

# *The* CATHOLIC TIMES

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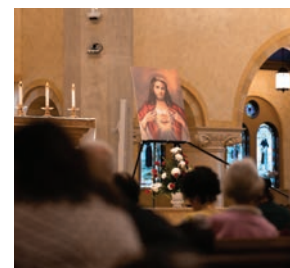
**SOULS CARE,**  
PAGES 9-17

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE



### MARIAN DINNER

The annual Marian Dinner on Oct. 30 at Columbus St. Andrew Church brought together young women interested in vocations with members of religious orders who live and work in the diocese, Page 4



### SACRED HEART CONGRESS

The Sacred Heart Congress at Westerville St. Paul the Apostle Church on Nov. 9 featured the theme "350th Anniversary: Encounter Love, Hope, Healing and Renewal through the Sacred Heart," Page 3



# Parishes share blessings with those in need at Thanksgiving

By Tim Puet

For The Catholic Times

Thanksgiving is a time for families to get together and express their gratitude for the blessings they have received.

The word “family” includes those linked to an individual through biological and marital connections but also takes in the type of families formed by those in a community sharing their financial and spiritual gifts with others in need. Parishes and service agencies throughout the diocese will sponsor gatherings for this type of extended family during the Thanksgiving season on the holiday itself – Thursday, Nov. 28 – and the days surrounding it.

The tradition of a community Thanksgiving Day dinner at Columbus St. Aloysius Church goes back to the early 1970s. Sandy Bonneville, the event’s coordinator for 28 years, said she’s unsure when the dinner started, but that one of the founders was the late Steve Joyce, who got her family involved with it, and that the important thing is that it continues.

“It brings people in the Hilltop community (on the west side of Columbus) as a family year after year – an annual breaking of bread that keeps this diverse family together and still has people taking to each other in an age when it seems everyone stares at their phones,” she said.

The dinner at St. Aloysius, 2165 W. Broad St., will be from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Thanksgiving Day. Bonneville expects to serve about 1,000 dinners either at the parish hall, via takeout or through home delivery performed by Catholic Social Services volunteers. The Columbus Folk Music Society has been part of the event for the past decade and again will provide entertainment.

Dinners also will be taken to people living on the streets or in camps on the Hilltop and in the west side’s Franklinton area. Bonneville and other members of the St. Aloysius outreach committee also distribute food to those without homes



The annual turkey drive at New Albany Church of the Resurrection has a goal of collecting 500 turkeys this year. Pictured (from left) are Andie Frazier, Alex Mullendore, Jude Luffer, Hudson O'Reilly, and Declan Hoffman.

Photo courtesy Church of the Resurrection

in those areas throughout the year, with help from the Urban Encounter organization.

“Our Taking It to the Streets ministry takes our faith from the pulpit and the pew to the pavement,” Bonneville said. “We feed people’s bodies first with the hope of getting them to come to church and feeding their souls.”

Many turkeys for the event will be provided by the Fry Out Cancer organization, which since its founding in 2014 has donated more than \$220,000 from turkey sales to the James Cancer Research Hospital and Solove Research Institute at Ohio State University (OSU) and to Nationwide Children’s Hospital. The Martha Circle, a women’s group affiliated with The Catholic Foundation, will bring pies.

Fry Out Cancer, led by Matt Freedman of New Albany and Dr. Sameek Roychowdhury of the James, became involved with the dinner through Bonneville’s son, Dr. Russell Bonneville Jr., who was a cancer researcher at OSU and now is at the Uni-

versity of Michigan. He has helped at the dinner since childhood and will be in Columbus for this year’s dinner. His father, Sandy’s husband Russell Bonneville Sr., played a key role at the dinner until his death in 2017.

Another long-running Thanksgiving dinner in the diocese is that of Circleville St. Joseph Church, 134 W. Mound St., which is providing Thanksgiving dinners for home delivery or carry out this year for the 40th time.

Parish secretary Mack Blankenship said more than 400 dinners of turkey, ham, green beans, stuffing, mashed potatoes, cranberries and milk usually are distributed each year. Help comes from about a dozen kitchen volunteers and many delivery volunteers, with money coming from the parish general fund and individual donors.

Pickaway County residents who call the church at (740) 477-2549 by Tuesday, Nov. 26 will have dinner delivered to their homes between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. on Thanksgiving Day. Dinners also will be delivered at the same times on Christmas Day, Wednesday, Dec. 25. The registration deadline is Friday, Dec. 20.

The Community Kitchen at the St. John Center, 640 S. Ohio Ave., next to Columbus Holy Rosary-St. John Church, will serve dinner in its dining room on Thanksgiving Day from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., said staff member Natasha Muldrow.

Columbus St. Dominic Church, 453 N. 20th St., will have a holiday lunch from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Friday, Nov. 22 in its hall and will distribute Thanksgiving food boxes beginning at 1 p.m. Monday, Nov. 25 to anyone requesting them, said parishioner Jaylan Dawson.

Many of the turkeys for the Community Kitchen will come from the 27th annual “Bring a Turkey to Church” weekend at Westerville St. Paul Church, 313 N. State St., which will take place after all Masses on Saturday and Sunday, Nov. 23 and 24.

Large containers of Thanksgiving-related food and cash donations for the Community Kitchen also will be donated on that weekend. In recent years, enough turkeys have been collected to allow the kitchen to distribute the excess to other agencies serving needy families.

New Albany Church of the Resurrection, 6300 E. Dublin-Granville Road, is collecting frozen turkeys and donations for other items for the 17th year for Co-

lumbus St. Dominic and St. James the Less churches. Chris Luffler, who took over as coordinator for the collection from its founders, the Dixon family, said a large truck to receive the items will be parked outside the parish ministry center on the Saturdays and Sundays of Nov. 16 and 17 and Nov. 23 and 24. The goal is to collect more than 500 turkeys.

The Joint Organization for Inner-City Needs (JOIN), a diocesan agency at 578 E. Main St., Columbus, that serves the city and Franklin County, will receive at least 250 boxes of food for distribution from the Byron Saunders Foundation, a central Ohio organization that provides Thanksgiving meals annually to families in need, said JOIN director Lisa Keita.

The St. Francis Evangelization Center, 404 W. South St., McArthur, doesn’t have room to host a Thanksgiving dinner but gives about 500 Vinton County families a chance to have a family dinner at home through its annual Turkey Toss program. Eligible families come to the center and receive \$40 food vouchers for use at Campbell’s Market in McArthur, the county’s only full-service grocery, said center director Ashley Riegel. Turkeys also are distributed to about 60 families who live in remote areas of the county.

The St. Vincent de Paul pantry at Logan St. John Church, 351 N. Market St., will distribute baskets with holiday dinner items on Sunday, Nov. 24 from noon to 1 p.m. to families who have registered for one.

Tim Peterson of the parish St. Vincent de Paul Society is asking for help with both donations and distribution, saying a large crowd is expected since the church is the only place in the Logan area distributing food baskets this year. He may be reached at (740) 603-8053.

Sunbury St. John Neumann Church, 9633 E. State Route 37, is part of a Christmas box drive sponsored by Big Walnut Friends Who Share, an outreach of churches in the Sunbury and Galena areas.

The parish is collecting canned potatoes and canned frosting for a Christmas meal, with other churches collecting other items. Anyone attending the church’s 9 a.m. Thanksgiving Day Mass is asked to bring canned or boxed foods for Friends Who Share.

See **THANKSGIVING**, Page 7

## Holy day moved to Monday, Dec. 9

The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, the patronal feast day of the United States, is transferred this year to Monday, Dec. 9 on account of

Dec. 8 falling on the second Sunday of Advent but remains a Holy Day of Obligation. Check parish websites and bulletins for Mass times.



Front page photo

### SOULS CARE

Catholic Cemeteries of Columbus and other cemeteries throughout the diocese are the final resting place for many loved ones who are remembered in a special way in November during the Month of the Holy Souls,

Photo courtesy Randall Schieber

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The 13th annual Sacred Heart Conference included Mass celebrated by Bishop Earl Fernandes on Saturday, Nov. 9 at Westerville St. Paul the Apostle Church.

*Photos courtesy William Keimig*



Bishop Earl Fernandes incenses the gifts at the altar during the Sacred Heart Congress Mass at Westerville St. Paul the Apostle Church. Assisting him is Deacon Sam Severance, a diocesan seminarian.



The faithful pray during the Mass at the Sacred Heart Conference at Westerville St. Paul the Apostle Church on Nov. 9, the feast of the Dedication of the Basilica of St. John Lateran in Rome.

## Sacred Heart Congress marks 350th anniversary of apparitions

By Hannah Heil

*Catholic Times Reporter*

The 13th annual Sacred Heart Congress held at Westerville St. Paul the Apostle Church on Saturday, Nov. 9 gathered faithful from across the diocese as well as several states and countries watching on livestream for a morning of Mass, Adoration, speakers and prayer centered on the Heart of Christ.

This year's congress took place during the 350th anniversary of the Sacred Heart apparitions given by Christ to St. Margaret Mary Alacoque. Christ revealed His Sacred Heart to her as a symbol of His love for mankind.

Celebrating the anniversary of the apparitions, this year's congress theme was "350th Anniversary: Encounter Love, Hope, Healing and Renewal through the Sacred Heart."

The morning began with the recitation of the rosary at 7:30 a.m. led by the Daughters of Holy Mary of the Heart of Jesus, who serve at St. Paul. The congress continued with the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass celebrated by Bishop Earl Fernandes.

The Mass was celebrated on the feast of the Dedication of the Lateran Basilica in Rome. The Archbasilica of St. John Lateran is the cathedral of the Diocese of Rome and seat of the bishop of Rome, the Pope. Nov. 9 marked the 1,700th anniversary of its dedication.

A children's program led by the Daughters of Holy Mary of the Sacred Heart of Jesus was offered during the congress.

Father Nathan Cromly, a priest of the Archdiocese of Denver and founder of the St. John Leadership Institute and Eagle Eye Ministries, served as the first speaker. Father Cromly spoke about the Sacred Heart of Jesus as a source of hope.

He recalled devotion to the Sacred

Heart being a part of his family for years before he was born. He said the image was passed down through generations and is ingrained in his identity.

"I myself am a product of the image of the Sacred Heart hanging in our home," he said.

He encouraged the audience to enthrone the Sacred Heart of Jesus in their homes. By the act of enthronement, he said, a person declares their home space as being governed by Someone higher than themselves.

"When we don't allow God to be at the center of our family life, what are we putting at the center of our family life?" He asked. "There will always be a center. There will always be a governing principle. Someone is leading in your home right now."

He also pointed out that many people strive for excellence and to be at the top of their work, education or athletics. While such aspirations are not necessarily bad, he said religion and faith are often then put in a pocket of "this makes me feel good."

He suggested that there is something more important than becoming a great athlete or a solid career.

"What could be greater than having a good job in the greatest state in the Union?" He asked, referencing the Buckeye State. "Love. Love – a love that's so great it consumes you like a fire."

Father Cromly challenged the audience to let Jesus be their friend and allow love to enter their life. He said they have nothing to lose and everything to gain. He encouraged them to take a step by putting Jesus at the center of their home.

"If you look at this image of the Sacred Heart that's looking at you, you have a Man literally opening His chest to you to reveal that His Heart is on fire for you,"

he said.

"Everyone else will tell us what we are not. Jesus tells us who we are. Put Jesus in your home, so your grandkids grow up under an image of Jesus telling them who they are: 'You're My friend.' Nothing in the world needs to define you."

He said many people want to exclude themselves from the Kingdom of God because they feel unworthy. He also spoke of a common struggle for individuals to realize or understand how beautiful they are in the eyes of God.

"Jesus wants to know, gaze upon and appreciate you more than anyone else – anyone," Father Cromly assured the audience. "Behold the Heart that so loves, that like a fire it consumes itself for you. Behold it. It's a hard thing to look at that image. And He said, 'Behold,' while you're looking at something so intense."

He encouraged those gathered to not lose hope. He said Christians have a right and an obligation to hope.

"There's never a reason for me to stop hoping when He never stops loving," he said of Christ's love. "As long as He loves, I will hope."

Father Cromly offered a second talk later in the morning on the Sacred Heart of Jesus as the "Pool of the Water of Life."

He addressed the pain experienced by parents whose children or grandchildren have left the Church. While such individuals commonly are told or know they are loved by God, Father Cromly encouraged taking the next step, asking them: Does God know that you love Him?

Father Cromly encouraged individuals who feel the faith does not matter to put more into the faith. He challenged individuals to do an extra act, which could be attending Mass one day a week in addition to Sundays.

He also encouraged placing an image

of the Sacred Heart of Jesus in businesses and offices. He recognized common fears of living out the faith in the workplace, but he reminded the audience that they have nothing to lose.

"God loves the world. Do you? He so loved the world that He gave His only Son to die for it. Will you? Young men who are listening, who are wondering about your vocations, Jesus died for His Church. What will you do for God?" He asked.

"I think the time is coming for us to put away with lesser things, where we contend ourselves, in other words, for living concretely for ourselves and for little things that don't really matter, that'll pass away. The time has come for us to dare great things for Christ."

Emily Jaminet, the national director of the Sacred Heart Enthronement Network, shared a ministry update.

She spoke about the ministry's continued mission to equip and assist individuals in promoting and living out devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus in their family, parish and community. The network partners with dioceses, religious orders, apostolates and individuals.

"This isn't a sacrament; this is a devotion that needs to come alive in the hearts of the individuals, so that Jesus Christ can reign, and hearts can become holy," Jaminet said. "Schools can become holy. Homes can become holy. Marriages can be reconciled. Relationships between generations can become healed again."

Father Jonathan Wilson, the pastor at St. Paul, also spoke during the congress.

He recounted two pilgrimages he took this year: one to France for the 350th anniversary of the apparitions, where Christ appeared to St. Margaret Mary Alacoque in Paray-le-Monial, and a parish

*See SACRED HEART, Page 7*



# Religious orders share charisms with young women at Marian Dinner

By Hannah Heil

Catholic Times Reporter

Twelve religious orders gathered for the annual Marian Dinner on Oct. 30 at Columbus St. Andrew Church.

Approximately 40 girls attended the dinner and spent time with consecrated religious sisters while learning about the various orders serving in the diocese.

The 12 religious communities included the Apostolic Sisters of St. John; Children of Mary; Congregation of Sisters of St. Dominic, Immaculate Conception Province; Daughters of Holy Mary of the Heart of Jesus; Daughters of Mary Help of Christians; Dominican Sisters of Mary, Mother of the Eucharist; Dominican Sisters of Peace; Franciscan Sisters of Christian Charity; Franciscan Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary (FIH); Franciscan Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary – Puducherry (FIHM); Little Servant Sisters of the Immaculate Conception; and the Order of the Most Holy Savior of St. Bridget.

Bishop Earl Fernandes was present for dinner and offered remarks on the joy of consecrated life, which, he said, he has witnessed among religious orders in the diocese.

The event was organized by Sister Antoinette Cedrone, FMA, of the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians (Salesian Sisters), who serves as the bishop's delegate for religious.

The evening began with Vespers, or Evening Prayer, at 6 p.m. Young women had an opportunity to join religious sisters in prayers that they profess daily. Vespers is part of the Church's Liturgy of the Hours, which is prayed by religious communities, clergy and many laity.

Attendees could also learn more about consecrated religious life through shared conversations with religious sisters during dinner.

After the shared meal, consecrated religious from four communities gave a witness talk. Their talks offered young women a glimpse into the sisters' personal discernment and journey to consecrated life.

Of the four religious who shared their story, all attended a four-year college and most had careers or earned an advanced degree before taking vows.

Sister Janna San Juan, a Salesian Sister, currently serves as coordinator for diocesan campus ministry at the Columbus St. Thomas More Newman Center near Ohio State University and lives with several Salesian Sisters just north of campus.

Sister Janna shared that she graduated from college with a degree in environmental engineering and worked in the engineering field before making consecrated vows. She has now been a consecrated sister for four years.

While working as an engineer, she

taught faith formation classes at her parish. She said she enjoyed sharing Christ with her class of eighth-grade students and loved it more than her career.

She began exploring religious life after realizing she could share the Lord with youth daily in such a vocation. The Salesian Sisters are dedicated to reaching the youth for Christ and ministering to them.

Sister Janna offered young women three tips for discernment: finding a spiritual director, praying with Scripture and having courage to go forward. She used an Italian phrase, "corragio avanti," meaning, "courage ahead."

Sister Catalina Maria, H. SMCJ, of the Daughters of Holy Mary of the Heart of Jesus, also shared her journey to consecrated religious life. She said her journey began at Franciscan University of Steubenville.

In college, she met several different religious sisters on campus and began attending daily Mass.

"I went to my 'Diary of Saint Faustina,' which is my go-to book, and I opened it to a random page, and there was, 'If only you knew the importance of one single Holy Mass,'" she recalled reading. "So, I started going.

"Years later, I looked that I had written in the margin of the diary what day that was – that was during orientation, and I had no way of knowing this at the time – that was the day that later I took my first vows. So, the Lord, it was as if He was beginning a covenant of love, His Sacred Heart in the Eucharist with me, but only He could have done that."

Sister Catalina Maria said that after spending much time discerning whether she was called to marriage or consecrated religious life she became exhausted. She took a summer off to focus on simply being a "daughter of God."

She spent much of that summer attending daily Mass, making a daily Holy Hour and praying the rosary every day. She said she was very happy and felt much peace.

She realized she would like doing the same things with a community, too, and understood she might be called to religious life, she said. She got to know the Daughters of Holy Mary of the Heart of Jesus.

Visiting with the sisters in Steubenville and attending a discernment retreat, Sister Catalina Maria said she felt peace, joy and "at home." She said she was always ecstatic when she was with the Daughters of Holy Mary of the Heart of Jesus and later entered their community.

"The Lord fulfilled all those longings that I had for the love of a spouse because He became my beloved spouse, and I can only say that I discover His love more and more, and it makes me happier and happier the deeper I go into



Bishop Earl Fernandes is pictured with (from left) Lucy Thompson, Julia Corcoran, and Amelia Flynn at the Marian Dinner on Oct. 30 at Columbus St. Andrew Church.



Twelve religious communities were represented at the Marian Dinner. Photos/William Keimig

it," she said.

The Daughters of Holy Mary of the Heart of Jesus serve at Westerville St. Paul the Apostle Church and in the school.

Sister M. Felicity Wolf of the Congregation of Sisters of St. Dominic, Immaculate Conception Province, shared her story. She teaches theology at Columbus Bishop Hartley High School and has been a Dominican Sister for about six years. She attended college and received a master's degree in teaching before discerning religious life.

After receiving her master's, she said, she thought of becoming a religious sister. While she had spent much time with Franciscan sisters in middle and high school, Sister Felicity said she had not thought of being a sister herself.

She proceeded to visit a community of religious sisters various times. However, the vocation director there told her they did not think she was a fit for the community.

Sister Felicity said she returned home

and spent much time in silent prayer revisiting the call and facing her fears.

"Two years into that, I visited a community of Dominican Sisters, and I thought, they have everything that matters to me: the strong community life, strong prayer life, faithfulness to the Magisterium, the Dominican charism of preaching the truth," she said.

Sister Felicity now lives with Dominican Sisters in a convent on the east side of Columbus.

For discernment, Sister Felicity encouraged young women to take the "next step" rather than attempt to figure out their vocation altogether. She acknowledged that, while having professed temporary vows, she is still discerning too.

Girls also heard from Sister Jose Mary of the Order of the Most Holy Savior of St. Bridget.

Sister Jose Mary made her first profession of religious vows in September at Columbus Holy Family Church. The

See MARIAN, Page 5



## Serra Club hosts vocations luncheon for young men

More than 200 young men in grades 8-12 attended the annual Young Men's Vocation Luncheon sponsored by the Serra Club of North Columbus on Tuesday, Nov. 5 at the Pontifical College Josephinum's Jessing Center.

Students from seven high schools, six middle schools and one homeschooler were served lunch, interacted with seminarians, listened to vocations presentations from two recently ordained priests and toured the Josephinum.

The 205 young men in attendance were accompanied by principals and administrators from their schools. Men and women religious also were on hand.

High schools represented were Newark Catholic, Columbus Bishop Ready, Columbus Bishop Watterson, Columbus St. Francis DeSales, St. Charles Preparatory School, Chesterton Academy and Columbus Bishop Hartley. Eighth graders came from Dublin St. Brigid of Kildare, Delaware St. Mary, Columbus Immaculate Conception, Columbus St. Andrew, Grove City Our Lady of Perpetual Help and Worthington St. Michael schools.

Father Jeff Rimelspach, the Serra Club chaplain, led the opening prayer. Father David Johnstone, parochial vicar at Worthington St. Michael Church and chaplain at St. Francis DeSales High School, and Father Michael Haemmerle, parochial vicar at Westerville St. Paul Church and the diocese's associate director of vocations, shared their testimonies before the recitation of the Angelus prayers followed by the tour of the Josephinum.

Both priests were ordained on May 18 at Columbus St. Andrew Church by Bishop Earl Fernandes.

Father Haemmerle told the young men to examine the deepest desires of their hearts, saying, "Your vocation, whatever it may be, will satisfy those deep desires of your heart, what you're made for."

"For me, one of the deep desires of my heart, when I was discerning the priesthood, was this desire to bring the grace of Confession to people. I received so much grace from going to Confession that it was something I wanted to offer others. And that was how God drew me to the priesthood."

While in the seminary, Father Haemmerle was inspired by watching priests serve as spiritual fathers to their parish-



More than 200 students from diocesan schools attended the Young Men's Vocation Luncheon sponsored by the Serra Club of North Columbus on Tuesday, Nov. 5.  
CT photos by Ken Snow



Father Michael Haemmerle (lower left photo), parochial vicar at Westerville St. Paul the Apostle Church and diocesan associate director of vocations, and Father David Johnstone (lower right photo), parochial vicar at Worthington St. Michael Church and chaplain at Columbus St. Francis DeSales High School, share their vocations stories at the Young Men's Vocation Luncheon.



es and how they impacted the lives of parishioners in good and bad times.

"That was wonderful. It was beautiful," he said. "And I wanted to be able to be a father to a parish someday."

He explained that a vocation is part of God's plan and that not everyone who enters seminary will become a priest.

"You don't have to have your whole life planned out," he said. "If you feel God might be calling you to the priesthood, apply to seminary. See if that's where God is calling you. You're taking that one step."

"But the seminary helps form you to be the saint you agreed to be. And it also helps you discern the priesthood better. And if you leave seminary and you be-

come a better Christian man, it would've been time well spent."

Father Haemmerle pointed out some of the goals for seminarians in the diocese. Among them are to focus on Christ, become obedient sons, embrace the cross, take extreme ownership of mistakes and be a man of integrity.

Alex Nagel, a 16-year-old sophomore at Newark Catholic, said he has prayed to God lately for his vocation and "I would love to be a father one day, and I think that's what He's really encouraging me to do, but I want to experience all this and make sure it's the right decision. I still have a long time to go and I'm still young."

Several students said the luncheon

offered them an opportunity to think about where God might be leading them in the future.

"I'm an altar server and would like to find out more about vocations and, right now, I think I'm called to marriage," said Jerry Maxwell, a 13-year-old eighth grader at Delaware St. Mary.

Gavin Hvizd, a 14-year-old eighth grader at Our Lady of Perpetual Help School, said, "I'm attending the luncheon because I wanted to experience it, to see if Jesus is calling me."

His classmate, Sebastian Buckner, came to "see if I can find what my vocation is and what Jesus is calling me to."

### MARIAN, continued from Page 4

Bridgettine Sisters' convent is located adjacent to Holy Family in the Franklin neighborhood.

The Bridgettines have a specific quality, or charism, of unity. Their order is known for hospitality, attention to guests and centrality of Eucharistic Adoration.

Before becoming a religious sister, Sis-

ter Jose Mary earned a business degree from Ohio State University. She first began exploring consecrated religious life on campus.

She attended a come-and-see retreat with a religious community during college. She told young women about the positive impact the retreat had on her discernment.

"That come-and-see was really, really impactful for me because it just showed me the beauty of religious life, and it also just showed me how many misconceptions I had about religious life," she said. "I think that's really important to be able to spend time with sisters because we all grow up in families. We all know married life to different extents with our

families, our friends' families, the people around us, but none of us grow up in the convent, so it's really helpful to talk to sisters, to go on come-and-sees or just activities sisters are running."

After the religious sisters' witness talks, young women could visit various booths and speak with the sisters to learn more.



# Real life does not always resemble a Hallmark movie

I have a confession. I love a good Hallmark movie. My husband has walked with me through this for 27 years (consecutively, as he reminds me tongue in cheek), and we are still thriving, though check-ins are often required.

For me, a Hallmark-type movie reminds me of the joy of falling in love, the moment we catch someone's eye, the spark of hand-holding, the fun of carefree dates. When I watch this type of movie or read this kind of book, I know there is going to be a happily ever after and really at not so high a price for any character to pay.

We've made family Bingo cards knowing the different tropes and plot elements. Watching with me has become an offering from my children as they smile and check off boxes on their boards or in their minds. However, for me and for many, I presume, the fictional world of a Hallmark-type movie can be both heartwarming and dangerous.

Corrie ten Boom in her novel "The Hiding Place" reminds us that "Comparison is the thief of joy. 'The danger of a Hallmark movie, and why a confession is needed here, is that there have been times I have tried to force my life to look like one and the results never measure up.

A recent case in point is an annual pumpkin festival I have longed to attend.

This was my year. We had no surgeries, no work trips, sporting events or dance. The night was clear, and I was going to walk hand in hand through the pumpkin festival, sipping my pumpkin chai latte. Bright leaves were going to dance beautifully through the air and we would eat all things pumpkin for just a day: pumpkin bread, pumpkin chili, pumpkin donuts, all while holding hands with my beloved and stealing a smooch in the middle of a pumpkin patch.

This was my Hallmark movie dream coming to fruition. My family fully supported me in this endeavor.

## 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.



They helped me choose just the right fall outfit. My husband took the afternoon off from work, filling the car with gas, grabbing cash for parking just in case.

They gathered in the car and had a playlist just for the hour drive. Outfits were planned just in case the opportunity for the perfect family fall picture presented itself. They were prepared to make this moment happen for me.

It might surprise you, but the event did not live up to my expectations. Instead of picturesque pumpkin farms and town squares with couples holding hands and a light autumn breeze making you snuggle into your puffy vest, blocks of the town were filled with carnival games, blaring music, food you'd see at any summer fair, and the exhaust from all the generators was overpowering.

Crowds made it so we could not hold hands and navigate where to go. We divided up and the teens went to grab some food.

As I stood in line for the pumpkin doughnuts and pie, which was a must-do event for me, I looked around and realized that I was not enjoying myself. I started to get frustrated and anxious, thinking once again my quintessential, joy-filled moment was lost to me. As I stood in line, I said a silent prayer for God to help me check my emotions and see this through His eyes.

When everyone met up, I think they took one look at my frazzled and disappointed eyes, which were trying so hard to be cheerful, and hatched a plan. They knew me. "Which way should we go next?" I asked in a way too cheerful voice. "Let's go this way."

They agreed and we headed back the way we came. As my husband gently guided me to the car without an "I'm sorry" or an "Are you OK?," I realized once again how well he knew me.

As the kids popped in the car without asking why we were leaving, they laughed about the weird things they saw, and we passed around the pumpkin doughnuts. We stopped at a Chipotle, and I grabbed dinner. Because there was extra time, we dropped off our youngest at her dance practice that she was going to miss if we had stayed.

Amid the discussion and laughter in the car, I pondered quietly how present God was. How beautiful this moment was, to be known and supported by my family. My heart filled at their simple but genuine efforts to give me this long-anticipated silly desire of my heart.

This moment will forever be a core memory for me, a new verb if you will in Eberhard family lore, the humility of knowing oneself and being known. It's called "pumpkin festivaling."

My family knows my tendency to try to make Hallmark moments out of our big family events. Opening Christmas presents, it's a mad house of joy. Family dinner, so much talking that it's easier to get up and grab your own salt than to ask for it to be passed down the table. Family soccer games, board game night, bonfires ... there's such a beauty in accepting who we are as a family and seeing God present in it all! That is where the true beauty lies.

Perhaps take a moment and learn from my tendency to go "pumpkin festivaling" at family events. Join me in living and celebrate the beautiful life we have been given. Let's create our own Hallmark family movie, just with a more realistic twist.

Thank you, Jesus, for the wisdom to know that living fully in reality far outweighs any comparison.

# The continuing scandal of the Vatican's China policy

In the annals of historical boorishness, it would be hard to find something more egregious than the Holy See's timing as it renewed its 2018 agreement with the People's Republic of China, which allows the Chinese Communist Party a significant role in the appointment of Catholic bishops. That renewal took place on October 22: the liturgical memorial of Pope St. John Paul II, whose defense of religious freedom helped bring down European communism, and whose burning desire to visit China was repulsed by a communist regime that obviously feared he might ignite another revolution of conscience there. The mind boggles at the juxtaposition.

John Paul II's feast was more appropriately observed in London, where Lord Alton of Liverpool, a staunch Catholic, pro-lifer, and human rights advocate helped publicize a report by Aid to the Church in Need on the "Persecuted and Forgotten" – and had this to say about the Vatican-China agreement:

"Ever since it was first signed in 2018, the Sino-Vatican deal has only led to a further increase in and intensification of religious persecution in China and has not led to any improvements whatsoever. Ask Xinjiang's persecuted Uyghur Muslims, Tibet's Buddhists, Christians from all denominations, and Falun Gong. It is deeply problematic that this [agreement] has been renewed yet again with no debate, scrutiny, or, it seems, conditionality. The release from prison of jailed Catholic bishops and priests ought at least to have been a

## 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.



condition for the Vatican's agreement in renewing this tawdry deal. The Vatican should also have called for an end to the continuing unjust imprisonment of Jimmy Lai, a faithful and deeply committed Catholic incarcerated in Hong Kong, as a precondition. Instead, there is a deafening silence when it comes to freedom of religion or belief. The Vatican's silence on human rights and religious freedom in China is profoundly disappointing and dangerously counterproductive."

At the same event in the Palace of Westminster, Lord Alton also read out the names of 10 persecuted Chinese bishops whose cases have been documented by that indefatigable religious freedom campaigner, Nina Shea, in a report published by the Hudson Institute's Center for Religious Freedom. The Shea report's executive summary includes seven action steps that the next U.S. administration should take to address the intensifying crisis of religious freedom in China; one hopes these recommendations will be in play as of January 20. Beyond policy prescriptions, though, the Shea report makes for powerful spiritual reading, as the vet-

eran human rights lawyer (who once defended Nobel Peace Prize laureate Andrei Sakharov) tells the stories of 10 brave men who, faithful to the oath they swore before their consecration as bishops, have been true successors to the martyred apostles who walked with the Lord Jesus and laid down their lives in obedience to his command to "Go ... and make disciples of all nations" (Mt 28:19).

As Advent draws near, remember these men and their witness: Cardinal Joseph Zen, bishop emeritus of Hong Kong, who has lived his retirement at great risk as a voice for the voiceless; Bishop James Su Zhimin, in continuous secret detention for 27 years after being tortured in a labor camp; Bishop Peter Shao Zhumin, taken into secret custody this past January 2, his sixth detention since the Vatican-China agreement was first signed; Bishop Augustine Cui Tai, persecuted since 1993 and now in secret detention, described by one of his congregants as "our bishop (who) has become a sacrificial lamb"; Bishop Julius Jia Zhiguo, founder of an orphanage for disabled children subsequently dismantled by the regime as an "unauthorized religious activity," believed to be under house arrest since 2020; Bishop Joseph Zhang Weizhu, arrested in 2021 while convalescing from cancer surgery and secretly detained without due process; Bishop Joseph Xing Wen-zhi, missing since 2011; Bishop Thaddeus Ma Daquin,

## Giving thanks at the table of the Lord

By Chris Gay

"It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation to give You thanks, Lord Holy Father almighty and eternal God."

This line from the Mass reminds me of what I'm supposed to do each and every day before I ask the Father for anything. As soon as I get up, have my usual coffee (black with a touch of water), I make time to enter into dialogue with our Lord to ask for the graces necessary to make it through this day, make the best decisions in every moment and try to find my purpose.

Pope Francis in his latest encyclical says, "Instead of running after superficial satisfactions and playing a role for the benefit of others, we would do better to think about the really important questions in life. Who

am I, really? What am I looking for? What direction do I want to give to my life, my decisions and my actions? Why and for what purpose am I in this world? How do I want to look back on my life once it ends? What meaning do I want to give to all my experiences? Who do I want to be for others? Who am I for God? All these questions lead us back to the heart."

I ask myself, how many times throughout the day do I lift my heart up the Lord? Am I just running after superficial satisfactions? Am I truly taking the time to be still and turn within? Am I taking the time to serve others and help them see the face of Christ?

In one way or another, life can have a funny way of making us heartless. It's easy to say hello to our friends and loved ones using modern day technology, but how do we genuinely encounter people?

This Thanksgiving, I'm extra grateful for the gift of the life that I continue to live. So many people of my generation never made it this far. From drug addiction to the criminal lifestyle, many have perished and continue to do so. The saving graces of our Lord have given me a new lease on life, free from the horrors of addiction and self-deprecation. Every one of us has value; aren't the sparrows even taken care of?

How then can I use what I have to serve others? How can I spread the Gospel to those who need to hear it most? The way we can is by the example of the life we live. St. Francis says, "Preach the Gospel at all times ..." And he continues, "... and if necessary use words."

*Chris Gay is a member of St. John Paul II Scioto Catholic Parish and a contributor to The Catholic Times.*

### THANKSGIVING, continued from Page 2

West Jefferson Sts. Simon and Jude Church, 9350 High Free Pike, is collecting containers of instant mashed potatoes, gravy and stuffing and also monetary donations for meat for the community's Good Samaritan Food Pantry. It also is putting together "blessing bags" of clothing, personal care items and toiletries for those who need them. The parish Knights of Columbus council is collecting winter coats, gloves and hats through Sunday, Dec. 8.

The pantry at Columbus St. James the Less Church, 1652 Oakland Park Ave., will distribute nearly 400 two-box food baskets for Thanksgiving, said parish St. Vincent de Paul Society member Jim Siebold. One box will contain turkey, produce, bread and eggs, with nonperishable items in the other. Siebold and pantry manager Pat Woods said the items are donated by the Church of the Resurrection, Westerville St. Paul Church and several other parishes and by Columbus St. Francis DeSales High School students.

Zoar Holy Trinity Church, 1835 Dover-Zoar Road N.E., in cooperation with

the Tuscarawas Valley Ministerial Association, will distribute dinners on Nov. 24 to homes, workplaces, domestic violence shelters, firehouses and hospices. The dinners will be prepared at the church and include turkey, gravy, mashed potatoes, dressing, cranberry salad and pie.

New Lexington St. Rose Church, 309 N. Main St., is sponsoring its annual Turkey Trot 5-kilometer run or walk at 9 a.m. Thanksgiving Day in the parking lot of its former school at 119 W. Water St. Registration is \$25 on the day of the race. The parish also is collecting food items on Nov. 24 for distribution the following day. The St. Vincent de Paul Society is providing turkeys with parishioners asked to donate the rest.

Both Zanesville parishes will be collecting food for the holidays at Masses during the Thanksgiving period. The collection at St. Thomas Aquinas Church, 955 E. Main St., will be at the 10 a.m. Thanksgiving Mass while at St. Nicholas Church, 144 N. 5th St., will take place at Masses on the weekend of Nov. 21 and 22 and in its office from Nov. 23 to 25.

St. Vincent Family Services is collecting donations to support Thanksgiving meals for approximately 100 families and clients in its care, said Carson Firestone of St. Vincent. It also is running its annual Adopt A Family program, in which families or individuals receive information on a needy family, shop for items on the family's wish list, wrap and label the gifts and deliver them to the St. Vincent Family Center on a specified time and date. This year's delivery dates will be Thursday and Friday, Dec. 5 and 6.

To apply as a gift giver, go to <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/AdoptAFamily2024>. Monetary gifts may be made at any time online at [www.svfs.ohio.org](http://www.svfs.ohio.org) or sent to St. Vincent Family Services, 1490 E. Main St., Columbus, Ohio 43205.

The Scioto Catholic Community will serve dinner from 11 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on Thanksgiving Day at the Holy Redeemer Activity Center, 1325 Gallia St., Portsmouth. Carryouts will be available for those unable to attend.

The Lancaster Basilica of St. Mary of the Assumption, 132 S. High St., will col-

lect nonperishable food and toilet items at its 9 a.m. Thanksgiving Day Mass to benefit the parish food pantry.

Columbus St. Christopher Church, 1420 Grandview Ave., in partnership with Trinity Catholic School on the parish grounds, is sponsoring a food drive to support the Mid-Ohio Food Collective.

Columbus Christ the King Church, 2777 E. Livingston Ave., is conducting a novena to Christ the King through Saturday, Nov. 23. Its annual parish awards will be presented the following day at its 10 a.m. English and 12:30 p.m. Spanish Masses and will be followed at 1:30 by a celebration of the Feast of Christ the King at All Saints Academy on the parish campus. Thanksgiving Day Masses will be at 8:30 a.m. (English) and 10 a.m. (Spanish).

Its sister parish, Columbus St. Thomas the Apostle, 2692 E. 5th Ave., will have a Thanksgiving Fellowship Sunday at 11:30 a.m. on Nov. 17 (for parish members only) and a Mass in English at 8:30 a.m. Thanksgiving Day.

### WEIGEL, continued from Page 6

replaced by a regime-compliant bishop in a move supinely approved by the Vatican; Bishop Melchior Shi Hongzhen, confined to a parish church compound for 15 years and cynically recognized by the regime as bishop of Tianjin because he's 95 and too frail to carry out his episcopal duties; Bishop Vincent Guo Xijin,

deprived of his episcopal see by Pope Francis as a condition of the 2018 Sino-Vatican agreement, forced to sleep on the street during the winter, his whereabouts now unknown.

The Church owes Nina Shea and David Alton a great debt of gratitude for bringing these 21st-century

martyr-confessors to the world's attention. That such a debt will not be acknowledged in this pontificate is shameful. That the degrading, embarrassing, and evangelically destructive Vatican-China agreement has been renewed is nothing short of scandalous.

### SACRED HEART, continued from Page 3

pilgrimage to Italy.

He also reflected on the Holy Father's recent encyclical on the Sacred Heart.

"The Sacred Heart is relevant; it's not outdated," Father Wilson said. "This is the center. This is, if you will, the heart of the renewal of the Church, which is the heart of the renewal of the world."

"I think we have to rediscover that: I think that's why, a reason why our Holy Father wrote this letter, was to repropose the Sacred Heart."

The congress concluded with Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.

Father Stash Dailey, the pastor at Worthington St. Michael the Archangel Church, led those gathered in the Litany of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. He also blessed Sacred Heart images.

Father Dailey is a co-founder of the Sacred Heart Enthronement Network and host of the Sacred Heart Hour program on St. Gabriel Catholic Radio.

For more information on enthronement to the Sacred Heart, visit [www.WelcomeHisHeart.com](http://www.WelcomeHisHeart.com).

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# Surrendering to God's will in life and death: Be not afraid

By Michele Williams

My uncle Dan and Aunt Jan have lived in Florida most of my life. Three of their four kids live in Florida, one in Tennessee, and all of them have beautiful families with strong ties to one another.

Growing up, our annual visits were what I looked forward to the most. I thought Florida was the most exotic, exciting place on Earth and they were so lucky to live there! My cousins were so connected with my brothers and me, we'd pick up exactly where we left off the prior visit every time.

Throughout my incarceration, our relationships have deepened and matured. Dan and Jan are two of my strongest advocates; they've continuously given loving support and wise counsel. We've shared countless letters and phone calls, many visits, and they always include me in the Florida family functions via 30-second videograms.

At the beginning of October, Dan went into the hospital for tests. He and Jan love to travel, but he wasn't bouncing back as quickly as usual from a trip out west. He was tired and thought maybe he'd become anemic or something. After a tense week and a confusing battery of tests, the diagnosis came: terminal blood leukemia with a life expectancy of two weeks. Our entire family was rocked to its core.

When I was told, I almost dropped the phone receiver. (Good thing prison phones are 50 years old, made of steel, and permanently attached to the wall.) My thoughts raced: How can he have blood cancer? He's younger than Dad; how can he only have two weeks to live? God, what happened to Unkie Dan? It was simply unbelievable, yet, oh so true.

Dan and Jan's kids descended on the hospital for an emergency family meeting. Dan decided he wanted to go into hospice care and die at home so they could all spend as much time together in the most comfortable environment possible. Thus began a 10-day span to be titled *The Frenzy*. Everybody leapt into action -- rear-

raising furniture, grocery shopping for a lot of people, making care plans and, sadly, funeral Mass arrangements. There was an underlying urgency in everything, fueled by a timeline no one could guess.

My parents needed to get to Florida as soon as possible. Unfortunately, Hurricane Milton was going to get there first, so Mom and Dad had to delay their trip by three days. The weight of the wait was agonizing. Would they be too late? No one knew. Milton passed through just enough to the north to blessedly spare Dan and Jan's neighborhood. When Mom and Dad finally arrived, the reunion between the two brothers was deeply poignant.

Obviously, I couldn't go to Florida, so I did the next best thing -- I went to the chaplain's office to arrange a bedside video visit ASAP. Chaplain Buss was wonderful, and even gave permission for me to bring Simon (my cat) for therapy and to meet the family.

When our video connected, I visited with my cousins and Jan before she turned the laptop toward Dan. Simon charmed everyone, giving us some much-needed levity. Then Unkie Dan and I shared memories, stories and Bible verses as well as more personal philosophical and introspective matters.

When I asked him, "What's your favorite hymn?" he got choked up and had to take a minute before answering. With tears in his eyes, he said, "Be Not Afraid." That got me choked up as I said I'd sing it for him at our next prison Mass. To end our visit with "Goodbye and I love you" was almost too much to bear.

Suddenly, my heart was like a metronome, swaying between grief and gratitude. Grief for our impending loss; gratitude for having one more chance to visit. Grief for my aunt and cousins enduring Dan's inevitable decline and death; gratitude for their strength and faith.

That night, in the silence of my cell, laying on the top bunk with Simon curled up at my feet, I wept. I felt so very confined and guilty for still being in this place. The failure of my last parole hearing reared its ugly head to

raise the misery index a few more notches. I begged God for pardon and peace of mind, but especially a hug -- because I really needed one! Simon chose that moment to crawl up and put his head under my chin. All I could think was thank you, God, for my hug!

I did follow through on my promise to sing "Be Not Afraid" at Mass two days later. It was for the Offertory and I sang solo and a Cappella. I wanted him to hear the purity of the words from 1,000 miles away: "Be not afraid. I go before you always. Come follow me, and I will give you rest." It was my best offering, my best gift to Unkie Dan. There wasn't a dry eye in the chapel.

The Frenzy was replaced with *The Calm*, which was defined by miraculous peace, love and a "one day at a time" mindset. Dan would have good days, walking around the house with his walker or sitting on the porch swing with his "sweet Jan," and eating pretzels. He would have bad days with brain fog and zero energy. There was no predictability to the ups or downs. There was just acceptance and gratitude for another day of being with family.

As we enter into the fifth week of *The Calm*, every phone call I make is initially wrought with anxiety and preparedness for bad news. Both are eclipsed by relief and thankfulness at the sound of Unkie's voice. Aunt Jan's daily mantra is "Our faith is strong. Our family is strong. God loves us." I've adopted it too, because in the jumbled mess of my heart and prayers, it simply makes sense. Plus, it's easy to remember when I'm overwhelmed!

Unkie Dan has taught me many things in my life. The importance of love, honesty and forgiveness are among the top five. During this tragic ordeal, though, I learned what it looks like to completely surrender to God's will with vulnerability, dignity and trust. What a beautiful lesson. Amen.

*Michele Williams is an inmate at the Ohio Reformatory for Women.*

## Best way to learn to evangelize is by just doing it

Many years ago, when I made the career change from marketing to fitness, I took classes and received as many fitness certifications as possible so that I could teach people how to get stronger and keep them safe. I quickly learned that while all that training is great, the only way to become a good fitness teacher is to teach. On-the-job experience was both exciting and a bit daunting, especially at first.

It's funny that our call to evangelization as Catholics is also both exciting and a bit daunting. While we are all called to live our faith in our daily lives, we are also called to share our faith journey and invite others into a relationship with Jesus Christ.

We might feel that we don't know enough or we ar-

### HOLY AND HEALTHY | Lori Crock

Lori Crock is a SoulCore Rosary prayer and exercise leader and a St. Brendan parishioner. Lori is online at [holyandhealthycatholic.com](http://holyandhealthycatholic.com), where she shares her passion for faith and fitness.



en't holy enough. We aren't as versed in scripture as we'd like to be or we're not sure we can answer key questions about our faith. We are aware of our weaknesses and sinfulness. We struggle with the courage to speak about our faith in everyday situations and with people who don't share our beliefs.

Again, there is no teacher like experience. We step out in faith anyway. We share our faith journey, encourage and invite others to know Jesus. We pray, stay close to the sacraments and keep learning about our faith through the sacramental life, scripture and the lives of the saints. We are imperfect and that's OK. We share our ups and downs honestly. Vulnerability is attractive. Authenticity is critical. We walk this journey with Jesus in trust and surrender.

This call to share the love of Jesus with those whom God places in our lives is immensely important. St. Thomas Aquinas said, "Live in such a way that those who know you, but don't know God, will come to know God because they know you." Yes, our lives tell a story that will witness to Jesus working in our lives.

There is an urgency in this sharing of our lives and our faith as our world needs His love, His healing and His peace, and we are the ones who need to bring it. Your way of evangelizing might be different than mine, but the key is to stay rooted in the love of Jesus. Jason Evert said, "Love is the greatest form of evangelization because it makes an invisible God visible." Responding with love, especially in trying circumstances, is a beautiful and powerful witness to Jesus living in us.

Bishop Robert Barron said, "A story can sing and not just tell it." As we go out and share our stories about how God is working in our lives, to connect Him with others, we are invited to "sing" rather than tell or proselytize. A song evokes emotion, moves hearts and lifts us out of ourselves. That is our desire in sharing our stories. We pray that the goodness, beauty and truth of our journey with Jesus captivates them, entices them, and invites them in. We plant the seeds and Jesus and the Holy Spirit spur the growth.

I'm not sure who said this: "Your faith is personal, but it is not private." This summarizes for me this call on our lives to go out, to share, to love, to evangelize. Let us pray for great courage, let us pray to be sensitive to the Holy Spirit's promptings to speak powerful and beautiful words about this amazing journey through life with Jesus.

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## Green burials and liquifying bodies?

**Dear Father,  
What is the Church's teaching on "green" burials?  
Like, can I have my body liquified?**  
-Paislee

Dear Paislee,

The Catholic Church is very "green." Now that I have all my Irish readers' attention, I mean, of course, that the Catholic Church holds dear to her heart the principle of environmental ecology. All that God has created is good: the planets and stars, our planet earth, and all the inhabitants of the earth, including everything from bacteria and mosquitoes to human beings.

The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* tells us that we "must ... respect the particular goodness of every creature, to avoid any disordered use of things which would be in contempt of the Creator and would bring disastrous consequences for human beings and their environment" (339).

The human body, whose principle of life is the human soul created by God, has a special dignity all its own. It is the human soul that causes us to treat a previously living human being with the utmost respect. Even non-Christian cultures treat deceased human bodies with a special respect, typically by burying them in distinct places with particular rites.

We Catholics understand that the deceased body may be used for scientific research. For example, we are not opposed to autopsies to determine the cause of death. One may want to donate one's body to science for the training of doctors or to better understand how to eradicate diseases. In some cases, it is beneficial to donate organs from our deceased bodies, so long as death was not hastened or caused in order to harvest organs. We even acquiesce to cremation, "provided that it does not demonstrate a denial of faith in the resurrection of the body" (*Catechism*, 2301).

### 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.*



When it comes to being "green," composting our leaves or our garbage is fine; human composting is not. Human composting and aquamation (liquefying) do not show proper respect to our bodies. The squeamish should avoid the next three paragraphs explaining the process. They are quotes from the U.S. Bishops' March 2023 document "On the Proper Disposition of Bodily Remains."

"In alkaline hydrolysis, the body is placed in a metal tank containing about 100 gallons of a chemical mixture of water and alkali and then subjected to both high temperature and high pressure in order to speed decomposition. In a matter of hours, the body is dissolved, except for some bone material. In human composting, the body is laid in a metal bin and surrounded by plant material (such as alfalfa, wood chips, straw, etc.) that fosters the growth of microbes and bacteria to break down the body. Heat and oxygen are added to accelerate the decomposition process. After about a month the body is entirely decomposed into soil."

"After the alkaline hydrolysis process, there are... remnants of the bones that can be pulverized. ... In addition, there are the 100 gallons of brown liquid into which the greater part of the body has been dissolved. This liquid is treated as wastewater and poured down the drain into the sewer system (in certain cases it is treated as fertilizer and spread over a field or forest). This procedure does not show adequate respect for the

human body, nor express hope in the resurrection."

"The end result of the human composting process is also disconcerting, for there is nothing left but compost, nothing that one can point to and identify as remains of the body. The body and the plant material have all decomposed together to yield a single mass of compost. What is left is approximately a cubic yard of compost that one is invited to spread on a lawn or in a garden or in some wilderness location. Like alkaline hydrolysis, human composting is not sufficiently respectful of the human body. In fact, the body is completely disintegrated. There is nothing distinguishably left of the body to be placed in a casket or an urn and laid to rest in a sacred place where Christian faithful can visit for prayer and remembrance."

It is because of our belief in the sanctity of the human body and the resurrection of the body from the dead that we insist on Christian burial in the sacred and blessed ground of Catholic cemeteries. If a Catholic cemetery is unavailable, then at least the ground in which the body is buried should be blessed by a Catholic priest.

To treat the body as something to be discarded through composting or aquamation is contrary to the holiness of our bodies and the eventual reintegration of our bodies with our souls at the end of time in the resurrection of the dead. This holds true for those who wish to be cremated for anti-Catholic reasons, such as a denial of the resurrection of the body. We do not become angels when we die; our souls await the resurrection of our bodies. Only then can we enjoy all that heaven will offer.

The Church may be "green," but she is not willing to place earthly ecology over and above the sacrality of our bodies, even when we are dead.

Go to the cemeteries and pray for those who have gone ahead of us.

## November is National Hospice and Palliative Care Month

By Father Bob Penhallurick

As Christians, we hold that every human life is unique and cherished by God, and that all human life is to be valued and respected from conception until natural death. The elections last week showed once again the importance of life issues and in particular those related to the preborn. Our witness in Respect Life Month was a powerful reminder of what is at stake. Our witness reminds the world that the beauty and dignity of human life is not dependent on what someone can do for me, or on the quality of life I choose to bestow on that person. Rather, it is rooted in our intrinsic worth as men and women uniquely made in the image and likeness of God.

As this election cycle ends, we go forward knowing that this witness to life is not focused on a day, a week or even a month. It is part of the air we breathe and every day is a new opportunity to serve the dignity of the human person as a pro-life missionary.

Too often, social media repeats the falsehood that our work for life doesn't go beyond the preborn. We can counter this by highlighting the Church's teaching on our care for our neighbor at whatever critical juncture they face in their journey of life.

We have another opportunity this month to witness to the intrinsic worth of every person. November is National Hospice and Palliative Care month and Bishop Earl Fernandes has asked that we spotlight this important area of ministry. November gives us a wonderful

opportunity to demonstrate that our care and concern extends to all stages of life, including those who are facing a terminal diagnosis and nearing the end of life.

In 2020, the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith issued the letter *Samaritanus Bonus* on the care of persons in the critical and terminal phases of life. The note reminds us that the antidote for all attacks on life is not to attack back but to witness in action and to do so sacrificially. "Rather than condemning those looking to hasten death, the Christian must offer to the sick the help they need to shake off their despair."

*Samaritanus Bonus* provides the beautiful example of the Good Samaritan who goes out of his way to help the injured Samaritan and demonstrates Christ's sacrificial love in action, meeting the stranger in his need. He does not see the man as a burden or an inconvenience or as someone who is unclean as others do, but rather a person to be loved, valued and healed. The parable reminds us of our responsibility to do the same when we encounter people who face sickness, disease and end of life care. The person in front of us must always know that they are loved and cherished by God's family as much as they are by God. They must receive from us the sort of solidarity and love that reaches beyond the expectations of this world and into the life that is to come.

Many of us wonder how we are to do this. Thankfully, there are resources available that can help all of us deepen our awareness of the Church's teaching, and guide us as we face difficult moral scenarios.

They highlight the importance of a Catholic presence in medicine, the often complex issues that we face as technology and expectations advance and the care we owe to our loved ones and neighbors.

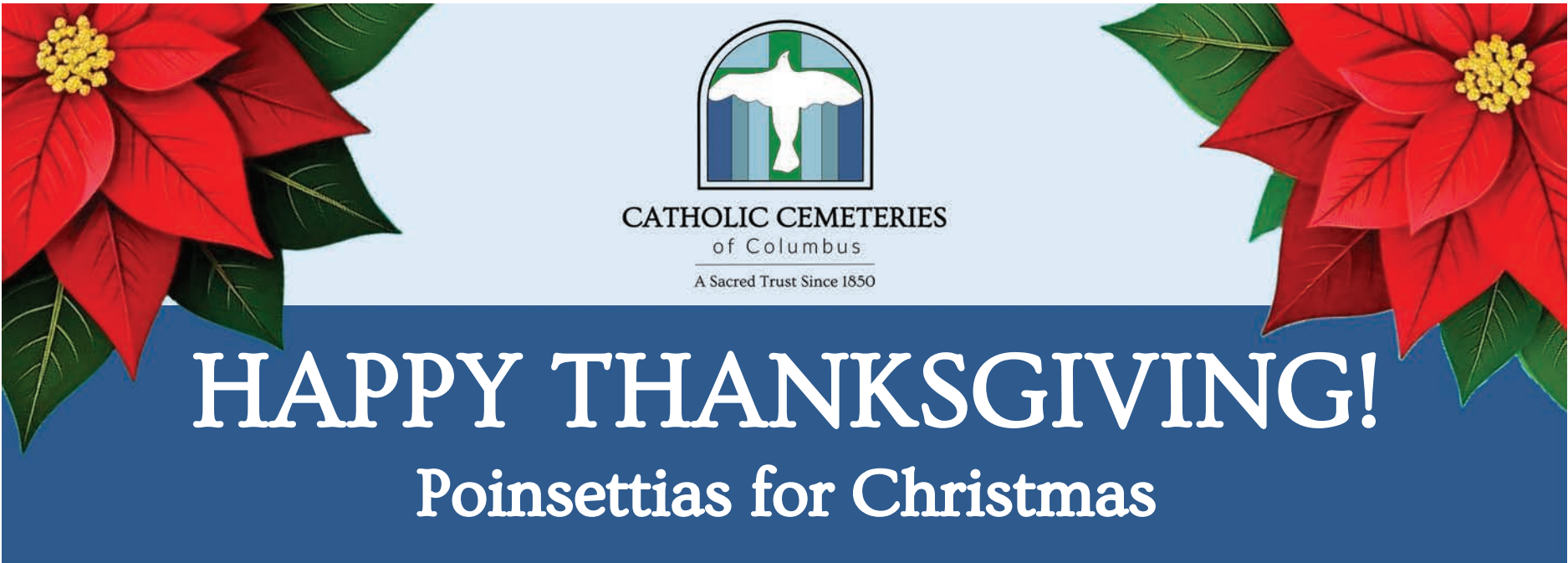
The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops has produced a special edition of *Word of Life* as a toolkit with these resources. This is available to everyone at the following link: [PCH 2024 BOW parish-kit-wol-special-edition \(1\).pdf](https://www.usccb.org/parish-kit-wol-special-edition-1.pdf) ([usccb.org](https://www.usccb.org))

I encourage you to review what is available online and continue your efforts for life in November by highlighting the importance of care for one's neighbor as the end of human life draws near. *Samaritanus Bonus* concludes with the following exhortation:

"The Good Samaritan, who puts the face of his brother in difficulty at the center of his heart, offers him whatever is required to repair his wound of desolation and to open his heart to the luminous beams of hope. Healed by Jesus, we become men and women called to proclaim his healing power and provide care for our neighbors. The vocation to the love and care of another brings with it the rewards of eternity as made explicit by the Lord in the parable of the final judgment: inherit the kingdom, for I was sick and you visited me. When did we do this, Lord? Every time you did it for the least ones, for a suffering brother or sister, you did it for me (cf. Mt 25: 31-46)."

Father Bob Penhallurick is the director of the diocesan Respect Life Office and the pastor at Columbus St. Catharine of Siena Church.





Thanksgiving is a time to thank God for all the blessings He has bestowed on us.

It is also a time to remember, honor, and celebrate the lives of our loved ones who have died and are buried at Catholic Cemeteries of Columbus. During the Advent season we welcome your visit to the Catholic Cemeteries of Columbus.

Before Christmas, we decorate our Cemetery chapels with poinsettias. Please consider purchasing one or more of these decorative poinsettias in memory of your loved ones buried at Catholic Cemeteries.

**Potted poinsettias will be used to decorate:**

- Our Mother of Sorrows Chapel at St. Joseph Cemetery
- the Chapel Mausoleum at Resurrection Cemetery
- the Chapel Mausoleum at Holy Cross Cemetery

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# Local purgatorial society devoted to praying for holy souls

By Hannah Heil  
Catholic Times Reporter

For Michael LaMorte, a devotion to the holy souls in purgatory had his name all over it.

His last name means “the death” in Latin and Italian. It was no surprise then, perhaps, that he was devoted to praying for souls who have died but not yet achieved the glory of heaven.

His prayers later bore fruit in the form of the Central Ohio Purgatorial Society. The society is a lay apostolate in the diocese dedicated to offering prayers, fasting, Mass and other spiritual works of mercy to benefit the holy souls in purgatory.

The society is headquartered at Worthington St. Michael the Archangel Church. It is recognized by the diocese as a private association of the faithful.

In its beginnings, LaMorte would pray for souls in purgatory during his time in Eucharistic Adoration.

“I had found some prayers for the holy souls, and I would pray this chaplet and litany when I would go in for my Holy Hour, and then, from there, it was just me on every Tuesday,” he recalled. “I decided that every first Tuesday I would fast and pray for the holy souls.

“One day, during the fish fry at St. Mike’s, I turned to Bill, who was making the macaroni and cheese, I believe, and we started talking and found out that he also has a devotion to the holy souls. And I was like, ‘Hey, I do this thing on every first Tuesday. Would you be interested in joining with it?’”

The rest was history.

LaMorte and Bill Hinger, also a parishioner at St. Michael, joined forces. The two began praying for the holy souls

in purgatory every first Tuesday of the month after their parish’s 6:30 a.m. Mass.

“At some point in time, I made the conclusion that praying for the holy souls will benefit them firstly but also may help me out in the long run when I leave this earthly life and stand before the judgment seat of God myself,” Hinger said.

Others caught on and began joining LaMorte and Hinger for the first Tuesday devotion.

A few years ago, Father Michael Lumpe, St. Michael’s pastor at the time, encouraged Hinger to see Msgr. Stephan Moloney, the then-vicar general, about writing a formal constitution. With the bishop’s approval, the Central Ohio Purgatorial Society was established.

Any Catholic in good standing, of good moral character and who has reached the age of reason in the Church is invited to join the Central Ohio Purgatorial Society in praying for the dead, one of the spiritual works of mercy.

Those interested in participating are encouraged to join in the first Tuesday devotion.

The devotion includes making a suitable fast on the first Tuesday of the month, such as water only, bread and water, or a daylong mortification through 7 p.m.; attending Mass and offering it for souls in purgatory; and praying the Chaplet for the Dead and Litany for the Holy Souls in Purgatory.

While the society meets routinely on the first Tuesday of the month, this month, which the Church dedicates to the holy souls in purgatory, the devotion was moved to Saturday, Nov. 2, All Souls Day.

“On Nov. 2, we did have Father (Stash) Dailey lead the litany and chaplet after

Mass, and almost everybody who came to that Saturday morning Mass stayed – the 8:15 a.m. Mass – and we had probably about between 30 and 40 people reciting the litany and the chaplet.”

About five or six individuals join LaMorte and Hinger regularly for the monthly devotion. As many as 80 people are on the society’s mailing list.

LaMorte said they are discussing with Father Dailey, the pastor at St. Michael, ways to enhance the society and draw more individuals to pray for the holy souls.

“Father Dailey has expressed being open to having that votive Mass, where it could be a requiem Mass with the dark vestments and do specific readings for the holy souls, as opposed to being just a ... Mass of the day,” he said.

A votive Mass is offered for a votum, or special intention. Votive Masses do not correspond to the Church’s Divine Office and Mass of the day, but rather respond to devotional desires and preferences and intend to foster devotion to one of the central mysteries, such as the angels, saints or Our Lady.

The Mass for the Dead, or the requiem Mass, is celebrated on All Souls Day and for funerals.

LaMorte recognized that each person’s devotion to the holy souls will be different.

“Everyone’s encouraged to form their own devotion, but the first Tuesday is the one day that we want to set aside where we all pray the litany and the chaplet,” he said.

“If some people want to be a prayer warrior like Bill and pray for the holy souls every single day of the month, then that’s awesome. If they just want to do

the first Tuesday, that’s awesome. If you want to do something in between, that’s awesome, too. The main point is just to increase the awareness and increase the prayers.”

“It’s not a, ‘If you want to be a member of the club, you got to show up every first Tuesday.’ That’s not it either,” Hinger added, “but we want to give those who are interested an opportunity to formally meet ... on a monthly basis, and right now, that venue is St. Michael’s on the first Tuesday after 6:30 a.m. Mass. It’s kind of a springboard into their own personal devotion, too.”

St. Catherine of Genoa (1447-1510) was selected as the patron saint of the Central Ohio Purgatorial Society. Catherine was a married woman who devoted her life to God and caring for the sick. She was also a mystic who had a conversion experience and wrote about purgatory.

In medieval Europe, associations formed to pray, fast and offer Masses for the dead. Names of members who died were often recorded, and names in the book were prayed for perpetually. Confraternities would sometimes build a chapel next to the town church.

Confraternities dedicated to praying for the dead have gained and lost popularity in Europe throughout the centuries. Few purgatorial societies or confraternities exist in the United States.

For more information on the Central Ohio Purgatorial Society, and prayers for the Chaplet for the Dead and Litany for the Holy Souls in Purgatory, visit [www.HolySoulsColumbus.com](http://www.HolySoulsColumbus.com).

## Organizations offer support after loss of young child

By Hannah Heil  
Catholic Times Reporter

When Kambra Malone lost her baby in 2005 during pregnancy, she didn’t know what to do or who to contact.

She began writing a guide for others in the same situation, hoping that no one would experience the loss of direction that she did.

“It’s the most unnatural and horrible thing to ever happen to a parent,” Malone said. “You never expect to lose your children.”

Her efforts soon became Back In His Arms Again ministry, an organization that provides education, care, guidance and financial services for families experiencing the loss of a child. Malone serves as the organization’s executive director.

“It’s been the greatest honor and blessing to be a part of this and to have something that was founded out of my own grief,” she said.

When Back In His Arms Again was founded in 2005, Malone said she received between two and five calls a month. Now, a typical monthly call volume averages 100.

The ministry is entirely supported by personal donations and grants, and it serves any family who has lost children up to age 2. Malone said, in certain situations, the organization might be able to offer assistance above that age limit.

“We help any baby from the age of conception until the age of 2,” she said. “It doesn’t matter if you’re a few weeks pregnant, a few months pregnant – we help with all of it: miscarriage, stillbirth, death after birth, anything that you can think of as far as losing a baby.”

The ministry foremost is dedicated to educating individuals and spreading the word about the resources they offer, so families know what is available to them before being in a situation where they need it.

“Keeping people educated and in-

formed is our number one goal,” Malone said.

She hopes that the various resources offered by Back In His Arms Again will benefit families and they are not left searching for help as she was.

“I found myself honestly flipping through the Yellow Pages in the year 2005, trying to figure out, who do I call, who’s going to pick the baby up from the hospital, where are they going to go, and then, what’s going to happen, and, do I need a funeral home or do I not need a funeral home?” she recalled.

Back In His Arms Again seeks to educate physicians, chaplains, religious leaders and staff at women’s centers about the resources the organization offers. They coordinate with hospitals, funeral homes and outside services.

Back In His Arms Again connects families with various organizations such as Newborns in Need, which has a local



A “Wave of Light” event was held Oct. 15 on Pregnancy and Infant Loss Awareness Day at Resurrection Cemetery in Lewis Center. Photo courtesy Catholic Cemeteries of Columbus



# Act now to remain faithful at the end of life

By Beth Vanderkooi

As often as we talk about threats to the dignity of human life at its earliest stages, we are increasingly facing threats from the culture of death at its end.

These threats tend to come in three forms. The first is in a legislative or legal push for assisted suicide and euthanasia. The second is from an unfamiliarity with how to address end-of-life decisions and bioethical considerations. The third is understanding and executing appropriate advance medical directives so that our wishes regarding care and treatment can be followed.

Certainly, assisted suicide and euthanasia continue to press upon Americans. Assisted suicide has been legalized in 10 states and the District of Columbia. Several years ago, Ohio passed explicit statutory provisions prohibiting assisted suicide.

In the recent election, West Virginia adopted a constitutional amendment prohibiting assisted suicide, but the overall trend has been firmly on the side of death. This should be no real surprise: For decades, our culture has told parents they can kill their children if they are unwanted, infirm or burdensome. It is no surprise those children now con-

sider their lives and that of their parents equally disposable.

We also need to do considerable work on the last two: understanding end-of-life decision-making and ensuring that individuals have advance directives that conform to their beliefs.

The reality is, no one wants to be sick, alone or afraid. No one wants to face loss. No one wants to suffer or die, and yet these things all happen in life. The least we can do is to be there for others, as we hope someone will be there for us.

While it may be difficult to talk about, one of the best gifts we can give to our loved ones is clarity about what our wishes might be and the clear legal authority to carry out those wishes. Too often these discussions are postponed until moments of medical crisis, grief or fear. Those are the moments when every family conflict can be revisited and the moments when we struggle the most with clarity and decision-making. They are also when we most need to understand how to make decisions and who has the legal authority to make them.

In today's medical and legal environment, every single adult needs a health care power of attorney, irrespective of age, marital status or income.

Out of this need, Greater Columbus Right to Life worked to create our pro-

gram, Faithful at the End of Life (FATEL).

We have developed two versions: one for specifically Catholic audiences and one that is appropriate for general use. Both contain the same three elements: basics of pro-life, end-of-life bioethics; a life-affirming Health Care Power of Attorney that meets the standards of Ohio law and can be signed with or without the assistance of an attorney; and a collection of helpful guidance and resources that can help along the way. We offer this full program at [www.faithfulattheendoflife.org](http://www.faithfulattheendoflife.org) for download, and we regularly offer the program at parishes and organizations. We do not charge for the program or the presentations (although we always accept donations).

The goal is to help people understand some of the difficult questions that often arise and then make sure that if there is ever a time when an individual cannot make these decisions on their own behalf, there is someone who understands their values and beliefs who can.

What is a DNR, and when is it appropriate? How do Catholics determine if a medical treatment is beneficial or burdensome to a patient? Why is it recommended to have a Health Care Power of Attorney but not a Living Will? What about hydration and nutrition when someone cannot drink or eat? What

about organ donation? Who do I call for help?

If you have ever thought about these, FATEL can help. If you've never thought about them, now is the time.

In November, we contemplate death a little more deeply. We celebrate the saints, known and unknown, and we pray for the souls in purgatory. These practices emphasize our Catholic beliefs in the communion of saints, the power of intercessory prayer, and the hope of resurrection and eternal life. It serves as a reminder of the connection between the living and the deceased, highlighting the importance of praying for those who have gone before us as they await union with God in heaven.

Because we are already considering our own mortality, it is a good time to think about end-of-life issues, communicate with loved ones and give them the gift of clarity.

If you would like to learn more about Faithful at the End of Life or schedule a program at your church or organization, contact us at 614-445-8508. St. Joseph, pray for us.

*Beth Vanderkooi is the president of Greater Columbus Right to Life.*

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# Monument craftsmen help memorialize loved ones

By Elizabeth Pardi

Modlich Monument Company, located on North Hague Avenue in Columbus, is a family-owned and operated business that has created gravestones and memorials for nearly a century.

Modlich is one of several monument companies in the diocese that work with families and cemeteries to permanently memorialize loved ones who have died with grave markers that range from simple to elaborate.

Not everyone chooses a stone marker because of changes in burial practices, family wishes or budget concerns. For those who do, the selection process could start during the pre-planning of a funeral, but sometimes those decisions aren't made until after a death.

In Catholic and other cemeteries, symbols of faith can be found that are incorporated into the design along with the names of those who are buried. Some of these include rosaries, crucifixes and images of Christ or the saints.

Technology has enhanced the process

of stone engraving since Linus Modlich came to America from Germany in 1927 and began working for Zenker Monuments, a central Ohio company no longer in business.

When the Great Depression struck shortly thereafter, Zenker could no longer afford to pay Modlich enough to support his wife and their four children. As a result, Linus left the company to begin his own business located on Mound Street.

Linus and his wife worked together for almost 30 years with help from their children. One of their sons, John, who was born in Germany in 1925, began helping in the shop at age 14. John joined the Navy after high school and returned to work in the family business before eventually purchasing it from his father.

Under John's ownership, the company relocated to Hague Avenue, where it remains today. John and his wife, Helen, had nine children together, all of whom worked for the family business at some point. John passed away several years ago, but Helen is still alive at age 95.

"Our dad was our role model," Jerry Modlich, John's oldest son, said. "My grandfather (Linus) was an extremely

hard worker (and an) extremely honest guy, and he passed those values on to my dad."

When John was in his 50s, he began slowly turning over the management of the business to Jerry and Jerry's brother, Dan, who were then in their late 20s.

"My dad kind of gave me a gift in that he showed how he could step away," Jerry said of his father's passing on the company to his sons, "so I (would) eventually (be) able to step away. It really had to be hard on him."

Dan and Jerry eventually bought the business from their father and ran it until Dan's son, Jonathan, took over. Dan's daughter's husband, David, eventually became co-owner alongside Jonathan, both of whom still run the company.

Jonathan said that it's an honor to be part of a business in the hands of the family's fourth generation.

"More than anything, we want to make sure that we continue to run a successful business in an effort to help people through a very difficult time in their lives," he said. "We want them to be able to permanently remember (their loved ones)."

Asked about the process of helping grieving family members choose a memorial, Jonathan said his goal is "to get down to what about the individual they're memorializing."

Although it can be a somber process, he said "it can be a very positive experience" and he finds his career extremely fulfilling.

"A lot of people (get financially) taken advantage of (while purchasing a gravestone)," Jerry said.

His grandfather and father's primary principle, however, was honesty. "Treat people fairly and do a good job and do what you say you're going to do," Jerry said. "That's how we built our business."

Not only are Modlich Monument's customers treated with dignity, but their employees are as well. Jerry said that most staff members have been there for many years because they are treated like family.

The next generation of the Modlich family is still too young to start working in the business, but Jonathan said they will likely join at some point in some capacity.

For more information on the company, visit [Modlich-monument.com](http://Modlich-monument.com).

## LOSS, continued from Page 11

chapter outside of Newark, Malone said, and offers proper size burial layettes and blankets.

Newborns in Need also provides hospitals with incubator covers, hats, booties and blankets for infants.

Each family has different needs after the loss of a child, she said, and Back In His Arms Again has been approached with many. Common needs from families who lost a child include finding a funeral home, transportation for their baby's remains or financial assistance for a burial.

She said the ministry works with all central Ohio area funeral homes. Kevin Ryan, the director at Egan-Ryan Funeral Home, serves on the board of directors for Back In His Arms Again.

"They are wonderful," Malone said of Egan-Ryan Funeral Home. "They've done so much for our ministry as far as donations and reductions of costs to help families."

Back In His Arms Again will also help families bury their child wherever they wish to have them buried, Malone said.

The Garden of the Holy Innocents, located at Resurrection Cemetery in Lewis Center, offers a resting place in central Ohio for infants who were miscarried or full-term infants who died and were cremated.

Father Homer Blubaugh, a retired priest of the diocese, serves as chaplain for Back In His Arms Again ministry and blessed the Garden of the Holy Innocents in 2014. Nearly 4,000 babies are buried there.

"Lots of young people that lose chil-



The Garden of Holy Innocents is a final resting place for miscarried or full-term infants who have died. Photo courtesy Catholic Cemeteries

dren are really not financially stable enough to afford a dignified burial, and so, we're going to help with that, too," she said. "And then, we have a bunch of other resources at our fingertips of all different wonderful organizations in our community that we can refer our families to that do other things than we do, for instance, counseling."

Back In His Arms Again also organizes memorial Masses and events throughout the year.

Quarterly Masses are celebrated in the Resurrection Cemetery chapel by Father Blubaugh or a guest priest.

The organization recently held a "Wave of Light" event at Resurrection Cemetery on Oct. 15, which is recognized as Pregnancy and Infant Loss Awareness Day. Individuals in all time zones worldwide are encouraged to light

a candle outside at 7 p.m. that day.

More recently, Back In His Arms Again began offering a peer-to-peer support group for families. The group, known as "Seeking Healing through Friendship," offers activities, including reading and discussing a book together, making Christmas ornaments or painting nights.

The group meets about every other month, or around four to five times a year.

"It's been wonderful," Malone said. "So far, only moms have come, but it's for anybody who's lost a loved one. It is just really good fellowship and nice to be in the company of people who, if you want to talk about things ... you're welcome to do so without feeling funny."

Cornerstone of Hope, which was founded in 2003 and serves individuals in central Ohio, was also born out of grief from the loss of a child.

Mark and Christi Tripodi founded the ministry after the sudden loss of their 3-year-old son Bobby.

After losing their son, they sought local assistance but were devastated by the lack of support available to them. They acquired information from national bereavement programs and created a professional model of care now known as Cornerstone of Hope, a group spokesperson said.

The organization offers bereavement care for grieving children, adults and families.

Cornerstone of Hope's headquarters is located in Independence, Ohio, serving the northeast region of the state. In 2011, a comprehensive grief support center

was opened in central Ohio and a Christian counseling center in Lima.

Services include grief support groups, grief counseling, spiritual care, memorial events, grief camps, community response, school programs and specialty groups. Businesses can also offer help, through Cornerstone of Hope, to employees whose productivity has been affected by a death.

The organization's Mid-Ohio Traumatic Loss Response Team serves Crawford, Marion, Delaware and Morrow counties. The team provides response and follow-up for individuals impacted by suicide, homicide and substance-related death.

It "serves in partnership with law enforcement, coroners, medical examiners and a wide array of other community service providers," a group spokesperson said. Free services include immediate support, resources and connection with survivors who have similar experiences.

The team also offers professional educational courses on grief and loss and training opportunities funded by the Delaware-Morrow Mental Health & Recovery Services Board and the Crawford-Marion Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Board.

For information on Cornerstone of Hope, call 614-824-4285 or visit [www.CornerstoneOfHope.org](http://www.CornerstoneOfHope.org).

For more information on Back In His Arms Again ministry, call 614-906-3115 or visit [www.BackInHisArmsAgain.com](http://www.BackInHisArmsAgain.com).



# Several diocesan parishes have long-established cemeteries

By Tim Puet

For The Catholic Times

Besides the three cemeteries in the care of the Catholic Cemeteries of Columbus – St. Joseph in Columbus, Resurrection in Lewis Center and Holy Cross in Pataskala – more than 40 parish cemeteries are located within the 23-county diocese.

Most are part of individual parishes, with many dating to the mid-1800s, when it was common for cemeteries to be located next to church buildings.

One such cemetery is at St. Mary Church in Mattingly Settlement near Nashport in Muskingum County. The church site was donated in 1856 by John Mattingly Jr. to the Archdiocese of Cincinnati, which then included the area of the Columbus diocese. The first burial came one year later and was that of John's uncle, William Mattingly, who in 1812 was the first Catholic to settle in the area.

Cemetery superintendent Pat Smeltzer said about 400 non-Catholics are buried in the original cemetery plot, which covers about three-fourths of an acre. That area has no more room for burials, so the parish purchased an additional 1 1/2 acres adjacent to the site. It has space for about 100 gravesites.

"This remains an active cemetery because many people want to come home for their burials so their bodies can be with those of family members," Smeltzer said. "People want to be where their roots are."

Among those buried at the site are four priests of the diocese, including three members of the Mattingly family – Msgr. Herman Mattingly, founding editor of The Columbus Register and its successor publication, The Catholic Times; Father Jerome Mattingly and Father Theodore Mattingly. Father Joseph Finan also is buried there.

Father Jerome Mattingly was instrumental in setting up a foundation for perpetual care of the cemetery in 1929. That foundation has been in the care of members of the McLoughlin family, who are ancestors of Father Mattingly's sister, ever since.

"I took over the care in 2000 from Charles McLoughlin when he retired due to failing health," Smeltzer said. "I had been the caretaker of the church building for several years so it made sense to expand my responsibilities. It's thankless work, but when you deal with a grateful family in their time of need, it's all worth it."

Smeltzer also is part of a pioneer Catholic family. His great-great-grandfather Blasius Schmelzer built a church in the unincorporated area of Geneva in Fairfield County that served as a worship site from 1856 to 1963 and also has an adjacent cemetery. It was ab-



An Ohio Historical Marker is located at the site of the original Washington Court House St. Colman of Cloyne Church and Cemetery.

Photo courtesy St. Colman of Cloyne

sorbed by Bremen St. Mary Church.

Smeltzer said that in the last few years, about half of the burials at the cemetery have been cremations. "We as a cemetery need to adjust, with a special cremation memorial garden in the near future," he said.

Crooksville St. Joseph Cemetery was founded 112 years ago and has been served by only four caretakers. Joe Woneymaker, the current holder of that position, took the job in 1991, succeeding Joseph Frecker, an uncle of retired Msgr. Anthony Frecker.

The Church of the Atonement in Crooksville, which is about 1 1/2 miles from the cemetery, was closed as part of the diocese's Real Presence, Real Future initiative "but we're still a busy cemetery," Woneymaker said. "We had about a dozen burials last year and average four or five a year. It's a nice location and a lot of people want to be buried there, but they can't be unless their spouse is Catholic."

"Nobody else wanted the job when I took it 33 years ago," said Woneymaker, 75, who also runs a 125-acre farm outside Crooksville. "It's not an easy job because of the time it takes to find and sell burial spaces, transfer money, perform maintenance and sometimes hold bodies until family members can make it here for a funeral."

"My son is the only one willing to get involved and I'm at the point where I need someone to take my place. I told this to Father Emmanuel (Adu Addai, pastor of the Perry County Consortium of Parishes). He asked me to give him a year and he would find someone."

St. Margaret's Cemetery in Chillicothe is overseen by a committee representing the pastor and members of the city's St. Peter and St. Mary parishes. Representatives of both purchased the land from the Franciscan Brothers of Cincinnati, to

whom it had been deeded by Mrs. Sarah Peters.

The 21-acre plot originally was part of the Adena estate owned by Ohio's sixth governor, Thomas Worthington. It was hoped that a boys school would be established there, but the plan became impractical, so the donor and heirs agreed to allow the land to be utilized for a Catholic cemetery.

The cemetery became known as St. Margaret in honor of Worthington's granddaughter, Margaret Watts, the benefactor who allowed Peters to make the donation.

Caretaker Chris Dawes said 45 to 50 people are buried there each year. The cemetery's priests' circle is the site of an annual Memorial Day Mass. On the first Sunday of November, a prayer service is conducted to remember departed loved ones buried at the cemetery. It also is the site of a Wreaths Across America program honoring deceased veterans on the second Saturday in December at noon.

The cemetery at Circleville St. Joseph Church, where burials have taken place since the 1870s, recently added two new sections and a new parking lot and had all of its roads repaved, said parish secretary Mack Blankenship. The cemetery is on Court Street, about a half mile from the church.

"About 1,100 people are buried here and we have been getting 20 to 24 burials a year," he said. "We have many open areas and are looking to serve long into the future. We're an active cemetery because we have a loyal and active parish."

The cemetery for Washington Court House St. Colman of Cloyne Church is on the site of the original church on the city's outskirts. That building and much of the city were destroyed by a tornado in 1885. To mark the site of the church, a stone monument was erected on June 19, 1916. It also is the site of a state historical marker.

More than 35 veterans from the Civil War, Spanish-American War and World War I are buried there. At least 16 are descendants of the Irish railroad workers who founded the city's Catholic community in the 1850s.

The cemetery's most honored veteran, James Aloysius Ducey, served in both world wars and earned many medals, including the Silver Star and the French Croix de Guerre.

The Church of the Ascension in Johnstown operates St. Joseph Cemetery, located on Jug Street. There is no longer a church building at the site, but Mass is celebrated there every year on All Souls Day, Nov. 2.

Land for the 2-acre cemetery was donated by William Dusenbery, who was not a Catholic. A log chapel was built on the site in 1855 and was replaced by a frame church in 1875. Bishop John

Watterson dedicated the church in June 1882, naming St. Joseph as its patron saint. Mass was said at St. Joseph Church once or twice a month and later only on All Souls Day until the Church of the Ascension was established in 1912.

A new columbarium with urns for cremated remains was dedicated last year at Lancaster St. Mary Cemetery, which has served parishioners of the Basilica of St. Mary of the Assumption since 1881. More than 7,000 people are buried there and about 45 burials take place there each year, said parish secretary Cathy Shumaker.

The city's first Catholic cemetery, near present-day Memorial Drive, was located next to the original St. Mary's Chapel. Graves there were moved to another site in 1837 and when that site reached capacity, land for the current 12-acre site was purchased. An additional 20 acres was purchased in 1962 and remains unused, so there is ample room for future burials.

Licking County has two Catholic cemeteries – Mount Calvary in Heath and St. Joseph in Newark. Both are on State Route 13, but one is nearly a century older than the other.

Angel Schneider of Newark St. Francis de Sales Church said the land for Mount Calvary was deeded to the Cincinnati archdiocese in 1842 and its earliest legible gravestones are dated in the 1850s. About 95 percent of the space in the 8-acre hilltop cemetery has been used. Volunteers primarily from St. Francis de Sales Church, with support from the county's other four churches, help maintain and renew the property.

St. Joseph Cemetery was opened in 1949, has about 30 acres and has been utilizing half of that area for burials. Schneider said 60 to 70 burials take place there each year, digitized burial records have been completed and digital mapping software will roll out by April 2025. Many of the records were lost in a fire.

St. Joseph Cemetery is maintained by all the Licking County churches, which besides St. Francis include Newark Blessed Sacrament, Granville St. Edward the Confessor, Heath St. Leonard and Buckeye Lake Our Lady of Mount Carmel. Schneider said the cemetery plans to install a columbarium garden by 2026.

The St. John Paul II Scioto Catholic Community, which includes two churches in Portsmouth and one each in West Portsmouth and Wheelersburg, maintains five cemeteries that served various parishes before the consolidations which were part of the Real Presence, Real Future initiative.

They include St. Mary Cemetery in Portsmouth; St. John and St. Monica cemeteries in New Boston, which are separated only by a gravel road; Holy

See CEMETERIES, Page 15



## 'He descended into Hell'

### AQUINAS CORNER | Richard Arnold

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



In the fifth article of St. Thomas Aquinas' Catechetical Instructions titled "He Descended into Hell," St. Thomas says, "The death of Christ was the separation of His soul from His body as it is with other men. But the Divinity was so indissolubly conjoined to the Man-Christ that although His soul and body were disunited, His Divinity was always most perfectly united to both the soul and body."

"Therefore, in the Sepulcher, His body was together with the Son of God who together with His soul descended into hell."

What does it mean that He descended into hell?

From the Catechism of the Catholic Church paragraph 633, "Scripture calls the abode of the dead, to which the dead Christ went down, 'hell' — Sheol in Hebrew or Hades in Greek — because those who are there are deprived of the vision of God. Such is the case for all the dead, whether evil or righteous, while they await the redeemer: which does not mean that their lot is identical, as Jesus shows through the parable of the poor man Lazarus who was received into 'Abraham's bosom.' Jesus did not descend into hell to deliver the damned (those who died in mortal sin), nor to destroy the hell of damnation, but to free the just who had gone before him."

I like to think that the first soul Jesus met was St. Joseph.

St. Thomas gives us three reasons for Christ's descent.

"First, He wished to take upon Himself the entire punishment for our sin, and thus atone for its entire guilt. The punishment for the sin of man was not alone death of the body, but there was also a punishment of the soul,

since the soul had its share in sin; and it was punished by being deprived of the beatific vision; and yet no atonement had been offered whereby this punishment would be taken away." St. Thomas notes that the souls were there out of necessity while Christ went of His own power and free will.

"The second is that He might perfectly deliver all His friends.

"The third is that He would completely triumph over the devil ... To make this triumph complete, Christ wished to deprive the devil of the seat of his kingdom and to imprison him in his own house, which is hell. Christ, therefore, descended there and despoiled the devil of everything and bound him, taking away his prey."

St. Thomas wants us to take the following away from this event.

"A firm hope in God. No matter how much one is afflicted, one ought always hope in the assistance of God and have trust in Him. There is nothing so serious as to be in hell. If, therefore, Christ delivered those who were in hell, what great confidence ought every friend of God have that he will be delivered from all his troubles!

"We ought to conceive a

fear of God and avoid all presumption. We have already seen that Christ suffered for sinners and descended into hell for them. However, He did not deliver all sinners, but only those who were free from mortal sin. He left there those who departed this life in mortal sin.

"We ought to arouse in ourselves a mental anxiety. Indeed, he who during this life frequently descends into hell by thinking of it, will not easily fall into hell at death; for such meditation keeps one from sin, and draws one out of it.

"Finally, there comes to us in this an example of love. Christ descended into hell in order to deliver His own; and so, we should go down there to rescue our own. They cannot help themselves. Therefore, let us deliver those who are in purgatory. We may assist these souls in three ways as St. Augustine tells us, viz., through Masses, prayers, and almsgiving. St. Gregory adds a fourth, that is, fasting. All this is not so amazing, for even in this world a friend can pay a debt for his friend; but this applies only to those who are in purgatory."

Some final thoughts. Our concept of Hell seems to be softened by today's culture. Most recently and more familiar to Columbus-area residents is the Major League Soccer rivalry between the Columbus Crew SC and FC Cincinnati referred to as "Hell is Real." There is nothing in a soccer match that resembles Hell. By being told to "go to hell," we should be seriously offended. If you're curious about Hell, look up what some of the saints had to say.

### CEMETERIES, continued from Page 14

Trinity Cemetery in West Portsmouth and St. Patrick Cemetery in Otway.

Besides the cemeteries listed, the diocesan cemeteries office said other Catholic cemeteries in the diocese, both active and no longer in use, are: Bolivar (Tuscarawas County), St. Aloysius, St. Peter and St. Stephen; Bremen (Fairfield County), Sacred Heart; Danville, St. Luke; Delaware, St. Mary; Dennison, St. Mary; Dover, Calvary and St. Joseph; Glenmont (Holmes County), Glenmont Catholic Cemetery; Jackson, Mount Olivet; Junction City (Perry County), St.

Patrick; Kenton, St. Mary; London, St. Patrick; Marion, St. Mary; Marysville, Our Lady of Lourdes; Mineral City (Tuscarawas County), St. Patrick; Mount Vernon, Mount Calvary; New Philadelphia, Calvary; Roswell (Tuscarawas County), St. Elizabeth; Sugar Grove, St. Joseph's Rush Creek (also known as Phillip's Cemetery) and Pine Hill (also known as Good Hope); Wellston, Mount Calvary; West Jefferson, Mount Calvary; Wills Creek (Coshocton County), Our Lady of Lourdes; Zanesville, Mount Calvary and Mount Olive.

### Bishop confirms students in Lancaster



Bishop Earl Fernandes administers the Sacrament of Confirmation to Brynn Prentice with sponsor Sylvia Greene accompanying her at a Mass on Sunday, Nov. 3 at Lancaster St. Bernadette Church. Prentice is a homeschooled student. Photos courtesy William Keimig



Bishop Earl Fernandes administers the Sacrament of Confirmation to homeschooled student Juniper Baker with sponsor Larry Lawless accompanying him at St. Bernadette Church. At left is Father Daniel Olvera, the parish pastor.



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## Upgrades continue at Columbus Catholic cemeteries

In recent years, Catholic Cemeteries of Columbus has undergone significant improvements across all three active locations, including extensive renovations to chapels, offices, and grounds.

At Resurrection Cemetery in Lewis Center, the Garden of the Holy Innocents — a sacred resting place for infants lost in early pregnancy — has been renovated after suffering significant damage in 2023. The renovations include a new statue of Our Lady with Child, lush landscaping and a shaded pergola. Memorial bricks that previously lined the pathway will soon be engraved and replaced, marking the final phase of this project.

Resurrection Cemetery is preparing to unveil a new section in 2025 named “The Finding of Jesus in the Temple.” This area will include a newly constructed road and offer a variety of burial options for families, further expanding the cemetery’s offerings.

The largest recent development at Holy Cross Cemetery in Pataskala has been the renovation of the chapel.

While all three cemetery chapels have been renovated over the past several years, the chapel mausoleum at Holy Cross has undergone the most recent update with improved lighting, a suspended crucifix and new carpeting. Additionally, a new sacristy and bathroom have been added to best serve families

holding funerals or visiting the chapel.

In September, the completed chapel was blessed and enthroned to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, offering a beautiful and sacred space for prayer and remembrance.

The chapel at St. Joseph Cemetery in Lockbourne also underwent a major renovation that was completed in 2022. The updates made to Our Mother of Sorrows chapel included the addition of a bathroom and more storage, exterior repairs, improved lighting and the placement of the chapel’s Pieta statue behind the altar, where it offers a striking visual representation of the chapel’s namesake.

Earlier this year, glass front niches were installed on each side of the nave and were subsequently blessed by Bishop Earl Fernandes.

This year, St. Joseph has begun development of the St. Andrew section, which will feature unique personal mausoleums — an above-ground burial



Signage has been updated by the Catholic Cemeteries of Columbus.



A new St. Andrew section is under construction at Resurrection Cemetery in Lewis Center.



The chapel at Holy Cross Cemetery in Pataskala was recently renovated by Catholic Cemeteries of Columbus. Photos courtesy Catholic Cemeteries of Columbus

option that offers a distinctive and dignified resting place. A beautiful statue of St. Andrew will grace the heart of this section, making it a reverent space for reflection.

Two more sections are set to be developed at St. Joseph in the coming months, with availability anticipated in the summer of 2025.

In addition to the unique renovations at each location, ongoing beautification efforts are underway.

Visitors will notice new signage and improved roadways that make it easier to navigate between sections, and the landscaping at each location continues to be enhanced in order to ensure a beautiful environment throughout the year.

In 2025, each cemetery will see the installation of a 72-niche columbarium with an interior ossuary — a respectful burial option for cremated remains housed in a communal setting.

These renovations not only enhance the physical beauty at each location but also reaffirm the Catholic Cemeteries of Columbus’ mission to provide a reverent, authentically Catholic burial option for the faithful within the Diocese of Columbus, and a place of solace, prayer and peaceful reflection for anyone visiting the grounds.



# LIVE AND LOCAL!

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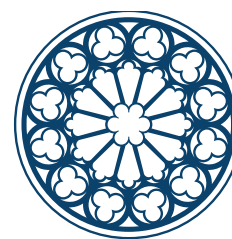
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Two seminarians admitted as candidates



Diocesan seminarians Miguel De La Torre (left) and Matthew Waldman (right) were admitted to Candidacy for Holy Orders during a Mass on Sunday, October 27, in St. Turibius Chapel at the Pontifical College Josephinum by Bishop Earl Fernandes with Father Steven Beseau, rector and president of the Josephinum, also present. Both seminarians are in the configuration stage of their formation. The rite, in an official sense, enrolls each man among the candidates for the diaconate and priesthood. When calling men for ordination, a bishop chooses from among those enrolled as candidates. During the Mass, each man was called forward by name; in response, he rose and answered "present." This act is the moment at which he declares publicly his desire to be bound in Holy Orders for the service of God and mankind. It is a self-offering of the candidate and a manifestation of his will. Candidacy also is a reception of that offering by the Church and a new commitment by the candidate to care for his vocation.

Photo courtesy Pontifical College Josephinum

Father Olvera installed as St. Bernadette pastor



Father Daniel Olvera (left) is installed as pastor at Lancaster St. Bernadette Church by Bishop Earl Fernandes during a Sunday Mass on Nov. 3. Olvera became pastor at St. Bernadette and Sugar Grove St. Joseph churches in July when he succeeded Father Tyron Tomson, who is now studying in Rome. Father Olvera previously was a parochial vicar at Westerville St. Paul the Apostle Church.

Photo courtesy William Keimig

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33rd Sunday of Ordinary Time Year B

# Live with your heart set on what is to come

Daniel 12:1-3  
Psalm 16:5, 8, 9-10, 11  
Hebrews 10:11-14, 18  
Mark 13:24-32

Are we living in the “End Times?” This is a question that comes up whenever there is turmoil to be found in the experience of the world around us. Natural disasters, political instability, wars, familial struggles, illness, etc., raise the question. Every generation wonders.

The best answer to this question was given by a seminary professor of mine, Father Gerald O’Collins, S.J. “Yes. We are living in the ‘End Times.’ We have been living in the ‘End Times’ since the Resurrection of Jesus.”

The Biblical perspective has this answer imbedded in the unfolding gift of Revelation. Daniel’s vision of resurrection shows already in the latter days of the Jewish Scriptures that there is an intimation of God’s plan for the whole of human history. The fact that there will be a judgment based on participation in this world is already clear. “Many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake; some shall live forever, others shall be an everlasting horror and disgrace.” How this will unfold is not explained, but the hope of glory is expressed: “But the wise shall shine brightly like the splendor of the firmament, and those who lead the many to justice shall be like the stars forever.”

Each generation is invited to hope that it will share in the fullness of life that will be manifested at the very end of history. Nonetheless, Jesus Himself says without any ambiguity that none of us knows when it will be. “But of that

*Solemnity of Christ the King Year B*

## SCRIPTURE READINGS

Father Timothy Hayes

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



day or hour, no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.”

How are we to live in the face of this world’s uncertainties? The Responsorial Psalm provides a response: “You are my inheritance, O Lord!” We must turn toward the Lord with trust and faith that all will be well in the end and that we will share in the life of God. Salvation and the promise of Resurrection have been won for us by our High Priest, as expressed in the Letter to the Hebrews, who “offered one sacrifice for sins, and took his seat forever at the right hand of God; now he waits until his enemies are made his footstool. For by one offering he has made perfect forever those who are being consecrated.

When times are in flux, we can stand our ground looking to the fulfillment accomplished already in the life, suffering, death and Resurrection of Jesus. At the same time, we look toward the full accomplishment yet to be when history reaches its ultimate goal.

Faith in Jesus Christ, hope through the power of the Spirit who continues to work in us, consecrating us in Christ, and love poured into history through the grace offered to us by Christ’s passion for love of the Father, serve to bring us to salvation, the fulfillment of our purpose. God has made us for Himself. He made me “to know Him, to love Him and to serve Him, in this life, and to be happy

throughout human history is that Jesus in not merely one individual man, a part of history, but that He is the beginning and the end of history, that He is the Lord of the Universe, all that is. This claim was not the invention of human beings but rather comes from Jesus Himself.

In Jesus’ encounter with Pilate, one who represents political power and the philosophy of “this world,” Jesus responds with truth. Remember that this moment is a pivotal moment. If it had gone differently, the crucifixion would not have followed. Pilate was the world, acting in the name of the Roman emperor and collaborating with the political intrigues of his time that mixed in a variety of philosophies and ways of life. How Jesus chose to answer Pilate made all the difference.

Pilate asks, “Are you the King of the

## THE WEEKDAY BIBLE READINGS

### 11-18/11-23 MONDAY

Revelation 1:1-4;2:1-5  
Psalm 1:1-4,6  
Luke 18:35-43

### TUESDAY

Revelation 3:1-6;14-22  
Psalm 15:2-5  
Luke 19:1-10

### WEDNESDAY

Revelation 4:1-11  
Psalm 150:1-6  
Luke 19:11-28

### THURSDAY

Revelation 5:1-10  
Psalm 149:1-6,9  
Luke 19:41-44

### FRIDAY

Revelation 10:8-11  
Psalm 119:14,24,72,103,111,131  
Luke 19:45-48

### SATURDAY

Revelation 11:4-12  
Psalm 144:1-2,9-10  
Luke 20:27-40

### 11-25/11-30 MONDAY

Revelation 14:1-3,4b-5  
Psalm 24:1-6  
Luke 21:1-4

### TUESDAY

Revelation 14:14-19  
Psalm 96:10-13  
Luke 21:5-11

### WEDNESDAY

Revelation 15:1-4  
Psalm 98:1-3,7-9  
Luke 21:12-19

### THURSDAY

Revelation 18:1-2,21-23;  
19:1-3,9a  
Psalm 100:1b-5  
Luke 21:20-28

### FRIDAY

Revelation 20:1-4,11-21:2  
Psalm 84:3-6a,8a  
Luke 21:29-33

### SATURDAY

Romans 10:9-18  
Psalm 19:8-11  
Matthew 4:18-22

## DIOCESAN WEEKLY RADIO AND TELEVISION

### Mass Schedule: Weeks of November 17 and November 24

#### SUNDAY MASS

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

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

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

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

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

#### DAILY MASS

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

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

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

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

with Him forever in the next.”

To live in the “End Times” is to live in time with our hearts set on what is to come, confident in the work accomplished by our High Priest. May we look beyond the chaos of the present moment, in our personal lives, in our country, and in the entire world, to the promise of the fulfillment of eternity.

Parents and all adults who wish to be faithful disciples of Jesus must set an example for their children, not giving in to fear or mistrust but living in faith. We must bring them to Jesus as He reveals

Himself to be, the One who loves us best, who poured out His life for us and who continues to offer salvation through our whole lives.

We do not know when we will be called to account, whether at the end of our own earthly lives, or when the world comes to an end if it should happen in our time. We want our children to share in the heavenly inheritance that is promised through Jesus Christ. We must teach them to pray with us: “You are my inheritance, O Lord!

# Have faith, hope and trust in the King of the Universe

Daniel 7:13-14  
Psalm 93:1, 1-2, 5  
Revelation 1:5-8  
John 18:33b-37

To call Jesus Christ King of the Universe is to make a bold claim. It requires a depth of understanding that can only be reached through faith. We cannot discover the meaning of the claim or can we evaluate its truth until we are willing to accept Jesus on His own terms.

The world often gives lip service to Jesus as “a good man.” His teachings, at times, are accepted as human wisdom, but nothing more. He is then relegated to stand on a pedestal or in a niche and to trouble us no more. What His followers have made of Him is not relevant once we tame Jesus.

The claim of the Catholic Church

throughout human history is that Jesus in not merely one individual man, a part of history, but that He is the beginning and the end of history, that He is the Lord of the Universe, all that is. This claim was not the invention of human beings but rather comes from Jesus Himself.

In Jesus’ encounter with Pilate, one who represents political power and the philosophy of “this world,” Jesus responds with truth. Remember that this moment is a pivotal moment. If it had gone differently, the crucifixion would not have followed. Pilate was the world, acting in the name of the Roman emperor and collaborating with the political intrigues of his time that mixed in a variety of philosophies and ways of life. How Jesus chose to answer Pilate made all the difference.

Pilate asks, “Are you the King of the

Jews?” Jesus responds: “My kingdom does not belong to this world.” Pilate goes on: “Then you are a king?” Jesus answers directly with a deeper revelation: “You say I am a king. For this I was born and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice.” Jesus’ response is an invitation to all who are open to enter the kingdom.

To say that we believe in Jesus is not enough. We must believe Jesus Himself, accepting the truth, so that we can hear His voice. He speaks the truth by what He says and by all that He does. He reveals Himself to be the king, the ruler of the universe, by submitting Himself to the limits of the world and then breaking through them as He IS. The Crucified Lord is not the kind of King we would ever expect. Yet, He is the One who has

full authority in Heaven and on earth. To embrace the truth is to choose to live, acknowledging Him as King and Lord.

Whatever may be going on in the world around us, the search for truth is a personal journey, unique for each person. There is One Truth, but that truth must be discovered personally, not imposed from the outside. It is an offer of relationship.

We become one with each other by being open to the truth of each other. It is possible for us to be mistaken about who we think we are, but the truth of who we are is discovered in our relationship to the King of the Universe. He entrusts us to one another. When we are mutual in our love for one another, we will discover that the King of the Universe is with us.

Pope Francis has called for 2025 to be

*See KING, Page 22*



# St. Thomas Aquinas major relics coming to St. Patrick Church

The major first-class relics of St. Thomas Aquinas, including the relic of his skull, will be offered for public veneration on Dec. 7-8 at Columbus St. Patrick Church, 280 N. Grant Ave.

This is the first time that St. Thomas' major relics will tour the United States through an arrangement between the Dominican Province of Toulouse, France and the Dominican Province of St. Joseph (Eastern USA). The relic tour is in commemoration of the Triple Jubilee of St. Thomas Aquinas: the 700th anniversary of his canonization in 2023, the 750th anniversary of his death in 2024 and the 800th anniversary of his birth in 2025.

Public veneration of the relics will begin in the church at 6:15 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 7 with a procession of the relics to the sanctuary led by the Dominican friars. Public veneration will close at 10 p.m. and confessions will be available starting at 8 p.m.

On Sunday, Dec. 8, public veneration will resume at 1:15 p.m. and will con-

clude at 9 p.m. Confessions will be available from 4 to 7 p.m. and from 7:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. The Dominican friars will lead the celebration of Solemn Vespers at 7 p.m.

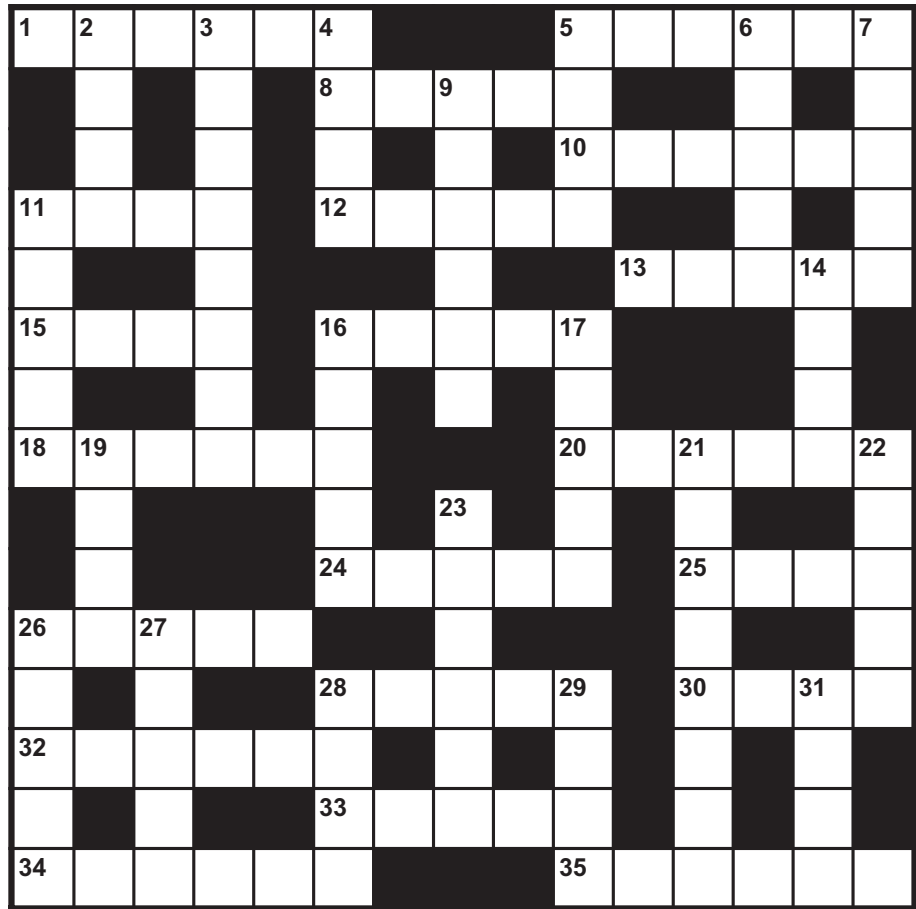
In honor of the Triple Jubilee of St. Thomas, individuals may obtain a plenary indulgence under the usual conditions for making a pilgrimage to a Dominican church until Jan. 28, 2025.

Free parking will be available in the parish parking lot and in adjacent lots at Columbus State Community College. There is no admission fee to venerate the relics; a free-will offering will be taken to help defray the cost of the relic tour.

St. Patrick Church, the second-oldest Catholic church in Columbus, was dedicated in 1853. The Dominican Friars of the Province of St. Joseph have had the pastoral care of the parish since 1885.

For more information about the public veneration, contact Fr. Paul Marich, O.P., pastor, at [frpaulmarich@stpatrick-columbus.org](mailto:frpaulmarich@stpatrick-columbus.org) or by phone at (614) 240-5917.

## CATHOLIC CROSSWORD



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### ACROSS

- 1 St. Mary's Cathedral is in this New South Wales capital  
5 Patron saint of Scandinavia  
8 Abraham was probably glad to see this in the desert  
10 NT epistle  
11 Diocese or bishop starter  
12 College of Cardinals' task regarding the pope  
13 "Quo \_\_\_?"  
15 Catholic horror actor Lugosi  
16 Eden fruit?  
18 Paul's hometown is found in this modern-day nation  
20 Save  
24 Mother of Isaac  
25 The Diocese of Youngstown is found here  
26 Bishop's hat  
28 Catholic poet, best known for "The Highwayman"  
30 Word from Pontius Pilate  
32 Holy one, in Paris  
33 Number of days Jonah spent in the belly of a large fish  
34 Passover meals  
35 Archdiocese in Colorado

### DOWN

- 2 Liturgical \_\_\_

- 3 Two-by-two vessel  
4 "For my \_\_\_ is easy, and my burden is light." (Mt 11:30)  
5 "\_\_\_ was in the beginning, is now..."  
6 One of the seven deadly sins  
7 "...the Spirit of glory and of God \_\_\_ upon you." (1 Pet 4:14)  
9 False prophets come in this kind of clothing  
11 Boss monk  
14 Second word of a Latin hymn  
16 "...with darkness over the \_\_\_." (Gen 1:2)  
17 "...thy will be done on \_\_\_"  
19 "\_\_\_ et Orbi"  
21 Type of priest  
22 Controversial filmmaker who attended Catholic seminary  
23 The Lord's \_\_\_  
26 In Numbers, it says he was the most humble man on earth  
27 Commandment that directs us to keep holy the Lord's Day  
28 "Then they abandoned their \_\_\_ and followed him." (Mk 1:18)  
29 Faith is like a mustard \_\_\_  
31 Faith-sharing program used in the UK, Australia, and South Africa

## 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.

You can bank on a friendship ...



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# Catholic Social Services to participate in Team Up Project conference

Catholic Social Services (CSS) has been selected for the second cohort of the Team Up Project, a national bridge-building initiative organized by four of the nation's leading community organizations.

CSS has partnered with the YMCA of Central Ohio to build bridges and collaborate, beginning in the Hilltop community on the west side of Columbus. The collaboration will focus on finding synergy between respective programs for families with children and eventually expand to other communities where CSS and the YMCA have shared interest. CSS will focus this bridge-building

through its Our Lady of Guadalupe Center programs on Columbus' west side.

"Partnership is a key driver for our Growing with Purpose strategy and this project aligns well with our Catholic Social Teaching principles of Solidarity and Subsidiarity," Kelley Henderson, CSS' president and CEO, said.

Now in its second year, Team Up is a collaboration of Catholic Charities USA, Habitat for Humanity International, Interfaith America and YMCA of the USA.

Through Team Up, the organizations have mobilized their vast networks — with more than 7,500 collective sites touching nearly every community in

the U.S. — to provide opportunities and resources that inspire people to build connections, allowing them to: promote empathy and understanding across cultural, ideological, ethnic, religious, and economic backgrounds; create a stronger sense of belonging and unity; and work with others in their communities for the common good.

Thirty local organizations around the country were selected to participate in the second cohort. Though the proj-

ects vary widely, all of them employ bridge-building skills to bring together volunteers from diverse backgrounds and perspectives, fostering a culture of collaboration and mutual respect.

Locally, CSS serves more than 10,000 individuals annually. Its mission is supported by dedicated volunteers who help seniors find connection, guide families toward a brighter future and assist young adults in transitioning to the workforce.

**KING, continued from Page 20**

a Jubilee Year of Hope. The Holy Door of St. Peter's Basilica in the Vatican will be opened on Christmas Eve 2024. The Holy Year will close on the Solemnity of

Epiphany 2026. The theme for the Holy Year is Pilgrims of Hope.

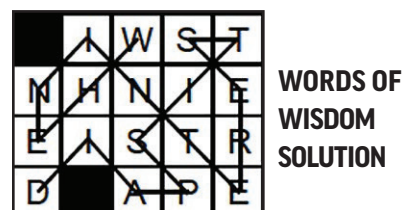
Hope is opened to us through a willingness to accept the truth that this world and all that is in it belongs to God. All that is, all that happens, is under His providence. Believing in Him, trusting Him, loving Him gives us hope in time and into eternity.

"Hope does not disappoint." (Romans 5:5) Let us put our Hope in Jesus Christ, the King of the Universe, as we walk along our pilgrim journey to the kingdom.

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## PRAY FOR OUR DEAD

**ALTMAN, James P., 92, Oct. 23**  
Christ the King Church, Columbus

**BUTLER, Karen, 73, Oct. 27**  
St. Bernadette Church, Lancaster

**BURNHAM, Elizabeth (Mayock), 97, Oct. 23**  
St. Joseph Church, Dover

**DeMARIA, Peter J., 89, Oct. 29**  
St. Joan of Arc Church, Powell

**DODDS, JoAnn, 94, Oct. 19**  
St. Bernadette Church, Lancaster

**DURY, Michael F., 75, Oct. 18**  
St. Agatha Church, Columbus

**ECKLE, Roderick Jr., 73, formerly of Columbus, Sept. 23**  
St. Timothy Church, Lady Lake, Fla.

**FONTANINI, Karen Jo, 74, Oct. 27**  
St. Peter Church, Columbus

**IACOBONI, James M., 71, Nov. 4**  
St. Mary Church, Groveport

**LEE, Theodore E., 76, Nov. 1**  
St. Elizabeth Seton Parish, Pickerington

**LOWDER, Jeffrey Gilbert, 66, Oct. 27**  
St. Paul the Apostle Church, Westerville

**MAHLER, Christopher M., 63, Oct. 21**  
Immaculate Conception Church, Columbus

**PAESE, Joseph M., 95, Oct. 22**  
St. Matthew the Apostle Church, Gahanna

**RASOR, Marlana, 72, Oct. 26**  
St. Bernadette Church, Lancaster

**REED, Sharon L., 74, Oct. 29**  
St. Josephine Bakhita Parish at St. Elizabeth Church, Columbus

**REYNOLDS, Isaac "Ike," 82, Oct. 23**  
Resurrection Cemetery Chapel, Columbus

**SARAFIN, Lilah J. (Eberhart), 95, Oct. 11**  
St. Brendan the Navigator Church, Hilliard

**STUBBS, Billie (Burke), 86, Oct. 30**  
St. John Neumann Church, Sunbury

**VASSALLO, Reba (Whitney), 82, Oct. 27**  
St. Joseph Church, Circleville

**WOLF, Helen A., 90, Oct. 24**  
Our Mother of Sorrows Chapel, Columbus

## Sister Irene Yosick, OSF

Funeral Mass for Sister Irene Yosick, OSF, 94, who died Tuesday, Oct. 28, was celebrated Wednesday, Nov. 6 at St. John the Baptist Church in Romeoville, Illinois. Burial was at Resurrection Cemetery in Romeoville.

She was born in Shelby on Dec. 11, 1929 to Frank and Lillian (Soldan) Yosick.

She earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1959 from the College of St. Francis in Joliet, Illinois and a Master of Arts degree in 1966 from the University of Notre Dame.

She joined the Sisters of St. Francis of Mary Immaculate in Joliet on Sept. 4, 1945 and made her first profession of vows on Aug. 12, 1948, taking the name Sister Emmanuel, and her final profession on the same day three years later.

In the Diocese of Columbus, she was principal at Columbus St. Mary Magda-

lene (1963-1966) and Worthington St. Michael (1968-1969) schools.

She spent the next 49 years in the Diocese of Toledo, first in Mansfield and from 1973 to 2018 in Shelby teaching, taking care of her parents and serving as a home companion to the elderly through Community Services in Shelby. Earlier, she was a teacher at schools in Chicago and its suburbs.

After retirement in 2018, she lived in residences operated by her order in the Joliet area.

She was preceded in death by her parents; brothers, Paul (Rosanna), Robert (Ramona), John (Aline), Kenneth (Sue), Dennis and Thomas; and sisters, Sister Martha Ann Yosick, OSF and Patricia Lysinger. She is survived by her sister Joan Courtney and more than 100 nieces and nephews.



# iTHIRST spiritual companionship comes to diocese

The iTHIRST Spiritual Companion initiative has begun with a pilot training program in the diocese for anyone who has a desire to walk with families and individuals struggling with the spiritual disease of substance use disorder.

This Seton Hall University-certified training equips individuals with the skills and knowledge needed to support those struggling with substance use disorder, those in recovery and family members affected by their loved ones' addiction.

Currently, the iTHIRST pilot program in the diocese has nearly 40 participants, including two deacons and one priest representing 15 parishes. At the end of the training, each participant will be required to pass an exam to earn their certification.

The implementation plan for iTHIRST spiritual companionship in the diocese is currently being developed by Tammy Foeller, Katy Wyatt, Lori Crock and Father Tony Lonzo, the group's chaplain.

Once the training is completed, priests who oversee deaneries will be provided with information to share with their parishes. iTHIRST Spiritual Companions will then serve families at both the parish and diocesan levels.

The iTHIRST program, which is an initiative of the Missionary Servants of the Holy Trinity, recognizes that addiction is not only a physical and mental health issue but a spiritual issue. By providing faith-based, compassionate guidance, trained spiritual companions serve individuals recovering from substance use

disorder and their families with their spirituality as a source of hope, healing and purpose.

"The darkest days of my life were spent bearing the pain of my daughter's addiction, with no place to share my grief," said Foeller, who has been dedicated to bringing iTHIRST to the diocese. "A spiritual companion would have been a source of light during those times. I don't want anyone else to suffer the way I did. I am humbled by the opportunity to walk beside someone who doesn't want to remain in the darkness."

Substance use disorder affects millions of people worldwide, and its impact extends to family, friends and communities. The journey to recovery is often long and challenging, requiring not only pro-

fessional help but personal support that addresses the whole person: mind, body and spirit.

Recognizing the lack of spiritual care in conventional recovery programs, iTHIRST's training is designed to fill this gap by creating a network of trained individuals who provide spiritual companionship for those in recovery. The focus on spiritual healing addresses the fundamental human need for connection, purpose, and inner peace that is often neglected in traditional addiction treatment programs.

For more information, contact Wyatt at [kwyatt@olp-parish.org](mailto:kwyatt@olp-parish.org) or 614-352-9729.

## LOCAL NEWS AND EVENTS

### Bishop to lead Vespers, bless Nativity at Cathedral

Bishop Earl Fernandes will lead Solemn Vespers followed by the Blessing of a Creche at 5 p.m. Friday, Nov. 29 at Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral, 212 E. Broad St.

The bishop presided at a similar ceremony last year after the the Nativity display was permanently moved to Cathedral Square from its longtime home at Christmas Corner in front of the State Auto Insurance building in downtown Columbus.

The Nativity will be on display through Jan. 6, 2025 along with 400 smaller nativities from around the world, including the largest Fontanini collection in the United States, at the Catholic Museum of Art & History across the street from the Cathedral at 257 E. Broad St.

The museum also will celebrate the feast of St. Nicholas on Friday, Dec. 6 with a family event that includes pictures with St. Nick, presentations, trivia, games and refreshments. Cost is \$10 per person, \$45 per family, and children age three and under are free.

For more information, visit [catholic-museum.org](http://catholic-museum.org), call 614-618-4030 or email [info@catholicmuseum.org](mailto:info@catholicmuseum.org).

### Relic of St. Francis Xavier to be displayed at cathedral

A first-class relic of St. Francis Xavier (an actual part of his body) will be displayed at Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral on Tuesday, Dec. 3, the saint's feast day. Bishop Earl Fernandes will celebrate Mass at 6 p.m. in the cathedral on that day. A blessing with the relic will be offered after Mass.

Exposition of the relics of St. Francis is celebrated every 10 years in Goa, a province of India that is the bishop's ancestral homeland and was a Portuguese colony until 1961. It is an international event, with pilgrims traveling from all over the world to participate in Masses, novenas and processions in honor of the saint.

The relics are kept in the Basilica of Bom Jesus in Goa and every 10 years they are carried in procession to the cathedral of Goa to be displayed for veneration by the faithful.

The current exposition of the relics in Goa begins on Saturday, Nov. 21 and will end on Sunday, Jan. 5. The theme of the exposition is "We Are Messengers of the Good News."

St. Francis Xavier was the first Jesuit in India, and labored among the settlers and ministered to the indigenous people there, preaching and teaching and converting many to the Catholic faith.

### Recently ordained priest to speak to luncheon club

Father David Johnstone, parochial vicar at Worthington St. Michael the Archangel Church and chaplain at Columbus St. Francis DeSales High School, will speak to the Catholic Men's Luncheon Club after the 11:45 a.m. Mass on Friday, Dec. 6 at Columbus St. Patrick Church, 280 N. Grant Ave.

Father Johnstone is one of five priests ordained for the Diocese of Columbus in May and will speak about his vocation.

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

The club's next meeting will be on Friday, Feb. 7 with speaker Jon Weaver from Catholics in Recovery, a nonprofit organization that seeks to serve those suffering from addictions and unhealthy attachments including alcoholism, drug addiction, pornography addiction, sex and relationship addiction, compulsive overeating and food addictions, gambling addiction, codependency and its impact on the family, and general fear, control issues and anxiety.

Bishop Earl Fernandes' presentation of the club's annual Catholic Man of the Year award, which usually occurs in Feb-

ruary, will take place at the meeting on Friday, March 7.

The luncheon will be sponsored by the Serra Clubs of Columbus. If you are interested in sponsoring a luncheon, contact David Kilanowski at [dkilano@aol.com](mailto:dkilano@aol.com).

### Special Mass scheduled at St. Mary Magdalene

A special Mass known as the Rorate Caeli (Latin for "Drop down, ye heavens") Mass will be celebrated at 6:30 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 7, the first Saturday of Advent, at Columbus St. Mary Magdalene Church, 473 S. Roys Ave., followed by breakfast in the church hall.

A Rorate Caeli Mass is celebrated just before dawn in Advent as a devotion to the Virgin Mary. It is lit only by candles, representing Mary's role in bringing the Light of the World into the darkness of the world.

Mass begins in near-darkness, with only candles lighting the church to remind us of a world in darkness and sin that is anticipating the coming of Jesus. As Mass progresses, the church becomes brighter until the risen sun fills it with the light of day.

Since it is a Mass for the Blessed Mother, white vestments are worn instead of the violet usually used during Advent. The Mass readings and prayers highlight the prophecies of the coming of Christ and Mary's role in bringing the Light into the world.

### St. Matthew hosts wreath workshops

Workshops on making Advent wreaths with live greenery will take place at 7 p.m. Friday, Nov. 22 (adults only) and 3 and 6 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 23 at Gahanna St. Matthew the Apostle Church, 807 Havens Corners Road. For details and to register, go to <https://stmatthew.net/>

wreath.

The parish also is sponsoring a live Nativity scene at the Gahanna Holiday Lights festival from 3 to 6 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 24.

### St. Dominic parishioners celebrate with Haitian Catholics

Columbus St. Dominic Church parishioners joined Haitian Catholics in Springfield on Sunday, Oct. 20, for an afternoon Mass at St. Raphael Catholic Church commemorating the one-year anniversary of the Haitian community gathering in the historic church for a weekly Mass with native language and music.

Father Fritzner Valcin, a Haitian priest formerly of Columbus St. Francis of Assisi Church and now pastor at Buckeye Lake Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church, celebrated the Mass in Haitian Creole. He welcomed the local community as well as the Columbus visitors from St. Dominic and St. Francis, thanking the supporters for being there for Mass and a celebration afterward in the parish hall.

A bonus for the visitors from St. Dominic was discovering a connection with Black Catholic history. A historical marker outside the church honors Daniel Rudd, who was born enslaved but rose to become a prominent newspaper publisher and tireless advocate for the Catholic Church. Rudd was raised Catholic, moved to Springfield after the Civil War and joined St. Raphael.

There, the Church's philosophy of racial equality solidified his vision of justice, which he promoted in his weekly newspaper, *The Ohio State Tribune* — soon renamed the *American Catholic Tribune*. Rudd also founded the Black Catholic Congress movement, which continues to convene African American Catholics from around the country every five years.





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



# St. Charles wins state water polo title

Columbus St. Charles Preparatory School’s water polo team returned to a familiar spot at the top of the awards podium after winning the state championship on Saturday, Oct. 26 with a 9-7 victory over host Upper Arlington.

Facing an early 4-0 deficit, the Cardinals received four goals from senior Wyatt Julian to help them roar back against the Golden Bears to claim the program’s eighth state championship.

St. Charles also won titles in 2010, 2011, 2013, 2014, 2019, 2020 and 2021. The Cardinals had finished third in the state each of the previous two years.

“This was definitely my best game ever,” Julian said. “It might be my last

time playing water polo, so I really wanted to make it a good one. We just never gave up, never put our heads down. We just persevere. We knew they would come out hot, but we normally have pretty strong second halves.”

Junior Pierce Bateman added two goals and senior Luke Conway and juniors Ayden Fortney and Gabe Nixon finished with a goal apiece for St. Charles.

St. Charles’ Liam Miller was named Ohio Player of the Year and also first-team All-Ohio along with Bateman. Conway was a second-team selection, Julian landed on the third team and Greyson Jordan was honorable mention.

## 2024 All Central Catholic League

Volleyball

**First team**

Layla Hoying, Emma Cloran, Makenna Glenn, Columbus Bishop Watterson; Lyla Stewart, Meredith Scott, Columbus St. Francis DeSales; Mallory Matheny, Columbus Bishop Hartley.

**Second team**

Macie Moreland, Chloe Moreland, Watterson; Alyssa Mager, Chloe Smith, DeSales; Karah O’Malley, Patience Locklear, Hartley.

Girls Tennis

**First team**

Julia Caravella, Dory Scarfenberger, Francie Ciesinski, Columbus Bishop Watterson; Mary Kate LeMay, Molly Neugebauer, Columbus Bishop Hartley; Natalie Everitt, Columbus St. Francis DeSales.

**Second team**

Lilly Kasson, Chloe McClymont, Watterson; Francesca Nerves-Cueva, Nia Johnson, Hartley; Stella Abad, Pauline Gyamfi, DeSales.

**Standings**

Watterson	2-0
Hartley	1-1
DeSales	0-2

Girls Soccer

**First team**

Emma Miller, Gwynn Griffin, Sophia Scott, Megan Goehring, Columbus Bishop Watterson; Grace Eiselstein, Kaytlynn Murphy, Ingrid Bedell, Columbus Bishop Hartley; Sarah Stevenson, Tessa Richards, Annabelle See, Columbus St. Francis DeSales.

**Second team**

Ally Capozella, Suzie Roginski, Watterson; Sarah Thompson, Morgan Bailey, Sadie Klein, Hartley; Stella Newman, Albree Aaron, Chloe Conway, DeSales.

Boys Soccer

**First team**

Deven Patel, Sam Gabrielli, Jackson Reed, Tre Berry, Columbus St. Francis DeSales; Ryan Sullivan, Grant Brokaw, Aiden Rice, Columbus St. Charles Preparatory School; Angelo Ginocchi, Max Meacham, Caden Davis, Columbus Bishop Watterson; Vincent Mampieri, Daniel Anomakoh, Columbus Bishop Hartley.

**Second team**

Michale Haas, Kweku, DeSales; Connor Evans, Zeke Shalawyo, Sebastian Isbell, St. Charles; Michael Quinn, Michael Antry, Watterson; Joseph Murray, Marco Macatanyag, AJ McDaniel, Hartley.

# St. Charles celebrates feast day



Columbus St. Charles Preparatory School celebrated its annual Mass for the feast of its patron, St. Charles Borromeo, on Monday, Nov. 4 in the Walter Commons. Bishop Earl Fernandes was the principal celebrant for the Mass. Junior Quinn Tague (top photo) served as a lector for the first reading. Photos courtesy William Keimig



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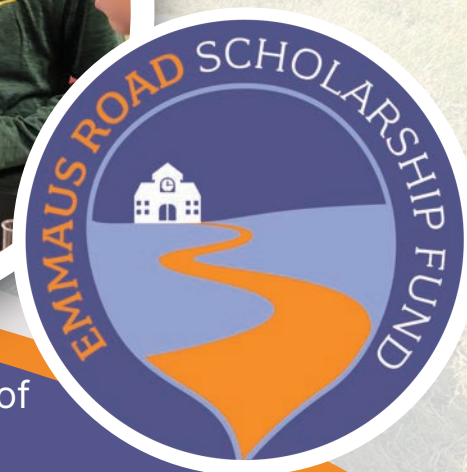
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DeSales National Honor Society adds 129 members



Columbus St. Francis DeSales High School inducted 129 students into the National Honor Society in October, bringing the total membership to 248. The National Honor Society includes juniors and seniors who have an accumulated GPA of 3.60 or above after their sophomore year, participated in a minimum of 10 hours of service and received recommendations of five faculty members in the qualities of character and leadership. Photo courtesy St. Francis DeSales High School



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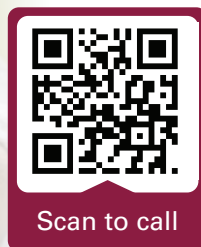
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