

The Catholic **TIMES**

The Diocese of Columbus' Information Source

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WALKING WITH MOMS IN NEED, OTHER PROGRAMS ASSIST WOMEN IN DIOCESE

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Diocesan program promotes dialogue on racism

The diocese is offering an in-depth dialogue on racism and cultural sensitivity. The program, Unity in Community: Courageous Conversations, is facilitated by leaders of various ministries in the diocese.

The goal is to build relationships (cross-cultural and cross-parish), raise awareness, enhance communication, deepen understanding between individuals and groups and develop strategies for action and change in the community.

The program consists of six sessions, 90 minutes each, and includes an examination of pastoral letters and Church documents advocating for racial justice and reconciliation.

As our community grapples with the sin of racism, we are providing a

process to:

- Facilitate small-group deliberation
 - Foster forgiveness and healing
 - Increase understanding and awareness
 - Enhance communication among individuals and groups
 - Increase understanding and trust
 - Build relationships across barriers
 - Develop strategies for action and change in the community
- Participating in this program can:
- Help people connect their experience to their beliefs.
 - Enable people to see common concerns.
 - Foster new relationships and networks.
 - Nurture vision and the possibility of change.

- Lead to social or political action.
- Move a community from dialogue to action.
- Provide ongoing support, as needed, from the diocese.

In its most recent pastoral letter against racism, “Open Wide Our Hearts, the Enduring Call to Love,” the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops invites the Christian community to do justice, love goodness and walk humbly (Micah 6:8). We are reminded that each of us plays a part in building and maintaining Christian unity.

A “culture of life” requires not only courageous conversations but also a strong commitment to accompany one another on the journey toward equality. It requires us to be imitators

of Christ, and to be both hearers and doers of the word.

In baptism, we become a new life in Christ. We are a community of believers where the word of Christ dwells in us (Colossians 3:16). During this time of the Real Presence, Real Future initiative, we celebrate being in communion with Christ and each other. For “if one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together” (1 Corinthians 12:26).

To schedule this timely and relevant program in your parish and/or school community, contact Pamela Harris, director of the diocesan Office of Ethnic Ministries, at pharris@columbuscatholic.org or (614) 221-7990, option 1.

New Lexington St. Rose School to close at end of academic year

New Lexington St. Rose School will be closing at the conclusion of the current school year.

“It is with a heavy heart that I write to inform you that St. Rose School will not be able to open for students in the 2021-22 school year,” Father Todd Lehigh, pastor of the Perry County Consortium of Catholic Parishes, said in a letter to school parents informing them of the decision. “Sadly, the projected enrollment and operating expenses are not sufficient enough to justify opening the doors this fall.”

St. Rose School was founded in 1912. For the 2020-21 year, the school had 73 students enrolled from pre-kindergarten through grade 8, with enrollment for 2021-22 projected at about 54 students. The school will officially close on May 20.

The decision was made with the endorsement of Bishop Robert Brennan, guidance from the Diocesan Office of Catholic Schools, and in consultation with the St. Rose Education Commission.

The Office of Catholic Schools will

be assisting current St. Rose School families regarding possible relocation to other area Catholic schools, including Somerset Holy Trinity, Zanesville Bishop Fenwick, Logan St. John, and Lancaster St. Mary and St. Bernadette.

“While I know this news is hard to comprehend, it is the most prudent decision for the parish and the Perry County Consortium,” Father Lehigh said. “Let us not mourn the end of this era in our parish, but instead may we join together and celebrate the history of our great school. We will work together as a parish community to chart the course for our future as we find new ways to bring the Good News of Jesus Christ to the people of Perry County.”

The Perry County Consortium consists of St. Rose, Junction City St. Patrick, Corning St. Bernard and Crooksville Church of Atonement parishes. St. Rose is responsible fiscally for the school, with subsidies paid to the school from the other parishes for participating students.

Father Richard M. Engle passed away on April 21

Funeral Mass for Father Richard M. Engle, 95, who died Wednesday, April 21 while in hospice care at the Villas at St. Therese in Columbus, was celebrated Tuesday, April 27 at Chillicothe St. Mary Church. Burial was at Mount Calvary Cemetery, Columbus.

He was the senior priest of the Diocese of Columbus in terms of age and length of service and was one month from celebrating the 65th anniversary of his ordination. He was ordained at Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral on May 26, 1956 by Bishop Michael Ready.

He was born on Aug. 2, 1925 to the late Joseph and Catherine (Griffin) Engle and grew up as a member of Columbus St. Mary Magdalene Church.

He graduated from Columbus Aquinas High School in 1943, then served with the 4th Infantry Division of the U.S. Army in World War II. He was wounded in the chest and lung by bullets in Normandy in 1944, receiving the Purple Heart with an oak leaf cluster. He carried one of those bullets in his pocket for the rest of his life.

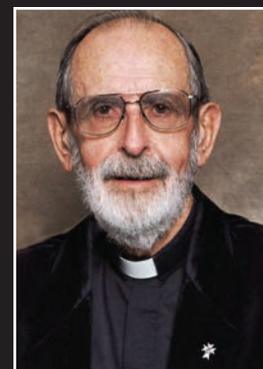
He received a Bachelor of Science degree in business administration from

Ohio State University in 1949 and a Bachelor of Arts degree in liberal arts from Columbus St. Charles College Seminary in 1952 and completed his theology studies in 1956 at Mount St. Mary of the West Seminary in Cincinnati. While in college, he received the nickname “Bird Dog” and was familiarly known as “Bird” from then on.

After his ordination, he was assigned to Portsmouth Holy Redeemer Church as assistant pastor and stayed there for five years. He also was an assistant at Columbus St. Mary, Mother of God and Columbus St. Christopher churches and a teacher at Columbus St. Mary and Columbus Bishop Ready high schools.

He served as pastor of Dresden St. Ann, Mattingly Settlement St. Mary, Columbus St. Philip the Apostle and Dennison Immaculate Conception churches. After his retirement in 1995, he lived at Chillicothe St. Mary and Zaleski St. Sylvester churches before moving to the Villas.

He is survived by many nieces and nephews.



Front Page photo:

PROGRAMS ASSIST MOTHERS IN DIOCESE
A young mother holding her baby has received assistance from the Columbus Women's Care Center, which is one of one of several organizations and programs in the diocese helping women who choose life. Photo courtesy Women's Care Center

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Ada parishioner chosen as Catholic Man of the Year

Stephan Johnson, a member of Ada Our Lady of Lourdes Church, has been selected as the Catholic Men's Luncheon Club's 2021 Catholic Man of the Year.

Bishop Robert Brennan will present him with the award in a virtual ceremony on Friday, May 7. The presentation usually occurs at a luncheon in February, but was delayed this year because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Johnson was chosen by a selection committee from among more than 20 nominees. The committee recommended him for Bishop Brennan's approval based on his example of living a deeply committed spiritual life while exhibiting saintly virtues to support a wide range of family, community and parish activities and ministries.

Johnson, 36, and his wife, Ann, a professor at Ohio Northern University in Ada, are raising four children who range in age from 7 years old to infancy. Johnson is staying home with the children, homeschooling the oldest one, and is involved with almost every facet of parish life at both Our Lady of Lourdes and Hardin County's other Catholic church, Immaculate Conception in Kenton.

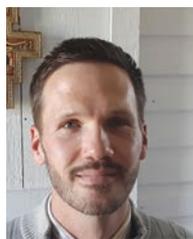
"Steve Johnson is a model for the

Christian man," said Father Ed Shikina, pastor of both churches. "He works to lead his family to heaven, first and foremost."

"Our parish would be nowhere near as healthy as it is today without Steve," said parishioners Chris and Jess Spiese in their nominating letter for Johnson. "His energy is infectious and is bringing people around to re-engage, whereas before, there was a comfortable apathy."

When the pandemic closed all Ohio Catholic churches from mid-March to the end of May last year, Johnson stepped up to livestream weekend Masses from both parishes. The parishes did not own the equipment needed for livestreaming, but Johnson used his personal laptop computer to enable the Masses to be presented online until the parishes were able to purchase the equipment.

Johnson also created websites for both parishes, created and maintains their Instagram and Facebook ac-



Stephan Johnson

counts and got their business email accounts started.

The parishes do not have a maintenance person, but Johnson is fulfilling that role. He has done painting in the church and fixed cracks in its plaster; replaced the bathroom shower in the rectory; painted statues; coordinated gutter replacement and the removal of dying trees; repaired lighting fixtures and is on a committee planning a renovation to maintain the church building's historic integrity.

He and Ann accepted the responsibility of becoming directors of the Parish School of Religion in the middle of the school year and have been instructors for the parish RCIA program. Johnson also was instrumental in re-establishing the parish council, which disbanded about a decade ago.

When the pandemic closed churches, he established a virtual prayer group which meets at 3 p.m. daily to pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet, an act of spiritual communion and a prayer to end the pandemic. He also coordinated parish consecrations to Mary and St. Joseph and led the parish's video presentation of the diocesan Catholic Men's Conference.

The parish had a drive-thru Vet-

eran's Day dinner in November and a drive-thru Mardi Gras celebration in February and Johnson was a key participant in both. He and other volunteers delivered food to cars during the Mardi Gras event in the midst of a storm that dumped a foot of snow on Hardin County, located in the extreme northwest corner of the Diocese of Columbus.

Johnson also volunteers at the Ada food pantry, is on the board of the local library, coaches track at Ada High School and plays the bagpipes at local events.

"He is joyful and energetic, always positive and helpful and is always looking for ways to help out more in the parish," Father Shikina said.

"He is extremely hospitable and welcoming to those who come to Mass. He greets people as they arrive, while at the same time fulfilling other roles at Mass such as taking up the collection and coordinating the livestream. Many in the parish look to Steve as an inspiration and are extremely grateful for him."

The committee which selected

See MAN OF YEAR, Page 17

Real Presence Real Future Reflections

Sixth Sunday of Easter, May 9, 2021

Real Presence, Real Future reflections: As the Father Loves Us
Deacon Steve Petrill, St. Joan of Arc Parish

"Jesus said to his disciples: 'As the Father loves me, so I also love you. Remain in my love.'" Christ reaches out to us as friends, inviting us to remain, to dwell, in His love. We draw close to God by loving our neighbor as Christ loves us: through self-sacrifice, trust in God and fully giving of ourselves. We cannot do this alone. Individually and as Church, we are brought into the life of God, healed, nourished and sustained by Christ's real presence. In the same way Christ is with us, we are called to be truly present to one another.

Visit www.RealPresenceRealFuture.org to learn more about how we are growing together in the life of faith

Solemnity of the Ascension, May 16, 2021

Real Presence, Real Future reflections: To Be the Message
Alfred Akainyah, St. Anthony Parish & RPRF Commission Member

In today's gospel, Jesus gives the disciples the authority to go into the world and preach the Gospel to all people. People's lives, lives that God cares about, are at stake. We should let our lives be the message we communicate, for we can only be true disciples of Christ if only we live the Gospel in our lives. This is also the goal of our Real Presence, Real Future campaign. On this day of Christ's elevation to Heaven, the same is being asked of us: to become missionary disciples of our Lord and His church.

To read more about how we are growing together in the life of faith and discipleship in the Diocese of Columbus,

and discipleship in the Diocese of Columbus.

"Jesús dijo a sus discípulos: 'Así como el Padre me ama, así también yo los amo a ustedes. Permanezcan en mi amor'. Cristo se acerca a nosotros como amigos, invitándonos a permanecer, a vivir, en Su amor. Nos acercamos a Dios amando a nuestro prójimo como Cristo nos ama: mediante el sacrificio personal, la confianza en Dios y la entrega plena de nosotros mismos. No podemos hacer esto solos. Individualmente y como Iglesia, somos llevados a la vida de Dios, sanados, nutridos y sostenidos por la presencia real de Cristo. De la misma manera que Cristo está con nosotros, estamos llamados a estar verdaderamente presentes los unos a los otros.

Visite www.RealPresenceRealFuture.org para obtener más información sobre cómo estamos creciendo juntos en la vida de fe y discipulado en la Diócesis de Columbus.

visit www.RealPresenceRealFuture.org.

En el evangelio de hoy, Jesús da a sus discípulos la autoridad de ir por el mundo y anunciar el Evangelio a todos los pueblos. Las vidas de las personas, vidas que Dios tanto cuida, están en riesgo. Debemos hacer que nuestras vidas reflejen el mensaje que comunicamos, solo así podremos ser verdaderos discípulos de Cristo, si vivimos en evangelio en nuestras vidas. Esta es la meta de nuestra campaña Presencia Real, Futuro Real. En este día de la Ascensión de Cristo a los cielos, se nos hace la misma pregunta: ser discípulos misioneros de nuestro Señor y Su Iglesia.

Para leer más acerca de cómo estamos creciendo juntos en la vida de fe y discipulado en la Diócesis de Columbus, por favor visite: www.RealPresenceRealFuture.org.



Increasing the presence of Christ throughout the Diocese and upholding the Faith for future generations.

Learn more at:

www.RealPresenceRealFuture.org



Inspiration for Walking with Moms in Need

Last year on March 25, the Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord, the Church celebrated the 25th anniversary of the papal encyclical *Evangelium Vitae* (EV). The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on Pro-Life Activities also launched Walking with Moms in Need, an initiative to support expectant/parenting moms and their families. As with so many things, COVID-19 delayed the launch of our efforts.

The encyclical is at the heart of Jesus' saving message to the world. It explains that each of us is made in the image and likeness of God, reflecting His glory and His imprint. We are called to "respect, defend and promote the dignity of every human person, at every moment and in every condition of that person's life." (*Evangelium Vitae* 81)

It also highlights the role of women to bear and support life as mothers, sisters, aunts, cousins and extended family. Pope St. John Paul II identifies many challenges that expectant and parenting mothers may face, including lack of support from the father, financial strains, concerns about her own health or that of her child, and pressures from family and friends. Clearly, it is particularly important that the Church support pregnant and parenting mothers with material assistance as well as spiritual and emotional support.

With great openness and courage, we need to question how widespread is the culture of life today among individual Christians, families, groups

FAITH IN ACTION

Erin Cordle

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



and communities in our Dioceses. With equal clarity and determination, we must identify the steps we are called to take in order to serve life in all its truth. (*Evangelium Vitae* 95)

We know that pregnant and parenting moms in need are in our parishes and our neighborhoods and that they may have numerous needs that can be supported through our parishes. We also know that, in desperation, they are turning to other places for help. We know the needs and challenges can be immense for women in difficult pregnancies, especially women in poverty, and the sources for help may not be apparent to those most needing support. Women facing the challenges of pregnancy and parenting should see the Church as a place where they can find help or referrals to social services dedicated to meeting the needs of people in crisis.

In our parishes, WWMIN champions are assessing the pastoral and practical assistance that currently is provided to pregnant/parenting moms and families. They also are looking into how effective we are in communicating what is available and what is missing.

Evangelium Vitae emphasizes that "where life is

involved, the service of charity must be profoundly consistent. It cannot tolerate bias and discrimination, for human life is sacred and inviolable... We need then to 'show care' for all life and for the life of everyone." (*Evangelium Vitae* 87)

As Catholics are called to reverence and love every human person as ourselves. It is our responsibility to care for and protect human life, especially the lives of the most vulnerable among us. *Evangelium Vitae* teaches us that "the task of accepting and serving life involves everyone; and this task must be fulfilled above all towards life when it is at its weakest." (*Evangelium Vitae* 43)

I have been communicating with several parish champions for our WWMIN. An emerging strategy is to work within our deaneries to reduce duplicating efforts. What a great way to promote community. Please contact your pastor for your champion's name. If your parish has not identified your champion, consider volunteering to support your parish.

In May, please pray: *O Blessed Mother, you received the Good News of the incarnation of Christ, your Son, with faith and trust. Grant your protection to all pregnant and parenting mothers. Guide us as we strive to make our parish communities places of welcome and assistance for all mothers. Help us become instruments of God's love and compassion.*

As always, I am available to provide assistance. Contact me at socmailbox@columbuscatholic.org or 614-241-2540.

Getting family rituals 'rite' in Domestic Church

This column is the fifth in a series of eight articles on the "Liturgy of the Domestic Church" that will take you through aspects of making your home a domestic church and living Catholic family life. For questions or to learn more, contact the Diocesan Marriage and Family Life Office at 614-241-2560 or familylife@columbuscatholic.org.

By Dr. Greg Popcak

I've been outlining a model of family spirituality called, the *Liturgy of Domestic Church Life*. To recap, "liturgy" is the "work" God does through the Church to heal the damage sin does to our relationship with him and each other. The *Liturgy of the Eucharist* restores our union with God and makes communion with others possible. Having experienced Christ in the Eucharist, the *Liturgy of Domestic Church Life* helps bring Jesus home and make our faith the source of the warmth in our homes.

Just like the Liturgy of the Eucharist has different rites — that is, building blocks that make up the different parts of the Mass — the *Liturgy of Domestic Church Life* is made up of three rites. The *Rite of Christian Relationship*, which I wrote about last time, is the foundation of family spirituality. It's the way families share Christ's sacrificial love with each other through extravagant affection, responding generously to each other's needs (even when it's hard), and a loving-guidance approach to discipline, which teaches, guides and shepherds. The *Rite of Christian Relationships* helps families live their priestly mission of baptism, enabling them to consecrate the world to Christ through their witness

of self-giving love

The second rite in the Liturgy of Domestic Church life is the *Rite of Family Rituals*. Family rituals aren't just "nice things we do when we have the time." Family rituals are regularly scheduled, expected times when your family meets to work, play, talk and pray together -- every day.

When families create strong, daily rituals for working, playing, talking and praying together, they model how to have a healthy, balanced, Christian life. The Catechism says that Christians live out the prophetic mission of their baptism by proclaiming the Gospel in our words "and the testimony of life" (No. 905). In that sense, the rite of family rituals helps families live out the prophetic mission of our baptism. Regular family rituals serve as an implicit catechism in cultivating godly attitudes toward work, leisure, intimacy and spirituality.

Over 60 years of research shows that family rituals, more than anything else, have the power to bind a family together, create a sense of community and team spirit, and enable parents to pass on their faith and values without having to preach, lecture, or yell. Family rituals communicate truths directly to our muscle memory. Why do we have the attitudes toward work, play, talk and prayer that we do? Because that's the way our family's always done things!

Work rituals include things such as cleaning the kitchen together after meals, picking up the family room together before bed, doing other household projects together, etc. The main point of family work rituals isn't getting stuff done. It's using the "stuff" of family life to become a team. Work rituals help families realize that chores aren't just tasks you do as fast as possible so you can get to the more

entertaining stuff. They're the way families say, "You can count on me. Not just for the fun times. But all the other times, too."

Play rituals include things like game nights, family days, walks, movie nights, baking together, shooting hoops, doing projects together, etc. In a world where "fun" is often synonymous with "sin," play rituals show it's possible to have a joy-filled life — without killing your soul in the process.

Talk rituals include meaningful family meals, one-on-one time with your kids, family meetings, and other times where you make a point of bringing up conversations besides who has what practice and what needs to be picked up at the store. When families regularly discuss the highs and lows of the day, how God has blessed them that day, and how they could do a better job taking care of each other, they show they care about each other's hearts.

Prayer rituals include things like morning and bedtime family prayer, grace at meals, a family Rosary or chaplet, family blessings, family praise and worship time, reading/discussing Bible stories and, of course, participating as a family in the sacraments. Strong and abundant prayer rituals help you and your kids start to think about God as another part of your family — as the person who knows you best and loves you most.

Next time, I'll describe how God wants to use your family to be a blessing to others in the Rite of Reaching Out. For now, remember that family rituals aren't just nice things to do. They're an essential part of family spirituality; the best way Christian families can witness to an abundant, godly life.

Dr. Greg Popcak is executive director of the Peyton Institute for Domestic Church Life (PeytonFamilyInstitute.org)

Ways to pray when you just can't

Surely it's not just me. In fact, I know it's not. I've read plenty of advice columns — even books — that give me plenty of advice for growing close to God through that elusive and wonderful form known as prayer.

And yet I find myself, once again, struggling.

Oh, I muddle through my morning rosary. I lead the prayers on the drive to school. I bow my head before eating.

Even so, I find myself wondering if it “counts.”

I know, I KNOW. It DOES count. Of COURSE it counts. How can I even say that?

But I'll bet at least one other person has asked themselves the same thing.

If I pray half-heartedly, if I pray without paying attention, if I pray without an ounce of whatever makes it wonderful — does? it? count?

How can it be a conversation when it feels so one-way? Why do I even bother when life marches on regardless?

And so contemplating this for what feels like the five-millionth time, I came up with a list of ways that I pray when I can't. There aren't words. There isn't motivation. There is just me.

Really, that's all God asks. He wants me to show up. When I'm fighting, these are my go-to ideas. And, as I was reviewing them, I noticed something: They're all verbs. They're action-initiated. When I can't pray, I find another doing, and I not only show up: I show up. I have comfort in knowing that there's a whole spiritual universe I can't see, and I imagine God (and maybe a few saints, and especially Mama Mary) looking on and cheering for me.

Listen to music.

You might think this is where I'm going to tell you that I listen to a certain artist or a certain style,

FINDING FAITH IN EVERYDAY LIFE

Sarah Reinhard

Sarah Reinhard is a Catholic wife, mother, and writer in central Ohio. Get her Catholic at www.snorningscholar.com.



but nope. Beethoven helps me some days, and Audrey Assad shakes me loose on others. Then there's the time I danced around with a baby to the Jackson Five, but let's not focus on that. The point here is to queue up some tunes and let them inspire you. And if they don't inspire you, you can try something different or just embrace the fact that your prayer is going to be what it is.

Sometimes, this also includes the Bible In A Year podcast with Fr. Mike Schmitz (even though it's going to take me more than a year ...).

Take a walk.

Some enterprising people might call this “take a run,” and others may embrace this as a call to exercise. I find that when I step out of where I am physically and head somewhere else — down a sidewalk, through the backyard, up the road, into the field — I can't help but feel the air, see the sky, observe all that's around me. And in that change of scenery, I can't help but turn my mind heavenward.

Clean something.

It can be the dishes or the mountains of laundry. Maybe it's that bathroom sink that is a different shade of eww. Perhaps you're going to tackle the inside of your vehicle and come away triumphant. When you see the success — that cleaned-up something — consider it a little love note from God himself, a smile from above.

Just sit.

Confession: This is the hardest one for me. That probably means it's the most effective. Though I struggle with the tendency to drift off — into to-do lists, into sleep — the being can be a lesson and an invitation. In the midst of all the bustle and busy, just sitting with the Lord can be the best prayer, even if there are no words.

Pet a horse or cuddle a dog (cat, hamster, goat).

Pets and animals can be so therapeutic, and your interactions with them can be a taste of the divine. God made animals, and he put them here for us. Let them take you to that moment with God, the one where you just enjoy and smile and are.

Pick a flower.

Or, in my case, have a resident child who will pick them for you.

Make something.

In creating, we are touching that part of ourselves that God made so uniquely beautiful. Maybe it's dinner, or dessert, or a sweater. Maybe you're sketching or writing or digging in the garden. You could be making a spreadsheet or a clean corner of the garage. Unleash that part of you that may remain largely unnoticed and make something. It will be a prayer you can remember and look at later. (Unless, of course, the child who picked the flower gets ahold of it ...)

Read the Psalms.

They're poetry and prayer, and you don't have to limit yourself to them, though they're a great place to start.

Now, go be inspired and put your own “I can't pray” prayer practices into use. See how you grow closer to God ... and maybe get beyond your own hesitations, fears, and doubts.

Our Lady of Fatima a role model for strong parents

By MaryBeth Eberhard

I am a mother who seeks to parent with grace. It has always been important to me that my children know me to be a loving, trustworthy and faith-filled advocate for them. In striving to create these relationships, there have been times when I have felt challenged in speaking truth to them because, as our children grow, the situations they encounter cannot be sugarcoated, and the consequences for their actions must be met head-on.

We all need mentors in our vocations — those who have gone before us and teach us to speak boldly, pray fiercely and live a life worthy of being called a Christian. My journey as a mother has been greatly impacted by Our Lady of Fatima.

I love Our Lady. I love learning about her apparitions and the history of that time. I love that everything she says has meaning and purpose outside of time. Whom she chooses to speak to, her clothing, her voice and her message all have such purpose as she seeks to relate to her children and draw them into a relationship.

Over time, Mary has appeared in a multitude of places including Lourdes, Guadalupe, Knock and Kibeho. At each apparition, she shared a side of herself that reveals to us how to be better parents.

WALKING WITH THE SAINTS

At Fatima, Mary spoke to three young children: Jacinta, Francisco and Lucia. The story is long and beautiful, but the simple version is that it was children to whom she spoke her message. They would have to show immense courage and tenacity in sharing that message.

She had such faith in them! She taught them to pray. She taught them the importance of giving of themselves for others: “Pray, pray very much, and make sacrifices for sinners; for many souls go to hell, because there are none to sacrifice themselves and pray for them.”

Our Lady of Fatima shows motherly patience in answering their questions when the children asked if this person would go to heaven or if that person would be healed. I reflect on the times I get frustrated with the same questions being asked of me over and over again.

Here, Mary demonstrates patience but also the lesson she wants me to learn — a ministry of presence, a sacredness of listening to their concerns and holding them important.

I desire to raise saints — children who see the val-

ue of another soul and are willing to sacrifice for him or her. I also want my children to know that trust is built over time, and my listening to them affirms their worth and encourages them to do likewise. This world of ours needs a generation of people who see outside of themselves.

Mary of Fatima is fierce. She is a mother who does not back down. It always shocks me that she shows the three children a vision of hell. Not just, “Oh look, there is the comedic devil with horns on his head,” but a horrifying vision of hell where they see the burning souls, feel the heat of the flames and hear the screams of agony coming from the vision. What kind of mother does this? I've often wondered.

The answer is granted to me through life experiences. It is the mother who stands firm with her children. The mother who is not afraid to set boundaries, communicate expectations and clearly speak the repercussions of actions that go against what she has taught. Mary of Fatima stands as a role model and offers encouragement to the parent whose backbone gets a bit weary.

Mary of Fatima also leads with mercy. She implores for prayers for mercy for those who are suf-

Author lauds 'holy boldness' of St. Catherine of Siena

By Doug Bean
Catholic Times Editor

If St. Catherine of Siena were alive today, would she use Twitter?

Prominent Catholic journalist Kathryn Jean Lopez, a senior fellow at the National Review Institute and author of *A Year with the Mystics: Visionary Wisdom for Daily Living*, posed the question during an interview before a presentation titled "St. Catherine of Siena Will Help Us Out of Our Current Darkness" on the Dominican saint's feast day, Thursday, April 29, in Patrick Hall at Columbus St. Patrick Church.

Catherine of Siena, the 14th-century Dominican who lived through the deadly bubonic plague and a crisis in the Catholic Church, followed a penitential life but was not afraid to step into the public square to become involved in the politics of the day.

Political pressure in the 1300s resulted in popes residing in France rather than Rome. Catherine was determined to see that the papacy return to Rome after a 70-year exile, and so in 1376 she went to see Pope Gregory

XI. The feisty saint persuaded him to go back to the Vatican and also facilitated peace agreements among warring Italian city states.

"When the (Theodore) McCarrick report (on the former U.S. cardinal accused of sexual abuse) came out a couple of years ago, I was going a little batty, as people were saying, 'You know, Catherine of Siena would be the loudest person on Twitter yelling at the bishops (to take action against McCarrick),' " Lopez said. "The fact of the matter is, she lived a self-sacrificial life, and she was serving people during a pandemic. She wasn't locked inside keeping herself safe. She was living what she preached."

Three years after her heroic intervention with the pope, Catherine of Siena died at age 33. She left a treasure-trove of spiritual insights and wisdom considered so profound that she was made a doctor of the Church in 1970.

"At the end of her life, she could barely walk, and she was walking a mile to St. Peter's (Basilica in Rome) to pray for the Church," Lopez recounted. "And so the idea that she would be sitting on her couch com-

plaining about the bishops on Twitter ... yes, she told off the pope, but she did it in this beautifully prayerful, humble way. There was this holy boldness about her."

During Lopez's visit to Columbus last week, she teamed with Father Peter John Cameron, OP, the founding editor of the Magnificat worship aid and now prior of the Dominican fathers at St. Patrick Priory in Columbus, for a conversation-style discussion on St. Catherine of Siena that was also live-streamed.

Lopez, a New York native, editor-at-large for National Review magazine and director of its Center for Religion, Culture and Civil Society, became acquainted with Father Cameron while he served in New York City. The two have combined for a series of virtual events during the past few months about Easter, St. Joseph and the North American martyrs.

Lopez has studied extensively the life of the saint she considers her patron and has frequently reflected on her writings. And in these extraordinary times of global pandemic, political divisiveness and threats to religious freedom, she suggested turning

to this holy woman who lived through similarly tumultuous times for comfort and guidance.

"She spent a lot of time by herself in prayer," Lopez said. "So she could be a witness as far as how she spent that time (in isolation) to spiritually lift herself up and others."

"A lot of people have been drowning in anxiety and fear, and much of the point of St. Catherine of Siena's writings is, there's nothing to fear. She was all about freedom; God gives us freedom to choose well or to use it poorly. Real freedom is giving everything back to Him. And if we give everything back to Him, everything makes sense."

What doesn't make sense to Lopez is Catholics taking their faith for granted and not understanding the great blessing of being able to receive the sacraments frequently. The sacramental life of Catholics was disrupted in March 2020 when the coronavirus pandemic resulted in churches throughout the world closing their doors for months before returning on a limited basis.

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Gaia, false gods and public policy

I claim no expertise in climate science. I do claim a certain competence in detecting spin in the media; for I'm a card-carrying member of that clan, as I've committed print journalism for more than 40 years and worked in television for over 20. Thus credentialed, I rise to note that serious spin has dominated media coverage of climate change for a long time now. There are, to be sure, exceptions to this rule. Since Hurricane Katrina, though, it has generally been all-hysteria-all-the-time in reporting and commentary on weather and climate change. This may get eyeballs onto screens and newspaper pages; it doesn't do much for cool, calm public debate.

So when the chief scientist in the Obama administration's Energy Department, who's also a professor of physics at Cal Tech, challenges the spin and the hysteria, attention should be paid. That's precisely what Steven E. Koonin does in the recently published *Unsettled: What Climate Science Tells Us, What It Doesn't, and Why It Matters*: he takes on just about every shibboleth emboldening today's crusaders against climate change. Professor Koonin doesn't deny that the planet is warming and that human beings have something to do with that. He does question some of the claims behind the present drive to Do Something! through massive governmental interventions.

Thus, to quote from *The Wall Street Journal* review of his book, Professor Koonin shows, from the scientific data, that "tornado frequency and severity are ... not trending up; nor are the number and severity of droughts. The extent of global fires has been trending significantly down. The rate of sea-level rise has not accelerated. Global crop yields are rising, not

THE CATHOLIC DIFFERENCE

George Weigel

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falling. And while global CO2 levels are obviously higher now than two centuries ago, they're not at any record planetary high – they're at a low that has only been seen once before in the past 500 million years."

Not shocked (or angry) at Professor Koonin yet? Then try his own words: "Heat waves in the U.S. are now no more common than they were in 1900 ... the warmest temperatures in the U.S. have not risen in the past 50 years. ... Humans have had no detectable impact on hurricanes over the past century. ... Greenland's ice sheet isn't shrinking any more rapidly today than it was 80 years ago. ... The net economic impact of human-induced climate change will be minimal through at least the end of this century."

As I said, I've no credentials to judge the accuracy of Koonin's assertions. I do like his against-the-grain boldness, and I certainly agree with his argument that the science – not media and activist spin on the science, but the actual data from the many authoritative reports he cites – should govern decision-making about public policy and climate change. I also have an idea of why the climate debate has become so emotionally fraught. It's not just because of media spin and political opportunism, although both of those play their part. It's because environmentalism

has become an ultra-mundane pseudo-religion.

That religion has a deity: Gaia, the Earth. It has a sacred text: Rachel Carson's 1962 book *Silent Spring*, which began the transformation of the American conversation movement (which respected the natural environment without deifying it) into contemporary environmentalism. It has its religious holidays, "Earth Day" being the Pentecost of the new religion and the occasion for homiletics that mimic Peter in Acts 2:14-36. (A pre-K student, I'm told, brought home from school this past April 22 the revelation that "we should get rid of our cars because they're bad for the air.") Gaia-religion has a kind of ersatz sacramental life: I've been in circumstances where there are seven recycling bins, which certainly rings bells in the Catholic mind. It inculcates a moral code; some of it makes sense – How can anyone object to the fact that our highways and national parks are virtually litter-free these days? – but other parts of it veer into the worst forms of elitist, anti-natalist zealotry, as when some of the new religion's prophets urge shrinking the planet's human population by six billion people in the name of saving (or appeasing) Gaia. And I certainly can't be the only person who has noticed that carbon trade-offs are the new religion's form of indulgences – the selling of which in the 16th century led to a lot of trouble.

Is ours a secular world? Or is it a world that's traded authentic religion for a modern form of idolatry – one that's corrupting our politics because it displaces reason with the kind of existential dread the ancient Canaanites once felt about Moloch?

Sister serves through support and song

By Tim Puet
Catholic Times Reporter

Sister Susan Olson, OP, says that after a busy lifetime of involvement with music as a teacher and singer in Ohio, Louisiana and Texas, her role as mission group coordinator for the Dominican Sisters of Peace has taught her the importance of slowing down and being present for others.

“Since 2019, I’ve served as a pastoral support to the 72 sisters of our congregation who live in its Columbus motherhouse,” Sister Susan said. “Many are elderly, with about a dozen aged 90 or older. It’s important for them when facing a crisis to have someone who is there to be by their side and help them in whatever way is most suitable.

“I’m used to pitching in and taking action in stressful situations, but with the sisters in most cases, the most important thing I can do is be with them. There are times when you can’t fix anything, where your presence is what matters most. These are sacred moments.”

Sister Susan, 54, is the youngest sister in the motherhouse and often drives its residents to medical appointments or performs other tasks for the older sisters. “The times when I’m driving the sisters somewhere give me a great opportunity to hear their stories and to appreciate all the things the Dominican sisters have done in the diocese” since coming to central Ohio in 1830, she said.

“These are really holy times when I get to hear them. They’re allowing me to share the legacy of which I am now a part.”

Besides her work at the motherhouse, Sister Susan has a second position 1,150 miles away. She has been a professor of voice in the music department of the University of Texas-San Antonio since 2009. She has been teaching online from Columbus since moving to the city two years ago and currently leads classes in the literature of art songs and of opera and a course in diction for opera in English, German, French and Italian. She also has eight private students.

She is a mezzo-soprano and has been a soloist with several symphony orchestras. She also has been a part of many professional choral ensembles and opera companies and has been featured in roles in Gilbert and Sullivan’s *Pirates of Penzance* and *HMS Pinafore*, Bernstein’s *Candide*, Sondheim’s *A Little Night Music* and many other musical productions.

“I started teaching online before the COVID pandemic occurred, and when that happened, everyone was joining me,” she said. “One reason I teach in Texas is because I have tenure there, but I’d love to be able to teach at either of my alma maters, Capital and Ohio State.”

Sister Susan was 10 in 1977 when she and her parents, Allen and Jeanne, an older brother and sister and a younger brother came from the Chicago area to Newark, where her father’s employer, Resinoid Engineering Corp., was opening a plant.

She attended Newark St. Francis de Sales School and Newark Catholic High School and received a bachelor’s degree in music from Capital University in 1989, a master’s degree in vocal pedagogy from Ohio State University in 1991 and a doctoral degree from OSU in vocal performance in 2004.

“Some of my earliest memories are of going to Mass with my family,” she said. “I can’t think of her name now, but I remember one member of the

ANSWERING GOD’S CALL

Answering God’s Call profiles the life of a priest, deacon or professed religious sister in the Diocese of Columbus.

Sisters of the Living Word who sang when I was going to St. Martha School in Morton Grove, Illinois. Hearing her love of singing made the whole idea of church music catch my attention. I didn’t start thinking of being a sister until several years later, but that sister was the first to plot my course.”

The sisters who taught at her schools in Newark were members of the Columbus-based Dominican Sisters of St. Mary of the Springs, which joined with six other Dominican congregations in 2009 to form the Dominican Sisters of Peace. “I was extremely involved with music in Newark, first in the children’s choir, then in the adult choir once I entered high school, and also as a cantor,” she said.

“I recall getting up at 6 a.m. to ride my bike to church for 7 a.m. Masses, and I enjoyed it. We had some great priests and sisters in Newark. Being with them started me thinking of being a sister, particularly a Dominican, because I enjoyed studying, and studying is important to Dominicans.”

While attending Capital, her sense of being called to the religious life grew and she stayed in touch with Sister Ann Schmid, OP, one of her former teachers, who now lives at the motherhouse. “While I was at Capital, she was stationed in Grosse Pointe, Michigan and attended a concert our choir gave there,” she said. “I was a little afraid to, but after the concert I gingerly asked her if she could give me some information on the Dominican sisters. She was delighted to, and we kept corresponding.”

Sister Susan decided after receiving her master’s degree from OSU that she needed experience living on her own before committing to religious life, so she taught voice from 1992 to 1995 at Kalamazoo College and Western Michigan University, both in Kalamazoo, Michigan.

“I was discerning with the Dominicans here in Columbus and with another Dominican congregation in Grand Rapids, Michigan,” she said. “I spent more time in Grand Rapids, but being with both congregations solidified my desire to be with the St. Mary of the Springs Dominicans,” she said. “Through my experience with them in Newark and during discernment, they exuded such joy that I wanted to be a part of it and be of service to them. With my past connections, it was the right move.”

In 1995, she entered the St. Mary of the Springs congregation and returned to Capital as a teacher in its community music school for a year. That was followed by a year in the Dominican novitiate at St. Louis. In 1997, she returned to Columbus, where she taught at Ohio Dominican College (renamed Ohio Dominican University in 2002) from 1997 to 2004 and was a

graduate associate at OSU from 2001 to 2004. She pronounced her first Dominican vows in 1999 and her final vows in 2004.

She was on the music faculty at Otterbein College (now University) in Westerville in 2004 and 2005, and then spent 14 years away from central Ohio, teaching at the University of Louisiana-Monroe from 2005 to 2009 and at Texas-San Antonio from 2009 until returning to Columbus 10 years later.

From 1996 to 2002, she and three Dominican brothers formed a choral group known as Veritas in Cantico (Latin for “truth in song”), which conducted parish missions, presented concerts and recorded two CDs. After one member died of leukemia, the group continued with three members before disbanding when one of the brothers was elected prior of his province. The three united in 2017 for an anniversary concert.

In 2000, Sister Susan was liturgist for the Lands of Dominic pilgrimage for the Jubilee year declared by Pope St. John Paul II. This special event allowed Dominicans to follow in the footsteps of their founder, St. Dominic, through France, Spain and Italy.

While in Louisiana and Texas, she lived by herself. Teaching was her main focus, and she sang in choirs. “A couple of years ago, I began thinking about a change because I wanted to live in community with other sisters again,” she said. “I had interviewed with another community about becoming a liturgist when I was offered the opportunity to come here.

“I accepted the position as mission group coordinator because it was a great opportunity to serve the sisters who served me for so many years and to continue teaching online. Then COVID hit, and I didn’t have to make an adjustment to online education because I already was doing it.”

The pandemic has limited her in-person contact with people in the community, but a grant awarded to Sister Susan allowed her and other sisters in the motherhouse to pack 50 backpacks for the homeless in Columbus. The backpacks were donated to the United Methodist Church for All People on the city’s south side, where they were distributed to those in need. She used another part of the grant to help a local graphic artist whose business has been suffering during the pandemic.

“This grant allowed me to offer some support to two populations that are near and dear to my heart,” she said. “What I hope has been a hand-up for these two groups will be experienced by the good works rippling out to our larger community.”

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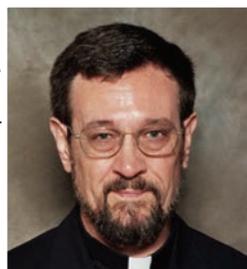
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PRIESTS CELEBRATE MILESTONES

FATHER RONALD J. AUBRY

Father Ronald J. Aubry, 66, a Toledo native, pastor of Millersburg St. Peter and Glenmont Ss. Peter and Paul churches, was ordained by Bishop Edward Herrmann in Columbus Christ the King Church on June 20, 1981.

He has been pastor of the two churches for three years and served them previously as pastor for 10 years. He also has been pastor of Zoar Holy Trinity Church and priest moderator of Columbus St. Agnes and St. Aloysius churches. He earlier was associate pastor of Westerville St. Paul, Columbus Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal and Columbus St. Catharine of Siena churches and in residence at Columbus St. Thomas the Apostle Church, and was a teacher at Columbus St. Francis DeSales High School and Columbus St. Charles Preparatory School.



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FATHER PAUL A. NOBLE

Father Paul A. Noble, 65, grew up in the Detroit area and was ordained as a member of the PIME missionary order in Detroit on May 23, 1981 by Auxiliary Bishop Arthur Krawczak of that city.

While a member of the PIME order, he was spiritual director and principal of Sts. Peter and Paul PIME High School Seminary in Newark and principal of Lancaster Fisher Catholic High School. He became a priest of the Diocese of Columbus and served as diocesan episcopal vicar for education and superintendent of schools for five years. He then entered parish work and served as associate pastor and then pastor of Gahanna St. Matthew Church, was in residence at the cathedral, and was pastor of the Perry County Consortium of Parishes and later of Sunbury St. John Neumann Church. He also was diocesan vocations director for 10 years until July 2020.



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FATHER LEO L. CONNOLLY

Father Leo L. Connolly, 64, pastor of Columbus St. Cecilia Church for 12 years, was born in Camp Lejeune, North Carolina and spent most of his childhood in the Philadelphia area. He was ordained by Auxiliary Bishop George Fulcher on June 13, 1981 in Columbus Holy Spirit Church.

He also has been pastor at Wellston Ss. Peter and Paul, Columbus St. Philip the Apostle and Zanesville St. Nicholas churches and associate pastor at Hilliard St. Brendan the Navigator, Grove City Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Portsmouth Holy Redeemer and Powell St. Joan of Arc churches and in residence at Columbus St. Timothy Church. He has taught at Columbus Bishop Watterson and Portsmouth Notre Dame high schools and has been chaplain at Portsmouth Mercy Hospital, associate spiritual director of the diocesan Cum Christo movement and a member of the diocesan Tribunal. He is chairman of the diocesan Presbyteral Council and dean of the West Columbus Deanery.

He is the longtime chaplain of the Franklin County Sheriff's Department, has conducted courses for chaplains throughout the nation, and provided assistance in New York City after the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks and in Houston in 2005 and 2008 in the aftermath of Hurricanes Katrina and Ike, respectively.

FATHER STEPHEN F. CARMODY

Father Stephen F. Carmody, 75, pastor of Somerset Holy Trinity and St. Joseph churches, is a native of Hartford, Connecticut. He made his first profession of vows as a member of the Order of Preachers (the Dominican order) on Aug. 16, 1976 and his solemn profession on Aug. 16, 1979 and was ordained a priest on June 5, 1981.

Before coming to Somerset 12 years ago, he was assistant pastor at Holy Name Church in Valhalla, New York; was assigned to St. Catherine of Siena Church in New York City on two separate occasions for hospital ministry; was hospital ministry coordinator for Dominican chaplains at Sloan-Kettering, New York Presbyterian and Special Surgery hospitals; and was prior of Holy Name Priory in Philadelphia.



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FATHER ANTONY C. VARGHESE

Father Antony C. Varghese, CFIC, 57, a native of the province of Kerala in India, is pastor of Columbus St. Elizabeth Church and has been a member of the Congregation of the Sons of the Immaculate Conception since 1989.

He was ordained on May 26, 1996 in Kerala, where he served as a teacher and as superior of the order's Luigi Bhavan Seminary. He was transferred to Canada six years after his ordination and served as associate pastor and later as pastor at both the Epiphany of Our Lord Church in Toronto and Immaculate Conception Church in Woodbridge, Ontario. He has been at St. Elizabeth since 2019.



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FATHER ROBERT C. PENHALLURICK

Father Robert C. Penhallurick, pastor of Hilliard St. Brendan the Navigator Church, is a native of the county of Cornwall in southwest England and was ordained to the priesthood by Bishop Peter Smith on Sept. 7, 1996 in Norwich, England.

He served at the Church of Our Lady and the English Martyrs in Cambridge, England, for three years and emigrated to the United States in 1999. In the Diocese of Columbus, he was associate pastor of Columbus St. Peter Church and later of St. Brendan Church, then became pastor of Newark St. Francis de Sales Church before returning to Hilliard as pastor. He became a U.S. citizen in 2012.

He also is a member of the diocesan College of Consultors, Presbyteral Council and Finance Council and is chaplain of the Pope St. John Paul II Guild of the Catholic Medical Association.



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FATHER G. MICHAEL GRIBBLE

Father G. Michael Gribble, 78, was born in Zanesville and grew up in Newark, where he was ordained at St. Francis de Sales Church on May 16, 1981 by Bishop Herrmann.

He was pastor of Columbus Holy Rosary-St. John and Granville St. Edward the Confessor churches, rector of Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral, associate pastor of New Philadelphia Sacred Heart and Groveport St. Mary churches and a teacher at Columbus Father Wehrle High School. He also is dean of the Knox-Licking Deanery and served as chaplain at Denison University and of the diocesan Single Again Ministry and the Pope John XXIII Council of the Knights of Columbus and a member of the diocesan Priests' Senate and College of Consultors. He retired in 2013 and lives in Thornville.



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PRIESTS CELEBRATE SIGNIFICANT MILESTONES

FATHER MICHAEL F. NIMOCKS

Father Michael F. Nimocks, 79, a Columbus native, was ordained at the cathedral by Bishop Emeritus James Griffin on June 29, 1996.

Before discerning his call to the priesthood, he was a loan officer for Huntington National Bank, worked for the state fire marshal's office, was chief of the Buckeye Lake Volunteer Fire Department and was a Buckeye Lake Village Council member. He was ordained a deacon by Bishop Herrmann on Aug. 14, 1977 and served Buckeye Lake Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church in that role for 15 years. He also was chaplain for the diocesan Catholic Committee on Scouting for nine years while a deacon.

Following ordination to the priesthood, he served as associate pastor at Worthington St. Michael Church and pastor of Zoar Holy Trinity and Marion St. Mary churches before retiring from full-time ministry in July 2012. He lives at the Villas at St. Therese in Columbus and has assisted priests at several diocesan parishes since his retirement.



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FATHER JOSEPH J. TRAPP

Father Joseph J. Trapp, 61, grew up in Brooklyn, New York and was ordained on June 29, 1996 by Bishop Griffin.

He is pastor of Plain City St. Joseph Church and also served as pastor of Jackson Holy Trinity and Zaleski St. Sylvester churches and associate pastor of Columbus St. Catharine of Siena, Hilliard St. Brendan the Navigator and Grove City Our Lady of Perpetual Help churches. He was a teacher at Columbus Bishop Hartley High School and is involved in prison ministry in the diocese.



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FATHER DAVID W. SIZEMORE

Father David W. Sizemore, 53, pastor of Newark St. Francis de Sales Church, was ordained by Bishop Griffin on June 29, 1996 and is from Columbus.

He also has served as pastor of Sunbury St. John Neumann Church and been associate pastor of Dublin St. Brigid of Kildare Church, the cathedral, and Delaware St. Mary Church, and was a senator for the Northwest Vicariate and secretary of the diocesan Presbyteral Council.



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Journalist Kathryn Jean Lopez (center) signs a book after a presentation on St. Catherine of Siena with Father Peter John Cameron, OP (right) at Columbus St. Patrick Church on April 29.

Photo courtesy St. Patrick Church / Frank Hartge

AUTHOR, continued from Page 6

"I'm very concerned that the lessons of the pandemic have not been learned," she said. "We went months without the sacraments. I hear people making arguments like we shouldn't wear masks to go to church. They could tell me to wear 15 masks to go to confession; I don't care if you tell me to stand on my head, I'll do it."

At the same time the virus disrupted lives everywhere, civil unrest erupted last summer, and controversies involving politics and the Church continued. The volume of bad news often seems overwhelming, but Lopez cautioned the faithful not to get caught up in the 24/7 information cycle.

"The child abuse, transgenderism and all these things ... God's in control," she said. "Terrible things have happened before, and so you do what you can to combat these things. You live personal virtue, which Catherine did, and encourage other people."

"Whenever I feel myself getting overwhelmed with the stuff that's happening in the world, I know I've got confession. I read the lives of Catherine of Siena. The Church has seen darker days, and that's looking at reality."

A reality check for Lopez comes when she volunteers as a sidewalk counselor outside Planned Parenthood in New York's lower Manhattan area.

Sidewalk counselors and prayer groups often face harassment and violence outside facilities where abortions are performed, but when that happens to Lopez, "I remember I've got the communion of saints out here with me. We don't have to be afraid."

"One of the messages of Catherine is, there's nothing to be afraid of. Yeah. And like John Paul II said, 'Be not afraid.' You look at Catherine and read the lives of other saints, and how you (overcome fear) is just continually going back to Christ and keeping the cross in

mind, keeping the resurrection in mind."

Abortion-minded women, many of them girls, often feel as if they're being judged when pro-life advocates offer assistance, Lopez explained, and more than once she has been yelled at, told to put her rosary away or stop offering information on alternatives for women to keep their babies.

Again, Lopez encourages turning to Catherine for intercession because she "understands the human condition and walking people through life."

"Probably the most important thing about Catherine is, we cannot live the Christian life without the contemplative aspect, and that's why I thought the mystics book was so important," Lopez continued. "She's not just sitting around complaining about people."

Lopez offered as a model the Sisters of Life, who work with abortion-minded women in New York to help them choose life. The order was founded in 1991 by the late Cardinal John O'Connor.

"Their example is to live a life of virtue and be loving and welcoming and encouraging, and that's so much of what Catherine is," Lopez said. "The way Cardinal O'Connor put it is, give God permission to use you. And that's what Catherine's talking about when she talks about the proper use of freedom. 'You've given this to me, I have to give it back to you.'"

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Walking with Moms among programs in diocese to aid needy

By Tim Puet
Catholic Times Reporter

In his 2015 message to mark the beginning of Lent, Pope Francis urged parishes to “become islands of mercy in the midst of the sea of indifference.”

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) has responded to this call by creating a nationwide initiative known as Walking with Moms in Need, which is designed to increase parish support for pregnant women and for mothers facing difficulties. In the Diocese of Columbus, the program is being handled by the Office for Social Concerns and coordinated by Erin Cordle, the office’s associate director.

“The program will give parishes and communities the opportunity to walk in the shoes of local pregnant and parenting women and their families who may be in need of emotional, spiritual, financial and material support,” Cordle said. “While this initiative was created by the USCCB for Catholic parishes, the materials are easily adaptable to any ecumenical or interfaith community.”

“While not trying to turn parishes into pregnancy help centers or social service organizations, we can support local pregnancy help centers where they exist and we can also find and share other resources with pregnant and parenting women and their families. And where there are few local resources, we can create our own, based on the time, talent and treasures of parish communities.”

As part of Walking with Moms in Need, parishes, with the support of their bishop and pastor, are invited to take part in a yearlong process to evaluate local resources and support for mothers. Each participating parish will be asked to complete a simple inventory of the resources available in their area, assess the results and identify gaps, and plan and implement a parish response based on their findings.

The USCCB launched the Walking with Moms program on March 25, 2020 in honor of the 25th anniversary of Pope St. John Paul II’s encyclical *Evangelium Vitae* (The Gospel of Life). That date was shortly after the coronavirus pandemic halted most activities throughout the nation, so introduction of the program was delayed in many areas, including the Diocese of Columbus.

Cordle announced plans for the program within the diocese in a video that was part of the annual diocesan Building a Culture of Life conference, which took place virtually in October 2020 because of the pandemic. “Due



Pregnancy Decision Health Centers head nurse Brenda Bixler holds a child of a mother who chose life.

Photo courtesy Pregnancy Decision Health Centers

to COVID-19, many moms and dads are facing situations none of us could have imagined,” she said in the video.

“The deaths of family and friends have resulted in horrific impacts. The stressors on families also have been amplified with the loss of income, health care, housing and safe education, to name a few things. Walking with Moms in Need has been designed to help parishes address some of those stressors.”

The diocese has a number of organizations dedicated solely or in part to assist expecting and parenting mothers. These include the Elizabeth Ministry of Westerville St. Paul Church; the Pregnancy Decision Health Centers (PDHC); the Women’s Care Center; Mommies Matter; Catholic Social Services; Birthright; Back in His Arms Again; and the Bethesda Healing Ministry. Representatives from most of those organizations spoke on the introductory video for Walking with Moms.

The Elizabeth Ministry is an international parish-based ministry that supports mothers in a variety of ways. Ministry representative Jessica Miller said that at St. Paul Church, it sponsors a prenatal blessing service conducted by a priest or deacon once every three months in the church. It also has hosted expert panels on fertility and adoption for families facing those issues.

“We often are contacted by someone who suffered a loss,” Miller said. “We talk with them and try to stay in con-

tact. On Mother’s and Father’s Days, we’ve presented moms and dads with tea or bookmarks or candy as a way of expressing our love.”

Since 1981, PDHC has provided education on healthy pregnancy and reproduction, as well as free pregnancy testing, ultrasounds and maternity items. “We help mothers and mothers-to-be get information, slow down and see what they really have going on,” said Brenda Bixler, PDHC head nurse. “When women undergo an ultrasound and see their baby’s heart beat for the first time and see there’s a life inside them, not just a blob of tissue, they often start the bonding process with their child.”

PDHC also offers abortion pill reversal (APR), through which women who take only the first pill in the two-pill RU-486 abortion process often are able to save the baby they had considered aborting. Bixler said PDHC recently celebrated the birth of its first “APR baby.”

Madeline Presavento of the Women’s Care Center said most women who seek its assistance are facing relationship, financial or emotional challenges. “Our first mission is to treat women with value and dignity and reflect their strengths back to them,” she said. “We give women a space where they can feel comfortable and talk about and validate their challenges.”

“Having a baby means women often need diapers, wipes, cribs, car seats,

baby monitors, strollers and other furniture. These are big-ticket items, and when a woman is here, she might not be thinking down that road. If we can help alleviate the financial burden for her, we’re going to do that.”

Mommies Matter is another organization that accompanies expecting and parenting mothers through pregnancy and beyond. “The most important thing we can give single mothers is community,” said Monica Flynn, a representative of that organization. “We were not meant to raise children alone. A mother needs someone to talk to her, to deal with issues, who meets her where she is and helps her raise her children.”

Flynn and her husband have a daughter who has three children under 3 years old and is living with her parents while her husband is with the military in Afghanistan. “She doesn’t have to worry about finances, and she has a healthy relationship with her husband and the support of her family, but it’s still very difficult for her,” Flynn said. “This just highlights how people really have to be with each other after a baby is born.”

Barbara McKenzie, director of the Catholic Social Services (CSS) office in Portsmouth, said, “In this area, support can be a great obstacle for mothers. They may be alone, or their families are unable to help, so they turn to our parishes.”

She said a key role of CSS is “to educate parents, helping them understand the different stages of childhood, the expectations they should have at various times. Mothers have to be nurturing, but they also have to be nurtured, to be taught to take care of themselves so they can provide better for their child. We direct them to resources such as baby pantries, food banks and churches. The churches can learn to partner with agencies to provide for the needs of the people who come looking for help.”

Birthright of Columbus has helped women with unplanned pregnancies for more than 50 years. “With Birthright, a mother is never alone,” Cordle said. “They know the importance of simply being with her, being a compassionate listener and respecting that it is her life and her plan.”

“Along with providing love and support, they help with essentials such as pregnancy testing, medical needs, housing and counseling referrals, as well as maternity and baby items. Birthright is available to support mothers for as long as it is needed.”

Women's Care Center helps to build strong families

"I feel like I owe my motherhood to you!" said Hadjer, one of roughly 150 moms who participate in parenting classes each month at the Women's Care Center, which has two locations on Columbus' east side.

With 1 in 9 babies in Franklin County now getting their start at the center, no similar facility serves more pregnant women or new moms. And after parents make a choice for life, the center offers them ongoing help to build strong and self-sufficient families.

The Women's Care Center has always offered incentivized parenting classes, with the promise that each mom can earn the items needed to take care of her baby. This year, despite the pandemic, the center kept this promise and remained open for in-person counseling and ultrasounds while adding virtual parenting classes.

An important addition made to virtual classes is the new series "Raising Kids with Character," in which moms and dads learn practical ways to instill virtues in their young children. And children learn to be kind, respectful, peaceful, creative, honest and hopeful.

Moms such as Hadjer, with toddler



Hana is the daughter a Women's Care Center client who participates in parenting classes each month.
Photo courtesy Women's Care Center

Jannah and baby Hana, participate in the curriculum together. Each class ends with a reading of a popular children's book to reinforce the character trait being discussed, and each family receives a copy of the book to build their at-home library.

Kay Gibbons, longtime friend of the center and a founding board member, described the parenting curriculum, "from a mother of six, this is a win!" and "a great way to discipline and teach children with love and respect."

Through classes, Hadjer also earns

coupons to acquire newborn items. "With my first child, we didn't have anything," she said. "When I go to the Crib Club (to redeem the coupons for baby items), I cry every time because I am so proud that I have earned these items for my daughter."

Another mom said, "With the other parenting classes, my daughter saw them as just mine. She called them 'Mommy's classes.' With 'Raising Kids with Character,' she asks me every week, 'When do we get to go to our class?' Reading books together at the end makes her feel like it's her experience, too."

Twenty-two counselors and nurses staff the Women's Care Center; many have been with the center since it opened in 2008. Because of this, moms such as Hadjer have formed a trusted relationship with a counselor that continues throughout her parenting journey.

And with 1,861 babies born in 2020 to moms aided by the Women's Care Center, staff members look forward to a future generation of kids with character who can impact the community in a positive manner.

MOMS, continued from Page 10

Longtime Birthright volunteer Barb McMullen said the organization has been especially busy since December, when the first babies conceived during the pandemic were born. "I remember one heartbreaking case involving a homeless woman whose baby died in the hospital," she said. "Through the Back in His Arms Again organization and a funeral home, we were able to cremate the child free of charge," she said. "But the woman wanted to find an urn for the baby's ashes, and a cemetery plot. I lost touch with her and don't know what happened."

"Birthright is my passion," McMullen said. "I see so many problems, and it's frustrating that I don't have all the answers. Pregnant women are a blessing. We need to look more deeply and see the needs of moms, to see the gaps they're facing and close them."

The Back in His Arms Again ministry McMullen mentioned honors life from conception until death. It is a charitable organization of collaborative resources providing education, care, guidance and financial services for families in need who are experiencing a loss.

Its Garden of Holy Innocents is located on land donated by Resurrection Cemetery in Lewis Center. Many Columbus-area hospitals offer the option

of using the garden//do you mean for a burial-pb// to families who have experienced a miscarriage or had a child who died during pregnancy.

The Bethesda Healing Ministry is dedicated to hospitality and healing for men and women dealing with the effects of abortion. For more than 25 years, it has enabled people to take a rich healing journey through fellowship, prayer, the sacraments, a structured scriptural/experiential manual, retreats and days of recollection. Until the pandemic hit, it sponsored twice-monthly open meetings in the former Columbus Christ the King Church convent. It hopes to resume those meetings once it is safe to do so.

The Walking with Moms program involves five steps: introduction and building a core team; launching the parish inventory process; sharing inventory results; announcing a parish response; and putting that response into action.

Gahanna St. Matthew Church parishioner Brooke Warren said her parish

has selected its core team of 10 people and has an email list of about 20 others who are interested in the program. She said the team includes women of all ages, but most are young mothers.

Team members have met twice in the past four months, have put together a spreadsheet listing about 50 resources and are working on an initiative in which other parishes can join.

She said the big questions her group wants to answer are: "How can we be with mothers through pregnancy and beyond, especially a child's first year? What resources do we have? How can we get to them? And what can we do as parishes?"

Warren also is involved with her parish's marriage preparation program and with Natural Family

Planning activities. "I feel I've been called to help build strong families, which helps my own family stay strong," she said. "Walking with Moms In Need seems like something which will provide great encouragement to

families and build up the Church."

In her remarks introducing the program, Cordle said, "Having received the gift of the Gospel of Life, we are called to be the people of life and the people for life. It is our duty to proclaim the Gospel of Life to the world. In every child who is born and in every person who lives or dies, we see the image of God's glory. We celebrate this glory in every human being as a sign of the living God."

"In a document titled Living the Gospel of Life, the U.S. bishops said, 'We cannot simultaneously commit ourselves to human rights and progress while eliminating or marginalizing the weakest among us. Nor can we practice the Gospel of Life only as a private piety. American Catholics must live it vigorously and publicly ... or we will not live it at all.'

"The U.S. bishops have gifted us with an amazing opportunity to be 'islands of mercy in the midst of a sea of indifference,'" Cordle said. "In the words of Ohio's state motto, 'With God, all things are possible.'"

For more information on Walking with Moms in Need, go to www.columbuscatholic.org/respect-life. To see Cordle's introduction to the program, go to www.bclc.life.



Mother's love unfailing, like that of God, Virgin Mary

By Michele Williams

Happy Mother's Day! Like most people, I have been reminiscing about my mom. A mixture of joyful memories, trials, tribulations and funny family anecdotes are flowing through my mind like leaves on a creek.

I wish I could give her a hug today. She's not that far away, living in Columbus with Dad, while I am only 30 minutes up the highway in Marysville. I am in prison, and our visiting hall closed last March due to COVID. It has not reopened, so that hug will have to wait, but we hope for a reunion soon.

In my eyes, Mom is a model of service, strength and faithfulness. She doesn't like a ton of attention, but she surely deserves it. (And here it comes, Mom!) Her strong determination to trust God no matter what the circumstances is contagious. And her dedication to our Blessed Mother is awe inspiring.

God called Mom to be a nurse. For 50 years, she worked in hospitals, convalescent centers and doctor's offices taking care of people from birth to death and everything in between. Technically, she is retired, but does one ever really retire from nursing? I think not. She might not wear the uniform anymore, but she is still the one I ask for medical advice.

God also called her to be a wife and mother. When she and Dad got married 54 years ago, they moved from their hometowns in rural northwest Ohio to Columbus to begin their lives together and raise a family. They still live in the same house where my brothers and I grew up. I miss our home dearly and can't wait to get back there.

Mom put her nursing career on pause for several years to stay home with my brothers and me. We had no idea what she did all day while we were at school; we only knew she was there when we came home every afternoon.

She was usually in one of three places: in the kitchen, in front of her sewing machine or in the yard tending her garden. She returned to her career when we were older and mature enough to be on our own until Dad came home from work at 6 p.m. I didn't realize how lucky and blessed we were until many years later.

Mom made a big impact with her service to our parish, Columbus St. Andrew. She made altar cloths, priest vestments and baptismal stoles. She was an active member of the Women's Club, volunteered for cafeteria duty and was chair for the Red Cross blood drive for 25 years.

During the summer, Mom would bring me along when she cleaned the church. There was something special

about being behind the scenes – dusting and vacuuming the carpet around the altar. Way more fun than dusting and vacuuming at home!

My mother is faithful. Nothing can shake her faith in God. It was surely put to the test when I, her only daughter, was sent to prison 27 years ago. Her life went from super good to super tragic in an instant, but she never stopped believing that God would take care of us.

She could have succumbed to despair, but she didn't. Instead, she founded the St. Andrew prison ministry. She and Dad served inmates in the Ohio Reformatory for Women, Franklin Medical Center and London Correctional Institution faithfully until the program closed last year.

My mother is patient, and there is a little ditty that reminds me of her. My younger brother, Kent, was a snail in a fourth-grade production for school and sang the following:

"Have patience, have patience.

Don't be in such a hurry.

When you get impatient, you only start to worry.

Remember, remember, that God is patient, too.

And think of all the times when others had to wait on you."

This embodies my mom's approach to life and has become a family classic.

My mother is strong even under immense pressure. Maybe it's her medical training; maybe it's just how she's wired. Her words and actions reflect her determination to see things through to the end.

There have been many family situations where her strength could have been washed away like a sand castle

at high tide. Yet, somehow, her trust in God shone even brighter and she persevered.

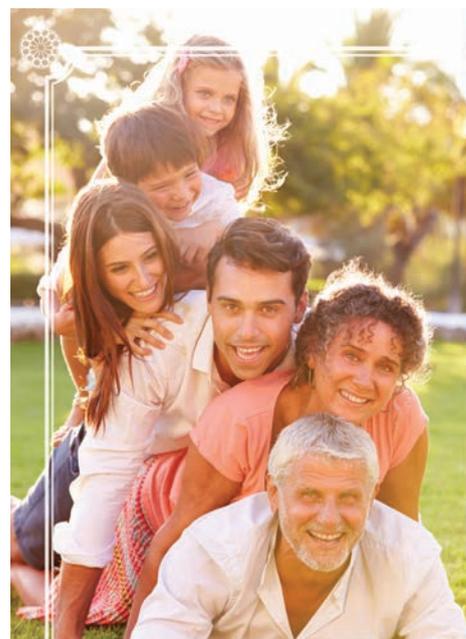
During a visit with me one day, Mom said, "You don't have to understand, you just have to trust." We don't know who said it first, but it sure stuck with me. I cross-stitched it on an ornament and mailed it to her for Mother's Day a few years ago. She put it on the refrigerator door where all the "artwork" hung when we were kids. This year, she is getting a handmade card and my allotted 15-minute phone call.

My mother is extremely devoted to the Virgin Mary. One of the best things she ever did for me was teach me to pray the rosary. She gave me my first one when I was a little girl, and it still hangs on the dresser mirror in my room at home. She was going to send it to me in the 1990s, but I didn't want my precious rosary to be tainted by prison. It will be there when I come home, and I'll be able to hold the sparkly, light-blue beads once again. The one I have here came from a box of donations and is a one-decade miniature.

Mom's special relationship with Mother Mary influenced me to deepen mine. I pray the rosary every day, and then talk with her and really listen for her answers. I feel her graceful presence particularly when I'm overwhelmed or during times of trouble.

Paul McCartney sang it best: "... Mother Mary comes to me, speaking words of wisdom: Let it be." In other words, she and God have it under control. I can rest in her loving care, and feel just like I'm in Mom's hug.

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



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Speakers discuss ethical questions in health care

More than 100 physicians and other health-care professionals, clergy, religious and seminarians attended the Converging Roads medical ethics conference on Saturday, April 24 at the Pontifical College Josephinum's Jessing Center.

The conference was presented by the Texas-based St. John Paul II Foundation, which is a national Catholic apostolate promoting life and family through education and formation, and supported by the Catholic Medical Association of Central Ohio and the Diocese of Columbus.

National speakers from several medical disciplines covered topics ranging from health care in a secular society, moral decision-making, support for the human person in the womb and at the end of life, the merger of faith and ethics in medicine, the opioid crisis and health care for the poor.

The program included an opportunity for confession and a blessing of Catholic medical and nursing students by Father Bob Penhallurick, chaplain of the medical association and pastor at Hilliard St. Brendan Church.

The lone local presenter was Dr. Ashley Fernandes, an associate professor of pediatrics and associate director of the Center for Bioethics at Ohio State University's College of Medicine. His talk covered physician-assisted suicide, religious and ethical convictions of medical professionals, and freedom to exercise conscience rights and religious liberty.

Dr. Robin Pierucci, a neonatologist, emphasized the importance of palliative medicine not only in caring for a child before and after birth but for the mother's and the family's well-being physically, mentally and spiritually.

Dr. Cynthia Hunt, chair of the Catholic Medical Association's National Opioid Task Force, addressed the opioid crisis in the United States and discussed ways the Catholic medical professions and hospitals can respond. She cited areas in Ohio where addiction is particularly prominent, such as Dayton and Portsmouth.

Hunt spoke about a Catholic family in Portsmouth who lost a son who was an exceptional student but became involved with heroin and fentanyl in college, appeared to recover and then relapsed and died from an overdose.

In his presentation, Dr. Thomas McGovern, a surgeon who co-hosts the Doctor, Doctor weekly radio



Dr. Ashley Fernandes, MD, a physician and professor at the Ohio State University College of Medicine, makes a point during his presentation at the Converging Roads medical ethics conference on Saturday, April 24 at the Pontifical College Josephinum's Jessing Center. CT photos by Ken Snow



Dr. Bruce Maskarinec, DO, (right) of Pittsburgh and his daughter, Jennifer, a medical student at Ohio State University, lead the recitation of "The Promise of the Catholic Healthcare Professional."



Father Bob Penhallurick (right), pastor at Hilliard St. Brendan Church and chaplain for the Catholic Medical Association of Central Ohio, blesses Catholic medical and nursing students at the conference.

program on EWTN, described the challenges of practicing medicine as a Catholic in a secular society.

Other presenters were Dr. Greg Burke, on medicine and morals; nurse DiAnn Ecret, on morally optional and morally obligatory treatment; and Dr. Claudia Sotomayor, on health care for

the poor.

Attendees also recited a Promise of the Catholic Healthcare Provider, which could be characterized as a Catholic version of the Hippocratic Oath and was led by Dr. Bruce Maskarinec, of Pittsburgh, and his daughter, Jennifer, a medical student at Ohio

State University.

Among the promises in the pledge are continuing professional improvement, treating all patients as human persons without prejudice, defending and protecting human life from conception to natural death, refusing to take part in violent or oppressive applications of medicine, serving public health and promoting the dignity of the person, cooperating with the law except when grounds exist for conscientious objection based on when civil law does not respect human rights, and donating care of the poor.

Conference coordinator Sara Dietz said those in attendance expressed appreciation for the opportunity to gather as Catholic health-care professionals.

"What a gift to be with so many compassionate professionals discussing what matters most: our faith forming our vocation," an attendee said. "It was a bit of healing for my COVID-weary heart."

Another participant said, "Being Catholic in health care is challenging, and getting many doctors, nurses and health-care administrators together in the room to support each other was amazing."

David England, one of several seminarians from the Diocese of Columbus in attendance, said they gained insights from the speakers and interacted with them during the conference.

"We're here because, once we are ordained, an important focus of our ministry is likely to be in caring for the sick, the infirm, for birth and end-of-life concerns, for mental health issues and for a wide range of other health-care needs," he said.

The conference concluded with a Mass celebrated by Bishop Robert Brennan in the Josephinum's St. Turribius Chapel.

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Sixth Sunday of Easter, Year B

'Love one another as I have loved you'

Acts 10:25–26, 34–35, 44–48
Psalm 98:1, 2–3, 3–4
1 John 4:7–10 or 1 John 4:11–16
John 15:9–17 or John 17:11b–19

We are chosen. The Risen Lord Jesus gives us a purpose that goes beyond ourselves. The meaning of our lives is to be discovered in that purpose. Our entire human nature is included in that purpose. Our bodies tell us something about that. Just ask a gifted athlete. Our emotions and psyches tell us something about that. Just ask an artist or a creative thinker. Our spirits tell us something about that. Just ask a mystic in any of the world religious traditions. When we put this all together, we can find clarity about our call and our purpose, in time and in eternity.

For us who know the Shepherd, this all comes together through our relationship with Him as well as through those who cross our paths as we put the Gospel into practice. Peter learned from the gentile family of Cornelius that his call was to preach Christ to the nations and to the world, showing no partiality. He ended up in Rome and he has a successor that is still doing what he tried to do, speaking the truth of God's impartial love for all people. John, the beloved disciple, watched the love he learned from Jesus Himself grow in the community of believers and he provided the key to interpret the Gospel: the call to love one another. Jesus invites us to be His friends and He tells us clearly how to remain in that friendship: to open our hearts to His Love by loving one another.

The love that God has written into human nature is our purpose for being. The Church calls us to an understanding of this deep truth that is clear

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Father Timothy Hayes

Father Timothy M. Hayes is pastor of Chillicothe St. Mary and St. Peter; and Waverly, St. Mary, Queen of the Missions.



and precise. We are called to love. If we love according to the will of the Creator and as Christ loved us, we see the truth of it. Anything else we might try is a poor substitute for such love. We are chosen to believe that we are loved and to love as we are loved. This bears fruit in the world. And the fruit of this kind of love lasts into eternity.

The sign of God's presence in our lives is the joy that comes from the Holy Spirit. We know that we are doing what God wants of us when we have a deep sense of His presence and when we are looking, not at ourselves, but toward Him and toward those who are entrusted to us. Joy arises spontaneously in every situation when we are aware of God's presence.

How does a parent know when he or she truly loves the children entrusted to his or her care?

How does a friend know when it is a true friendship and not merely an acquaintance or a friendship of convenience? In any real relationship, there is a cost that is paid without resentment. Jesus could not be clearer: "Love one another as I have loved you" means to love sacrificially, giving up our own desires and wants for the sake of making known that God is first for us and for our family and friends.

"Remain in My Love" means putting into practice what we have been taught. It means doing this daily, weekly, 24/7,

See LOVE, Page 15

THE WEEKDAY BIBLE READINGS

5/10-5/15

MONDAY
 Acts 16:11-15
 Psalm 149:1b-6a, 9b
 John 15:26-16:4a

TUESDAY
 Acts 16:22-34
 Psalm 138:1-3, 7c-8
 John 16:5-11

WEDNESDAY
 Acts 17:15, 22-18:1
 Psalm 148:1-2, 11-14:
 John 16:12-15

THURSDAY
 Acts 18:1-8
 Psalm 98:1-4:
 John 16:16-20

FRIDAY
 Acts 1:15-17, 20-26
 Psalm 113:1-8
 John 15:9-17

SATURDAY
 Acts 18:23-28
 Psalm 47:2-3, 8-10
 John 16:23b-28

5/17-5/22
MONDAY
 Acts 19:1-8
 Psalms 68:2-5d, 6-7b
 John 16:29-33

TUESDAY
 Acts 20:17-27
 Psalm 68:10-11, 20-21:
 John 17:1-11a

WEDNESDAY
 Acts 20:28-38
 Psalm 68:29-30, 33-36b:
 John 17:11b-19

THURSDAY
 Acts 22:30:23:6-11
 Psalm 16:1-2a, 5, 7-11:
 John 17:20-26

FRIDAY
 Acts 25:13b-21
 Psalm 103:1-2,
 11-12, 19-20b
 John 21:15-19

SATURDAY
 Acts 28:16-20, 30-31
 Psalm 11:4-5, 7
 John 21:20-25

DIOCESAN WEEKLY RADIO AND TELEVISION

MASS SCHEDULE: WEEKS OF MAY 9 AND MAY 16, 2021

SUNDAY MASS

10:30 a.m. Mass from Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral on St. Gabriel Radio (AM 820), Columbus, and at www.stgabrielradio.com and diocesan website, www.columbuscatholic.org.

10:30 a.m. Mass from Portsmouth St. Mary Church on St. Gabriel Radio (FM 88.3), Portsmouth.

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

Mass from Our Lady of the Angels Monastery, Birmingham, Ala., at 8 a.m. on EWTN (Spectrum Channel 385, Insight Channel 382, or WOW Channel

378). (Encores at noon, 7 p.m., and midnight). Mass from the Archdiocese of Milwaukee at 6:30 a.m. on ION TV (AT&T U-verse Channel 195, Dish Network Channel 250, or DirecTV Channel 305).

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

DAILY MASS

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

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

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

We pray Weeks II and III, Seasonal Propers of the Liturgy of the Hours.

Ascension of the Lord, Year B

Christ gives His followers a mission to carry out as he ascends into heaven

Acts 1:1–11
Psalm 47:2–3, 6–7, 8–9
Ephesians 4:1–13
or Ephesians 1:17–23
Mark 16:15–20

The Gospel is meant for all the nations, for every human being. The Ascension of the Lord is a powerful witness to the truth that God wants us to grasp — a destiny of glory is beyond our understanding, and yet we are made aware of it by signs and symbols. Consider the movement of the Pas-

chal Mystery: *Life – Suffering – Death – Resurrection*. The Ascension completes the movement and allows it to take root in us. Jesus took His humanity — our very human nature — into God. Our humanity became capable of receiving the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit. Pentecost is the outpouring of the Spirit into that newly formed humanity.

This has practical consequences. We are now always able to "look up." We now have the resources to "lift up" as well. Who we are is no longer finally

determined by "nature" or "nurture" as the world sees them. Rather, we are given a new nature, with a divine destiny, and we are fed and nourished by the very substance that will create us anew.

The Ascension is not a cleverly concocted myth. It has the elements of the mythical, the symbolic in its description, because it is pointing to something beyond words. Yet it is real. In fact, it is more real than the passing realities we encounter every day on earth.

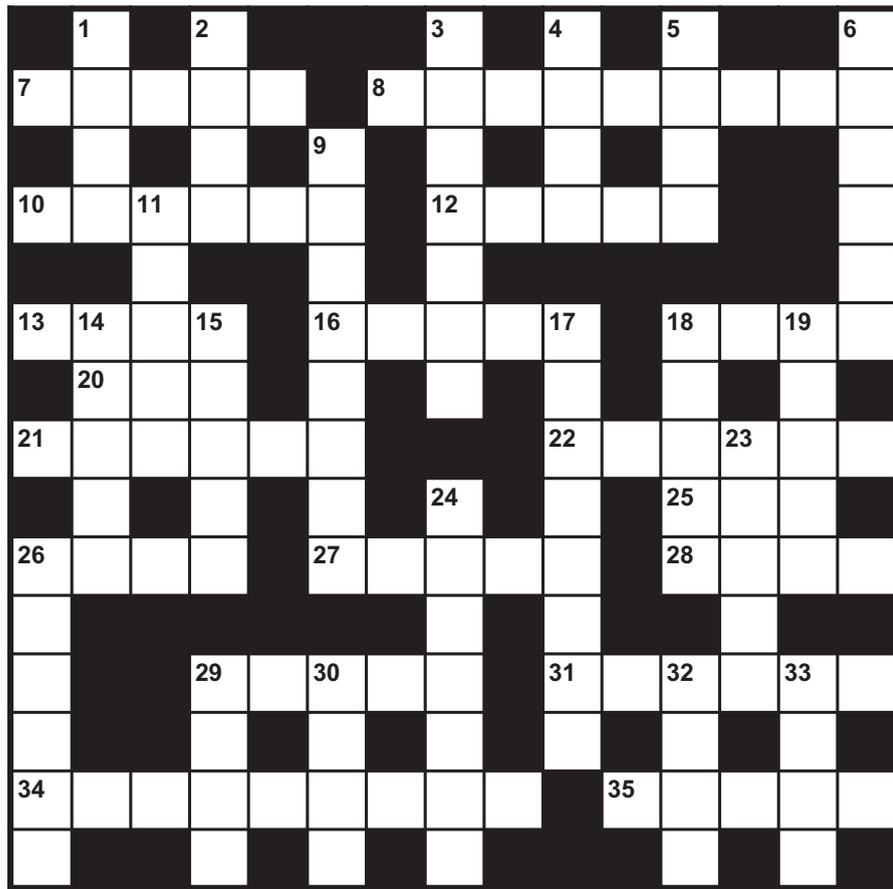
We must open our minds and hearts to it. We must respond to it in our spir-

it. And we must live it. We are going to live forever. It is time to get started! There are values that are beyond this world that are worth living for. Christ made available to us the fruits of His own sacrifice. Now we await the coming of the Spirit to free us to live in accord with the Gospel.

From now until Pentecost, let us pray: "Come, Holy Spirit! Fill the hearts of your faithful and enkindle in them the

See MISSION, Page 15

CATHOLIC CROSSWORD



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- ACROSS**
- 7 "___ Novarum"
 - 8 The Bible
 - 10 Deaconess in the early Church
 - 12 Sarah's response when she heard that she would have a child
 - 13 Catholic comedienne of "Your Show of Shows"
 - 16 Church instrument, sometimes
 - 18 Communion wafer
 - 20 OT prophetic book
 - 21 Sister of Lazarus
 - 22 Another name for Jacob
 - 25 Tunic-like vestment
 - 26 Ezekiel scattered this to the wind
 - 27 He walked with God
 - 28 Shem's father
 - 29 Augustine was bishop here
 - 31 Archdiocese and capital of Canada
 - 34 Certain opening
 - 35 Destroyed, in the Douay

- DOWN**
- 1 Wife of Jacob
 - 2 An epistle
 - 3 St. Francis is the patron of this
 - 4 God, in Paris
 - 5 State in which the Diocese of Salt Lake City is found
 - 6 St. Thomas ___
 - 9 Prayer to Mary
 - 11 Sainly Salvadoran Romero
 - 14 Archdiocese in Nebraska
 - 15 The table
 - 17 "Love your ___ as yourself" (Mk 12:31)
 - 18 Starting point for a Genesis journey
 - 19 A queen from this country came to hear Solomon speak
 - 23 Diocese of Honolulu greeting
 - 24 Saint Damien's island
 - 26 It is given after the Gospel
 - 29 "...now and at the ___ of our death. Amen"
 - 30 Leader of the Church
 - 32 Ordinary ___
 - 33 "Whoever is not ___ me is against me." (Mt 12:30)

Bishop Robert Brennan's funeral homily for Father Richard Engle

"Peter began to speak, saying, 'In truth, I see that God shows no partiality; rather, in every nation, whoever fears Him and acts uprightly is acceptable to Him.'" (Acts 10:34-35).

"I only knew Father Engle – I had a really hard time calling him 'Bird,' I'm telling you that; everybody says, 'No, that's the way to go,' but I've only known him in the last two years of his life – but I think he would speak the same way that Peter did: 'God shows no partiality; rather, in every nation, whoever fears Him and acts uprightly is acceptable to Him.'

"I think that's how Father Engle saw the world, too – with no partiality, but recognizing those who fear God and act uprightly. That's what really matters. Indeed, he called them as he saw

them, with no partiality. His family said to me when I told them that I've only known him the last two years, 'Oh, you missed all the fun.'

"But I think that, indeed, he could speak with that sharpness and directness, but he understood the ability to see into the heart. And he had the ability, as a priest, really to want to be of help, to be able to respond. In these last years, his generosity really marked him, and sometimes, not always, in the best of ways. There were those who would take advantage of that kindness and Father's generosity, almost to the point of a gullibility.

"And yet, one of the Carmelite sisters at the Villas (of St. Therese, where Fa-

See HOMILY, Page 16

LOVE, continued from Page 14

year after year. It means practicing our faith until we get it right.

Mothers and fathers want what is best for their children. Friends want to share the best of themselves with their friends. What is best is for us to be the best at living our faith, loving God and

giving our all to the Lord. Let us open to the joy of the Spirit by living our faith as disciples of the Risen Lord and as true friends to one another. This will surely bear fruit. "The Lord has revealed to the nations His saving power."

MISSION, continued from Page 14

fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created, and You will renew the face of the earth."

Jesus sends us on a mission as He departs into the mystery of the Ascension: "Go into the whole world and proclaim the gospel to every creature." This mission includes not only human beings but all of creation, every creature. This aspect of our call is coming ever more visible, and it serves to unite us in a common mission with those who do not yet know or believe in the Gospel. How we respond to our relationship with them will make all the difference in our efforts to proclaim the truth of Gospel.

The Gospel is the Good News that Jesus Christ is risen from the dead, that He has ascended into glory, and that the Holy Spirit is given to believers whose hearts are open to receive Him. These mysteries all work together to serve one purpose: to bring us to union with God.

We are called to allow our human nature to be taken into the mysteries we celebrate. As we observe the Solemnity of the Ascension, we are invited to open our hearts to the mysteries, knowing that the Lord has gone to claim glory in our human nature. The Ascension promises us that we will share fully in the life of the Trinity.

On Pentecost weekend, we will experience the power of the life of God through the Spirit. In the meantime, we are told by the Lord himself to pray with Mary as we await the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. As we honor our earthly mothers, may we also honor our heavenly Mother by following her example. Let us pray for the coming of the Spirit as we open our lives to the salvation Jesus has won for us through His suffering, death, Resurrection and Ascension into Glory. Come, Holy Spirit!

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Thomas B. Silcott Jr.

Funeral Mass for Thomas B. Silcott Jr., 88, who died Thursday, April 15, was celebrated Friday, April 23 at Columbus Our Lady of Peace Church. Burial was at St. Joseph Cemetery, Columbus.

He was born on Dec. 17, 1932 in Rockville, Illinois to the late Thomas and M. Virginia (Norton) Silcott.

He grew up in Baltimore, Maryland, graduated from the University of Baltimore and served in the U.S. Army during the Korean War, achieving the rank of sergeant. He worked for the Pittsburgh Plate Glass Co., then for Eastern Stainless Steel, first in Northport, New York from 1963 to 1968, then in Columbus, where he lived from 1968 until his death.

He was a substitute teacher at Columbus Bishop Hartley and Bishop Watterson high schools and served both schools as varsity and freshman golf

HOMILY, continued from Page 15

ther Engle spent his last days) said that when he would respond to somebody, she would say, 'No.' She would say, 'Give me the money.' But he said – his response would be, 'But they need it.'

"And there was some kind of an insight, again showing no partiality – being sharp and critical when he was ready to do that, but being able to recognize somebody in need and saying, 'I need to respond. They need it,' and that was what moved him. Indeed, he had a way, whether he intended to or not, of making us all laugh. He had a way of making his will known, but there was no partiality.

"We're all loved by God in every nation. 'Whoever fears God and acts uprightly is acceptable to Him.' Peter uses this to bring in the ministry of Jesus and the way Jesus cared for people and brought the kingdom of God alive in people's lives in very practical ways. And Peter goes on to say, 'And we are the witnesses of these things.'

"Today, as we commend our brother, Father Engle, to the Lord, we do so with thanksgiving for the way that he witnessed to the truth of Jesus Christ and His cross and resurrection.

"Some of the most powerful stories of Father Engle – Father Metzger was sharing with me just the other day at a memorial Mass for one of our priests that powerful story you know better than I – of how he himself served honorably our nation, and the medals and his injuries, of how he as pastor at – was it at St Philip? – he called people together to bring in guns so that he could melt them down, out of which he formed a cross.

"Talk about turning swords into plowshares! He took weapons of violence, of destruction, of hatred, and

coach.

In Columbus, he was general manager of the former Deibel's restaurant from 1969 to 1985, owned the former Costello's Pub and was a co-owner of the Caterers Three catering company. He also was general manager of the Mid-Ohio Sports Car Course in Lexington, founder of Westinghouse Home Security Systems and a tour guide with Prodigy Student Travel.

He and his wife, Janet (Kreis), were members of Columbus Our Lady of Victory Church until her death in 2015.

Survivors include sons, Jim (Kathy Chen) and Timothy, daughters, Cynthia Mayo (Bernie Scanlon), Suzanne (Randy) Ritter, Julie (Ray) Bogusz and Linda (Brad) Taylor; a brother, Edward; a sister, Libby Lewandowski; seven grandsons; six granddaughters; and 12 great-grandchildren.

called on people as a witness of the Gospel. He called people to something finer, something deeper – to recognize their weapons of destruction could be melted down and changed into something else, but not just anything else. He turned to the cross.

"Indeed, with that simple but powerful gesture, he made an extraordinary statement. Indeed, how needed his witness is today. Here we gather to commend him to the world, but in our streets and in our cities, the culture of violence has just skyrocketed in an awful, awful way. Divisions are deep, tensions are high and people are hurting.

"How we need his witness, and how that witness of his can inspire us to be witnesses of Jesus Christ, to point people in the direction of the cross, and from the cross to the resurrection.

"In the Gospel today, I imagine Jesus picking up the grain of wheat. You know, that Gospel story comes when people want to see Jesus. Some of the Greek-speaking people came up to Philip and said, 'We'd like to see Jesus,' and Philip brings them over to Jesus and he says, 'Jesus, there are some people who want to see you.'

"Jesus bends down and picks up the grain of wheat and, I imagine, is holding it in his hand, and he talks about this grain of wheat, and unless the grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat.

"I'm picturing Philip saying, 'Is that a yes or a no? Will you see them or not?' But what Jesus is saying is 'If you really want to see Jesus, you have to look through that grain of wheat. If you really want to see Jesus, it's necessary to die to oneself and become something else.'

"A grain of wheat sitting on a shelf

PRAY FOR OUR DEAD

ALDEN, John L., 79, April 6
Our Lady of Victory Church, Columbus

BADER, Carolyn (Flood), 83, April 16
St. Peter Church, Columbus

BRADFORD, Barbara (Riethman), 73, April 12
St. Stephen Church, Columbus

BROWN, Claudette E. (Montana), 86, April 24
Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, Grove City

COLASURD, Donald M., 91, April 21
St. Timothy Church, Columbus

DOURIDAS, Mark A., 58, April 15
St. Timothy Church, Columbus

FONDRIEST, James, 87, April 26
St. Joseph Church, Dover

GABEL, Dr. Albert A., 91, April 12
St. Brigid of Kildare Church, Dublin

GOEBEL, Frank L., 83, April 8
St. Brendan Church, Hilliard

IRISH, Shirley A. (Schwikl), 91, April 20
Holy Spirit Church, Columbus

KOEBEL, Indigo M., 52, Jan. 13
Church of the Resurrection, New Albany

MARSHMAN, Kevin A., 43, April 9
St. James the Less Church, Columbus

MILLER, Carmella (Zember), 87, April 19
St. Paul Church, Westerville

NEMETH, Patricia M. (McKernan), 63, of Pickerington, April 19
St. Alphonsus Church, Wexford, Pa.

O'BRIEN, Brenda C. (Delaney), 92, April 19
St. Timothy Church, Columbus

POMPI, Louis W., 77, April 20
St. Timothy Church, Columbus

isn't going to do much good. A grain of wheat planted, that dies to itself, literally breaks open and becomes something else. Then you see Jesus.

"By dying to himself as a priest, by dying to himself by the way of his life, Father Engle helped us all to see Jesus and to see how one thing can become something else, how powerful in our personal lives, by keeping ourselves awake, we gain full life and eternal life, how the cross leads us to the res-

PRZYBYLA, David P., 66, April 12
St. Francis de Sales Church, Newark

REEDER, Kevin J., 64, formerly of Columbus, April 21
St. Patrick Church, Urbana, Ill.

SAWICKI, Stanley, 76, April 16
St. Thomas Aquinas Church, Zanesville

SHARP, Rodney D., 78, April 24
Our Mother of Sorrows Chapel, Columbus

SMITH, Lee A. Jr., 60, April 23
St. Pius X Church, Reynoldsburg

SOLLARS, Carolyn (Gordin), 83, April 25
St. Colman of Cloyne Church, Washington Court House

STURGILL, Arthur M. "Mick," 69, April 27
St. Rose Church, New Lexington

TERANGO, John V., April 15
Our Lady of Victory Church, Columbus

TETAK, Rose M., 92, April 15
St. Nicholas Church, Zanesville

VAN WAGNEN, William J., 75, April 13
St. Joan of Arc Church, Powell

WALDMANN, Eleanor (Small), 92, April 20
St. Mary Magdalene Church, Columbus

WATERS, Philip E., 63, April 20
St. Brendan Church, Hilliard

WEIN, Richard F., 76, April 15
St. Catharine Church, Columbus

YACOBOZZI, Enio O., 101, April 19
St. Brendan Church, Hilliard

YOUNG, Mary P. (Campbell), 94, April 22
St. Edward Church, Granville

urrection, how things of destruction can be melted into signs of the victory of Christ.

"We can be called to something else. Those who are led by the spirit of God are the sons of God. 'You did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you received the spirit of adoption' (Romans 8:15). Fa-

Local news and events

Frassati Society lists activities for May

The loosening of restrictions related to COVID-19 is enabling the Frassati Society, Columbus St. Patrick Church's young-adult group, to resume activities on a limited basis.

Society members will attend the 10:30 a.m. Mass at the church, 280 N. Grant Ave., on Sunday, May 9, then walk to the nearby Flatiron Tavern for lunch.

The group will meet for a hike at Highbanks Metro Park, 9466 Columbus Pike, Lewis Center, at 1 p.m. Sunday, May 23. The meeting place will be the maintenance area just past the Oak Coves picnic area. Call or text Mary at (419) 564-5900 if you have trouble finding the group.

The church's monthly Christ in the City program, open to everyone, will take place at 7 p.m. Thursday, May 27. It will include Eucharistic Adoration, confession, prayers in the style and spirit of the Taize monastic community, and Dominican Compline (night prayer), followed by fellowship and drinks. Those attending must enter the building through the church's back doors by the parking lot.

The society also is sponsoring a spiritual book club via Zoom at 7:15 p.m. each Wednesday, featuring scripts from Venerable Archbishop Fulton Sheen's popular Emmy Award-winning television program Life Is Worth Living. They cover topics ranging from war and communism to motherhood and psychology, all through the light of the Catholic imagination. More information on the club may be found at <https://sites.google.com/view/frassati-book-club/home>.

Care center opens on ODU campus

Ohio Dominican University (ODU) and Central Ohio Primary Care (COPC) celebrated the grand opening of COPC's new Care Forward Center on the ODU campus on Thursday, April 29.

The center is located in Peace Hall at 2600 Air-

port Drive, Columbus and has eight exam rooms, two conference rooms and offices for physicians. In addition to treating patients, the center will provide ODU students with opportunities to gain hands-on experience in a healthcare setting.

One or two students in ODU's master of science in physician assistant studies program will have access to clinical rotations in the center, and two additional students who are focusing on other aspects of the health care industry will have an opportunity to gain observation and internship experience.

The Care Forward Center is the fourth element of an agreement between ODU and COPC to enhance academic opportunities available to students and provide care to members of the campus and neighboring communities.

Elements of the partnership were established this past fall, when COPC opened a drive-up COVID-19 testing site outside of Peace Hall.

Shepherd's Corner announces spring-summer programs

The Shepherd's Corner Ecology Center, an outreach of the Dominican Sisters of Peace, announced its schedule of events for May to September.

Themes for its monthly labyrinth walks, all from 7 to 8:30 p.m., are: Friday, May 7, Brightness of the Path; Tuesday, June 22, Triumph of the Light; Thursday, July 22; July Growth; and Wednesday, Aug. 25, Honoring the Summer.

Participants in a class taught by Gail Maraman on Saturday, June 5 from 1:30 to 4 p.m. will make a 6-by-6-inch flat felt wall hanging or trivet out of wool and soapy water. The class fee is \$20.

The center's 15th annual Farm Fresh 5-kilometer run will take place Thursday, June 10 to Saturday, June 12, with both virtual and limited onsite participatory options. Details are available at www.shepherds-corner.org.

HOMILY, continued from Page 16

ther Engle had no fear, but knew that he was beloved by God.

"You know, in those last days, in a prior hospital stay, one of the last things – Father (Michael) Lumpe (diocesan vicar for priests) and I went in to see him, and we went into his room, actually before he had gotten there – apparently he was all discom-bobulated, he was really upset. He was looking for his breviary.

"He wanted his breviary, and we stopped over at the Villas and brought the breviary. It was the beginning of Lent, so it was the red Lenten volume – and talk about worn, the pages were nearly separated – but he knew he wanted to pray.

"He needed help getting it all set into place, but when we went in there and Father Lumpe gave him that book, something settled down right away. This was part of who he was, this priestly prayer, this daily prayer. It was who he was, it was what rooted him, it was that connection with the Lord.

"Just a week or so before he died – was it Father (Donald) Franks that brought him his vestments, the vestments he's wearing? – he told Sister, 'That's for my burial.' We didn't think or realize it would be this soon, but he was ready to go to the Lord. Why? Because he was connected with the Lord.

"And so, as a grain of wheat can be transformed into a stalk that feeds the world, and as metal from guns can become the sign of the cross, you and I, our simple ways of living, our lives can become powerful witnesses of the Gospel, as he did, and our lives on earth, our humanity is transformed through the resurrection of Jesus into life, and life with God forever.

"Thank you, Father Engle, for your goodness, your generosity. Thanks for making us laugh. Thanks for recognizing our needs and responding to those, and thanks for teaching us ourselves to be transformed, sure that in heaven, there are people who are ready to embrace you and thank you for helping them on their own way through your priestly ministry.

"May the saints welcome you, welcome you home with Christ."

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MAN OF YEAR, continued from Page 3

Johnson for the award consisted of representatives from Young Catholic Professionals, the Catholic Men's Ministry, the Knights of Columbus, the Serra Club and the luncheon club.

Also nominated for the award were: Jose Banaag, Marysville Our Lady of Lourdes; John Bradford, Lancaster St. Mary; Mark Butler, Columbus Holy Spirit; Jim Cogan, Hilliard St. Brendan; Matthew Curoe, Columbus St. Thomas More Newman Center; Dan DeMatte and Matt Palmer, Columbus St. Catharine; Jim Foley and Robert Poirier, Columbus Immaculate Conception; James Gernetzke and Tom Mignery, Gahanna St. Matthew; and Thomas Lisk, Columbus St. Patrick.

Also, George Medary, Columbus Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal; Keith Mickley, Danville St. Luke; Charles Mers, Westerville St. Paul; Fenton Moore, Columbus St. Andrew; Joseph Pauls, Chillicothe St. Mary; John Reiner, Dublin St. Brigid of Kildare; Aaron Richards, Sunbury St. John Neumann; Gregory Savoldi, Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral; and Raymond Stankunas, Granville St. Edward.

The club established the honor in 1957, awarding it to John Igoe of Columbus St. Agatha Church, and has presented it every year since then. The 2020 recipient was Dr. Raymond Sheridan of Grove City Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church.

PRAYER TO THE VIRGIN

Oh, most beautiful flower of Mt. Carmel, fruitful vine, splendor of heaven, blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in necessity. Oh, star of the sea, help me and show me herein, you are my Heaven and Earth. I humbly beseech you from the bottom of my heart to secure me in this necessity. There are none who can withstand your powers. Oh, show me herein you are my Mother. Oh, Mary conceived without sin, pray for us, who have recourse to thee. (Repeat three times) Oh, Holy Mary, I place this cause in your hand. (Repeat three times) Holy Spirit, you who solve all problems, light all roads that I can obtain my goals. You gave me the divine gift to forgive and forget all evil against me, and in all instances in my life, you are with me. I want in this short prayer to thank you for all things as you confirm once again that I never want to be separated from you in eternal glory. Thank you for your mercy toward me and mine. The person must say this prayer three consecutive days, after three days, the request will be granted. PS

Father Ike to serve as chaplain at Rickenbacker

By Tim Puet
Catholic Times Reporter

While growing up in Nigeria, Father Hilary Ike wanted to be a soldier, but ultimately discerned that God was calling him to be a priest.

He now will get to fulfill his boyhood ambition, for Father Ike will be serving as chaplain, with the rank of captain, for the U.S. Army Reserve's 718th Transportation Battalion, which has its headquarters in the Army Reserve Center at Rickenbacker Air National Guard Base. He also will continue to be administrator of Groveport St. Mary Church, which is not far from the base.

His unit meets once a month for training at Rickenbacker and trains for two weeks each summer at a location determined each year by the Army.

Father Ike, 44, was at Fort Jackson, South Carolina, from Jan. 22 to April 22 to train for the chaplaincy. The first half of that period was spent in the basic training every soldier undergoes when joining the Army, and the second half consisted of training for the dual duties of being a chaplain and a staff officer.

"The desire to be a soldier is one that I nursed since childhood," said Father Ike, a native of Nigeria. "During my elementary school days, while other children wanted to be doctors, engineers or lawyers, I often voiced out loud that I wanted to be in the Nigerian army. That career wish did not turn out in the way I desired because I came to realize my true calling was to the priesthood.

"Now as I celebrate my 17th anniversary of ordination as a priest, I see this as a God-given opportunity to fulfill my childhood desire. Becoming a military chaplain is for me the best way God intended that I serve in the military.

"I have dedicated my life to serv-



Father Hilary Ike completed his training for chaplaincy in the U.S. Army Reserves.

ing God and humanity through my priestly ministry. This same consideration is why I wanted to be an Army chaplain – to extend my services to men and women of our country who equally dedicate their lives in service to the nation. In becoming a chaplain, I strongly feel like a servant of the servants of God and country. This is where I want to be in my life and for what I wish to be remembered."

Father Ike was commissioned in 2019 to enter chaplaincy training, which was to have taken place in 2020 but was delayed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

"If I can sum up my mission in one phrase, it's to bring God to the soldier

and the soldier to God," he said. "I'll be focusing on two things, providing religious support to my unit and advising its commanders. Chaplains get to know the troops they are serving in ways no one else can.

"My duties will include serving soldiers of all faiths by leading them in worship, counseling them and teaching. I feel the inner confidence of being able to fulfill these roles. Conducting worship is a service I enjoy performing. My academic endeavors and experiences in the ministry also have prepared me to be a confidant and counselor.

"I want to be a chaplain with the hope of getting the opportunity to teach soldiers good morals, to offer counseling and to pray for their success in the service. I also want to conduct productive academic research on improvement of the quality of life of service members and the mission of the Army."

Father Ike was ordained to the priesthood on May 8, 2004 in Nigeria and spent five years there and three years in Rome studying canon law at the Pontifical Urban University. After receiving his canon law degree, he came to Columbus in 2012 and has been here ever since. He was in residence at Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral from 2012 until he was appointed to his current position in 2020. He has been a member of the diocesan Tribunal since coming to Columbus.

"One of the marvelous things I learned in studying to become a chaplain is the great history of the chaplaincy in our nation's military," Father Ike said. That legacy goes back to 1775, when the Continental Congress authorized one chaplain for each regiment of the Continental Army.

"Among the most notable Army chaplains is Father Emil Kapaun, who

has been declared a Servant of God, the first step in the process toward sainthood. He served in World War II and the Korean War, died in a prison camp in Korea and was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor posthumously for his selfless dedication to his troops. Another is Father John Washington, one of four chaplains who gave up their life jackets so other men could be saved when the USS *Dorchester* was sunk in the North Atlantic in 1943. I'm honored to continue their legacy and feel I'm standing on the shoulders of giants."

One priest of the Diocese of Columbus, Father Daniel Swartz, is on active duty as a U.S. Navy chairman. Father Louis Iasiello, an instructor at the Pontifical College Josephinum, served as chief of Navy chaplains from 2003 to 2006 and retired from the Navy with the rank of rear admiral.

The 718th Transportation Battalion, which Father Hilary will serve, has about 50 members. As a Reserve unit, it may be called into combat at any time. Its history dates to World War I, when it was organized as the 53rd Engineers Battalion. It was renamed the 718th Battalion in 1941 and served in World War II in northern France, the German Rhineland, Alsace-Lorraine and central Europe. It was deactivated in 1951 and reactivated eight years later, with headquarters in Columbus.

Its most recent active service came in 2010 and 2011, when it was assigned to control transportation operations to southwest Asia, coordinating, scheduling and dispatching trucks and ships. Its headquarters detachment commanded more than 1,000 soldiers at the time. Throughout its history, it has loaned members to other units to assist with logistics.



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PONTIFICAL COLLEGE JOSEPHINUM

SAINTS, continued from Page 5

fering or stuck in sin. She does not let others sit idly in their sin. She asks the children, "Are you willing to offer yourselves to God and bear all the sufferings He wills to send you, as an act of reparation for the sins by which He is offended, and of supplication for the conversion of sinners?"

As parents, we often see our children stuck struggling with a particular sin, and it is our responsibility to speak truth to them and hold them accountable. When Lucia, the oldest, shares petitions with Our Lady, she firmly but lovingly replies that "it the responsibility of those who request favors from God to beg forgiveness for their sins and be converted."

I love speaking Our Lady's exact words to my children. I am often heard saying, "Do not ask favors of God without your willingness to ask forgiveness for the sins you have committed against Him and allow yourself to be changed by His mercy."

Mary's words need to be spoken out loud. Our children are hungry for advocates. They are created to seek the Father's love, and Mary of Fatima not only shows us a way to be that motherly advocate but also implores us to do so to save souls and guide our children to heaven.

Our Lady of Fatima's feast day is May 13.

St. Charles presents Shakespeare (abridged)



The drama department of Columbus St. Charles Preparatory School, 2010 E. Broad St., will present *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged)* by Adam Long, Daniel Singer and Jess Winfield at 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday, May 21 and 22 and at 2 and 7 p.m. Sunday, May 23. Adult tickets are \$10 and student tickets are \$5. Reservations may be placed by going to www.scprep.org and pressing the "Buy Tickets" button. Tickets will not be sold at the door. Seating is limited to 200 people per performance. The play is an irreverent run through all 37 of Shakespeare's plays in 97 minutes. Cast members are (from left): first row, Alex Smith, Julian Perez, Mary Cetovich, Julia Reinker and Jamie Graff; second row, Matt Murrin, Mabry Hill, Annie O'Connor, Jake Jonesco, George Ferris, Jake Woodruff, Rylee West and Drew Curtin.

Photo courtesy St. Charles Preparatory School

Grant helps OLB purchase iPads



The Catholic Foundation awarded Columbus Our Lady of Bethlehem School and Childcare an \$8,000 grant to purchase 20 iPads, which will enable student groups to have one-to-one technology instruction. The iPads will replace outdated tablets. Lauren Harrington, OLB marketing and development coordinator, is shown preparing the new devices.

Photo courtesy Our Lady of Bethlehem School

CATHOLIC MEN'S MINISTRY

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CELEBRATING THE MONTH OF MARY

Join us during the month of May in our 30-Day Devotion to Mary, the venerable Mother of the Savior, and the first, most perfect disciple.

Follow us through social media and our website to find out more about special events and prayers offered to our Patroness.

**From Mary we learn to surrender to God's will in all things.
From Mary we learn to trust even when all hope seems gone.
From Mary we learn to love Christ her Son and the Son of God!**
- St. John Paul



CATHOLIC CEMETERIES OF COLUMBUS

MEMORIAL DAY

SERVICES CANCELLED

DUE TO CURRENT GUIDELINES FOR SOCIAL DISTANCING BOTH INDOORS AND OUTDOORS, WE FEEL IT NECESSARY TO CANCEL MEMORIAL DAY MASSES AND FLAG CEREMONIES FOR THE HEALTH AND SAFETY OF ALL.

CEMETERIES WILL BE OPEN FOR VISITATION 8AM-SUNSET (4:30 at Mt. Calvary). BUT OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED AND WILL NOT BE RECEIVING VISITORS. BURIAL LOCATIONS AND MAPS CAN BE PROVIDED & EMAILED. PLEASE CALL OFFICES FOR INFORMATION 8-4:30 M-F (Noon on Sat).

TO HONOR THOSE VETERANS WHO HAVE BEEN BURIED IN OUR CEMETERIES SINCE MEMORIAL DAY 2020, WE RESPECTFULLY LIST THEIR NAMES AS A TRIBUTE TO THE SERVICE THEY GAVE TO THEIR COUNTRY.

RICHARD E. ALBRECHT	RICHARD M. ECKSTEIN	JOSEPH J. JOFFRE	CARL T. MILLER	JOHN RUMORA
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