

The CATHOLIC TIMES

THE DIOCESE OF COLUMBUS' INFORMATION SOURCE
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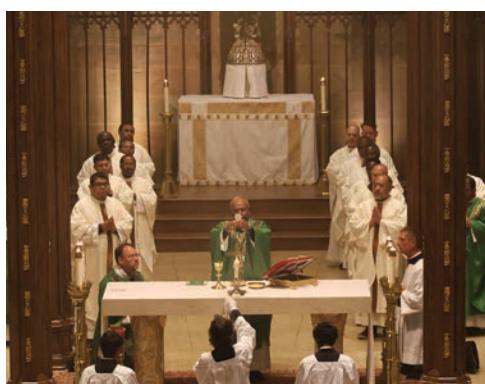
Schools unite in praying rosary

Students throughout the diocese simultaneously prayed the rosary at their schools or at St. Joseph Cathedral on Oct. 22 during the Month of the Rosary. Page 12



Young adults receive inspiration

A panel of speakers answered questions and presented inspiring talks during the annual Columbus Catholic Young Adult Conference on Oct. 18 at Westerville St. Paul Church. Page 11



World Mission Sunday Mass

Archbishop George Antonysamy of Madras, India and priests from the diocese celebrated World Mission Sunday Mass on Oct. 19 at St. Joseph Cathedral. Page 9



Vocations Awareness Week

Sister Nicole Daly, a teacher and campus minister at St. Francis DeSales High School, shares the story of her calling to religious life for National Vocations Awareness Week, Page 5

SEEK conference will bring thousands to Columbus

The Fellowship of Catholic University Students (FOCUS), an international Catholic outreach organization, will host its annual SEEK conference in Columbus in January. The conference will be held Jan. 1 to 5 at the Greater Columbus Convention Center.

SEEK26 is set to draw thousands of individuals from across the country. The five-day event will offer an encounter with Christ, transformation and community.

The conference is designed to inspire and equip people from various walks of life to grow in faith, deepen their relationship with Christ and be empowered to share the Gospel. The event

attracts thousands of attendees annually: students, young adults, families, parishioners and church leaders.

Registration for the conference is currently open. Individuals interested in attending can sign up online at seek.focus.org/registration.

The 2026 conference theme, "To the Heights," is inspired by recently-canonized St. Pier Giorgio Frassati (1901-1925). He urged young people to pursue holiness, service and a life fully alive in Christ.

"It will be a tremendous opportunity for our young people to encounter Christ and other young people from

around the country," Bishop Earl Fernandes said of the upcoming SEEK conference.

"It is another sign of the commitment of the Diocese of Columbus to college students, young adults and their families. Together, we will proclaim the joy of the Gospel."

The conference will create a space for personal and communal transformation through talks, fellowship and entertainment. It provides tools for living the faith and building lasting Christ-centered relationships.

SEEK26 will include keynote talks, faith-filled workshops, daily Mass, worship and opportunities for confession and Adoration.

Additional locations for the 2026 conference include Denver and Fort Worth, Texas.

A lineup of speakers is set for the Columbus conference.

Speakers include Father Mike Schmitz, director of youth and young adult ministry for the Diocese of Duluth, Minnesota, and host of the "Bible in a Year" podcast; Sister Maris Stella, vicar general of the Sisters of Life religious order in New York; Emily Wilson, a speaker, YouTuber and author; and Dr. Scott Hahn, founder and president of the St. Paul Center apostolate.

FOCUS, founded by Curtis Martin in 1998 at Benedictine College in Atchison, Kansas,

serves more than 200 college campuses and 20 parish communities, including Ohio State University in Columbus and Ohio Northern University in Ada. The apostolate offers Bible studies, mentorship, mission trips, conferences and partnerships with priests, bishops and parishes.

FOCUS missionaries journey with students and parishioners in faith. They inspire and equip them for Christ-centered evangelization and discipleship.

More than 1,000 individuals have entered seminary or a religious order after connecting with a missionary on a college campus.

Content continues to be locally produced despite Artificial Intelligence's advances

Artificial Intelligence, or AI, has begun to significantly change how people work, teach, learn, do research, conduct business, shop and even interact with one another. AI has also impacted the delivery of news and information.

The advent of AI has created ethical questions that Pope Leo XIV addressed shortly after his election in May, saying that this technology poses "new challenges to the defense of human dignity."

"In our own day, the church offers everyone the treasury of its social teaching in response to another industrial revolution and to developments in the field of artificial intelligence that pose new challenges for the defense of human dignity, justice and labor," Pope Leo said, referring to Pope Leo XIII's 1903 encyclical *Rerum Novarum* that addressed workers' rights at the advent of the industrial revolution.

Similarly, a technological revolution is threatening to uproot spiritual life in the 21st century.

"In the world of medicine, great things have happened thanks to AI, and in other fields as well," the U.S.-born pontiff said in his recently released book, *Leo XIV, Citizen of the World, Missionary of the 21st Century*. "However, there is a danger in this, because you end up creating a false world and then you ask yourself: What is the truth?"

While he emphasized that the Church is not opposed to AI, the rapid development of technology is cause for concern without the

proper perspective.

Those concerns extend to the delivery of news and information. He cautioned individuals to be wary of some media sources that provide misleading content. He noted in his book that he resisted the creation of an artificial version of himself that would allow visitors to a website to interact with this image and have questions answered by an avatar pope.

"If there's anyone who shouldn't be represented by an avatar, it seems to me, it's the pope," he said, according to a Catholic News Agency report.

Bishop Earl Fernandes recently asked local diocesan offices to consider the value and the potential hazards of using artificial intelligence.

The Catholic Times reported that the diocesan newspaper does not publish any AI-generated stories or photos. All of its articles and photos are produced by staff members or contributors.

Times editor Doug Bean said that AI can provide valuable assistance in researching facts and information or recording interviews, but journalists continue to operate under the mantra "trust but verify" their sources.

"Journalists are trained to question everything and they're skeptical by nature," he said, "and that includes fact checking in a variety of ways through research and human sources."

A recent report by the *Columbia Journalism Review* (CJR) detailed

some of the pitfalls of relying on AI. Among them are error-riddled news stories, plagiarism and the potential of lawsuits.

Journalists generally agree that while AI is a valuable tool, they would never rely solely on ChatGPT or any of the other AI platforms in the development of stories.

"As much as I believe that AI helps my productivity, I refuse to use it for writing," one writer told CJR. "I want my readers to know that I am not just rattling off facts but helping them make informed decisions. If I let AI models write for me, I feel like I've taken away an important part of that relationship with my readers."

Despite news delivery continuing to move into online platforms, journalists appear to be in agreement that AI is simply a tool that must not replace the human instincts of reporters and editors.

That's not to say that newspaper and broadcast newsrooms haven't been affected by the technology revolution. Staff reductions have strained the resources of news gathering entities and led to a general erosion of fact-based, unbiased media relying on AI-created stories, videos, audio and images.

Pope Leo cautioned the faithful to be on guard against threats to human dignity and justice.

"The danger is that the digital world will follow its own path and we will become pawns, or be brushed aside," he said.



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MARIAN EVENING

NOVEMBER 5, 2025 | 5:45-8:30 P.M.

ST. THOMAS MORE NEWMAN CENTER

64 West Lane Avenue
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SNACK and CHAT

with the Religious Sisters who minister in Columbus
Get to know them and their mission

Young women ages 18-35 are invited

*The evening will begin with Mass at 5:45 p.m.
followed by the Snack and Chat*

Please RSVP no later than November 3, 2025
to SrAntoinette@columbuscatholic.org or 973-902-3510

UPDATE

The following is an updated link to purchase theater tickets for Columbus Bishop Hartley High School graduate Joseph Sheridan's "The Road to Damascus" musical, which was featured in the Oct. 19 issue of The Catholic Times, at Ohio Star Theater in Sugarcreek that runs through Nov. 4:

<https://dhgroup.com/theaters/the-ohio-star-theater/>

The CATHOLIC TIMES

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Diocese of Columbus

Help wanted: more vocations to the priesthood

By Father Michael Haemmerle
Director, Office of Vocations

How have you experienced God's love? What are three of your closest, most meaningful encounters with God? Stop. Actually, think of those encounters with Him.

Now, how many of those would be possible without the priesthood? Did those encounters involve the Eucharist? The Eucharist that only is made present at the hands of the priest in the most holy sacrifice of the Mass.

Did any of those encounters involve Confession? Where God removes the grime and leprosy of sin from our souls and

restores us to new life through the healing words of a priest.

Did any of those encounters involve the Holy Spirit speaking in your heart? The indwelling of the Holy Spirit that you received at your baptism through the hands of a priest. Baptism that makes a relationship with God possible.

Every encounter I have ever had with God has been made possible by one of His priests -- whether it was in Mass or Eucharistic adoration, Confession, or through my Baptism, which allows me to pray with God, as His child, anywhere or at any time.

I am eternally grateful to the priest who baptized me, to the priests who have heard my Confessions and absolved me of my

sins, to the priests who have guided me, to the priest who Confirmed me, to the priests who have offered Mass so that I can receive the Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus Christ into my soul. Without them, I would not have encountered the love of God, would not have the joy that comes from living as God's beloved child. I would not be striving to become a saint and reach heaven.

We need more priests of Jesus Christ. We need men who are willing to leave everything to answer the call of God, so that we all can continue to encounter the love of God.

Young men, is God calling you? Are you the man being asked to step up to be that priest? Be courageous, you are made for

greatness!

Please pray for an increase in vocations to the priesthood for the Diocese of Columbus. Prayers for vocations are the single most important factor in men responding to God's call.

Pray also for your priests. We are sinners in need of grace just like you and the devil attacks priests because he recognizes how necessary they are for the salvation of souls. Just as God has chosen to work through His priests, so He chooses to work through your prayers.

You are God's plan A and there is no plan B. You have an essential role in God's plan of salvation for the world! Praise be Jesus Christ!

Seminarians answer the call to pursue priesthood

National Vocations Awareness Week was instituted by the Catholic Church in the United States to pray for, support and promote vocations to the priesthood, diaconate and consecrated religious life.

This year, National Vocations Awareness Week is observed from Nov. 2 to Nov. 8.

The Diocese of Columbus is blessed this year with 43 men in various stages of formation for the priesthood. Three diocesan seminarians have briefly shared their vocations stories. Anthony Whalen and Ben Van Buren are in the configuration stage and Luke Eschmeyer is in the discipleship stage.

Luke Eschmeyer

"Be my priest." As I was riding the bus home from school, I turned to God in prayer. "Be my priest." That was what God said, and His answer filled my whole being with His peace.

That prayer to God originated after the two priests from Gahanna St. Matthew the Apostle Church — Father Ted Sill and Father Peter Asantebwana — visited my Confirmation class and shared their vocation stories, encouraging us to discern our own vocation. I listened to them and, four years later, I entered seminary. I'm now in my fourth year of seminary in the Discipleship Stage.

When God called me, I was excited. But soon after that initial excitement, I became apprehensive, thinking of the sacrifices. I wanted to discern seriously and correctly. Thankfully, my public middle school provided the perfect opportunity: Shadowing Day. I asked if I could see what a day in the life of a parish priest is like; Father Sill said yes. With my mom, that day began with the 6:30 a.m. Mass, followed by breakfast and anointings, and ended with lunch, a meeting, and a Holy Hour.

That day helped me to discern my vocation better, and it informed Father Sill that I was starting to discern a vocation.

Throughout high school, promoted by Father Sill, I became involved with different discernment groups, such as Melchizedek Projects and Quo Vadis. Additionally, when I was an upperclassman, I had a great group of friends, some of whom are now seminarians, who taught me how to pray better. Through these groups and prayers, I decided to enter seminary for the Diocese of Columbus immediately after I graduated from high school.

Ben Van Buren

I did not grow up Catholic, but I have always gone to Catholic school for a good education. I first went to Columbus Holy Spirit and then in fifth grade I transferred to Columbus St. Catharine. At this time, I began going to youth group. I went mostly

to hang out with my friends and would tune out when we started talking about faith. I decided to go to CYSC (Catholic Youth Summer Camp) that summer for the same reason. Despite always having gone to Catholic school, it was at camp that I encountered Eucharistic Adoration for the first time. I was confused and exhausted, so I decided that I would never go to camp again. I continued going to youth group and the Holy Spirit began softening my heart. I returned to CYSC after seventh grade and had a profound encounter with Christ in the Eucharist and knew that I needed to become Catholic. I went through that process in eighth grade.

I went to high school at St. Charles. In high school, I was offered to become an MC at St. Catharine. I began serving the Mass and also began serving our weekly Adoration. These two combined for

God's call to begin growing on my heart. Eventually, at a retreat, it was asked if anyone was considering the priesthood and without realizing it my hand was up and I recognized the work that the Lord had been doing on my heart. I entered seminary after high school and am now in my fifth year of eight. Following God's call has given me great joy and peace in my heart.

Anthony Whalen

I felt called to the priesthood from a very early age while attending St. Leo's School here in Columbus. After high school, though, I felt that God had a different plan for my life and I enlisted in the United States Air Force, serving in Okinawa, Maryland, Texas and a deployment for Operation Enduring Freedom.

Following my time in the Air Force, I graduated from mortuary college and served in funeral service in Texas before accepting a position at Arlington National Cemetery as Cemetery Representative and Operations Specialist.

In 2020, I was promoted as the Cemetery Director of the United States Naval Academy while also serving as the Director of Naval Cemeteries. It was serving at the Naval Academy that I was honored to serve as the Master of Ceremonies to the Archbishop of the Military Services, who recommended me to the Archbishop of Baltimore for seminary.

Already having a graduate degree in Theology, I studied at St. Mary's Seminary before transferring to the Diocese of Columbus and now in my last year at the Pontifical College Josephinum. God willing, I will be ordained to the transitional diaconate on March 14, 2026 to serve the faithful of the Diocese of Columbus.

My journey has had many twists and turns over the years, but it has all been in God's good timing and given me a wealth of experience to minister to the faithful.

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR SEMINARIANS 2025-2026

TRANSITIONAL DIACONATE



DCN. ZACHARY GOODCHILD



BENEDICTUS AYI ADJANO



BEN VAN BUREN



CHRISTOPHER DIXON



SHANE GERRITY



KENNEDY OFEZU



DOMINIC RATLIFF



MICHAEL RHATICAN



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MATTHEW WALDMAN

CONFIGURATION



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ANDREW SMITH



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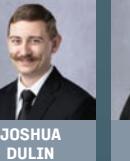
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HANS ZEHNDER



BENJAMIN ARNOLD



JOSEPH DULIN



LIAM HUGHES



QUANG NGUYEN

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NICHOLAS SCHMELZER



CHARLES SCHOENLAUB



DYLAN SHOEMAKER



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Sister Paulina: from punk rocker to pre-kindergarten teacher

By Tim Puet
For The Catholic Times

One or two seemingly random encounters can make all the difference in a person's life. Sister Paulina Porczynska, OP, who teaches pre-kindergarten students at Gahanna St. Matthew the Apostle School, said a couple of conversations on pilgrimages about 23 years ago helped direct her from a punk rock lifestyle to a lifetime of service to God and children.

Sister Paulina grew up in the Polish town of Zary, near the German border, as the youngest of three sisters. Poland is an overwhelmingly Catholic nation, but her family wasn't involved in church activities.

"My parents and older sisters didn't practice the faith," she said. "No one told me anything about Jesus or how to pray. When my sisters were in their teens, they just stopped going to church. Two or three years later, I was a seventh-grader and one Sunday, I announced it was the last time I was going to church. No one objected."

"At that point, things started getting really crazy for me. At the beginning of high school, I met some pretty crazy people and became what you would call a punk. I stayed that way almost until the end of high school."

Thousands of Poles go on walking pilgrimages every summer to the shrine of the icon of the "Black Madonna," Our Lady of Czestochowa, the patroness of Poland. One summer when she was in her late teens, Sister Paulina and some friends decided to make the walk even though they were not practicing Catholics.

"To walk from my hometown to Czestochowa is a round trip of about 350



Sister Paulina Porczynska, OP, enjoys teaching pre-kindergarten students at Gahanna St. Matthew the Apostle School.

Photos courtesy Sister Paulina Porczynska, OP

miles and takes two weeks, with people walking, singing and praying the whole way," Sister Paulina said.

"It's amazing to see. But the pilgrimage was a little difficult for me because I didn't pray. I had no relationship with Jesus. I was not happy and knew I was looking for something but didn't know what."

The first three days of the pilgrimage were really tough because I didn't understand why so many people were smiling. On the Thursday of that week on the way to the shrine, I felt so angry I decided to talk with a Franciscan priest

who was among the pilgrims," she said.

"After talking to him for a while, he asked, 'Do you want to go to Confession?' and I told him 'I don't know if I want to, but I know I can't live like this any longer. Besides, I haven't gone to Confession for years.' So I made my confession, with him as the priest, and it was the most beautiful experience I've ever had. It's been about 23 years since then and I still don't know how to put my feelings at that moment into words."

"I decided at that point to change my lifestyle and to start praying," she said. "But when I came back home, I realized that to try to live my old life and to be with Jesus at the same time was impossible. I had to choose Jesus or my old life and I chose Jesus."

The following summer, she went on the pilgrimage again. "On the same day and in the same place (where she encountered the priest the previous year), I was standing in front of the church and I knew something was going on in my heart," she said. "A friend approached and asked, 'Are you OK?' I told him, 'Physically I feel well, but something is going on and I don't know what.'

"He stared at me for a moment or two, then asked, 'Do you want to be a sister?' 'Are you crazy?' I said. When he asked me that, I was scared, but deep in my heart, I



Sister Paulina Porczynska, OP, spends time with students outside.

knew he was right. This was the first time I thought of being a sister and the thought never left me.

"When I came home, I found a spiritual director and told him what had happened. He said my faith was not strong enough (to enter a convent) yet and recommended that I get a college degree, get done with my studies, then join a congregation," Sister Paulina said.

"I started working on a degree in early education and the first two or three months were OK. But God was giving me a lot of signs and I felt inside that He was showing me this was not the way."

"I remember one time when I was talking to a professor after a class with him and he said, 'When I look at you, I think you'd be a great sister.' I barely knew him, so I felt that was a sign, and there were other signs telling me I would be really blind not to see what God wanted from me."

"Every day in my heart, I felt I wasn't in the right place. After two years, I gave up my will and said 'Yes' to God," she said.

"At about this time, a Dominican sister invited me to a retreat. On the first night of the retreat, I was praying in front of a painting of Mother Mary handing the Rosary to St. Dominic. I looked at my

See SISTER, Page 22

Two Dominican sisters profess first vows

Sister Terri Schell, OP and Sister Paula Danforth, OP, professed their first vows as members of the Dominican Sisters of Peace at the congregation's Columbus Motherhouse on Sunday, Aug. 17.

The ceremony was part of a Mass celebrated by Father Dan Millisor, a Dominican Sisters Associate. A reflection was offered by Sister Elyse Marie Ramirez, OP, who was director of the Collaborative Dominican Novitiate where both sisters studied in their canonical novitiate year. Sister Paula's daughter, Janelle, and Sister Terri's nieces and nephews presented the offertory gifts to the altar.

Both sisters entered the congregation as candidates in 2022 and entered the novitiate in 2023.

Sister Terri is director of Shepherd's Corner, a 160-acre site in eastern Franklin County operated by the sisters as an environmental center. She is concentrating on exploring land justice as a fundamental way to address climate change and promote racial healing.

A native of North Carolina, she earned a Bachelor's degree from the University of North Carolina at Wilmington. Her work experience before joining the congregation includes positions in environmental education and parish ministry.

Sister Paula Danforth is an accounting specialist at Albertus Magnus College in New Haven, Connecticut, an education ministry of the congregation Dominican Sisters of Peace, and worked in the College's finance office during her time as a candidate.

Sister Paula holds an Associate's degree from Hesser College in Manchester, New Hampshire, and a bachelor's degree from Castleton (Vermont) State College. She was introduced to the order during retreats at the Dominican Retreat and Conference Center in Niskayuna, New York.

The congregation has four women in formation for consecrated religious life. If you are interested in learning more about life as a consecrated woman religious, visit its website at oppeace.org.

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SALESIAN SISTER FINDS HER CALLING AFTER LETTING GOD WORK IN HER HEART

Sister Nicole Daly didn't plan to pursue consecrated life

By Hannah Heil
Catholic Times Reporter

"Maybe someday one of you will become a sister."

Sister Nicole Daly, 33, a Salesian Sister of St. John Bosco, remembered the words spoken to her and a few girls visiting cloistered Carmelite sisters for an eighth-grade field trip. That's funny, she thought.

Eighth-grade Nicole had plans to become a wife and mother. Consecrated religious life, she believed, was simply not her vocation.

Yet, as is commonly said, when people make plans, God laughs.

The Boston native grew up attending Catholic schools. She recalled her friend's father teaching her how to pray the rosary during their morning commute to school. She attended Adoration every Thursday and received the sacraments often.

Looking back, she explained, her Catholic school days were the seedbed where the seed for her vocation was planted. She described that time as the Lord at work in her heart, teaching her the path through Catholic education.

Fast forward to today and Sister Nicole is a Catholic school teacher. She teaches theology and is a campus minister at Columbus St. Francis DeSales High School.

Much happened between her time as a Catholic school student and Catholic school teacher.

Sister Nicole attended Northeastern University in Boston. In college, her faith was tested. She said she learned the "hard way" what life is like without the sacraments.

She eventually became involved in the university's Catholic Center. She met members of the Brotherhood of Hope, a community of Catholic religious brothers who primarily serve in college campus ministry.

Around age 20, Sister Nicole had a flashback to eighth grade. "Maybe someday one of you will become a sister," she recalled the words spoken to her years earlier.

This time, she explained, the words were different.

Sister Nicole began discerning religious life. She sought spiritual direction and set aside time to pray about God's calling for her.

"On Holy Thursday, I had this profound experience before the altar of repose, when I realized that even though Jesus was not in the tabernacle that evening, that He had been with me all along," she explained. "It was as if I realized, finally, that He wasn't there, but He had been with me."

"That flashback was just, 'This is what I've wanted for you all along – religious life.' When I experienced this, I kind of freaked out inside. At night, I confided in my best friend, and she encouraged me, which was the encouragement that I needed."

Sister Nicole talked with religious brothers on campus. The next semester, while studying abroad in Australia, she completed a 99-day discernment novena.

Months later, while on a service trip for spring break, she met the Salesian Sisters

of St. John Bosco, also known as the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians, in Tampa, Florida.

The Salesian Sisters work with poor youth worldwide through education and formation. The sisters seek to bring Christ to youth, so they can spread the Good News, or Gospel, in the world.

"I just fell in love," Sister Nicole recalled. "Nothing bothered them. Their focus wasn't on the things that were happening around them: if they were on time, if things were clean, if things are happening as they were supposed to be."

"The thing that they were more attentive to was heaven. They were just so much more attuned into the Holy Spirit and to the person in front of them. It just really made an impression on me."

Still unsure of God's vocational call for her life, Sister Nicole graduated college, began working and dating. She was not happy, she recalled, with the direction that life was going.

Four years later, on Holy Thursday, she heard the Lord again.

This time, Sister Nicole explained, she was still not ready to respond to His invitation, but she knew she needed to seriously consider religious life.

She spent a week visiting the Salesian Sisters in New Jersey that summer.

"I told God that I would give Him a chance, but in the inside, I wasn't really giving Him a chance," she admitted. "I just wanted to check it off and pretend like I didn't have to consider religious life again."

"I sized myself up against the other girls, and I said, 'They would be so much better off,' but throughout that week, God spoke really clearly to me that this is where He wanted me."

That sense of affirmation, perhaps oddly enough, came in the form of braiding hair.

Sister Nicole longed to have children, specifically a daughter. She wanted to braid her daughter's hair as her mother did hers while growing up.

Being a religious sister, she would not have that daughter she longed for – or so she thought. She shared that desire with God in prayer.

"The next day, we were celebrating Don (Father) Bosco day at camp, and the girls were preparing for their show in front of the parents. One of the girls came up to me and asked me to braid her hair, and once she asked me, then 25 other girls in the group came up to me and asked the same thing," she recalled.

"I realized that God was not only seriously calling me but that He was trying to show me that He would answer the desires of my heart through spiritual motherhood."

The following year, Sister Nicole applied to enter the Salesian order. She officially entered in September 2018 and professed her first vows in August 2022.

Parts of formation were difficult, she acknowledged. She was called to change her ways and leave behind her former self.

She trusted that she was where God was calling her. She maintained a sense of certainty, which she had first experienced when entering the order.

Her first assignment as a religious sister was as a theology teacher at St. John Neumann High School in Naples, Florida. She spent two years as a theology teacher



Sister Nicole Daly (front row, center) is joined by students from Columbus St. Francis DeSales High School.

Photo courtesy Sister Nicole Daly



Sister Nicole Daly works with a student in a theology class at St. Francis DeSales High School.

CT photo by Ken Snow



St. Francis DeSales students and Sister Nicole Daly (right) stop for a photo in front of a statue.

Photo courtesy Sister Nicole Daly

and campus minister.

In 2024, Sister Nicole came to Columbus to teach and minister at St. Francis DeSales. She is currently in her second year at the high school.

She lives with a community of six Salesian Sisters who minister in the diocese and live near Columbus Our Lady of Guadalupe, Star of the New Evangelization parish, formerly Holy Name Church.

"It's so nice being on Ohio State's campus, to go for walks around the neighborhood and sometimes just say my rosary," she noted.

"I have the best encounters with young people on campus, young people who have questions about their faith, or if what I'm wearing (a habit) is real or if it's a costume. It just opens up a whole lot of opportunities for evangelization."

Serving at St. Francis DeSales High School has equally been a blessing.

Sister Nicole described the atmosphere as "vibrant," where students are hungry for the faith. Several students, she noted, seek out opportunities for Adoration, Lectio Divina (a form of prayer with Scripture) and retreats.

"That's really invigorating just to know that I've been assigned to a place where

the need is great but that also young people know their need and that they're looking for God," she reflected.

"As a teacher, I have lots of lesson planning and grading, but whenever they come by, no matter what they want to ask, if it's, 'I gave this up for Lent. Can I ... ? How do I ... ? Is this ... ?' They'll have all sorts of questions about ... knowing if God is speaking to them in prayer, or how do they know it's really Him and not their own head."

"Whenever they come into my office, that's who I'm there for. The grading waits."

Since professing her first vows in August 2022, Sister Nicole has renewed her temporary vows annually.

She is preparing to make biennial vows in August 2026, which would be in preparation for final vows, anticipated for August 2028.

The Institute of the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians was co-founded in 1872 by St. John Bosco and St. Mary Domenica Mazzarello. Its North American apostolates include schools, camps, retreat ministries, oratories, parish education, day care, youth centers and young adult ministry.

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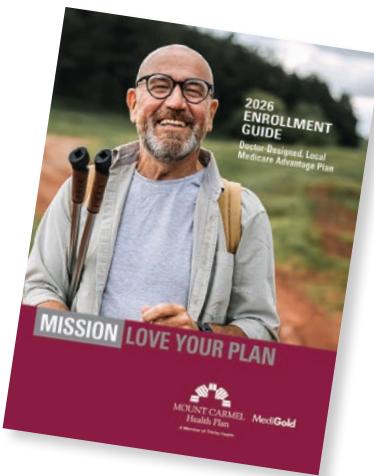
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A Columbus Police color guard participates in the procession into St. Joseph Cathedral for the annual Red Mass on Thursday, Oct. 23.

CT photos by Ken Snow



Judges and magistrates from the Franklin County Municipal Court and the Court of Common Pleas attend the Red Mass.

Red Mass coincides with start of judicial calendar

Members of the legal professions, public servants and the diocesan marriage tribunal were among the faithful who came together at St. Joseph Cathedral on Thursday, Oct. 23 for the annual Red Mass.

Bishop Earl Fernandes celebrated the 5:15 p.m. Mass with priests from the diocese and with the assistance of three deacons.

The bishop welcomed those in attendance and reminded them that they are called "not only to be ministers of justice but to go beyond justice to charity."

He recalled the words of Pope St. Paul VI, who said, "If you want peace, work for justice."

"So we gather this evening to pray for wisdom from on high, wisdom that will help us make just judgments, wisdom that will help lead us all into peace, especially at the beginning of this judicial year," Bishop Fernandes said.

The Red Mass is a tradition that began centuries ago for the official opening of the judicial year of the sacred Roman Rota, which is the Tribunal of the Holy

See at the Vatican.

The traditional name of the Red Mass is derived from the color of vestments worn by members of the clergy during the liturgy. Red is also symbolic of the fire associated with the Mass of the Holy Spirit.

In earlier times, judges wore scarlet robes to the Mass. Today, some of the judges and magistrates attend wearing black robes typically worn in courtrooms.

The Red Mass in the United States traces its roots to New York City, where in 1928 the Guild of Catholic Lawyers met with judges and law faculty for a Votive Mass at old St. Andrew's Church.

Since then, the Mass has continued to be celebrated annually at St. Andrew's and in other cities across the United States. In Washington, D.C., U.S. Supreme Court justices, politicians, diplomats and other members of government have participated in the Red Mass through the years.

In Columbus, the Red Mass had not been celebrated for years



Franklin County Municipal Court Judge Mary Kay Fenlon serves as a lector at the Red Mass.

until it was revived in 1985 by the Thomas More Society. The society encourages colleagues of all faiths to participate in the Mass and to pray for guidance in serving the citizens of Ohio.

"It's a great opportunity for all of the attorneys, paralegals

and judges in our community to have a whole congregation of people pray for the work that we do to be done well," said Kim Shumate, president of the local Thomas More Society and a member of Dublin St. Brigid of Kildare Church. "And I think that

the fellowship that we share both at Mass and afterwards brings us closer together and closer to Christ."

This year's Mass included an opening procession led by the Columbus Police and Fire Pipes & Drums, a Columbus Police color guard and attending judges and magistrates.

Franklin County Common Pleas Judge Julie Lynch and Franklin County Municipal Court Judge Mary Kay Fenlon served as readers at the Mass. Shumate was an usher and presented the gifts of bread and wine to the bishop.

"The Red Mass takes place at the start of the annual judicial calendar and is a reminder to all of us to exercise justice and prudence, not only in the practice of law but in all aspects of our lives," said Tom Rhatican, an attorney who is an associate director for education with the Catholic Conference of Ohio and a member of Columbus St. Patrick Church.

After Mass, a reception was held in the undercroft.

Dominicans celebrate canonizations with events at St. Patrick

The Dominican friars and Columbus St. Patrick Church celebrated the recent canonizations of two saints who were members of their order.

The parish, which has been under the care of the Dominicans since 1885, commemorated the holy lives of St. Pier Giorgio Frassati and St. Bartolo Longo with a holy hour for young adults hosted by the Columbus Frassati Society on Thursday, Oct. 23, followed by Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Solemn Vespers and Benediction led by Bishop Earl Fernandes with a dinner afterward on Friday, Oct. 24, a presentation on the life of Longo by Father Gabriel Torretta, OP on Saturday, Oct. 25, and homilies by Father Torretta at weekend Masses on Oct. 25-26.

Frassati was canonized along with St. Carlo Acutis on Sunday, Sept. 7 at the Vatican by Pope Leo XIV. Longo was made a saint

on Sunday, Oct. 19 by the Holy Father along with six others.

Frassati's story is more widely known. The young Italian died at age 24 in 1925. Frassati, a lay member of the Third Order of Dominicans, loved the outdoors and was called by Pope St. John Paul II a Man of the Beatitudes because of his tireless work for the poor, suffering and those in need of mercy.

Longo's canonization was fitting for October during the Month of the Rosary because of his great devotion to the Marian prayer given to St. Dominic, the founder of the order. Pope St. John Paul II, who beatified Longo in 1980, called him the "Apostle of the Rosary" and attributed the creation of the Luminous Mysteries of the Rosary in 2002 to Longo's writings.

There was a period when Longo, who lived from 1841 to 1926 in southern Italy, was anything but saintly. In fact, as

a young man in his 20s after he left his devout Catholic home for law school at the University of Naples, he was influenced by a rebellion against the Church at the time and began to immerse himself in the occult, becoming a "satanist" priest who promised his soul to a demon while attempting to lead faithful Catholics away from the Church.

With the help of a Dominican priest, Longo returned to the Church, became a lay Dominican and dedicated the rest of his life to helping others and promoting devotion to the rosary. He was responsible for the construction of the Basilica of the Most Holy Rosary in Pompeii, where many miracles have occurred.

Thousands visit the basilica every year to pray and ask for the intercession of this holy man.

"We see in Bartolo what it really practically means to be in your age but not of your age, to be in the world, but not of the



Bishop Earl Fernandes joins parishioners at Columbus St. Patrick Church for Benediction and Solemn Vespers on Friday, Oct. 24 in honor of recently canonized St. Pier Giorgio Frassati and St. Bartolo Longo, who were lay members of the Dominican order.

CT photo by Ken Snow

in the parish's Aquinas Hall.

Frassati's feast day is July 4 and Longo's is Oct. 5.

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Indian archbishop leads World Mission Sunday Mass

Archbishop George Antonysamy of Madras, India, served as the principal celebrant for the World Mission Sunday Mass on Oct. 19 at Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral and offered a blueprint for how Catholics should act as missionaries of Christ on earth to help others in need.

Catholics and Christians, the archbishop said, are commanded to provide aid for their fellow men – not only materially but spiritually.

"We are gathered here, coming from different nations, speaking different languages, and shaped by diverse cultures and mentalities, yet we are united as members of the Catholic Church, having received the loving command of Jesus Christ: 'Go and make disciples of all nations,'" the archbishop, whose native language is Tamil but is fluent in multiple languages, shared in his homily.

Archbishop George Antonysamy concelebrated with Mass with approximately 20 other priests, many of whom hail from countries outside the United States and serve in the diocese.

More than 200 of the faithful, which included natives of African nations, Korea, India, Philippines, Mexico and other Latin American and South American countries, attended the Mass and remained afterward for fellowship at a dinner with ethnic cuisine in the cathedral undercroft. Also present were Sister Zephrina Mary, FIH, director of the diocese's Missions Office, and religious sisters from six communities.

All were united in faith on the 98th celebration of World Mission Sunday, which was instituted in 1926 by Pope Pius XI to emphasize the importance of mission in the life of every Catholic wherever they live. Of the 2.2 billion Christians in the world, 1.3 billion are Catholic.

The archbishop, who had visited the diocese in early October for a mission appeal at Columbus St. Agatha Church, pointed out that each year the Holy Father offers a missionary message to inspire Christ's followers to recommit themselves to spread the Gospel to all nations.

"Pope Leo XIV, in his message, reminded us that we are all called to be bearers of hope," the archbishop said. "In today's world, hope is urgently needed — hope that fosters harmony, peace and fraternity. As disciples of Jesus Christ, we are called to evangelize and become symbols of hope to all people."

He went on to explain that Pope Benedict XVI described Mission Sunday as "charity in action."

"We have been chosen by God through baptism to bring goodness and love to others," he said. "We are called to live out our faith through acts of charity and witness."

With that command in mind, the archbishop asked for everyone to remember to pray for missionaries and those in need.

He said Catholics can live out our missionary calling in three essential ways:

The first is through prayer, which the missionaries of the world need every day to sustain their work. The second comes through living an exemplary life as witnesses of Christ.

"Consider St. Thérèse of Lisieux, the Little Flower," he said. "Though she



Archbishop George Antonysamy and concelebrating priests prepare to leave the altar in St. Joseph Cathedral at the end of the World Mission Sunday Mass on Oct. 19.



Archbishop George Antonysamy of Madras, India, shares his perspective on the impact of support for missionaries around the world during the World Mission Sunday Mass on Oct. 19. He was the principal celebrant for the late afternoon Mass.

Photos courtesy Sarah Lightle

lived only 24 years and never left her convent, she was declared the patroness of missions. Her life radiated love and sacrifice.

"We too must live boldly as Christians, proclaiming our faith not only in church or family but wherever we are — even in places where Christianity is persecuted."

The archbishop understands what it means to be persecuted, describing how he has been asked to remove his cross at airports but saying he has never heard of a person harming others because they wore a cross.

"The hatred toward Christianity persists," he said, "but our response must be love and witness through our lives."

The third way to support missionary work is through financial support.

"The Church grows through the generosity of its members," he said. "All who belong to the mystical body of Christ are called to contribute to its mission. Supporting the Church financially is a vital part of our missionary calling."

"Even those who feel limited — like the elderly woman in India who said, 'I want to be a missionary, but I cannot walk' — can still be missionaries. I told her, 'Don't worry. Your heart can burn with missionary zeal through small sacrifices.' Every act of love, every offering, even the smallest, makes you a true missionary."

As a true missionary, the bishop suggested, "we do not look at color, language or nationality — we look at the faith we share. This unity in faith can transform the world."

"Pope Benedict XVI, in his 2006 message, urged us to be missionaries like the Blessed Virgin Mary and St. Joseph — faithful, humble, and devoted."

"Let us pray for all missionaries who suffer for the Gospel, who face hatred and exclusion, especially those serving in foreign lands. May the Lord protect them, strengthen them, and fill them with wisdom to be true disciples, bringing the Good News to all."



Archbishop George Antonysamy elevates the Eucharist during the consecration at the World Mission Sunday Mass at the Cathedral.



Members of the Sisters of Our Lady of Kilimanjaro, who serve in the diocese, were among the native African communities at the World Mission Sunday Mass and reception.



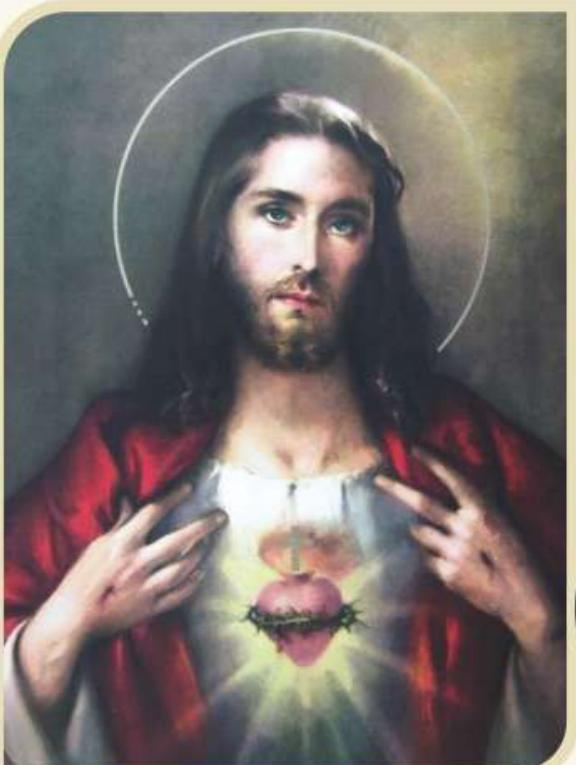
Father Kyounghum Francis Kim (right) and other members of the Korean Catholic community in the diocese enjoy the reception in the St. Joseph Cathedral undercroft after the World Mission Sunday Mass.



Sister Zephrina Mary, FIH (right) greets Father Sunder Ery at the reception in the Cathedral undercroft.



Father Tesfaye Petros Botachew (center) visits with guests at the reception.



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Paul Kim presents a talk at the Columbus Catholic Young Adult Conference.



Brother Joseph Logan chats with a sister from the Children of Mary.



Mary Rose Finneran prays during the conference.



The Columbus Catholic Young Adult Conference set aside time for Eucharistic Adoration at Westerville St. Paul the Apostle Church. Photos courtesy Sarah Lightle

Record number of young adults attend annual conference

By Hannah Heil
Catholic Times Reporter

Arise – the 2025 Columbus Catholic Young Adult Conference – encouraged young adults to take heart because Christ is calling them.

The theme was inspired by Mark 10:49: “And they called the blind man, saying to him, ‘Take heart, rise, He is calling you.’”

Often influenced by secular forces and worldly temptations, young adults were challenged to follow Christ instead.

The conference, in its seventh year, was hosted for the first time by Westerville St. Paul the Apostle Church.

“I want you to hear it from a pastor how incredibly important you are, how precious you are,” said Father Jonathan Wilson, pastor at St. Paul. “So many of your peers have received the faith and said something is missing for them, and we know that means they didn’t experience the fullness of the faith.

“Your presence here today is so incredibly important, as we want to be able to share this precious gift with your generation, perhaps in a way that previous generations never received.”

A total of 319 individuals attended the conference, 22 of whom were consecrated religious men and women – representing seven religious orders – and seminarians.

Religious orders present included the Dominican Sisters of Mary, Mother of the Eucharist; Little Servant Sisters of the Immaculate Conception; Daughters of Holy Mary of the Heart of Jesus; Children of Mary; Mercedarian Fathers; Fathers of Mercy; and Pallottine Fathers.

Young adults ages 24-29 constituted the largest age demographic with 92 attendees followed by 83 young adults ages 18-23. Forty-two individuals were ages 30-35 and 22 participants were ages 36+. (Ages were not collected from exhibitors, volunteers and many religious.)

Participants came from several Ohio dioceses. A number of attendees came from out of state, including from Kentucky, Indiana, Michigan, Texas, West Virginia, Missouri, Illinois, Georgia, Colorado and Arizona.

Keynote speakers at this year’s conference included Paul Kim of Paul J. Kim ministries and Father William Slattery, a priest serving in the Columbus diocese.

Brad Pierron of Damascus Catholic Mission Campus in Knox County served as the master of ceremonies. More than 60 missionaries from Damascus attended the conference.

Breakout sessions were offered by Fathers P.J. Brandimarti, pastor of

Johnstown Church of the Ascension, and Sam Severance, parochial vicar at Hilliard St. Brendan the Navigator Church, who spoke about mission and discipleship, respectively.

John Mullen of the Saint Paul’s Outreach apostolate offered a men’s session and Emily Knuth of Damascus Ministries a session for women.

Twenty-one exhibitor organizations were present, and the conference had 19 sponsors.

The event was held in the parish’s Klinger Center, adjacent to the main church.

Attendees gathered in the church sanctuary for Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, to pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet and for the parish’s 4 p.m. Mass of Anticipation for Sunday Mass.

“I am humbled and proud of the board and planning committee for all the hundreds of hours that went into putting on the 2025 conference – our highest attended one,” said Maria Tarbell, president of the non-profit organization for the conference.

“There were three of us from the board co-leading the conference – myself, Mary Jeffries and Denis Veneziano – and Nathan Forsthofel from St. Paul the Apostle parish – which made all the difference in what could be accomplished.

“We are grateful to St. Paul the Apostle parish and Father Wilson for their warm hospitality and the use of the parish facilities and church.”

Kim delivered the conference’s first keynote that morning.

A Catholic youth and young adult speaker, Kim has spoken in 50 U.S. states and 16 countries during the past two decades. The husband and father of six resides in Austin, Texas.

Kim recognized struggles that often accompany young adulthood: handling finances, paying off debt and deciding who to befriend, date and marry. Many life aspects are in flux, he said.

“There’s going to be a lot of things that come up in your young adult lives where you’re confronted with that proverbial fork in the road, and you can either wallow in your pain ... or you can say, let’s get to work,” he noted. “Is it going to be ‘one day...’ or is it going to be ‘day one?’”

He encouraged attendees to practice gratitude and check their mentality. Individuals can have a victim or victor mentality.

A victim mentality, he explained, is believing everything in life is at odds, a bad set of cards or not fair. A victor mentality is using situations in life and leveraging them for good, he said.

He recommended taking steps to better oneself and be a gift to others. He

encouraged young adults to take control of their faith, career, finances and mental health and wellbeing.

“You have to take ownership over your future vocation – whatever that might be – but in all these things,” he encouraged, “God is saying, ‘Take heart – take heart; I am calling you.’”

“Here’s the reality guys, let’s not pretend here: Every one of us struggles. Welcome to life.

“If you’re a young adult, that’s literally a feature of young adulthood, is realizing, ‘oh my gosh, my life isn’t perfect,’ and that’s OK. I have issues, I have pain, I have baggage, I have addiction.”

Kim shared his personal struggle with pornography, an addiction that he overcame through God’s grace. He was first exposed to pornography around age 7 or 8. It became an addiction enduring for more than 10 years.

“My entire adolescence was formed with, essentially, the corruption of my mind, that ... I can escape into this world of fantasy, that essentially, this is my drug, and I was dead,” he recalled. “I was dead in sin, and my mind was poisoned by pornography, and one of the profound graces of this moment was that a lifetime worth of sins was washed away in an instant by the blood of Christ.”

Kim began receiving the sacrament of reconciliation immediately after falling into the sin.

A student at the University of California, Los Angeles, he spent time at the Newman Center on campus. He began attending Mass, Adoration and praying the rosary.

His 10+-year addiction was conquered in three months. Kim shared that he has since been sober from pornography for more than 20 years.

He noted that there is great freedom in every encounter with God’s mercy.

Two years into college, he transferred to Franciscan University of Steubenville. He later joined the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal, a religious order based in the Bronx, New York.

Kim encouraged young adults to visit a seminary or religious order for a weekend and participate in a come-and-see retreat to experience religious life.

Living in community as a friar, he learned conflict resolution and how to have unpleasant conversations. He was challenged to anticipate the needs of others and not his own.

“It turned out my belly button was not the middle of the universe, surprisingly,” he joked.

Joining the Franciscan Friars was difficult, Kim emphasized. It required courage.

“It was even harder to leave because I felt like, in a way, I was letting God down. When you join seminary, you go in with an idea – and the sisters and the priests and the brothers know – you want to serve the Lord,” he explained. “The whole thing is like, ‘I don’t want to let God down.’”

After discerning out of religious life, Kim later discovered his vocation to marriage. He met his now-wife at a friend’s wedding reception.

He encouraged young adults called to the vocation to marry someone who is aligned in values and goals.

“The end game of your marriage ... if you’re called to that, is not so that you’ll be happy,” he reminded the audience.

“It’s so that you will be holy. It’s so that you can help one another and your children get to heaven. You don’t want to be deadlifting, dragging dead weight all the way to heaven.”

In Father Slattery’s keynote, he told young adults to have “main character energy.” He spoke to the audience in a storybook style, addressing them as characters in a video game.

Father Slattery, an Ireland native, holds a doctorate in philosophy. He serves as chaplain at Damascus Catholic Mission Campus and a professor at Franciscan University. He also presents at the Columbus St. Thomas More Newman Center near Ohio State University in Columbus.

Father Slattery encouraged his audience not to be a non-playable character, or NPC.

The term describes a person who acts as a background character in other people’s lives. It is largely used as an insult for individuals who stick to the mainstream and lack individuality or originality.

Speaking to “characters” in the audience, Father Slattery explained that they were going to download “the fix” or “cheat code,” changing from NPCs to individuals with main-character energy who have potential to live significant lives.

“I aim to shatter your default settings, break your algorithm, rewire your brain,” he said. “I’m doing all of this to empower you to live the wildly alive life promised by Him Who once said, ‘I came so they can have real and forever life, more and better than they ever dreamed of’ – max life – John 10:10 – my translation.”

To “rewire” their brains, Father Slattery offered five “hacks.” He said attendees were designed to matter, their mission is non-negotiable and they are creators. They also need to rewrite their character arc and discover their “gold-master” (perfect) self.

God’s revelations in the Bible, he

Bishop leads all-school rosary on John Paul II's feast

The life and legacy of Pope St. John Paul II was palpable during the all-diocesan school rosary on the late pontiff's feast day.

For the second consecutive year, Bishop Earl Fernandes led the recitation of the holy rosary from the ambo (pulpit) at St. Joseph Cathedral in front of more than 200 students, teachers, administrators and parents representing 47 schools around the diocese.

At the same time, students and staff watched and prayed along with Bishop Fernandes in school chapels and classrooms via a livestream from the Cathedral.

"It was profoundly beautiful to have all of our schools pause together in prayer today," said Dr. Adam Dufault, superintendent of diocesan schools. "From the students gathered here at the cathedral to those praying via livestream in classrooms, gymnasiums, and auditoriums across the diocese, praying the Rosary together reminds us that we are deeply connected as one Church, one mission, and one family in faith. We are grateful to Bishop Fernandes for leading our 50 schools in prayer this morning."

Not only does the Church designate October as the Month of the Rosary, the commemoration of St. John Paul II is observed on Oct. 22, the date for the 2025 all-school rosary.

Bishop Fernandes mentioned in his remarks before praying the rosary its special significance in the life of John Paul II, who was shot on Oct. 13, 1981, and survived the assassination attempt in Rome. Oct. 13 was the date of Our Lady of Fatima's final appearance to the three children in 1917 in Portugal, where the bullet from the gunshot was placed in the crown of her statue.

The bishop revealed that the diocese recently received a relic of St. John Paul II that was displayed in the Cathedral next to a statue of Our Lady. He also said he would be praying with a rosary given to him by Pope Leo XIV in October during a visit to Assisi and Rome



Bishop Earl Fernandes leads the all-school rosary at St. Joseph Cathedral on Oct. 22.

with pilgrims from the diocese.

St. John Paul II served as pope from 1978 to 2005. None of the students in high school or parish schools were alive during his pontificate.

"During my formative years as a school student, we were asked to pray the rosary because Our Lady had appeared at Fatima in Portugal," said Bishop Fernandes. "She asked for everyone to pray the rosary and do penance and pray for the conversion of Russia."

In addition to great spiritual gifts, St. John Paul possessed the ability to be a peacemaker. He is credited with helping to free Eastern European countries from the grips of Communism — symbolized by the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989.

"When I went to Fatima for World Youth Day two years ago, I was able to see a piece of the Berlin Wall and I thought to myself, 'Everything that she asked us to do we did, and everything she said would happen happened,'" Bishop Fernandes said. "And so there's something beautiful about praying the rosary."

St. John Paul's devotion to Our Lady and love for the rosary are well known.



Students from throughout the diocese pray the rosary at St. Joseph Cathedral while fellow students at their Catholic schools join them via livestream.

In his apostolic letter *On the Rosary of the Virgin Mary*, John Paul reminded the world that the rosary "is a prayer loved by countless saints and encouraged by the Magisterium. Simple, yet profound, it still remains, at the dawn of this third millennium, a prayer of great significance, destined to bring forth a harvest of holiness."

Sister John Paul, OP, the diocese's assistant superintendent for Catholic culture, noted that John Paul II called the rosary Marian in character but at its heart a Christocentric prayer.

"In our mission of forming young people in the faith, our Catholic schools are conscious of our responsibility to provide opportunities for encountering Christ," she said. "By teaching young people about the mysteries of the rosary, we are introducing them to the life of Christ and scenes from the Gospel."

As St. John Paul went on to say in his apostolic letter, "Imagining the Gospel in action through the mysteries of the rosary is a profound way to learn from the 'school of Mary' and to contemplate the beauty on the face of Christ and to experience the depths of his love."

"It is our hope that students will grow in their awareness of and wonder of Christ and experience the help of a loving mother in Our Lady through their experience of the rosary," Sister John Paul said.

"In addition, this event is not just about praying the rosary, which can certainly be done at any time and individually. Today's gathering to pray is especially intended to be a powerful experience of gathering together in prayer as a community within our school and also as a diocese, led by our bishop."

"By design, this all-diocesan school rosary connects the entirety of our school communities within the local church to their local Shepherd, Bishop Fernandes. The connection is not just spiritual but also physical in the student representatives sent to the cathedral of the diocese, where the bishop resides and from where, as a fountain of grace, blessings and chrism oils are sent forth to reach the faithful."

She mentioned that for many students the livestream was the first time they saw the cathedral and experienced it.

"It is important to provide our Catholic young people with an opportunity to know our bishop,



A relic of Pope St. John Paul II is venerated after the all-school rosary.



Bishop Earl Fernandes prayed with the rosary given to him by Pope Leo XIV in October.

the cathedral, and to experience being part of a larger community and that they have a home in the broader Church beyond and including their local parish," she said.

"More importantly, educating and forming our young people with the prayer of the rosary helps to empower them with a time-tested spiritual weapon that is always accessible and bears great fruit in their lives."

St. Brendan's four houses pray living rosary

For the second consecutive year, Hilliard St. Brendan the Navigator School completed a living rosary as part of its House System. This year, the living rosary coincided with the diocese's all-school rosary on Wednesday, Oct. 22.

St. Brendan's four Houses, named after North American saints, focus on the pillars of faith, service and spirit.

"The House system gives us a chance to focus on areas of our community that can't really be addressed within the academic classroom," said Marguerite Arciaga, library media specialist at St. Brendan.

"With that in mind, we have been dreaming of doing a living rosary for a couple years, and it just hadn't quite come together. "Last year was the first year that we completed a living rosary

in October. And we wanted to make it in October to fit with the Month of the Rosary and have our whole school celebrate it.

The school's Houses completed the living rosary last year several days after the diocese's all-school rosary. But this year the diocesan rosary took place at the same time as St. Brendan's House meeting time.

Arciaga said the school wanted to go above and beyond the spirit of the diocesan rosary and create a program that was engaging for students and was hands on while involving the entire school community.

While Bishop Earl Fernandes led the diocesan rosary from St. Joseph Cathedral, St. Brendan's living rosary had four simultaneous rosaries going that were run by House leaders, who are middle school students. Each

House had buddies pairing an older student with a younger student to pray a bead of the rosary in front of their House.

The rosary was preceded by a school Mass on Wednesday morning.

For this year's rosary, the school added a visual element.

"We wanted the living rosary to be tangible and visible for our students," Arciaga said. "I think that helps them connect what we're doing to the larger impact."

"For the living rosary, when the students entered the room where we prayed the rosary, each buddy pair was handed a colored ring that corresponded with their House color. Then, each pair brought their ring to a House leader and the whole House could watch this rosary chain being built as we prayed it."

She said it helped younger

students have a visual connection to the rosary as well as play an active role while praying.

All four House rosaries took place at the same time.

"I think this was really important for us as a community to take the time to pray," Arciaga said. "And that for us is why we wanted to make the rosary a priority, and to make it kind of the center of our school."

"The impact across the school is that, classes paused, everyone was focused on the same goal. Teachers, aides, everyone had a part to play in the rosary. Everyone was equal within that moment. And I think that was really powerful for us to spend that time together in prayer."

Third grade teacher Megan Isenbarger said the living rosary beautifully reflected the pillars of community and faith.

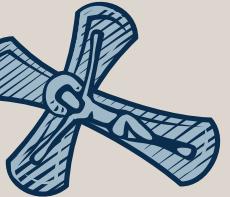


St. Brendan's living rosary.

"Watching our older buddies guide and support their younger partners was truly special," she said. "And, of course, Spirit ties it all together — reminding us that while we belong to different Houses, at our core, we are one united St. Brendan family."

SCHOOLS UNITED in PRAYER

Catholic students throughout the diocese prayed simultaneously at their schools on Wednesday, Oct. 22 while Bishop Earl Fernandes led the rosary from St. Joseph Cathedral.



In every corner of the diocese, Our Catholic Schools are working toward a common goal: to help our students become saints.

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



THE DIOCESE OF COLUMBUS



Educating PS - Grade 8
Thursday, November 13
4:30 p.m.
www.stbrigidofkildare.com

PreK and
Kindergarten
Focus!



**Educating Young Men in
Grades 9 - 12**
Sunday, November 2
1 p.m.*
www.stcharlesprep.org



Educating Grades 9-12
Sunday, November 9
1 p.m.
www.brhs.org



Educating Grades 9 - 12
Sunday, November 9
11 a.m.*
www.sfdstallions.org



Educating PS - Grade 8
Sunday, November 9
12 p.m.
www.saintagathaschool.org



Educating K - Grade 8
Thursday, November 13
6 p.m.
www.stmichaelworthington.org



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[@ocbs_Columbus](https://www.x.com/octs_columbus)



Educating PS - Grade 8
Thursday, November 13
6 p.m.*
www.stpaulk-8.org



OUR LADY OF BETHLEHEM
SCHOOL AND CHILDCARE

**Serving Children 6 Weeks
to Kindergarten**
Thursday, November 13
6:30 p.m.*
www.ourladyofbethlehem.org



Educating PS - Grade 8
Tuesday, November 18
6 p.m.
www.stmarydelaware.org



Educating PS - Grade 8
Tuesday, November 18
5:30 p.m.
www.standrewschool.com



Educating PS - Grade 8
Thursday, November 20
5:00 p.m.
www.stmaryschoolgv.org



Educating Grades 9 - 12
Sunday, November 23
1 p.m.*
www.bishopwatterson.com

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

St. Charles seniors receive National Merit recognition



Columbus St. Charles Preparatory School had five members of its senior class named 2026 National Merit Semifinalists and six others named Commended Scholars. Those who qualified for the National Merit Scholarship program did so by recording the highest scores of all high school students on the Pre-Scholastic Aptitude/National Merit Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT) they took last year as juniors. The students are (front row from left) Jacob Lloyd (Commended Scholar), Adrian Clarke-Gil (Commended Scholar), Milan "Joey" Lillis (Commended Scholar), James Brunton (Semifinalist) and Max Paxton (Commended Scholar); (back row from left) Isaac Dryfuse (Semifinalist), Tommy Fickell (Semifinalist), Brady Ritchie (Commended Scholar), Jack Bakhshi (Commended Scholar), Alex Wu (Semifinalist) and Noah Grant (Semifinalist). Photo courtesy St. Charles Preparatory School

2025 All-Central Catholic League Girls Tennis

First team

Julia Caravella, Lily Kasson, Dory Scharfenberger, Columbus Bishop Watterson; Sanaa Lisath, Natalie Everitt, Columbus St. Francis DeSales; Francesca Nervez-Cueva, Columbus Bishop Hartley

Second team

Chloe McClymont, Camila Maynard, Bishop Watterson; Meredith Scheiwer, Amelia Pusateri, St. Francis DeSales; Claire Bahlmann, Molly Neugebauer, Bishop Hartley

LOCAL NEWS AND EVENTS

Our Lady of Peace School invites prospective students to open house

Columbus Our Lady of Peace School, 40 E. Dominion Blvd. in the Clintonville/Beechwold area, will host an open house on Sunday, Nov. 9 from 12:30 to 2 p.m. New students in grades K-8 will be able to register for the 2026-2027 school year.

Rooted in Gospel values, Our Lady of Peace offers a safe environment, caring teachers, supportive peers and a high-level education that includes Spanish and Latin classes, art, music and physical education. In addition, the school's athletic programs begin with soccer in Kindergarten and several other sports starting in fourth grade.

EdChoice, Jon Peterson and Autism scholarships and the Emmaus Road SGO has made private education affordable for everyone. Our Lady of Peace demonstrates concern for the individual student by offering one-to-one technology, specialized tutors in math and ELA, intervention specialists and services, algebra for high-achieving students, and more.

For more information, contact the school at 614-267-4535 or visit www.olpcolumbus.org.

St. Edward decorations sale marks 15 years

The 15th annual holiday decorations sale sponsored by the women's organization of Granville St. Edward the Confessor Church will take place Saturday, Nov. 1 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the church, 785 Newark-Granville Road.

More than 100 volunteers spend the week before the sale transforming the parish hall into a winter wonderland filled with thousands of gently used Christmas decorations

— from ornaments and wreaths to trees, collectibles and more.

The donated items are collected throughout the year and stored in Marty's Attic, a building created specifically for this purpose and named in honor of parishioner Marty Puckett, who believed that everyone should be able to afford to decorate for the Christmas season.

All proceeds benefit the charitable works of the Women of St. Edward (WOSE). For more information, contact santas.attic4st.eds@gmail.com.

Byzantine parish cookie sale will be Dec. 13

The 21st annual Christmas cookie sale benefiting Columbus St. John Chrysostom Byzantine Catholic Church will take place from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 13 at the church, 5858 Cleveland Ave.

Items available for pre-order include: trays of more than six dozen assorted cookies, \$55; nut and poppyseed rolls, \$17; baklava, \$30 for an 8-by-8 pan; and pirohi, \$7. Pirohi fillings include potato/cheese, sauerkraut, sweet cheese and whole prune. Individual items will be available for sale in the parish hall.

All product quantities are limited and may run out before the order deadline, which is Sunday, Dec. 7. To place an order, click on www.byzantinecolumbus.com and go to the cookie sale page or call (614) 882-7578 and follow the prompts. Cash, checks or credit cards will be accepted.

See LOCAL NEWS, Page 17

Join Ohio Dominican in Celebrating Black Catholic History Month

November is Black Catholic History Month, a time to honor the cultural heritage and contributions of Black Catholics to the Church and society. The month was chosen in 1990 by the National Black Catholic Clergy Caucus to coincide with important feasts such as All Saints, All Souls, and the feast of St. Martin de Porres.

Ohio Dominican University invites you to celebrate on our campus, located at 1216 Sunbury Road, Columbus, Ohio.

Wednesday, Nov. 5 | 7 p.m.
Matesich Theatre, Erskine Hall



2nd Annual Black Catholic History Month Lecture

"Vatican II, the Black Catholic Movement, and the Struggle for the African American Ordinariate" by **Dr. Joseph Flipper**, Mary Ann Spearin Chair of Systematic Theology, University of Dayton.

Sunday, Nov. 16 | 7 p.m.
Christ the King Chapel, Sansbury Hall



Gospel Mass

Featuring special guest preacher, **Deacon Royce Winters** of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati and musical guests **Vernon Hairston** and the St. Dominic/Holy Rosary/St. John combined choir.

Monday, Nov. 17 | 7:30 p.m.
Griffin Student Center, room 258



Sankofa: Reaching Back for Father Rivers

Eric T. Styles, Society of St. Joseph, and **Emily Strand**, ODU Campus Ministry, discuss their work introducing a "hidden figure" to a new generation through their podcast, *Meet Father Rivers*.



These events are made possible in part by the Catholic Foundation.

Founded by the Dominican Sisters of Peace.



The Appeal

Together in Mission
— 2025 —

Together in Mission we can do great things for the people of the Diocese of Columbus.

The Diocese of Columbus has been able to evangelize, educate, nurture, and support the needs of our 23 county diocese because of your support of The Appeal.

Thank you for your gift to The 2025 Appeal.

It's not too late to give or support another parish's goal for The 2025 Appeal.

Diocesan Goal: \$8,000,000

Pledged to Diocese*: \$7,559,365

*Pledges as of 10/20/25; parishes in red have met goal

Parish, City

Parish, City	Goal	Pledged
Christ the King Church, Columbus	\$112,312.84	\$71,711.00
Church of the Ascension, Johnstown	\$48,505.72	\$68,383.72
Church of the Blessed Sacrament, Newark	\$99,415.50	\$141,978.00
Church of the Holy Trinity, Zoar	\$31,873.32	\$25,747.50
Church of the Resurrection, New Albany	\$297,549.35	\$169,895.00
Community of St Joseph and Holy Cross Church, Cols.	\$61,733.03	\$55,433.00
Divine Mercy, Zaleski	\$40,219.41	\$35,035.00
Holy Family Church, Columbus	\$82,346.72	\$50,330.59
Holy Spirit Church, Columbus	\$41,622.34	\$77,116.00
Holy Trinity - St. Joseph, Somerset	\$36,830.92	\$31,585.00
Immaculate Conception Church, Dennison	\$69,634.80	\$58,535.00
Immaculate Conception Church, Columbus	\$181,385.64	\$218,617.00
Immaculate Heart of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Canal W.	\$90,706.55	\$93,620.55
Our Lady of Guadalupe, Columbus	\$33,353.16	\$39,517.00
Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Marysville	\$100,071.03	\$121,571.00
Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church, Buckeye Lake	\$38,736.77	\$85,621.00
Our Lady of Peace Church, Columbus	\$109,916.58	\$114,869.00
Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, Grove City	\$185,819.03	\$282,294.00
Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal, Columbus	\$42,290.92	\$24,380.00
Our Lady of Victory Church, Columbus	\$67,250.20	\$79,505.00
Our Lady Queen of the Apostle, Chillicothe	\$87,530.55	\$99,772.00
Our Lady the Immaculate Conception, Kenton	\$28,987.66	\$37,220.00
Sacred Heart Church, Columbus	\$17,252.31	\$23,011.23
Sacred Heart Church, Coshocton	\$51,570.62	\$37,812.52
Sacred Heart Church, New Philadelphia	\$83,750.09	\$71,316.00
Sacred Hearts Church, Cardington	\$20,791.48	\$45,108.45
Seton Parish, Pickerington	\$200,469.29	\$188,395.00
St Agatha Church, Columbus	\$152,699.58	\$199,898.00
St Agnes Church, Columbus	\$16,580.53	\$17,418.00
St Aloysius Church, Columbus	\$20,552.65	\$19,380.00
St Andrew Church, Columbus	\$227,602.84	\$252,166.76
St Andrew Kim Taegon Korean Community, Cols.	\$12,160.71	\$0.00
St Ann - St Mary Church, Dresden	\$21,708.57	\$26,265.00
St Bernadette Church, Lancaster	\$90,335.11	\$102,267.15
St Brendan the Navigator, Hilliard	\$330,767.59	\$299,895.73
St Brigid of Kildare Church, Dublin	\$365,171.03	\$376,738.38
St Catharine Church, Columbus	\$139,689.09	\$173,045.00
St Cecilia Church, Columbus	\$118,979.21	\$100,713.10
St Christopher Church, Columbus	\$59,369.17	\$70,866.17

Parish, City

Parish, City	Goal	Pledged
St Colman of Cloyne Church, Washington CH	\$39,512.65	\$87,966.77
St Dominic Church, Columbus	\$27,991.59	\$29,200.00
St Edward the Confessor Church, Granville	\$111,705.14	\$156,671.62
St Francis de Sales Church, Newark	\$219,798.86	\$271,327.48
St Francis of Assisi Church, Columbus	\$30,480.64	\$31,660.00
St James the Less Church, Columbus	\$68,824.70	\$59,717.00
St John Church, Logan	\$43,105.56	\$55,255.05
St John Neumann Church, Sunbury	\$285,976.93	\$385,439.51
St John Paul II Scioto Catholic, Portsmouth	\$117,873.07	\$129,268.07
St John the Baptist Church, Columbus	\$37,327.04	\$55,827.04
St. John the Baptist Parish, Mount Vernon	\$97,764.41	\$195,990.00
St Joseph Church, Circleville	\$50,052.18	\$58,041.00
St Joseph Church, Dover	\$78,446.98	\$72,485.00
St Joseph Church, Plain City	\$44,961.26	\$55,264.34
St. Josephine Bakhita Parish, Columbus	\$116,770.15	\$118,690.00
St Margaret of Cortona Church, Columbus	\$67,368.57	\$137,535.00
St Mary - Mother of God, Columbus	\$90,374.19	\$126,653.00
St Mary Church, Delaware	\$182,627.66	\$174,623.70
St Mary Church, Marion	\$93,058.07	\$241,337.00
St Mary Magdalene Church, Columbus	\$35,675.78	\$34,071.78
St Mary of the Assumption Parish, Lancaster	\$160,813.48	\$253,395.70
St Matthew the Apostle Church, Gahanna	\$280,739.33	\$348,853.56
St Michael Church, Worthington	\$158,245.94	\$341,069.30
St Nicholas Church, Zanesville	\$76,521.86	\$51,909.00
St Patrick Church, Columbus	\$171,619.43	\$149,272.00
St Patrick Church, Junction City	\$19,776.90	\$15,560.00
St Patrick Church, London	\$46,970.98	\$52,761.00
St Paul the Apostle Church, Westerville	\$509,031.12	\$578,461.74
St Peter Church, Millersburg	\$14,544.43	\$8,881.44
St Peter St Joan of Arc Parish, Powell	\$425,383.19	\$589,132.38
St Pius X Church, Reynoldsburg	\$166,773.26	\$91,850.00
St Rose of Lima Church, New Lexington	\$39,240.64	\$24,995.00
St Stephen the Martyr Church, Columbus	\$49,773.42	\$86,705.40
St Thomas Aquinas Church, Zanesville	\$64,726.28	\$45,000.00
St Thomas the Apostle Church, Columbus	\$21,670.25	\$20,620.00
St Timothy Church, Columbus	\$97,859.12	\$100,535.00
Sts Augustine & Gabriel Church, Columbus	\$26,746.60	\$29,915.00
Sts Simon & Jude Church, West Jefferson	\$62,326.45	\$72,715.00



To give online, scan the QR code or visit columbuscatholicgiving.org/appeal

Seton Parish grief support group provides consolation to bereaved

By Hannah Heil
Catholic Times Reporter

The Catholic Church dedicates November to the holy souls in purgatory with the feasts of All Saints and All Souls celebrated on Nov. 1 and 2, respectively.

For individuals grieving the death of a loved one, there is often no timeframe and grief can extend far beyond November.

Pickerington St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish established a grief support group decades ago to minister to grieving adults. Two eight-week support groups continue to be held yearly: one in the fall and another in the spring.

The support groups often include between five and 12 people with three facilitators present. This fall, the support group meets weekly on Sunday afternoons through Nov. 23 in the parish library.

All individuals grieving a death, including non-Catholics, are invited to come and participate at the parish. Participants grieve together in light of faith.

Kathy Willard, a parishioner at Seton Parish since 1998, began facilitating support group sessions about 10 years ago.

"I don't know who gets more out of it, the facilitators or the participants," she said of the support groups.

"What I'm surprised at is there's not many grief support groups in the area. I would just think there would be more out there because there's such a need for it."

In college, Willard studied employee assistance counseling to provide counseling and psychological services in the workplace. Her first exposure to grief came at a young age.

"When my brother was 16, he passed away from lupus (an autoimmune disease) – when I was 21," she shared. "It really grounds you, and you really find out what's important and what's not."

This past spring, four days



Pickerington Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish ministers to grieving adults who have lost loved ones at eight-week support groups that meet in the fall and spring.

Photos courtesy Seton Parish grief support group

before she was to begin facilitating the spring grief support group, Willard's mother died. A second facilitator experienced the death of her best friend the same week.

"You think you know everything about everything when you've been doing it for that long," she said of facilitating grief support, "but it was a whole new way of looking at things."

The meeting curriculum for the parish support group is identical for its fall and spring sessions, Willard noted. Yet, it can be difficult to plan group meetings: participants often bring varied challenges and experiences from the past week to a meeting.

"It's their time," she said of participants, "so we don't want to say, 'We've got to talk about this; we've got to talk about that.'"

The group is available to grieving adults regardless of when the death of a loved one occurred. Some individuals don't seek grief support initially, Willard noted, but participate in a group two or three years later.

"They're just sitting there. They can hardly move," Willard reflected on many participants' first group meeting. "They're just crying, not sobbing, but you can just see the tears coming down, and they don't want to talk."

"And then, the last week, they

walk out and they're laughing, and they've made friendships. It's just so rewarding."

Karen Rieglmayer, a parishioner at Seton Parish since 2003, participated in the grief support group twice. She has most recently served as a facilitator.

Several years ago, Rieglmayer got involved in the parish bereavement group, which included grief support ministry. A facilitator position opened, she recalled, and she figured it would be a good fit "since I cared for my dad, my mom, my brother and then my husband" before their deaths.

"I have been so blessed during the past six years walking with those who are taking their first steps on their healing journey through grief," she said. "Each group is different, and each person grieves differently, so I learn something new each week from each of our participants."

Rieglmayer was part of the grief support group as a participant years prior. Shortly after joining Seton Parish, her mother died in May 2003. Rieglmayer joined the support group that fall.

She participated in the grief support group again in 2018 after her husband of 51 years, David,



Seton Parish's grief support group sessions are led by facilitators. Meetings are open to Catholics and non-Catholics.

died.

"My grief was much more profound when he died than with my mom. I really needed a safe place to share my feelings of emptiness and loss," she explained. "I found that in the support group."

"My family was wonderful and supported me every step of the way, but sometimes, it's easier to share with people you don't know, and that is what I found in our group."

During the first meeting, participants typically share who they are grieving and when the individual died. Participants can opt to pass if they prefer it remain private.

Participants receive handouts, books and a workbook to utilize outside of group meetings.

Facilitators can offer referrals for additional grief support services if needed. While facilitators are present during meetings, participants primarily support each other.

"It's just so overwhelming to see that because you're thinking, that person could do nothing for themselves and now they're helping others," Willard reflected. "Our biggest thing is laughter."

"I even had one woman tell me, 'I don't want to laugh. My grief is too painful, and I just don't feel like I should be laughing.' When you finally get to see them laugh, and then a couple weeks later they're making other people laugh, it's great."

Grief support sessions often include listening to music and

analyzing song lyrics.

Music can be helpful in grieving, Willard noted. The group listens to songs such as "Drops of Jupiter" by the band Train, inspired by lead singer Pat Monahan's mother's death after battling lung cancer for years.

Members also color with paper and boxes of Crayons. "It brings you back to your childhood, which brings you back to before the grief and the pain," Willard explained. "For that amount of time, when they're coloring, they're not feeling any of that."

Relationships formed in the support group extend beyond the eight-week meeting sessions. Willard established an e-mail chain for monthly pizza dinners after the support group concludes.

"We get really good attendance at those," she noted. "They have that bond that they'll never have with anybody else."

Previous participants enjoy gathering to talk and share a meal, and check on one another if someone is absent at the monthly dinner.

"We are traveling this journey together," Rieglmayer emphasized. "It is never a straight line but rather up hills and down hills."

"We all will have our good days and our bad days, but with the support of each other, we will get through this."

For more information or to join a support group at Seton Parish, e-mail MamaKath62@aol.com.

Bishop leads Jubilee pilgrimage to Italy



Led by Bishop Earl Fernandes (left photo), a group of about 40 pilgrims from the diocese walk the streets of Assisi during a trip in October that included Rome. Pilgrims were thankful to pray at holy sites and receive the graces of the Holy Year as well as experience the grandeur of the Church's architecture and art in Italy. With Father Jason Fox, the pilgrims (center photo) stand outside the Colosseum in Rome. Bishop Fernandes also had the opportunity to meet Pope Leo XIV while attending the pontiff's weekly audience at the Vatican. Photos courtesy Fr. Juan Macias Marquez, O.P.

LOCAL NEWS: From Page 15

All preorders must be picked up by 1 p.m. on the day of the sale. After 1 p.m., they will be offered for general sale. If you have questions, contact Teresa Frye at stjohnbyz@hotmail.com.

Dominican Sisters sponsor service day

The annual service day sponsored by the Dominican Sisters of Peace will take place Saturday, Nov. 1 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Martin de Porres Center, 2330 Airport Drive, Columbus.

Several volunteer projects will be assigned at check-in. Options for outdoor and indoor service will be available. Contact Sister Ana Gonzalez at ana.gonzalez@oppeace.org to sign up or for questions. Advance registration is required so the sisters will know how much food to order.



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Mount Carmel graduate follows grandmother into nursing

By Hannah Heil
Catholic Times Reporter

Columbus St. Francis DeSales High School graduate Shelby Rice, Class of 2021, said her decision to become a nurse was inspired by her grandmother.

Maggie Thiel Berger graduated from Mount Carmel College of Nursing (MCCN) in 1960. Earlier this spring, her granddaughter, Rice, did the same.

Graduating 65 years apart, one MCCN graduate is beginning her nursing career and the other has long since retired.

Berger spent years working as a nurse in the operating room (OR) at Mount Carmel St. Ann's Hospital in Westerville. She also worked at the former Mount Carmel Mercy Hospital in Columbus and as a scrub nurse in the OR with an orthopedic surgeon.

As Rice contemplated her future career, she desired a path similar to her grandmother's, seeing the various opportunities it presented. "That's why I originally went into nursing," she said.

For Berger, her reason for nursing was more linear.

"I was just a senior in high school, I think, and I thought, well, maybe I'll be a nun," she recalled. "My oldest brother said, 'Maggie, I think that's a bad idea.'

"I said, 'Well, what else could I do? I guess I'll be a nurse.'

After graduating from Columbus Holy Rosary High School, which later closed in 1966, she chose the latter option and attended Mount Carmel.

Berger, who hails from the south side of Columbus, was raised in a devout Catholic family. She grew up in former Columbus St. Leo parish, which was suppressed in 1999 before becoming an oratory in 2020 staffed by the Institute of Christ the King Sovereign Priest.

"I owe a lot to Mount Carmel and my Catholic faith and my upbringing," Berger said.

She began her college days at Mount Carmel in the school's chapel.

"I went to Mass every morning, 6 o'clock, and then went to work," she recalled. "It was just part of the routine, and it was so easy because, being Catholic, it really helped."

explained, show that each person is designed to be a legendary, one-of-a-kind player in the game of life.

He noted that each person's DNA and genetics prove that no two people share an exact genetic sequence. Identical twins do not have the same neural wiring patterns.

Each person also has a non-negotiable mission from their Creator to create, love and rescue.

"Forget about finding your life's purpose like it's some hidden item you need to loot. It sends you on an endless inward-

Looking back, she can appreciate attending a smaller Catholic nursing school. Rice is currently completing nursing orientation at Mount Carmel St. Ann's Hospital, where her grandmother worked decades earlier.

"Going to my nurse residency programs and events at the hospital, I'm always running into someone I know, and it just makes it less scary, to see familiar faces," she explained. "It feels like we're just in class."

Berger, who resides at The Villas at Saint Therese in Columbus, might feel much the same way. She is one of five MCCN graduates living at The Villas, a Catholic assisted and independent living facility, who attended school together.

One alumna at The Villas, Rose Dete Murnane, and Berger were colleagues at Mercy Hospital. Rice now works with Murnane's son, Dr. Alan Murnane, an obstetrician-gynecologist, in the labor and delivery department at Mount Carmel St. Ann's.

Rice also worked with Murnane during nursing school in his office at Westar OB/GYN, which offers obstetric and gynecological care.

"It really feels so full circle," Rice expressed. "I just feel more connected to nursing and to my grandma. I didn't go into OR nursing, but we do go into the OR in labor and delivery."

"Every time I'm there, I feel like my grandma a little bit, and I can just imagine what (she) would say in certain situations ... and I'm like, 'Oh my gosh, I get why we are so similar.'"

Beyond relationships formed through MCCN, Rice was exposed to the possibility of caring for more than a patient's physical needs.



Maggie Thiel Berger pins her granddaughter, Shelby Rice, during Mount Carmel College of Nursing's graduation ceremony earlier this year.



Shelby Rice (right) is following her grandmother, Maggie Thiel Berger (center), into nursing.



Five Mount Carmel College of Nursing graduates live in retirement at The Villas at St. Therese in Columbus.

Photos courtesy Mount Carmel

"It became super apparent to me that, naturally, there's an alignment between Catholic values and nursing values. They just go hand in hand," Rice said. "I feel like, having a Catholic background, it's given a little bit more purpose to what we do."

"We can really look at a patient from a different perspective. I remember at Mount Carmel (College), it was really big: We're treating mind, body, soul – not just, what can you do for the patient physically? But what can you do for them emotionally and spiritually?"

"It's really important, especially working in labor and delivery, to be in a Catholic hospital because they have respect for all human life."

Rice works closely with the hospital's chaplains. She acknowledged that pregnancies do not always end as desired. Witnessing chaplains minister to mothers and families in times of loss can be a beautiful experience, she noted.

When a patient loses a baby, Berger recalled from nursing school, "they taught us, if you see the products of conception – and they're there – you bless and baptize them, and I did that once. I baptized that baby."

Rice has had several experiences of praying with patients, regardless of their faith, at the hospital bedside.

She described being part of a woman's birth story as a highlight of labor and delivery nursing, which also comes with extra pressure.

"That feels like a lot of weight on me because everyone

remembers their story, and it's not just another day for them," she noted. "It's a huge moment."

Added pressures extend beyond the labor and delivery department. The nursing field has changed significantly since Berger's time at St. Ann's Hospital.

"They do much more," she said of nurses today. "We never read any of the reports or anything when we were in school."

"There were only a few doctors, when I was in my early years of nursing, that could even read an EKG (electrocardiogram, a tool that records a heart's electrical activity). They didn't all do that."

Rice, who began in July at St. Ann's Hospital, is set to complete orientation around Thanksgiving. The training requirements have also intensified.

"We just didn't do it," Berger recalled. "You watched one, you did one and you're it – putting down tubes, doing whatever. That was it."

"We didn't know any better, so we just did it. It's just the way it

was."

While nursing in 2025 has little resemblance to 1960, Berger is grateful that her granddaughter is continuing her legacy.

At Rice's graduation ceremony earlier this year, she asked her grandmother to pin her.

MCCN graduates receive a pin for nursing. They are pinned by a person of their choosing at the ceremony – one tradition that does resemble 1960 Mount Carmel.

Berger, too, was pinned during her MCCN graduation. In addition to pinning her granddaughter this year, she gave Rice the nursing pin she received in 1960.

"I was thrilled," Berger said of pinning her granddaughter. "I was glad to be well and be able to do that."

"We were so excited," Rice added. "It really made graduation feel so much more important. I felt like we were closing a circle, but then, it was the start of my journey in nursing."

YOUNG ADULTS: Record number of young adults attend annual conference *Continued from Page 11*

looking scavenger hunt," Father Slattery said.

"Mission doesn't come from inside you. It comes from outside you, from your Designer (God), your Creator, the Designer Who is the great Developer, the Developer of the game you're playing, the game of life."

If people believe they do not matter, they fail to offer the world what only they can. Work will be left undone. At the end of time, Father Slattery remarked, everyone will discover the importance of their life.

"That is why there are two last judgments: one after your death,

and then, at the end of history, you will discover not only the judgment about yourself but about all of the effects of your life," he said, "all of the ripple effects that occurred throughout history because of what you did or did not do."

Father Slattery told young adults they were born to create. Just as God's primary characteristic in the Bible is Creator, he encouraged creating more than consuming: building, conversing and finding solutions. The human brain, he said, is neurologically wired to be dissatisfied with the status quo.

In rewiring a character arc, he noted that visualizing the future through images wires a brain's decisions. "Research shows that by the time you're in your early 20s," he added, "you've already picked the story that defines your identity."

Finally, everyone must discover their gold-master self, Father Slattery explained, a greater self. A person must become the best version of themselves but not compare to others.

A question-and-answer panel was also offered during the

conference. Panelists included Kim, Father Slattery and Sister Loretta DeDomenicis, a Salesian Sister of St. John Bosco who ministers at the St. Thomas More Newman Center.

Attendees submitted questions for panelists to answer. Questions included how to live out the Catholic faith in the workplace, and how to avoid becoming a lukewarm Catholic and having a performance mentality.

The Columbus Catholic Young Adult Conference will return to St. Paul parish next year on Oct. 24, 2026.

Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed (All Souls) Year C

Remember the dearly departed in your prayers

The following is a selection of the readings that may be chosen for this day.

Wisdom 3:1-9
Psalm 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6
Romans 5:5-11 or Romans 6:3-9
John 6:37-40

All Souls' Day, the memorial celebration that follows the Solemnity of All Saints, keeps our eyes fixed on those who have gone ahead of us in the ways of faith. Where All Saints' Day celebrates the glory of those who have entered into the fullness of God's kingdom, All Souls' Day looks toward those in need of purification to make them ready for glory on their journey to Heaven. This speaks to the very heart of our Catholic faith in the Communion of Saints.

Every human being grieves the loss of loved ones. Even those with no religious belief have an interior desire for the presence of those who have been part of their lives. Memories are gathered in different ways – pictures, videos, home movies, recorded messages, letters, etc. Objects associated with the loved ones no longer living are held as “sentimental treasures” regardless of their material value. All of these are hints

that awareness of the Communion of Saints is not far beneath the surface for people of any religious persuasion.

Relationships are always a two-way reality. Each unique person connects with every other person in a unique way. The call of relationship is a call to go outside of ourselves, to allow an exchange of persons whereby each of us gives and receives and discovers something “more” through the experience of the relationship. When this is lost or interrupted, we are confronted with a need to respond in some way. All Souls' Day reminds us of the treasures that our faith offers in this regard.

A selection from the third chapter of the Book of Wisdom is often chosen for the first reading at funerals and is an option for today. It reminds us that there is a relationship of each soul with the Creator that continues beyond death. It also suggests the power of relationship with God through the transition from earthly life to eternity: *“As gold in the furnace, he proved them, and as sacrificial offerings he took them to himself. In the time of their visitation, they shall shine, and shall dart about as sparks through stubble; they shall judge nations and rule over peoples, and the Lord shall be their King forever. Those who trust in him shall understand*



SCRIPTURE READINGS

Father Timothy Hayes

Father Timothy M. Hayes is pastor of St. Edward The Confessor, Granville.

truth, and the faithful shall abide with him in love: because grace and mercy are with his holy ones, and his care is with his elect.” God's continuing relationship with the souls entrusted to His hands means that we also can continue in our relationship with them.

We are called to pray for the souls of those who have entered the mystery of death. Earthly life is preparation for eternity, and the initial encounter with God that follows our earthly journey affords an opportunity

for the purification needed to be able to live with God Who is utterly Holy, the eternal life that is promised to all open to Him.

The Tradition of the Church tells us that the “holy souls” are in need of our prayers because they can no longer pray for themselves. They are able to pray for us, just as they did when they lived with us. Relationships and our reaching out to one another continue in a new form. Prayer for the dead is an exercise of hope. As St. Paul tells us, “Hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.” We pray for one another and for those who have gone ahead of us because God's love for us and for them continues to flow through us. Faith tells us that hope will reach its mark.

Jesus is the way, the truth and the life. Death loses its sting because of His Resurrection. Our capacity to live in the Communion of Saints is a hint of the greater experience of glory that will be ours when our earthly journey is completed. God will fulfill what He has begun in us. *“For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in him may have eternal life, and I shall raise him on the last day.”*

Feast of the Dedication of the Lateran Basilica in Rome Year C

Basilica of St. John Lateran represents all Catholics

Ezekiel 47:1-2, 8-9, 12
Ps 46:2-3, 5-6, 8-9
1 Corinthians 3:9c-11, 16-17
John 2:13-22

This year, we get the relatively rare opportunity to celebrate together the anniversary of the dedication of the Archbasilica of the Savior, more commonly known as St. John Lateran or the Lateran Basilica. Standing in Rome as the mother and head of all the churches of the city and the world, it houses the throne of the Roman Pontiff, making it his official cathedral (not the larger and more regularly used St. Peter's Basilica, as most people presume).

A logical syllogism runs through the Scriptural texts appointed for this feast. To somewhat spoil it up front, St. Paul affirms “You are God's building” and “you are the temple of God” while Christ then speaks of “the temple of his Body;” therefore, the faithful who comprise the Church are bound in an organic, intimate, living union with Him as their Head, as St. Paul explicates elsewhere. The famous prophecy from Ezekiel prefigures the Sacrament of Baptism emanating from the Church: “I saw water flowing out from beneath the threshold of the temple ... Wherever the river flows, every sort of living creature that can multiply shall live.” You can't miss this vitality when you visit and



SCRIPTURE READINGS

Father Tyron Tomson

Father Tyron Tomson is a priest of the Diocese of Columbus pursuing a Licentiate in Sacred Scripture in Rome.

behold streams of believers pour through the massive complex.

Recently, the lawn in front of the Archbasilica was upgraded, providentially, right in time for Pope Leo XIV to take possession after his election. Unfortunately, it was designed with artful alternating strips of grass and concrete walkway that will likely constantly and completely be ruined by crowds of pilgrims and tourists, particularly in a Jubilee Year like this. That's something of a suitable image of how the Church is immaculate in her divine identity from Christ her Head but sinful in us, her members. Some-

times, like on the feast of Corpus Christi, which concludes with the Eucharistic procession to St. Mary Major, the Mass is celebrated outside on the front steps before the soaring columns of the Holy Father's Archbasilica to accommodate the large numbers in attendance. These magnificent liturgies fittingly capture both the spirit of the local community and the whole world at the same time.

The building itself is no doubt impressive; some more artistically savvy pilgrims claim it as their favorite of the major basilicas. It is undeniable that the present edifice took shape in a high period of economic prosperity and influence, but one still cannot help but see the hand of grace in its sheer splendor for which God's holy people were willing to sacrifice so much: “Come! behold the deeds of the Lord, the astounding things he has wrought on earth.” Pieces of the baptistry built by Emperor Constantine in the 300s as well as the very foundations of the main building have survived various renovations, unlike at most of the other ancient churches. His conversion occasioned its construction, so it is no exaggeration to understand in accord with St. Paul's teaching: “no one can lay a foundation other than the one that is there, namely, Jesus Christ.” He alone founded the Church!

Adjacent to the former longtime residence

of the popes, the Archbasilica's solid grandeur highlights the papacy's steady guidance of the Church for the rather brief time each incumbent serves, necessitating that “each one must be careful how he builds upon it.” We should be prompted to pray for His Holiness Pope Leo XIV, his health and intentions, and for the pivotal work he carries out each day in clarifying and unifying the Catholic Faith throughout the world.

Although plenty sturdy, this sacred place may need updated or replaced in centuries to come. “Destroy this temple and in three days I will raise it up ... But he was speaking about the temple of his Body.” The Church in her people is destined to rise again from death, both physical and spiritual, by the grace of the very Sacraments she offers, in witness to the world that the Lord's promises revealed in the Bible and our Tradition are true: “when he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they came to believe the Scripture and the word Jesus had spoken.” Hopefully, our own love for this divine institution comprised by souls in Body of Christ resonates with the sentiment of our Head, Who quoted the Scriptures saying, “Zeal for your house will consume me.” As for the Catholic Church, as ever and always, “God is in its midst; it shall not be disturbed,” for it is “the holy dwelling of the Most High.”

THE WEEKDAY BIBLE READINGS

11-3/11-8	THURSDAY
MONDAY Romans 11:29-36 Psalm 69:30-31,33-34,36 Luke 14:12-14	Romans 14:7-12 Psalm 27:1b-1c,4,13-14 Luke 15:1-10
TUESDAY Romans 12:5-16b Psalm 131:1b-3 Luke 14:15-24	Romans 15:14-21 Psalm 98:1-4 Luke 16:1-8
WEDNESDAY Romans 13:8-10 Psalm 112:1b-2,4-5,9 Luke 14:25-33	Romans 16:3-9,16,22-27 Psalm 145:2-5,10-11 Luke 16:9-15
FRIDAY Romans 15:14-21 Psalm 98:1-4 Luke 16:1-8	Wisdom 2:23-3:9 Psalm 34:2-3,16-19 Luke 17:7-10
SATURDAY Romans 16:3-9,16,22-27 Psalm 145:2-5,10-11 Luke 16:9-15	Wisdom 6:1-11 Psalm 82:3-4,6-7 Luke 17:11-19
THURSDAY Wisdom 1:1-7 Psalm 139:1b-10 Luke 17:1-6	Wisdom 7:22b-8:1 Psalm 119:89-91,130,135,175 Luke 17:20-25
TUESDAY Wisdom 2:23-3:9 Psalm 34:2-3,16-19 Luke 17:7-10	Wisdom 13:1-9 Psalm 19:2-5b Luke 17:26-37
WEDNESDAY Wisdom 6:1-11 Psalm 82:3-4,6-7 Luke 17:11-19	Wisdom 18:14-16;19:6-9 Psalm 105:2-3,36-37,42-43 Luke 18:1-8

DIOCESAN WEEKLY RADIO AND TELEVISION:

Mass Schedule: Weeks of November 2 and 9

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-Lifety (Channel 113, Ada, Logan, Millersburg, Murray City, Washington C.H.; Channel 125, Marion, Newark, Newcomerstown and New Philadelphia; Channel 207, Zanesville); 8 p.m., St. Gabriel Radio (AM 820), Columbus, and at www.stgabrielradio.com.

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

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

We pray the propers for Weeks III and IV of the Liturgy of the Hours

Solemnity of All Saints Year C

Revelation 7:2-4, 9-14
Ps 24:1bc-2, 3-4ab, 5-6
1 John 3:1-3
Matthew 5:1-12a

The book of Revelation depicts the gathering of the saints before the throne of God. St. John the Apostle is approached by one of the elders regarding the identity of those in the white robes and holding palm branches (v.13). John does not know the answer, and he seems to be perplexed by the vision. The elder explains that those are the ones that washed their robes in the blood of the Lamb (v.14). Quite a weird answer, isn't it?

Have you ever imagined washing your clothes in blood? The blood is dark red. Any clothes washed in the blood cannot become white. Here is the mystery of salvation and holiness. For the red blood of the Lamb, Jesus Christ, who died on the cross, washes away the filth of sins from the human hearts. This blood makes the human heart and soul white.

The saints are those who have acknowledged the need for salvation; the need to be washed; the reality of sins. Facing their own human weakness and limita-

tions, they understood they need someone to free them. The palm branches are symbols of resurrection. Ultimately, they washed their hearts in the blood of Jesus – accepted the new life, salvation – and entered even the persecutions empowered with the hope of resurrection. They were not disappointed! The Scripture continues telling us *they are before the throne of God (...) and he who sits on the throne will shelter them with his presence. They shall hunger no more, neither thirst anymore; the sun shall not strike them, nor any scorching heat. For the Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd (...) and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.* (Rev 7:15-17)

As we celebrate the Solemnity of All Saints, we must realize that the decisive moment stands at the beginning. Whenever a person realizes that selfishness and sins bring no peace, the journey towards freedom and holiness starts. *Every saint has a history!* The Byzantine icons are a powerful reminder of this! Entering a Byzantine church, we see a wall of icons. We may be perplexed and confused, not seeing the altar, the tabernacle with the Eucharist. However, the icons of saints re-



SCRIPTURE READINGS

Father Robert Jager, Ph.D

Father Robert Jager, Ph.D., is pastor of Columbus St. John Chrysostom Byzantine Catholic Church.

mind us of the great transformation. The background always is gold. It is the symbol of the Holy Spirit, of the new life, and of transformation. It is the Holy Spirit that transforms a person. It is the Holy Spirit that makes a person a saint.

St. Paul reminds us: don't you know, that all who were baptized in Christ are new creation? And therefore, recognizing how miserable it is to be in sin, we return to the Lord with the desire for freedom, joy,

peace and new strength. We can wash our robes anew in the blood of the lamb. No matter how often we fall on this journey, the Lord is always there ready to forgive, to uplift, to heal and to restart. The Byzantines talk about the synergy with the Lord, from the Greek synergon – a work done together. The Lord works together with us on our transformation. It is never an individual and individualistic endeavor!

Put off your old self, therefore, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, and be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness. (Eph 4:22-24). Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect (Rom 12:2)

Our first names refer to saints, who became our patrons at the baptism. Study his/her life! Ask your patron saint to pray for you and with you. Avail yourself of the great help of those who already ran the race.

Sacred music in the diocese: Why have a Gold Mass?

By Dr. Richard K. Fitzgerald
 Diocesan Director of Music

It's a great honor to serve as director of music and organist of St. Joseph Cathedral, a position I've held since November 2015 when I was appointed by Bishop Frederick Campbell and Father Michael Lumpe, Cathedral rector at the time. My role in the diocese expanded in December 2022 when Bishop Earl Fernandes named me diocesan director of music. Given my love for the Church and Her music, I consider it my life's work and vocation to play Sacred Music (SM) for the glory of God and to impart my knowledge of it, which is why I'm so grateful to occupy these positions.

I'm often asked about my duties as diocesan director of music and why Bishop Fernandes feels a need for such an office. The short answer to the latter involves bishop's effort to establish a cohesive approach to SM in our diocese. Given the continued influences that secular culture exerts on the sacred liturgy, we want to communicate a clear path forward based on the teachings of the Church; having an official guide and resource will help enable this process.

As diocesan director of music, I promote SM ministry in general and emphasize that it's not an end in itself but rather a means to an end that is to give glory to God and to aid in the sanctification of souls. Furthermore, I convey the abstract concepts of SM, Church documents on the subject, examples, resources and how SM might be implemented in the parish and school. In addition, I plan and direct SM at diocesan events (e.g., ordinations, the Chrism Mass, Rite of Election, and so on), compose periodic music suggestion letters to our parish music directors and school teachers, and work with the Catholic school system to develop a culture that understands and appreciates the role of SM in the Mass. An initiative I began in 2022 was the

annual Gold Mass, at which we ask the Holy Spirit to bless all those who work in music ministry. Church musicians and teachers alike are called upon to bring nourishment and inspiration to the sacred liturgy, classrooms and even audiences. The Gold Mass affords such individuals an opportunity to unite their voices in worship and to support each other in these unique endeavors. Most importantly, we come to acknowledge, praise and receive the source of all inspiration, the author of art.

The Church has a long history of offering votive Masses for members of certain professions that serve the common welfare. In 1245 at Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris, the first known Red Mass for lawyers and the judiciary was offered, so named for the red vestments that were worn. In recent decades, it has become popular to offer a Blue Mass for law enforcement and a Rose Mass for health and hospice-care workers. Blue is the color of many officers' uniforms and rose honors St. Rose of Viterbo.

The Gold Mass for diocesan musicians, volunteer and professional acknowledges the tremendous importance of SM and the need to orient all that is beautiful toward the Divine Creator. The color gold is chosen due to its association with instruments, celebration and performance. Liturgically, the color gold stands alone or accompanies other colors on great feasts of the year such as Pentecost (red), Christmas (white) and Easter (white). At the Gold Mass, we pray especially for a year of fruitful labors among all those who work in the arts, especially church musicians and Catholic school music teachers, particularly those that serve in the Diocese of Columbus.

This year, the fourth annual Gold Mass will be held on Sunday, Nov. 16 at 5:15 p.m. at St. Joseph Cathedral; Bishop Fernandes will preside. This liturgy is scheduled on or around the feast day of St. Cecilia, the Church's patroness of music, the date proper of which is Nov. 22.

St. Cecilia was the embodiment of Christian fervor: even when she was struck by the sword on the neck three times for refusing to denounce Christ, she remained steadfast in her faith; given her inability to speak through her excruciation, she instead made a Trinitarian symbol with three fingers, symbolizing her refusal to abandon her commitment to the Almighty. Sacred Music elucidates this zeal for God, as the Church teaches it's the greatest of all arts because it is the most abstract, and therefore the most capable of

transcending the temporal. At the Gold Mass, we celebrate the unique gift of music given to us by its Divine Originator.

St. Cecilia, pray for us!

I hope you will join us at this year's Gold Mass! If you'd like more information or would like to participate, please contact me directly at richardkfitzgerald@gmail.com.

Soli Deo gloria!

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PRAY FOR OUR DEAD

BRUZZESE, Cecilia (Fabro), 92, Oct. 8
Immaculate Conception Church, Columbus

BURKE, Gordon W., 77, Oct. 9
St. Pius X Church, Reynoldsburg

CORNELIUS, Audrey M. (Kleman), 84, Oct. 9
St. Andrew Church, Columbus

CURRAN, Donald A., 59, Oct. 12
St. Paul the Apostle Church, Westerville

D'IPPOLITO, Carol D. (McGee), 83, Oct. 12
Resurrection Cemetery Chapel, Lewis Center

DODD, Michael, 87, Oct. 8
St. Timothy Church, Columbus

EMMENEGGER, Mary Marcia (Mears), 76, Sept. 24
St. Bernadette Church, Lancaster

EPLING, Gary Robert, 73, Oct. 13
St. Francis de Sales Church, Newark

FINN, James P., 77, Oct. 14
St. Charles Preparatory School, Columbus

FISCHER, Joy A., 84, of Columbus, Oct. 5
St. Julie Billiart Church, Hamilton

HOLLIS, LaVerne B., 92, Oct. 10
Our Lady, Queen of Apostles Parish, Chillicothe

JOSEPH, Christopher Donald "Chris," 58, Oct. 12
St. Nicholas Church, Zanesville

KING, Stephen E. Jr., 84, Sept. 4
St. Peter St. Joan of Arc Parish, Columbus-Powell

LEWIE, Brian W., 86, Sept. 28
Holy Family Church, Columbus

KUHN, Karen (Fitzgerald), 65, Oct. 10
St. Joseph Church, Dover

LUCKHAUPT, John D., 97, Oct. 8
Holy Family Church, Columbus

MICHAEL, John L., 76, Oct. 9
St. Christopher Church, Columbus

NICHOLS, Marilyn Ann, 89, Oct. 21
St. Ann Church, Dresden

OSWALD, Virginia H. "Ginger" (Engelhardt), 94, Aug. 14
Our Lady of Peace Church, Columbus

PAUL, Larry L., 90, Oct. 13
St. Nicholas Church, Zanesville

PFAM, Hung, 64, Sept. 30
St. Peter St. Joan of Arc Parish, Columbus-Powell

PRESTON, Janet, 83, Aug. 9
St. Peter St. Joan of Arc Parish, Columbus-Powell

RUBINO, Sandra (Contini), 80, Oct. 7
St. Joseph Church, Dover

SMITH, Leona L., 101, Oct. 5
St. Peter St. Joan of Arc Parish, Columbus-Powell

SOPRASEUTH, Vikonh, 80, Oct. 9
St. Mary, Mother of God Church, Columbus

SPIERS, Ronald W., 73, Oct. 1
St. Peter St. Joan of Arc Church, Columbus-Powell

STUHLDREHER, Lawrence M., 79, Oct. 8
Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, Grove City

THIBAUT, Marian T. (McCann), 88, Oct. 10
Our Lady of Peace Church, Columbus

TURNER, Mark G. "Mel," 70, Oct. 13
Church of the Resurrection, New Albany

VARDA, Helen J. "Jean," 94, Oct. 11
Our Mother of Sorrows Chapel, Columbus

WEILAND, Don, 94, Sept. 25
Holy Family Church, Columbus

Barbara C. Smith

Funeral Mass for Barbara C. Smith, 90, who died Thursday, Oct. 16, was celebrated Friday, Oct. 24 at Chillicothe St. Peter Church. Burial was at St. Margaret Cemetery, Chillicothe.

She was born on Feb. 26, 1935 in Brooklyn, New York to Joseph and Cecelia (Franco) Miller.

She worked in the parish office for 12½ years and was a member of the parish council, the Bishop Flaget school

board, the parish education committee and the St. Vincent de Paul Society. She also was involved with the United Way, the Altrusa service organization and a local thrift shop.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Donald, and a son, Kevin. Survivors include daughters Kim (Anthony) Lamanac, Julie (Rob) Connely and Elaine True; a sister, Cecelia (Tom) Schiano, and seven grandchildren.

Funeral Mass for Sister Joan McGough, 90, who died Friday, Oct. 10 at the Mohun Health Care Center, was celebrated Friday, Oct. 17 at the Motherhouse of the Dominican Sisters of Peace. Burial was at St. Joseph Cemetery, Columbus.

She was born in Pittsburgh on Dec. 17, 1934 to John and Mary (Myers) McGough.

She graduated from the Braddock (Pennsylvania) General Hospital School of Nursing in 1956 and earned a Bachelor of Science degree in social welfare from Ohio Dominican College (now Ohio Dominican University) in 1972 and a Doctor of Podiatric Medicine degree from the Ohio College of Podiatric Medicine in 1980.

After serving as a registered nurse at Braddock General Hospital for three years, she entered the congregation of the Dominican

SISTER: From punk rocker to pre-K teacher, *Continued from Page 4*
Rosary and saw it was the same type as in the painting. I realized at that moment that God was calling me not just to be a sister but to be a Dominican sister.

After two years in college, I took a break, then told my mom about my decision. It wasn't easy for her to agree to my decision, but she did, and I went to Krakow to start my formation. Now after 18 years as a Dominican sister, here I am!

Sister Paulina is a member of the Dominican Sisters, Immaculate Conception Province, who have their provincial house in Justice, Illinois and serve there and in Columbus; Mountain Home, Arkansas and Calgary, Alberta, as well as locations in Poland, Belarus, Ukraine, Russia, Siberia, Italy and Cameroon.

Two other members of her congregation serve in the Diocese of Columbus and live in a convent at 2575 E. Livingston Ave. on Columbus' east side. Sister Andrea

Sisters of St. Mary of the Springs (now the Dominican Sisters of Peace) in 1959 and professed her vows on Aug. 15, 1963, taking the name Sister John Marie.

She was a nurse at a Cincinnati hospital for one year after her profession and at the Mohun center from 1964 to 1975 and was a podiatrist for the sisters in Columbus from 1981 to 2006. She was a volunteer at the sisters' residence and visited the elderly in the Columbus area from 2006 to 2016 and was in a ministry of prayer at the center until her death.

She was preceded in death by her parents; sisters, Sister Mary Vesta McGough, OP, Mary Catherine McGough, Ellen Zollinger and Patricia Flodine; and a brother, John. She is survived by a sister, Rosemary Holmes, and nieces and nephews.

SISTER: From punk rocker to pre-K teacher, *Continued from Page 4*

Andrzejewska, OP, is employed in the diocesan Office of Catholic Schools and Sister Marta Gawron, OP, is the religious education director at Columbus St. Patrick Church.

Sister Paulina took her first vows as a Dominican sister in 2007. In Poland, she was a teacher, worked with children with disabilities for five years and spent one year serving at a day care center.

She came to the United States after taking her final vows in 2014 and has been in Columbus since then, serving for two years as a teacher's assistant at St. Mary School in Columbus' German Village and for the past nine years at the St. Matthew pre-kindergarten.

"I love everything about children that age," she said. "They are open, loving and joyful. They remind me of the beauty and importance of simple things in daily life. I enjoy preparing them for kindergarten, but most of all, I love teaching them about Jesus. Praying with them, attending Mass or adoring Jesus in the Eucharist are very special moments for me."

"In this service, I feel that I receive more than I give. I feel God's love for me through them. It is difficult for me to imagine doing something else."



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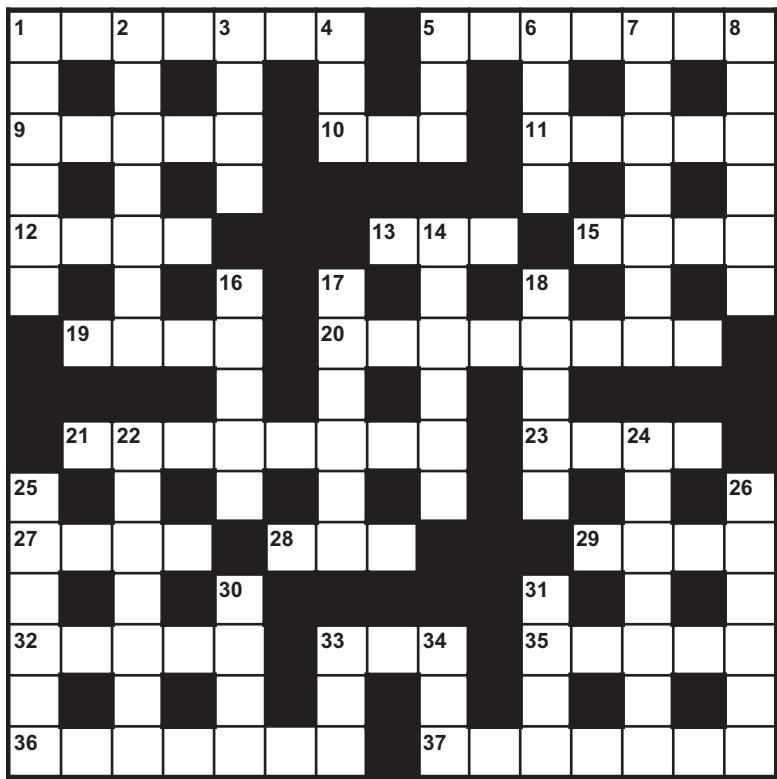
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 9 Italian archdiocese with the Ambrosian rite
 10 Son of ___
 11 Character in one of Jesus' parables
 12 Father of Seth
 13 Initials written on top of papers of parochial school students, once upon a time
 15 Where Samson died
 19 " ___ Tekel and Peres" (Dan 5:25)
 20 Ethical conduct
 21 A Sacrament of Vocation
 23 The ___ Man and Lazarus
 27 Biblical epic starring Burton and Mature (with "The")
 28 Winter clock setting in the Diocese of Reno
 29 Catholic athlete known for his malapropisms
 32 Catholic priest-explorer
 33 Dominican Renaissance artist, ___ Angelico
 35 Bathsheba's first husband
 36 " ___ Grace"
 37 Second wife of Abraham

DOWN

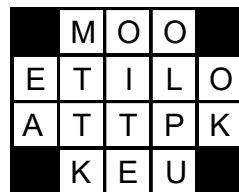
1 Partner of Cosmas
 2 Jerome's translation of the Bible
 3 Number of choirs of angels
 4 ___ WHO AM (Yahweh)
 5 Catholic actor Akroyd who studied at seminary
 6 This is not celebrated on Good Friday
 7 Catholic comedian/actor whose sister is a nun
 8 Catholic author McCarthy
 14 Sin against the fifth Commandment
 16 The Immaculate ___ of Mary
 17 Jesus spoke with Cleopas here
 18 ___ and Praise
 22 Home of the Archdiocese of Edmonton
 24 Bishop's symbol
 25 AKA Priscilla, part of a missionary couple
 26 Rachel's maid
 30 Crèche figures
 31 Commit a deadly sin
 33 Tree Jesus cursed
 34 Noah built one

Words of Wisdom

by Pat Battaglia, aka Dr. Fun

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

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Dear Father,
The Spanish-speaking people in my parish are celebrating the Day of the Dead. Is that different from All Souls Day, or is it a different thing altogether? Is it okay to participate in it as a Catholic?

-Willie Mae

Dear Willie Mae,

Yes, Catholics may celebrate the Day of the Dead, or *Día de los Muertos*. You will not find the Day of the Dead in the Catholic liturgical calendar. However, it is commonly celebrated by many throughout the Catholic world, especially in Latin America. As with all cultural traditions, we must be careful that the particulars of the celebration do not contradict our Catholic faith.

The Day of the Dead lasts not one, but two days (or three if you count October 31). It coincides with the Catholic feast days of All Saints and All Souls Day (and Halloween). One author suggests that the Day of the Dead is like the American Memorial Day, on which we remember the lives of military personnel who have died in the service of our country.

The origins of the Day of the Dead are unclear. Some claim it began with the Aztecs, while others say it originated in medieval Europe.

On the Day of the Dead, people go to the graves of their beloved relatives and friends. They decorate the graves. So far, this is exactly what one might expect. An interesting twist is that there are often meals at the graves.

Celebrating with food is not so odd, however. Catholics of all cultures typically

What is the Day of the Dead?

host a dinner on the day of the funeral after the burial of the deceased. Then, on the anniversary of the death, family and friends often gather and enjoy food and drink. One family I know insists on sharing an ice-cream cake on the anniversary of their mom and grandmom because that's what she used to love to eat.

On the Day of the Dead, people will make homemade shrines in their homes or at the gravesite. This entails making small altars (or *ofrendas*) decorated with a cross, candles, incense, images of our Lord and the Saints, skulls, marigold flowers, food and drink, and ornamented pictures of the deceased. They invite the neighbors. Together, they pray for the dead.

When I say that they pray for the dead, I mean all the dead, especially their ancestors. We often only think of those who have died in our immediate families. But on *Día de los Muertos*, grandparents, great-grandparents, distant cousins, and indeed generations of family members and friends are remembered.

This is an excellent lesson for all Catholics during the month of November. November is traditionally set aside as a month-long time to pray for the Poor Souls in Purgatory. However, we might especially remember to pray for our family ancestors from centuries ago, whom God has used to bring us into being. They were important in the plan of Divine Providence, just so that you can be reading this right now.

Another aspect of the *Día de los Muertos* is a reminder that we are all headed toward our own particular day of the dead. At some appointed time, on a specific day at a



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.

precise hour and minute, we will die. If we are in Purgatory, we will be unable to pray for our salvation, unable to pray to expiate our sins, and unable to practice the life of charity. We will be utterly dependent on the Church (Saints in heaven, Christians living on earth) and our present family and friends, and all future ancestors, for their prayerful assistance.

The skull used for the Day of the Dead is not at all like the macabre and abhorrent hanging skeletons that people place in their yards at Halloween. The skull is a reminder of our impending death. Some of the saints used to keep a skull nearby to remind them of their mortality and to constantly prepare for that day when they would meet the Lord.

Christians are not morose when they think about death if they are living the theological virtue of hope. Divine hope is the confident expectation that God desires us to live with Him for eternity and that He is providing the means for that to occur. Pondering the prospect of our own life's end is an essential part of the Christian journey to heaven. It is like the plans we make for vacation in a distant land; just as every detail of our earthly trips is considered, so much more our pilgrimage to our Father's House.

The Day of the Dead is both backward- and forward-looking. This is another good reason to cultivate a culture of protecting human life. Abortion has cut short the possibility of many who would otherwise be interceding for their mothers and fathers, grandparents, aunts and uncles, and other ancestors. Snuffing out the life of the incurably sick or the elderly prevents them from uniting their sufferings to the cross of Jesus, both for their sins and for us when we are in purgatory.

There is yet another beautiful Mexican tradition called *Día de los Inocentes*. It is celebrated on Nov. 1, All Saints Day. It celebrates the lives of baptized infants and young children who died before reaching the age of needing to use the Sacrament of Penance. This beautiful day of giving thanks to God for the lives of these innocents is a consolation to the parents who have lost their children so early in life. How amazing to ponder that these families have saints in heaven to intercede for them.

Questions about the sacraments should be sent to sacraments101@columbuscatholic.org.

Rest in peace



SERVING AS NEIGHBORS

Kelley Henderson

Kelley Henderson is a Third Order Carmelite who serves as President and Chief Executive Officer of Catholic Social Services. He is a member of Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral and serves in volunteer leadership roles with Catholic Charities USA, Inter-Provincial Lay Carmelite Commission, and Mission and Culture Committee at Mount Carmel Health System.

When we extend this as a spoken gesture, it carries a strength of blessing that is similar to the *requiescat in pace* offered a loved one who blessed us with their life.

Do we take the time to reflect on the impact of a life well lived today? Our busy, frenetic lifestyles can be all consuming as we rush through life to reach the next milestone or appointment. I must "plead the fifth" in this situation, as the days become like a blurring series of meetings and contacts in the name of progress!

Alas ... we have November to remind us to pause and reflect on our call to holiness ... not our call to achievement. In the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, we read about merit. "The charity of Christ is the source of all merit before God. Grace, by uniting us to Christ in active love, ensures the supernatural quality of our acts and consequently their merit before God, and before men" (CCC 2011). Perhaps our lack

of peace in society (and internally) can be linked to a misplaced understanding of what it is that we are here to accomplish. In the same passage in the Catechism, a quote from St. Therese of Lisieux is appropriately given where she said, "In the evening of life, I shall appear before you with empty hands" (*Story of a Soul*).

A legacy of peace

For Therese and many of the great saints we learn from, life is a gift to be given away. We are born, we live, and we die ... these things are common to all regardless of station or effort. November is a good time to reflect on legacy. What have I done to leave an impact on those around me, my family, my friends, my neighbor?

Good news ... if you are reading this ... you still have some time to adjust! Consider your legacy. Maybe you have been blessed materially and could make a difference with a cause you care about through a gift in your

estate plan. Maybe you have been blessed with relationships that might care to know just how important they are to you while you can sit and talk about it. This could be a great time to create a legacy of peace that will change the world in which you lived and loved.

November is a time of reflection. We remember those who went before us and pray for their eternal rest with God. Our modern world places little value on a peaceful rest, consumed by what we can accomplish during our lifetime. Perhaps November can be a reflection time about the role of legacy. We leave something behind, and we can choose to make it meaningful to those who remember. Because, ultimately, we all go to God with empty hands.

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Peace today?

Last month, I wrote about the Sign of Peace offered at each Eucharistic celebration as another solemn act done in community.

Requiem for a beloved cat and Catholic thinking on pets

Recently, my wife and I lost one of our pets, a cat named Ariella (Elly for short), after she succumbed to lymphoma. She was a rescue cat we adopted five years ago, and she had a very sweet disposition. She loved relaxing on my lap. I remember fondly the odd way she'd roll over on her back (cats do not typically lie on their backs to sleep), look up at me with what always looked like a contented grin, purring, and drift into a nap quickly.

We were grief-stricken and truly miss her. When we first brought her home, she was frightened, hid for weeks and came out to eat at night, and bared her fangs and hissed at us if we came near. But she slowly warmed up to us and became a wonderful, trusting and contented little friend in the house and companion to our other cat Penny.

This has me left considering the place of pets in Catholic thinking. In homes around the world, pets are cherished companions — dogs greeting their owners with wagging tails, cats curling up on laps like Elly did, birds that sing, and even fish that glide gracefully around their softly bubbling aquariums. For many of us, these animal friends are more than just pets; they are members of families and homes.

With that in mind, what does the Catholic Church teach about our relationship with pets and other animals? Can they be part of our spiritual lives? Are they part of God's plan?

First, all of creation is a gift from God. "God made every kind of wild animal, every kind of tame animal, and every kind of thing that crawls on the ground.



THE CHANCELLOR'S ARCHIVE

Deacon Tom Berg Jr.

Deacon Tom Berg Jr. has served the Diocese of Columbus as its Chancellor since 2012 and as a deacon at Columbus St. Andrew Church. He holds bachelor's and master's degrees in journalism and a master's degree in Catholic pastoral studies.

God saw that it was good." (Gn 1:25) Animals came before us, and God wants us to know they are good. After God created humans, we were given dominion over all of that creation. (Gn 1:26-28) This means we are stewards and not exploiters of God's work.

The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* says, "Animals are God's creatures. He surrounds them with his providential care. By their mere existence, they bless him and give him glory (¶2416)." We owe animals our consideration and are directed by the Catechism to "recall the gentleness with which saints like St. Francis of Assisi or St. Philip Neri treated animals (¶2416)." I've read that Pope Benedict XVI loved cats and have seen photos of him with felines on his lap.

These teachings encourage Catholics

to treat animals with compassion and dignity. In *Laudato Si*, Pope Francis wrote, "Every act of cruelty towards any creature is contrary to human dignity. We can hardly consider ourselves to be fully loving if we disregard any aspect of reality (¶92)." Though God gave us dominion over creation, we are called by the Lord to refrain from engaging in rampant misuse of it. These perspectives call us to see pets as more than mere possessions. They are fellow creatures created by God.

To be clear, this does not preclude Catholics from activities like hunting and raising animals for food. Rather, we are called to go about those activities without imposing excessive torment on livestock or animals that are hunted.

When considering all of this, I think it's natural to want them to be eternally happy, asking, "Do pets go to heaven?" Is a cat like Elly enjoying an infinite supply of tasty treats and fresh catnip in paradise?

According to the *Catechism*, "This perfect life with the Most Holy Trinity -- this communion of life and love with the Trinity, with the Virgin Mary, the angels and all the blessed -- is called heaven. Heaven is the ultimate end and fulfillment of the deepest human longings, the state of supreme, definitive happiness (¶1024)."

This explanation has an *a priori* understanding that to be in heaven is to have been a thinking, self-aware human being with a soul, features that animals were not given by the Lord.

This presupposes rational souls, something not given by God to animals.

With that understood, though, and with

those calls for sincere and responsible care for God's creation, pets and other animals are esteemed in Catholic thinking.

St. Francis of Assisi was a great lover of nature and animals. Think of the wonderful account of St. Francis befriending and calming the wild and vicious wolf of Gubbio. In that spirit, the Church honors the relationship between humans and animals through the blessing of pets on or near St. Francis' feast day (October 4). I've had the pleasure of taking part in those blessings occasionally. Pet blessings are sacramentals, which are visible and sacred signs drawing us into spiritual realities and encouraging our devotion to God.

While pets and other animals do not share in the sacraments, they do share in our lives and in the infinite love that God has for His creation. The Catholic Church invites us to see animals, especially our pets, as part of the divine mosaic of life that is creation. In caring for pets responsibly, we fulfill God's call to us to be good stewards of His work.

Though created for a different purpose and destiny than our loving Lord has for us, I believe pets can help us live life on Earth more fully, compassionately and responsibly, as well as encouraging in us a deeper appreciation of God's wondrous creative power. That is why I remember Elly so fondly, and I occasionally think, "Rest in peace, now, little friend. Rest in peace."



Lives Given to God: Celebrating Religious Vocations at the Dominican Sisters of Peace



Top photo, Sr. Phuong Vu, who made Final Vows in 2024. Above, Sr. Annie Killian, OP, and right, Sisters Terri Schell and Paula Danforth celebrated their vows in August 2025.

As the Church celebrates National Religious Vocations Week, the Dominican Sisters of Peace are blessed to introduce our Sisters who have made Vows over the past months.

Sr. Cathy Buchanan, OP, First Profession, 2023
 Sr. Tram Bui, OP, First Profession, 2023
 Sr. Phuong Vu, OP, Perpetual Vows, February 2024
 Sr. Ellen Coates, OP, Perpetual Vows, November 2024
 Sr. Ann E. Killian, OP, Perpetual Vows, August 2025
 Sr. Paula Danforth, OP, First Profession, August 2025
 Sr. Terri Schell, First Profession, August 2025

These new Sisters are signs of hope for our Church and for the future of Dominican Life and Mission.



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'Move of God' doesn't align with Catholic tradition

Have you ever heard the phrase "move of God?"

The worship team at Southeastern University released an album called "Move of God."

A Catholic worship band based in Ohio said they believed their first album was part of "an authentic move of God in Catholic worship." Well-known activist Dutch Sheets believes we are now caught up in a "move of God" during which the United States will experience a "third great awakening." Sheets and his followers have popularized the "Appeal to Heaven" flag to advertise this belief.

Here is what you need to know. "Move of God" is a *restorationist* idea. Christian restorationists believe that essential doctrines, practices and characteristics of authentic Christianity died out or were suppressed centuries ago and are being restored now. Such a revival comes about only at God's initiative; thus, authentic revival is called a "move of God" or "sovereign move of God."

This language first appeared among Protestants tied to the Latter Rain Revival that began in 1947 in Saskatchewan. Its leaders thought they were seeing a "move of God" evidenced by the restoration of spiritual gifts such as speaking in tongues, prophetic utterances, praise dancing and spiritual gifts being "imparted" from one person to another. They also expected further restoration would follow, including the raising up of modern-day prophets and apostles.

The same people who talk about a "move of God" are attracted to revivals that last a long time. Randy Clark, who came to prominence during the "Toronto Blessing" revival in 1994, says his ministry "was birthed in the greatest revival movement of the last half of the 20th century, a move of God resulting in the longest protracted



A SHEPHERD'S CARE

Father Thomas Buffer

Father Thomas Buffer is the pastor at Columbus St. Cecilia Church.

meeting in the history of North America."

Clark says that many revivals, including the First Great Awakening of the 1730s and 40s, the Second Great Awakening (1780-1810), the Cane Ridge Revival (1801), the meetings of Charles Finney (1792-1875), the Welsh Revival of 1904-1905, the Azusa Street revival, and especially the Toronto Blessing were all part of "one great worldwide move of God."

More recently, several authors have asserted that the next move of God will be a "last days" awakening of the Church, leading to a huge harvest of souls, even though there is nothing like this in the Bible. Others say that the next move of God will bring an "army" that will spread the Gospel to the ends of the earth.

Most Catholics have never heard or spoken the phrase "move of God." It's not part of Catholic doctrinal tradition or pious practice. It does not appear in the Catechism, the prayers of the Mass, the works of the Church Fathers or great theologians or popes. Nevertheless, some Catholics have begun to use it, especially those influenced and formed by non-

Catholics of a Pentecostal or NAR bent.

One Catholic participant in the Encounter School of Ministry expressed gratitude that she was able to be part of a "move of God" by learning to heal the sick. The documentary-style film "FEARLESS" shows Catholics practicing prayer for healing and receiving "words of knowledge" about people, practices usually associated with Pentecostal revivalists.

Catholic evangelist Jeff Cavins endorsed the film in these words: "In FEARLESS, the viewer will come face to face with the reality that the kingdom of God moves in power from the sacred page to the predicament of our lives. Open your hearts to a new move of God in your life as you watch this powerful film."

Dan DeMatte spoke in 2024 at an Encounter Ministries event on the theme "Seeds of Revival." DeMatte employed classic restorationist language: "Revival breaks out, not because of our human activity, but because of a sovereign move of God. ... The revival is his sovereign move, and that sovereign move comes from him, and from him alone."

Some Catholics have used this kind of language in reference to the "Eucharistic Revival" requested by the Catholic bishops of the United States. Catholic writer Susan Windley-Daoust says that many saw the 2024 National Eucharistic Congress as a "move of God."

Dr. Mary Healy, a seminary professor and member of the Pontifical Biblical Commission, sees a connection, not only between the Asbury Revival and the Eucharistic Revival but between the Eucharistic Revival and the classic restorationist understanding of what a revival is: "revival, which literally means a bringing alive of what was dead, is something only God himself can do." In

other words, revival is a sovereign "move of God."

Healy also tries to connect the Eucharistic Revival to a new interest in the Real Presence among leaders of the New Apostolic Reformation who speak of a "communion revival," or renewed interest in the Lord's gift of himself in Holy Communion.

What Catholics need to remember when they hear talk about a "move of God" restoring or reviving something that was missing from the life of the Church is that the Church is indefectible. That means that the Church cannot die out. It also means that no essential characteristics of the Church can cease to exist at any time, so that the Church always preserves the essentials of faith and morals, along with the fullness of the sacramental life. There are Christian communities that have failed to preserve a valid priesthood and a valid Eucharist, but they cannot properly be called "churches."

The language of "revival" and "move of God" presumes that something essential died out at some point and needs to be restored, such as speaking in tongues or the demonstrations of power through signs and wonders. But this framework does not apply to the Eucharist because the Eucharist was never lost to the Church. The Eucharist never died out; it does not need to be revived.

If some Catholics don't believe that the Eucharist is what it really is, that person's faith needs to be revived. In fact, the Catholic bishops of the United States have stated that what they wish to see revived is not the Eucharist but the eucharistic faith of the Church.

Dying from compassion



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.

not a religious one ... part of the rich social fabric of this country. So bishops need to be the sort of chaps who speak properly and know which knife and fork to use."

To which Sir Humphrey might have added, "... but need not exhibit any familiarity with the Fifth Commandment."

Happily, there were far more trenchant and morally informed voices raised in and around the Lords' debate.

Writing in the *Spectator*, columnist Douglas Murray noted, correctly, that "there is no country in which euthanasia has been introduced in which the slope from the arena of palliative care has not

slipped into the killing of the mentally ill, the young, and those who feel they have become a burden on their families or the state."

In the House of Lords on September 19, Lord Moore of Etchingham spoke movingly about the Beachy Head Chaplaincy Team, which offers counseling to those about to jump from the beautiful cliff at Beachy Head in Sussex — "the number one suicide spot in the world," to which "online suicide forums" provide directions and instructions on how people can "jump to their death," something attempted at least once a day. The Chaplaincy team engages these disturbed souls on their nine-minute walk from the nearby parking lot to the edge of the cliff. And Lord Moore notes, "Offered the right mix of professionalism (in counseling) and human kindness, people change their minds. Of those 271 with whom the chaplaincy intervened this year, only 57 even reached the cliff, and only four actually jumped."

Lord Alton of Liverpool, a veteran pro-life leader, reminded his colleagues in a written statement that "euthanasia of the weak was practiced in the ancient world but was rejected as we became more civilized and recognized the equal and inherent worth of each person, regardless of ability or disability, age or capacity." Wasn't the "assisted dying" bill a regression from that civilizational advance? Would it not be more civilized and humane to offer the terminally ill the

hope of a peaceful death through a deeper investment in palliative care?

Lord Moore and Lord Alton, both of whom I am proud to call friends, understand the truth of what Douglas Murray also wrote: that the "argument and rationale" for "assisted dying" has been boiled down to "... 'compassion.' ... Everything is about 'understanding,' 'listening,' 'speaking for,' and 'alleviating' the sufferings of others ... all other judgments and rationales being put to one side."

This descent into emotivism and sentimentality has profound consequences for society as well as for individuals. As Lord Moore concluded in his remarks to the Lords, "The Bill does not support the freedom to kill yourself: that we already have. It confers a right to kill yourself with the active assistance of the state and doctors, and at public expense ... Under this legislation, the (medical) professionals will, by definition, be people wishing to fulfill a person's wish to die. No one will be present to advocate the choice of life."

Compassion is entirely admirable. Misconstrued and then distorted by being detached from reason and biblical morality, it becomes an agent of what Pope St. John Paul II aptly called the "culture of death," which threatens the moral foundations of Western civilization.

St. Charles

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