Arts degree in religious education in 1983 from the Catholic Uni-

versity of America.

She entered the congregation of the Dominican Sisters of St. Mary of the Springs (now the Dominican Sisters of Peace) in 1958 and professed her vows in 1960, taking the name Sister Immaculata.

In the Diocese of Columbus, she taught first grade at Columbus St. James the Less School in the 1962-63 academic year and kindergarten at St. Mary of the Springs in 1969-70. She also was a school administrator in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati and spent 46 years in the Archdiocese of Hartford, Connecticut, where at various times she was a teacher, principal, school administrator, assistant advancement director for the congregation and in congregational service before coming to Columbus earlier this year.

She was preceded in death by her parents; brothers Bernard, John and Patrick and a sister, Margaret Duffy. Survivors include a brother, Thomas; a sister, Mary Rottino; and nieces and nephews.

PRAY FOR OUR DEAD

BARTHELMAS, Elizabeth A., 66, Oct. 7
St. Andrew Church, Columbus

BEDFORD, Edward F., 87, Oct. 16
St. Peter Church, Millersburg

BICHSEL, Brian, 61, Oct. 18
St. Paul the Apostle Church, Westerville

BLASCZYK, Robert John "Bob," 89, Oct. 20
St. Francis de Sales Church, Newark

CATALANO, Joseph J., 86, Oct. 8
St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception Church, Wooster

CRAWFORD, George M., 79, Oct. 10
St. Paul the Apostle Church, Westerville

COVENTRY, Irene M. (Turrin), 95, Oct. 4
Sacred Heart Church, New Philadelphia

CREMEANS, Beverly A. (Barford), 82, Oct. 10
St. Pius X Church, Reynoldsburg

CUDAK, Margaret Lucille "Lu," 94, Oct. 4
Holy Spirit Church, Columbus

DALY, John B., 78, Oct. 16
St. Brigid of Kildare Church, Dublin

DEFFENBAUGH, Darrek A., 33, Oct. 16
Resurrection Cemetery Chapel, Lewis Center

EDWARDS, Anita (Hamrick), 57, Oct. 6
Sacred Heart Church, New Philadelphia

ESSMAN, Ann, 95, Oct. 14
St. Bernadette Church, Lancaster

FOWLER, Sharron L., 81, Oct. 20
St. Joseph Church, Plain City

GARDNER, Pauline "Polly," 101, Oct. 2
St. Luke Church, Danville

GRASSBAUGH, Dale Sylvester, 88, Oct. 5
St. Luke Church, Danville

GUISINGER, Paul W., 90, Oct. 5
Basilica of St. Mary of the Assumption, Lancaster

HAHN, Joshua J., 47, of Dublin, Oct. 14
St. Mary Church, Urbana

HICKS, Eleanor R., 84, Oct. 10
St. Joan of Arc Church, Powell

HOLLAND, Elizabeth J. "Betty," 98, Oct. 13
St. Andrew Church, Columbus

HOUSTON, Tammy K. (Dorsey), 52, Sept. 30
Sacred Heart Church, New Philadelphia

LANDRY, Kathleen A. (Uhrin), 82, Oct. 9
St. Paul the Apostle Church, Westerville

LAUBSCHER, Rebecca, 75, Oct. 10
St. Joseph Church, Dover

LEONE, Jean (Bailey), 80, Oct. 19
St. Joseph Church, Dover

LIST, Charles, 86, Oct. 18
St. Paul the Apostle Church, Westerville

MARINELLI, Mary V. (Battalio), 99, Oct. 16
Sacred Heart Church, New Philadelphia

MCKEE, Jesse, 80, Oct. 10
Basilica of St. Mary of the Assumption, Lancaster

MOYLAN, Evelyn, 95, Oct. 3
Mohun Health Care Center Chapel, Columbus

STRAITS, Charles V., 91, Oct. 16
St. Peter Church, Millersburg

YORK, Michael D., 71, Oct. 21
Church of the Resurrection, New Albany

Sister Matthias Sterner, OP

Funeral Mass for Sister Matthias Sterner, OP, 93, who died Wednesday, Oct. 9, was celebrated Saturday, Oct. 19 at the Motherhouse of the Dominican Sisters of Peace. Burial will be at St. Joseph Cemetery, Columbus.

She was born in 1931 in Somerset to Leo and Mary (Finnen) Sterner.

She received a Bachelor of Science degree in education in 1961 from St. Mary of the Springs College (now Ohio Dominican University) and a Master of Theology degree in 1973 from the University of Dayton.

She entered the congregation of the Dominican Sisters of St. Mary of the Springs (now the Dominican Sisters of Peace) in 1949.

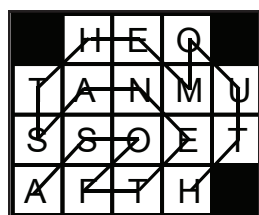
In the Diocese of Columbus, she was a teacher at Zanesville St. Thomas Aquinas (1951-1953), Columbus Christ the King (1953-1954), Columbus Holy Name

(1956-1959) and Newark St. Francis de Sales (1959-1961) schools, worked in the dining hall at St. Mary of the Springs College (1955-1956) and was director of the Center of Dominican Studies at Ohio Dominican (2012-2016).

She also taught at schools in Pennsylvania, Connecticut and the Diocese of Steubenville and at Albertus Magnus College in New Haven, Connecticut and was diocesan director of the Parish Ministry Center in Steubenville and assistant diocesan director of evangelization and catechesis in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati.

She moved to the Motherhouse in 2016 and had been at the Mohun Health Care Center since 2021.

She was preceded in death by her parents; brothers, James and Robert; and sister, Virginia Dupler. She is survived by many nieces and nephews.



WORDS OF
WISDOM
SOLUTION

Father Hayes installed as pastor



Father Timothy Hayes stands before Bishop Earl Fernandes on the altar at Granville St. Edward the Confessor Church, where he renewed the promises he made at his ordination while being formally installed as the parish pastor on Saturday, Oct. 12. The feast day of St. Edward the Confessor is traditionally celebrated on Oct. 13, which fell on a Sunday this year. Father Hayes became St. Edward's pastor in July 2023.

Photo courtesy William Keimig

St. Andrew, St. Timothy combine for rosary



Parishioners from Columbus St. Andrew and St. Timothy churches gathered at the grotto at St. Andrew to participate in a national rosary organized by America Needs Fatima at noon Saturday, Oct. 12. The goal was to have more than 22,500 rosary rallies in public places across America in honor of the feast of the miracle of the sun and the last apparition of Our Lady in Fatima in 1917 to ask God for repentance and conversion for America. Members of both local parishes joined together to pray the rosary for the salvation of all, for peace in hearts, for families and for peace in the whole world.

Photo courtesy St. Timothy Church

Equestrian Order invests 12 new members



The North Central Lieutenancy of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem held its annual Investiture on Oct. 4-7 in La Crosse, Wisconsin, and 12 new knights and dames were invested from the diocese. Thirty-five members of the order from Columbus were present for the annual meeting attended by more than 500 members from six states. The order's members continue to aid the Church in the Holy Land and to strengthen their practice of Christian life. Membership in the order is by invitation to practicing men and women, laity and clergy of good character who have distinguished themselves by concern for the Christians of the Holy Land. New investees (from left) include Todd Treon, Jim Atkinson (new co-section president), Beth Atkinson (new co-section president), Ed Sprigler, Rich Kozlowski, Cardinal Raymond Burke, Wei Kozlowski, Archbishop Jerome Listecki, Loren Brown, Pamela Sprigler, Theresa Mooney and Father Jan Sullivan. New members not pictured are Father Vince Nguyen, Father Stephen Smith and Deacon Michael Sowers. *Photo courtesy Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem*

Italian Festival includes Mass with bishop



An outdoor Mass with Bishop Earl Fernandes was celebrated at the annual Columbus Italian Festival on Sunday, Oct. 13 at Columbus St. John the Baptist Church. The bishop also took part in a procession with a statue of St. John the Baptist from the church to the outdoor Mass location. The Italian Festival attracts thousands each year and includes several events held in conjunction with the parish and the Italian Catholic community in the diocese. *Photo/William Keimig*

Deacon Smithberger recognized for service



Deacon Marion Smithberger was honored Sunday, Oct. 13 by parishioners at Columbus St. Timothy Church for his years of service to the diocese and on his 70th birthday. Deacon Smithberger was ordained by Bishop James Griffin in 2008 and served at St. Timothy and also as an advocate for the Diocesan Marriage Tribunal. He was joined by his wife, Carol. *Photo courtesy St. Timothy*

Equestrian Order with Bishop Fernandes



The Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem held its annual local Mass and dinner honoring Bishop Earl Fernandes. *Photo/Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem*



What is the Giving Machine?

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- adopting a family for Christmas



I'm feeling inspired. Where can I donate?

**Polaris Fashion Place
November 15 - December 7**

Hartley sports management class hosts CYO boys' commissioner

By Elizabeth Pardi

Professional players may be the first ones who come to mind when people think of careers in sports, but Columbus Bishop Hartley High School students are learning that there are lots more opportunities in the athletics field to consider.

"Not everyone is going to be LeBron James or Patrick Mahomes," said Bobb Farrell, a business teacher who conducts a class in sports management, mostly for juniors and seniors.

Farrell recently brought in Julius Palazzo, longtime commissioner of the boys Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) program for the Columbus diocese, to speak to the students about the number of sports-related careers they can consider.

"Having Mr. Palazzo come in as a guest speaker ... was a no brainer," he said. Besides his work for the diocese, Palazzo, 70, has been an Ohio high school basketball, baseball and football official and was a coach and teacher for 45 years at his alma mater, Columbus St. Mary Magdalene School.

Palazzo encouraged the students to consider officiating as a means of earning money. "I tried to sell them (on the fact) that it's flexible," he said. "As opposed to dealing with a boss at a fast-food place, you can get your officiating license as a freshman and the pay is getting much, much better now, so they can earn much, more than some part-time jobs."

Palazzo said officiating is a good way to stay connected to sports for anyone whose athletic career ended in high school. "If they go to college, they can (officiate) in whatever town they're in," he said. "There are a lot of advantages and you can take the course (to get certified) online now. There's a need (for them) in just about every sport. It's got-



Julius Palazzo (center), commissioner of the Catholic Youth Organization boys' athletic programs in the diocese, spoke to Columbus Bishop Hartley High School students in business teacher Bobb Farrell's sports management class in September. Palazzo discussed directing a youth athletic organization and also about his many years of work as an Ohio High School Athletic Association official for baseball, football and basketball.
Photo courtesy Bishop Hartley High School

ten to a point where sometimes games are canceled because they (don't) have enough officials."

To familiarize students with the wide range of responsibilities that come along with managing an athletic team, Farrell has assigned them tasks such as organizing a travel baseball team's budget, promoting a particular team on social media and designing players' uniforms.

The class also has examined the role of athletics as part of the overall objectives of Catholic schools. "I told them that I wanted (an assignment) done in the cooperation of what a Catholic school team would do, which is very different from how a public school team would run things," Farrell said.

In addition to discussing officiating, Palazzo spoke to Farrell's students about the necessity of having an automated external defibrillator (AED) medical device accessible during sporting events.

The device, which can restore an unconscious individual's heartbeat, saved Palazzo's life in 2012 after he collapsed on the field and stopped breathing while

led the crowd in praying the rosary. Use of the AED helped Palazzo regain consciousness.

"I ended up going to the hospital and had bypass surgery," he said.

A year later, he was back to officiating.

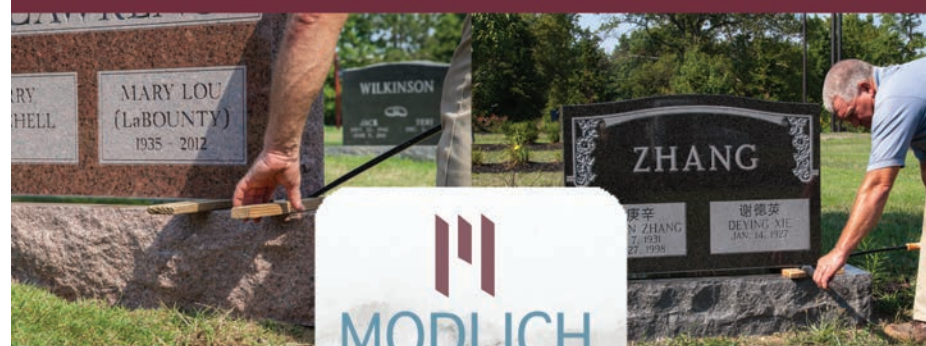
The next time Farrell's sports management class met after Palazzo's presentation, the school nurse at Hartley showed the students how an AED device is used. Farrell said part of his motivation for bringing in Palazzo, in addition to discussing his career, was to show his students class the real possibility that they may one day have to use a lifesaving medical device.

Another segment of Farrell's course requires students to attend a high school athletic event, preferably at Hartley. "They were required to give me a two- to three-paragraph description of what they liked at the event and what they did not," Farrell said. "We are now going to roll up their results and present (them) to our administration and athletic director (to see) what we can do to make our fan experience better."



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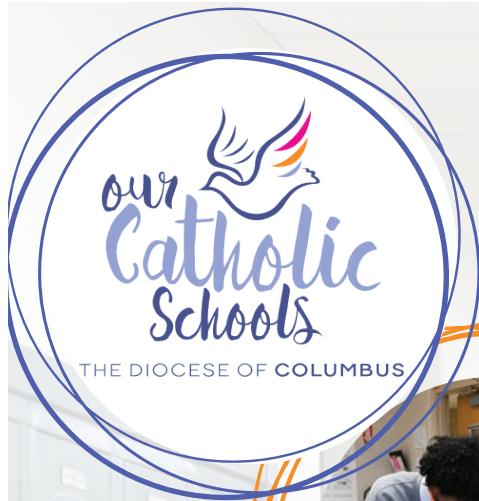
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St. Charles to perform Shakespeare



The Columbus St. Charles Preparatory School Drama Department will present "The Complete Works of William Shakespeare" (abridged) by Adam Long, Daniel Singer and Jess Winfield as its fall theater production at 8 p.m. Thursday-Saturday, Nov. 14-16 and at 3 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 17 in the St. Charles Campus Theatre, 2010 E. Broad St. All 37 plays are covered in 97 minutes during an irreverent, fast-paced romp through the Bard's classics. Adult tickets are \$15 each and student tickets are \$10 each. Reservations may be placed by visiting the St. Charles website homepage at www.scprep.org - Buy Tickets button. (Tickets will not be sold at the door). Cast members include (seated, from left) Grant Dine, Liz Murrin, Thomas Rice, Dash Leopard, Vincent Sylvester; (standing from left) Pablo Bott, Luke Gregory, Alex Le, Finn DeLong, Nelson Wagner, Arav Fernandes and Connor McCarthy.

Photo courtesy St. Charles Preparatory School



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Learn more about how we are forming well-educated men and women of faith for the future at these upcoming open houses!



**Event requires pre-registration. Please visit the school's web site for more information.*



Educating Grades 9-12
Sunday, November 3*
 1 p.m.
www.stcharlesprep.org

BISHOP HARTLEY

Educating Grades 9-12
Thursday, November 7*
 6:30 p.m.
www.bishop-hartley.org

ST. FRANCIS DE SALES

HIGH SCHOOL
Educating Grades 9-12
Sunday, November 10
 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.*
www.sfdstallions.org



Educating PS - Grade 8
Sunday, November 10
 12 - 2 p.m.
www.saintagathaschool.org

BISHOP READY
 HIGH SCHOOL

Educating Grades 9-12
Sunday, November 10
 1 p.m.
www.brhs.org



Educating PS - Grade 8
Wednesday, November 13
 5 p.m.
www.stmichaelworthington.org



SAINT BRIGID OF KILDARE SCHOOL
 Seeking Grace and Wisdom

Educating PS - Grade 8
Thursday, November 14
 4:30 - 6:30 p.m.*
www.stbrigidofkildare.com



SAINT ANDREW SCHOOL

Educating PS - Grade 8
Tuesday, November 19
 5 - 6:30 p.m.
www.standrewschool.com



BISHOP WATTERSON HIGH SCHOOL

Educating Grades 9-12
Sunday, November 24
 1 - 3 p.m.*
www.bishopwatterson.com

Bishop Rosecrans renovates school chapel

By Jonathan Medaugh

ZANESVILLE -- There are two sayings about small things in our lives. Author Richard Carlson famously stated, "Don't sweat the small stuff and it's all small stuff." Emily Dickinson, on the other hand, thought, "If you take care of the small things, the big things will take care of themselves."

It's the second of these thoughts that I kept considering when the Catholic Schools of Zanesville decided to upgrade the chapel located in Bishop Rosecrans High School.

The small and intimate Our Lady of the Rosary Chapel did not have pews with kneelers or the sacramentals needed for Mass. More important, the Body of Christ was absent. That was the big thing. But it became obvious that several "little" things were going to have to be taken care of to renovate the chapel.

Some of last year's seniors approached me about getting the Eucharist in the school chapel. They were frustrated that they were not able to pray in the presence of Christ and that there was not an opportunity for Adoration on school grounds.

As a result of the students' ideas, the curtains that covered glass block windows were removed and the windows were covered with drywall and the dry-



The Blessed Sacrament is exposed on the altar in the chapel at Zanesville Bishop Rosecrans.

Photo courtesy Catholic Schools of Zanesville

wall was painted. Staff member Mark Baker hired a locksmith to open the unused tabernacle and provide us with keys. Lynn Shaffer, the schools' finance director, made white tapestries and a white altar cloth. She also sewed purple and green overlays that can be used during the Church year.

With these few "little" things completed, Kelly Sagan, executive director of Zanesville schools, gave the green light for more renovations.

Working with Father TJ Lehigh, who was then serving the Perry County

Consortium, pews were acquired from Church of the Atonement in Crooksville after its recent closing. The pews were moved with the help of Coach Chris Zemba and some members of his football team. Steve Zemba and Jerry Simeiral saw to the placement and final installation of the pews and ensured all of the kneelers functioned.

After the several "little" things were being taken of, the "big" thing missing was the Body of Christ. Obtaining a monstrance, which is used to display the host for Adoration of the Blessed Sacra-

ment, and a luna, a glass case that holds the sacred host, was a little more problematic. Eventually, those last two pieces were added.

Everything was now in place and ready. The arrival of Father Brian Beal as campus chaplain provided the expertise needed to put a procession together to bring the Body of Christ to the chapel.

On Wednesday, Sept. 4, the entire student population processed from St. Nicholas Church after a school Mass to the Bishop Rosecrans gym, where a hymn was sung, before the Body of Christ was placed in the chapel tabernacle.

Adoration is now taking place on Mondays and Fridays. Theresa Jenkins, the religion teacher at Bishop Rosecrans, and Benny Myers, the religion teacher at Bishop Fenwick, are organizing future adoration activities. Amy Morris, Janna Pitcock and Katie Campbell are working with the K-5 staff in preparation for elementary students to come to adoration.

Recently, the Knights of Columbus, through the efforts of Brian Novotny and Todd Stewart, purchased a humeral veil and cope to be used by a member of the clergy during Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament.

Jonathan Medaugh is the campus ministries director for the Catholic Schools of Zanesville.

OPEN HOUSE

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 10

12:30-2PM

40 E. Dominion Blvd., Clintonville (614)267-4535 www.olpcolumbus.org

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