

# The Catholic TIMES

The Diocese of Columbus' Information Source

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## Inside this issue



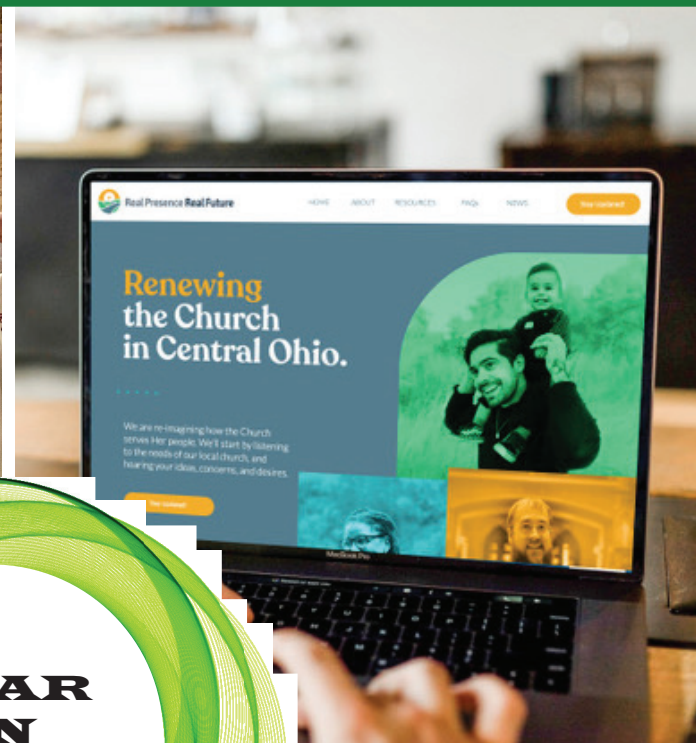
**Focus on vocations:**  
Father Brian O'Connor, pastor at Canal Winchester St. John XXIII Church, is the new associate vocations director for the diocese. He is assisting Father William Hahn, the vocations director, Page 2



**Medical supplies closet:**  
Volunteers help staff a medical supplies closet at Johnstown Church of the Ascension that provides items such as wheelchairs and hospital beds for home use to help individuals save on having to purchase expensive equipment while coping with a physical ailment, Page 7



**Sisters lead prayer effort:**  
The Daughters of Holy Mary of the Heart of Jesus come to Westerville St. Paul Church monthly to help young girls and women focus on developing a strong prayer life through the DOYMAR program, Page 10



## 2021: DIOCESE LAUNCHES REAL PRESENCE, LOSES BISHOP BRENNAN TO BROOKLYN

Pages 8-9

## Diocese, 'Catholic Times' launch new websites

The Diocese of Columbus debuted a redesigned website on Wednesday, Dec. 22 that had been in the works for months.

The new site features an updated look that will be more user friendly on multiple devices. Content will range from informational to devotional.

The rollout coincides with the Real Presence Real Future campaign in the diocese and the focus on increased evangelization efforts.

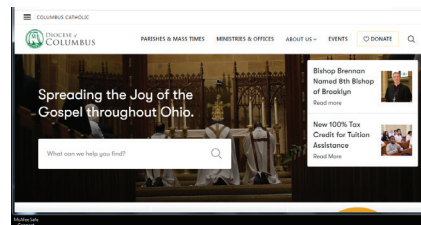
All are invited to take a look at the

site. The address remains the same at [www.columbuscatholic.org](http://www.columbuscatholic.org).

At the same time, *The Catholic Times* launched a new website with its own unique web address, which is [www.catholictimescolumbus.org](http://www.catholictimescolumbus.org).

As is the case with the diocesan website, *The Catholic Times* site will be much easier to navigate and read.

Content will be divided into categories that include faith, local news, voices, photos and more. News about



the Catholic Church in the United States and from the Vatican will be provided by Catholic News Agency.

On the new site, users will be able

to subscribe to the print edition and eConnect, make changes of address, pay for subscriptions and advertising, and share content with family, friends, relatives and colleagues.

The print edition of *The Catholic Times* will continue to offer unique content. The newspaper's annual subscription renewal campaign will begin in February and more details will be forthcoming. Your continued support and readership of the print issue are appreciated.

## Diocese increases efforts to encourage priestly vocations

By Doug Bean

Catholic Times Editor

It's no secret that the Catholic Church desperately needs priests. This year, the Columbus diocese lists 18 seminarians in various stages of formation, down from 36 four years ago, and so the diocesan vocations office is ramping up its efforts to reach out to young men considering a religious vocation.

Before Bishop Robert Brennan left Columbus to become the bishop of Brooklyn, New York, he appointed Father Brian O'Connor, pastor at Canal Winchester St. John XXIII Church, as the associate vocations director for the diocese.

Father O'Connor will assist Father William Hahn in the vocations office. Father Hahn, who was named vocations director in 2020, remains in that role while taking on additional duties as vicar for clergy in the diocese.

"When the bishop asked me to become the vicar for clergy, he said, 'I realize this will take a bit more of your time, and so we could appoint an associate vocations director,'" Father Hahn said. "Then we started talking, and Father O'Connor's name came up."

Father Stash Dailey, pastor at Columbus Holy Family Church, continues to serve as vicar for religious. He is responsible for overseeing the religious orders of priests and sisters in the Columbus diocese, attracting new orders to the diocese and helping



Father Brian O'Connor is the associate vocations director for the diocese.

CT file photo by Ken Snow

young men and women discern a calling to join a religious order.

In addition to Father O'Connor's new role as associate vocations director, the office is looking to strengthen its outreach to young men through newly designated regional vocations promoters.

Father O'Connor is assigned the Center-South and East Columbus deaneries as a regional vocations promoter. Other regional vocations promoters are Father Frank Brown, Northwest Columbus Deanery; Father Sean Dooley, North High Columbus Deanery; Father Dan Dury, Northland Columbus Deanery; Father Seth Keller, West Columbus Deanery and Spanish speaking; Father Ed Shikina, Marion Deanery; Father Ty Tomson, Muskingum-Perry and Fairfield-Hocking-Pickaway deaneries;

Father Steven Smith, Knox-Licking Deanery; Father Jeff Coning, Tuscarawas-Holmes-Coshocton Deanery; and Father Tim Hayes, Southern Deanery.

The expectations for these regional vocations promoters will be to make contact with potential candidates and host a discernment opportunity at least once a year, help facilitate school visits by priests or seminarians in the region once or more per year, meet with discerners and their families, obtain feedback about an individual from a parish pastor, accept opportunities to speak about vocations in public and provide spiritual direction for those discerning the priesthood.

"And so now if we get an email to the vocations office from someone, the priest in that region can contact them and get the process started," Father O'Connor said. "The idea is, if someone wants to come talk about the priesthood, let's have someone nearby."

"If it seems like a promising prospect, the priest in the region would keep meeting with them. If they let the office know that the young man might be ready to enter seminary, then we would facilitate the interview process."

One vocations outreach initiative in the diocese is the Melchizedek Project, a program that facilitates gatherings of high school- and college-age men who are discerning vocations to the priesthood. Melchizedek groups have formed at Columbus St. Catharine, Hilliard St. Brendan, and Newark St. Francis de Sales parishes. A

fourth is starting at Sunbury St. John Neumann with the seminarians at the Josephinum hoping to start a fifth soon specifically for college students.

Father O'Connor, who was ordained to the priesthood in 2015 and previously served as parochial vicar at Powell St. Joan of Arc Church before going to St. John XXIII, considers relationship building and a simple invitation as two key elements to fostering a religious vocation.

In days gone by, it was a given that young men, particularly those who attended a Catholic school, would consider the priesthood. A priest or layperson would often approach an individual who possessed a certain level of piety and suggest considering a vocation. But that's not the case now.

"Guys who went to seminary then would have been encouraged by their priests in the school or in the parish," Father O'Connor said. "Invitation is very much the center of why guys go."

"I remember I had to do a confirmation interview, and my pastor at the time said, 'Brian, what you're saying here today is a lot of the things a guy says when he's going to seminary.'"

Because of clergy sexual-abuse scandals that have come to light during the past 20 years, "it's like there is almost an embarrassment about the priesthood," Father O'Connor noted. Some young priests or seminarians have ex-

See VOCATIONS Page 5

Front Page photos:

### 2021 IN REVIEW

(Clockwise from upper left) Bishop Robert Brennan stands at the altar after being installed as the new bishop of the Diocese of Brooklyn, New York on Nov. 30; the Diocese of Columbus began its Real Presence Real Future initiative; a Mass was celebrated in September at Columbus St. Matthias Church to pray for the victims of an earthquake that rocked Haiti; and adorers pray in front of the Blessed Sacrament at Plain City St. Joseph Church during the diocese's 40 Days of Adoration during Lent.

Photos courtesy Diocese of Brooklyn, 86 Creative, Ken Snow and Anne Mallampalli

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# Real Presence Real Future feedback being reviewed

By Doug Bean

Catholic Times Editor

Feedback from the fall phase of the diocese's Real Presence Real Future initiative is being processed during the next couple of months as consultations continue before the results are presented to key parish leaders.

By early spring, data from surveys will be extrapolated and preliminary recommendations for future parish models will be proposed.

More than 5,300 individuals registered for the fall Zoom meetings, which were conducted from September through November. Several parishes held group viewings in a large gathering space, so the number of participants likely was larger.

From those registrants, more than 2,500 surveys were submitted. Those responses are being tabulated by the Catholic Leadership Institute, which is helping the diocese through the Real Presence Real Future process. In early spring, the results will be disseminated in the diocese.

"They are compiling the responses in a more digestible format for the team here at the diocese to be able to review and then adjust the parish models to present in round two of this process," said Father Michael Hartge, the moderator of the Curia who is leading the diocese through this initiative.

In general, the profile of fall session attendees skewed female and slightly older. A majority of them expressed a basic understanding of Real Presence Real Future.

"Some of the significant concerns from the people were declining sacramental participation and demands on the clergy," Father Hartge said. "It was different for each group, but almost all of them were saying at least those two things. Other concerns were financial pressures on parishes and aging populations."

The diocese has communicated from the beginning that the two components to Real Presence Real Future encompass spiritual and parish renewal. The latter will result in reorganization of parish models to adapt to the shifting demographics and declining numbers of clergy in the diocese.

The scenarios for restructuring parishes range from single parish pastoring, multi-parish pastoring and collaboratives. In order to accomplish this, there will be some parish mergers and some parish building closures recommended.

"There were significant comments from people saying that they didn't know how to comment because they would have liked to have more explanation on what is a group, what is



## Real Presence Real Future

a merger," Father Hartge said. "And we're going to take that into consideration and provide better detail for round two of the process with parish pastors and key parish leaders."

"There were positive responses and then some concerns from people that communities would lose their identity with mergers and collaborations. They also wanted to know how schools would be included."

While the idea of parish mergers and closures could be unsettling, Father Hartge found people to be generous and open to possible changes and also helpful in offering insights on which parishes are already working together.

"Some of the comments were also from people concerned about unrealistic demands on the clergy," Father Hartge said. "That is a hopeful sign for us, that people do understand the limitations of time and energy on priests."

During the sessions, questions arose about how evangelization and outreach fit into Real Presence Real Future.

"We've said many times that's always been included in this," Father Hartge emphasized. "Since those comments were made, we've made significant strides in some of the evangelization efforts."

An evangelization leadership summit was held in early December at Columbus St. Elizabeth Church that featured Curtis Martin, the founder of Fellowship of Catholic University Students. In addition, the diocese recently hired a parish evangelization coordinator to complement its expanded outreach through social media channels.

During the fall sessions, Father Hartge served as the facilitator for eight parishes.

"The people were engaged," he said. "One of their greatest concerns was the youth practicing the faith."

Whether the parish had a school or not, whether it's children or grandchildren, they wanted young people in their families to practice the faith. And that was pretty consistent."

Father Hartge acknowledged that some people expected more concrete answers regarding future plans, but he stressed that the fall sessions were consultative and informational by design and that the spring will be more informative.

"We had said in the fall sessions that we're not here to come to a decision," Father Hartge said. "We just want to

present some information to people and hear from them. So some people were disappointed with the lack of, maybe, some of the ability to answer some specific questions. We certainly got an understanding of that from the feedback that they're submitting."

For the next sessions in March, pastors and key parish leaders will be invited to in-person sessions.

"Whereas in the first round, if parishes weren't already grouped together, people are now going to see more suggestions for a merger and recommendations on deciding which buildings stay open," Father Hartge explained.

One key element in the decision-making process will be Mass attendance. Father Hartge noted that the number of Sunday Mass-goers remains down 30% from the pre-pandemic levels.

"We need to put the resources in places that we can use them best," Father Hartge said.

"In some areas, we can say people might be pleasantly surprised with some of the suggestions. And then we'll communicate that to parishioners."

Similar reorganizational efforts have taken place in dioceses throughout the country. The Archdiocese of Cincinnati recently settled on a new parish grouping structure under a common pastor. The Diocese of Pittsburgh went through a consolidation process within the past few years.

"Since our diocese is so diverse, a model that might fit another diocese is not going to fit here. It's not a one size fits all," Father Hartge said. "We're doing our own thing."

Now that Bishop Robert Brennan has moved on to the Diocese of Brooklyn, New York after initiating the Real Presence Real Future process, no final decisions will be made until his successor is in place. That could take months.

In the meantime, pastors and key parish leaders will be invited to provide more feedback.

"We're still moving along with getting to the point of providing recommendations to (a new bishop)," Father Hartge said. "But we're going to go at our own pace."

"We're taking into consideration everything about our diocese, and if you see another diocese doing something, we're not necessarily copying anyone. We're trying to evaluate what we have here and do the right thing for the Diocese of Columbus."



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# Advent preparation must spur action to improve world

Advent means “coming” in Latin. We celebrate the coming of Jesus into the world, and we see Advent as a time to prepare and remember the real meaning of Christmas.

Our Advent coming can be defined in three time frames. The first happened more than 2,000 years ago when Jesus came into the world as a baby to live as a human and to die for us. The second happens as Christ wants to come into our lives now. The third will happen in the future when Christ comes again.

Advent prepared us to celebrate the birth of Jesus, and the Sunday readings heightened the urgency, anticipation and vigilance while we waited. They also inspired us to rejoice and be glad. On the first Sunday, the Responsorial challenges us with: “To you, O Lord, I lift my soul.” (Psalm 25)

On the second Sunday, the first reading from Baruch affirmed God’s awesomeness by using royal imagery. Divine majesty was explicitly connected with justice as God is wrapped in a “cloak of justice.” The second reading from the Letter to the Philippians built on the idea of justice. Paul prays for the community as partners with God who create a just society by embracing and living out the Gospel message of love.

Advent is a perfect time to be intentional in trying

## FAITH IN ACTION

Erin Cordle

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



to improve, to grow mentally and spiritually, and to help to create a just society that reflects God’s kingdom.

During Advent (and always) as Catholics, we must remain aware of the many injustices that plague the world and find ways to address and alleviate suffering. We are empowered to help create a just society, not simply by praying for divine justice to take effect but by promoting justice.

In the Gospel of Luke (3:10-18), we heard about John the Baptist. “The crowds asked John the Baptist, ‘What should we do?’ He said to them in reply, ‘Whoever has two cloaks should share with the person who has none. And whoever has food should do likewise.’”

John’s answer is not simply proclaiming the arrival but challenging people to live righteously. His ministry emphasizes repentance and forgiveness of sins through action. Similarly, Christ challenges Peter in John 21:15-17 to “feed my lambs ... tend my

sheep ... feed my sheep.”

The important message was that helping others is not just an Advent event or end-of-the-year tax credit. The needs exist all year,

Epiphany, the Feast of The Three Kings, is celebrated 12 days after Christmas on Jan. 6 and recognizes the manifestation of God in Jesus. It is a time to consider how Jesus fulfilled his destiny and how we can fulfill ours.

Many opportunities exist to share what we have with those in need – to tend and feed them spiritually, emotionally and materially. Consider supporting the many Catholic Charities in the diocese (St. Francis Evangelization Center, St. Lawrence Haven, Catholic Social Services, Bishop Griffin Resource Center, St. Stephen’s Community House, Holy Family Soup Kitchen, St. Francis Center Portsmouth, St. Vincent Family Center, J.O.I.N. and the Society of St. Vincent de Paul). Year-round wish lists can be found on their websites.

May you be filled with the wonder of Mary, the obedience of Joseph, the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the determination of the Magi and the peace of the Christ child. May God bless you during this holy season and throughout the year.

## No optimism, much hope

While history is always full of surprises, including happy ones, I must confess that I’m not full of Pentecostal joy as I consider the next 12 months.

World politics are likely to be grim. The Russian bear will continue his aggression in Ukraine, perhaps kinetically. China will intensify its pressure on Taiwan after the Winter Olympics (during which the communist regime’s massive human rights violations will not receive nearly as much media attention as the BLM movement did in 2020.)

Democracy will erode further in Latin America. Authoritarian and totalitarian regimes will weaponize refugees and migrants, inventing new forms of human trafficking to destabilize the West. The European Union will continue to insist (as it did recently) that limitations on the killing of unborn children constitute “gender-based violence” because abortion-on-demand is a “fundamental human right” that “cannot be subordinated to cultural, religious, or political considerations.” The World Health Organization will remain an obstacle to getting at the truth about the origins of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Will life in these United States be calmer? I doubt it. In the run-up to the November midterm elections, each party will demonize the other as a mortal threat to the Republic. Crackpot conspiracy theories will flourish on the Internet and in social media. The obscene national debt will mount. If the Supreme Court does its constitutional duty and consigns *Roe v. Wade* and *Casey v. Planned Parenthood* to the historical dustbin where we find *Dred Scott v. Sandford* and *Plessy v. Ferguson*, 51 arguments over providing legal protection to the unborn will unfold across the country; those debates are un-

## THE CATHOLIC DIFFERENCE

George Weigel

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likely to be any more rational than those involving other bitterly contested culture war issues. And as the President’s cognitive incapacities become more unmistakable, the possibility of a constitutional crisis looms.

What about the one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church? The Barque of Peter seems headed into even stormier seas. Roman disaffection for the Catholic Church in the United States (which is based on a grotesque caricature) will express itself in unpleasant ways. Throughout the world, Church, liberal Catholic authoritarianism and bullying will intensify; so will apocalypticism at the other end of the Catholic opinion spectrum. “Synodality” will remain undefined, but a “synodal process” of “listening” will continue and the voices of Catholic deconstruction will probably dominate the discussion — as they certainly do in Germany, where a “Synodal Way” that would make Martin Luther cringe voted last September to debate whether the Church needs an ordained priesthood. And the Vatican, one suspects, will continue to disappoint those who pray for its return to a robust defense of the basic human rights of all.

Pondering all this, I recently called a friend and said, “Give me some good news.” To which he immediately replied, “Jesus Christ is Lord.”

Exactly.

It’s always good for the Church to make that basic confession of faith, but especially when the shadows are lengthening across the historical landscape. A good way to root ourselves in the first Christian proclamation — “Jesus is Lord” — is to revive the ancient custom of announcing the date of Easter and the other moveable feasts of the Church year immediately after the Gospel is read or sung on the Solemnity of the Epiphany. Here’s the formula that the priest-celebrant or deacon would use this year, taken from the Roman Missal:

“Know, dear brethren, that, as we have rejoiced at the Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, so by leave of God’s mercy we announce to you also the joy of his Resurrection, who is our Savior.

“On the second day of March will fall Ash Wednesday, and the beginning of the fast of the most sacred Lenten season. On the 17th day of April, you will celebrate with joy Easter Day, the Paschal feast of our Lord Jesus Christ. On the 26th day of May will be the Ascension of our Lord Jesus Christ. On the fifth day of June, the feast of Pentecost. On the 19th day of June, the feast of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ. On the 27th day of November, the First Sunday of the Advent of our Lord Jesus Christ, to whom is honor and glory for ever and ever. Amen.”

No matter what the vicissitudes and trials of history, Christians live in a different time-zone: the time-zone of salvation history. That is the truth to which the solemn liturgical proclamation of those dates attests. And that is why, however shaky the grounds for optimism, there is every reason for hope.

## New cures from embryonic stem cells?

A recent article in *The New York Times* by Gina Kolata chronicles the remarkable story of a patient who for many years suffered from type 1 diabetes. After receiving a newly-developed form of embryonic stem cell infusion, he became able to live insulin-free, apparently cured of his blood sugar imbalances.

It was largely a matter of time, funding and elbow grease before cures of this kind would start to appear. That makes it urgent for us, as a society, to confront and address the ethical questions arising in the wake of these up and coming therapies.

We can formulate the ethical question this way: Is it wrong to develop treatments that rely on the direct destruction of fellow human beings who are in their embryonic stages?

It should go without saying that it is always wrong to take the life of one human being to harvest body parts, even to save the life of another human being. Such medicine is fundamentally exploitative and immoral, and ought to be summarily rejected.

Many people are beginning to ask, however, whether receiving a treatment for diabetes developed from embryonic stem cells is really that different from getting vaccinated with a COVID-19 vaccine developed using abortion-derived cell lines?

The two cases are, in fact, quite different.

When it comes to abortion-derived cell lines and their use in developing some of the COVID-19 vaccines, the wrong that was committed involved taking somatic cells (not stem cells), such as kidney cells or retinal cells, from an aborted fetus and working them up in order to prepare a special “cell line” for use in research or vaccine development. The abortion, it should be noted, as wrong as it was in itself, was not performed in order to obtain research material, and the evil of this “corpse raiding” was compounded by not having obtained valid in-

### MAKING SENSE OUT OF BIOETHICS

Father Tad Pacholczyk



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formed consent.

What makes embryonic stem cell-based therapies ethically worse is that a very young human being, still in his or her embryonic stage of existence, is being targeted and intentionally killed in order to obtain the desired stem cells that stand at the center of that medical treatment.

Why, then, would it be morally allowable to receive a vaccine prepared using abortion-derived cell lines, but morally unacceptable to receive a diabetes treatment developed from embryonic stem cells?

Because the type of moral offense and its gravity are different in kind and degree. Directly killing someone to obtain their cells for treatment is different in kind and worse than the wrongdoing involved in taking cells from a corpse, even from a young human whose life was unjustly ended for an unrelated reason. It is always wrong to steal, even from a cadaver. But it's much worse to kill in order to take.

In one case the researcher himself becomes the executioner who procures cells and tissues from the individual he has just directly and purposefully killed; in the other case, the researcher shows up at the morgue or the abortion clinic following the death, and procures cells or tissues from the individual's body (with the death having occurred at the hands of others and the researcher afterwards profiting from the resultant cadaver). This latter case

would not raise ethical concerns at all if researchers were to derive the needed cells from a miscarriage instead of a direct abortion. If an unborn baby girl, for example, were to die of natural causes, her parents could validly grant informed consent for the use of tissues and cells from her body, in effect donating her body to science.

These kinds of distinctions are important, because receiving a diabetes treatment produced with embryonic stem cells signals a willingness on our part to tolerate the killing of younger human beings in order to benefit others who are older. Meanwhile, receiving a COVID-19 vaccine produced using abortion-derived cell lines does not indicate a willingness on our part to tolerate killing for research (since the killing was not done for research, but for some other unrelated motive), and instead indicates a willingness to tolerate cells and tissues that were unethically taken from a corpse.

Should we always avoid using therapies that are produced using embryonic stem cells taken from young humans who were killed in order to obtain the cells? Yes, such therapies are unethical because killing one human being for the purpose of healing another crosses a fundamental moral line.

But the fact that the question is being raised reminds us of the slippery ethical slope that arises whenever we try to use parts of human beings derived from abortions: legally permitting abortion only makes the confusion worse. Hence, there is an urgent need to encourage the use of alternative, non-embryo-derived cell sources by researchers, including cells derived from miscarriages, adult stem cells, or embryonic-type alternatives such as induced pluripotent stem cells, which can be obtained by genetically manipulating adult human skin cells. These approaches open a path forward in the direction of ethical research and medical therapies.

### VOCATIONS, *continued from Page 2*

perienced the shock of having a pastor removed because of allegations.

“But there are courageous men who have chosen to do this, almost in spite of that,” he said.

Now it's part of his job to encourage other men to join the priests who have said “yes” to God.

“I've been emailing guys, and I've already had a couple of meetings,” Father O'Connor said. “With some guys who are just thinking about it, I'm getting to know them and where they're at.”

He'll also help with the vocations website, [www.seekholiness.com](http://www.seekholiness.com), and social media and attend Melchizedek Project events.

“I'm going to try to be the guy on the front lines,” Father O'Connor said, “so Father Hahn doesn't have to always be that guy.”

Father O'Connor understands that discernment takes time for young men. In his case, he attended Ohio State to major in environmental science and

geology before entering the seminary at the Pontifical College Josephinum.

“The Lord has given us the priesthood, and I am amazed how God Almighty chose to create the Church and chose to dispense His grace to normal guys,” Father O'Connor said. “In the last meeting I had with a prospective candidate, that was the thing we talked about.”

“He'd been on a live-in retreat at the Josephinum, and I asked him what he thought. And he was like, ‘You know, the seminarians were pretty good, they're just like regular guys, and it was nice to talk with them.’”

Many young people look for a voice from God that tells them to follow a religious calling, but the signs often are more subtle and require attentiveness.

“Instead of having the one big sign, a lot of times it's the Lord gives us very small but consistent signs,” Father O'Connor said. “When I was talking with this gentleman about his experiences on the live-in at the Jose-

phinum, he said it was cool hanging out with the guys and, at the end of the day, that's a sign that this is something you could do.”

“I don't think God works in absolutes like that a lot of the time, but it's an assurance to you that, ‘Hey, if I go to seminary, I would have friends, I would get along with the guys. These are the sort of people I hang out with anyway.’”

As far as his own vocation, Father O'Connor said he “was pretty aware that Jesus wanted me to be a priest. And I responded to that in a variety of different ways throughout my young adult life – sometimes going along with it and sometimes not. I felt particularly at Mass that I was called to be a priest – like whenever I went to Mass that God was saying, ‘That's supposed to be you.’”

There was a period as a young adult when Father O'Connor stopped going to Mass, and “obviously that was the wrong thing to do. But I reconciled and started going again, and that's

what led me to the seminary.

“God is always preparing you. He never calls you to something that He has not already prepared you for. We just celebrated the Immaculate Conception, and God was preparing Our Lady from the moment of her conception to be able to say ‘yes,’ but that wasn't the only preparation. There were all of the other things in her life that led her to that moment where she was able to say ‘yes.’”

There's no question the Church and the diocese need more men to say “yes.” For the first time in 20 years, no new priests will be ordained in 2022.

“It's really about awareness,” Father O'Connor said, “and creating a culture in our Catholic institutions, where every man and woman asks the question, ‘What am I called to do? To be a priest or to be a religious brother or sister? And not just assuming that I'm going to be married and have kids.’”

“Discerning to be a priest should be a normal thing that normal men do.”

## With Mary as our model, we mothers are enough

I've been reflecting lately on Mary's role as a mother. Specifically on her role as a mother during the preaching years of Jesus and after His ascension into heaven, as her mothering years did not stop. Indeed, perhaps these were her mightiest years as she formed the hearts and souls of those set apart to form the Church.

As I hold another late-night vigil in prayer for my growing children, I sit with Mama Mary and ask her how she did it. For I know her mother's heart was greater than mine, and I know the depths I would go to for my children.

I imagine the apostles reaching out to her as their mother, sharing their hearts. How she must have listened patiently to their worries, feelings of unworthiness and admissions of taking the wrong road. How she must have held their hand, wiped their tears, prayed with and for them and then watched them walk away, unsure if her words helped but holding each one so tenderly upon her heart. Her role of advocate to her Son was being honed in these mothering moments.

Mary's fiat was more than just a proclamation of the moment. Rather, it became her mission statement, and she lived it out. We, as mothers, can proclaim the same boldness to our children in confidence that those seeds are watered.

"My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, and my Spirit rejoices in God my savior for he has looked with kindness on my lowliness." (Luke 1:46-48)

As a mother, I recognize my inability and my unworthiness most acutely in the sacred moments when the doors of my children's hearts are opened to me and their desire to believe and trust is so acute. When mistakes are made, or discussions begin, faith is brought into the discussion. I feel unworthy and ill prepared more often than not.

In the past, I have suggested, "Perhaps you can

### ALL THAT WE HAVE

MaryBeth Eberhard

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



read Augustine," or, "It sounds like Aquinas is right up your alley." Tonight, after such a talk, I was awestruck by the realization that is me whom they need. Just like Mama Mary was commissioned, so am I. And I am enough.

These children of mine have grown up with the witness of a rich faith life. They have been surrounded by the stories of the saints, a home filled with prayer and laughter, a marriage that is deep and abiding and a door that is revolving with those witnessing to Christ's love manifest in their lives.

As I reached to text a friend during this recent conversation thinking, "Maybe he or she will have the answers," I felt a tug to pause and realized the answers are not to be given but rather to be sought. As these conversations get deeper and my children get older, my job is to listen, nurture, water and pray unceasingly. The Lord will place the right people in His time to bring clarity.

I am not abandoning ship to teaching the faith but rather am molding myself more acutely to the Blessed Mother's heart, where a life lived out in witness will speak volumes more than heated arguments or long, drawn-out discussions. My children know I am always open to their questions, and rich conversations do take place but always in God's timing.

As the Blessed Mother, dear Mama Mary, got older, I imagine her role as intercessor became fine-tuned. I see her talking constantly to her Son in prayer, reaching out, sharing, pleading and asking for guidance herself as she always models a suppleness to the Holy Spirit. It is why I turn to her so

often as my guide.

My words whispered from my heart: Mama Mary, calm my voice. Steady my words. Let my words speak love and invite a relationship rather than an argument. It's amazing the multitasking that we can do while in these moments with our children. I am constantly calling upon every saint and angel to make supple our hearts for whatever Jesus has planned for these moments.

Tonight, Mama Mary sits with me and, as the last child has walked off to bed and the clock strikes hours past the new day, we sit and we hold hands in the quiet, she and I. We pray for our sons and our daughters together. Our hearts swell with love and with pain for the trials they are enduring.

We lift them together to the Father and release them to His fatherly care. He knows them. He sees them right where they are, and He is working in their lives even when they and we cannot feel it. Hearts embraced together, Mama Mary and I pray blessings and leadership upon my husband as he will pick up the pieces of this discussion in the morning, after reading my late-night text giving him the details of the conversation. (We mothers are always advocating to the father!)

I know I am not alone in this struggle to give the conversion of my children's hearts over to the Lord. I know every mother desires for her children to be in a relationship with Jesus, for if they know Him, they will love Him, and if they love Him ... well then, how can they not serve Him?

St. Thérèse of Lisieux says, "The loveliest masterpiece of the heart of God is the heart of a mother." Let us take our mother's hearts, united with our dear Mother Mary's, and claim our worthiness to have the hard talks, to wipe the tears, to proclaim the truth and to devote ourselves to prayer for the sanctification of our families.

## 2021 saw positive, troubling trends in Church, world

End-of-the-year columns provide an opportunity to reflect on the past 12 months and project what the future might hold in the next 12.

The diocese has witnessed major changes in 2021 – none bigger than the departure of Bishop Robert Brennan for the Diocese of Brooklyn, New York as its new bishop.

The Real Presence Real Future initiative began in earnest and featured 40 Hours of Adoration, a Day of Reconciliation, a Eucharistic Gathering, an Evangelization Summit and virtual sessions to provide information to parishioners and seek their input.

Other notable events in 2021 included a group of abortion supporters breaching Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral to stage a despicable protest during the annual pro-life Mass.

The COVID crisis continued after it was supposed to dissipate with the introduction of shots to combat the coronavirus. Instead, variants developed and wreaked more havoc. There was a massive government push for vaccinations and threatened mandates for employees who work for companies with 100-plus employees.

The Catholic Church celebrated the Year of St. Joseph, and most parishes in the Diocese of Colum-

### EDITOR'S REFLECTIONS

Doug Bean



bus returned to full capacity at Masses, though some restrictions were again put in place in December at various parishes. Catholic schools also remained open for in-person learning.

There really was no resolution from the hierarchy about how to handle individuals who present themselves for Holy Communion while openly defying Church teaching on abortion, artificial contraception and euthanasia.

Mixed signals were sent from Rome on a variety of life, family and gender issues. The promotion of a progressive agenda on a variety of Church and climate matters continues, and there is an inexplicable, restrictive crackdown on the Traditional Latin Mass purported to foster unity among Catholics but likely to be highly divisive.

Most troubling remains the attacks on religious freedom in this country and the erosion of individual liberties. And there's good reason to believe that 2022 could see more of the same.

A more hopeful sign is the increase in restrictions

on abortion at the state level, including in Ohio, and the possible demise of Roe vs. Wade, the 1973 U.S. Supreme Court ruling that made abortion legal in all 50 states.

If that happens, the magnitude of that moment will be the culmination of nearly 50 years of effort by tireless pro-life heroes. At the same time, expect the protests and riots from abortion supporters to be even more destructive than the Black Lives Matter riots in 2020.

U.S. bishops will continue to emphasize the importance of the Eucharist and belief in the Real Presence of Christ in the sacred host. Meanwhile, the world watches and becomes more confused about why Catholics don't follow and enforce their own rules on who receives the body and blood of Christ in Holy Communion.

The worldwide Synod on Synodality, which started in 2021, will be carried out here and in other dioceses throughout the world in 2022. This process was called for by the Holy See to gather feedback from Catholics on their needs and how they see the Church today.

May God bless each of you with an increase in faith, hope and charity in 2022. And may He bring an end to the pandemic and grant you good health.

# Johnstown Church of the Ascension provides free medical items

By Tim Puet

For The Catholic Times

One charitable act by a former parishioner of the Johnstown Church of the Ascension about 10 years ago led to creation of a service that has benefited hundreds of people by providing them with free medical equipment.

The parish's medical loan closet offers items as large as wheelchairs, walkers, shower seats and knee scooters and as small as an adhesive bandage to residents of Johnstown and surrounding communities. There is no cost for any of the items except the scooters, which require a \$50 refundable deposit.

The closet has been located in the basement of a Johnstown doctor's office since it was created by John Stover, formerly of Johnstown, who now lives in Galion with his wife, Neva, and son, Scott.

"The whole idea began with a discussion about Parkinson's disease Neva attended in 2010 or 2011 at Licking Memorial Hospital in Newark because she was showing signs of Parkinson's," Mr. Stover said.

"A woman there said she had a wheelchair available and was willing to give it to anybody who needed one. I accepted the offer because I felt Neva might have to use one at some point, then left the chair inside my van.

"This was on a Friday night. We went to Mass at Ascension that Sunday, and someone saw me afterwards, said he saw the wheelchair and asked if he could borrow it if I wasn't using it.

I said it was all right and had him sign a paper saying I was loaning it and he would return it. Then a woman said she'd like to borrow the chair, and I told her I already had loaned it.

"That made me wonder how many people might have a similar need, so I asked Father (J.L.) Reichert (the church's pastor at the time) if I could get up at the next Mass and ask people to let me know if they needed wheelchairs, and I'd see what I could do about finding them.

"Deacon Bill Andrews (who served the parish as a deacon from 2008 until retiring in 2020) was president of Licking Memorial Health Systems at the time. He said he had about five items at his house he could donate to me. I used my garage for storage at first, but the number of donated items quickly outgrew that space.

"Deacon Bill made arrangements for me to move the closet in the basement of the doctor's office Licking

Memorial has in Johnstown, and it was relocated there, where it's been ever since."

Calling the medical supply area, located at 151 Woodgate Drive, just off U.S. Route 62, a closet is a little misleading, because its size is much larger. It's stacked from top to bottom with medical equipment and is open from 4 to 6 p.m. Wednesdays and other times by appointment.

Ascension parishioner Bob Haury said about five or six people visit the closet every week, with summer being the busiest time.

Those coming to the site sign for use of an item for a set period, generally 30, 60 or 90 days, and are supposed to return it at the end of that time. Haury keeps track of the items and said he rarely has problems getting them returned. Upon return, they are cleaned, sanitized and deodorized by volunteer John Yeagle before being returned to use.

Haury said a deposit is required for the scooters because they are in short supply. The scooter, also known as a knee walker, is a mobility aid device with three to five wheels, a padded knee support and a steering handle. It allows people to take the weight off an injured leg by resting it on the support while using the uninjured leg to

get around.

When the Stovers moved to Galion about three years ago to live with their son, they asked for volunteers to help continue the work of the closet. Haury said about 10 people responded. "I was retired and live about five minutes away from the doctor's office where the closet is," he said. "I had plenty of time and felt this was something useful I could do, so I answered the call for help."

For a while, the closet's new staff kept it open every weekday. But there were many days when no one came in to request equipment, so it was decided to limit the scheduled opening time to one day a week. Besides Haury and Yeagle, the closet's current volunteers include Dennis Murnane, who is there one Wednesday each month; Chip Rahde and Bubby Eichner, who are on call to pick up donated items; and Rae Ann Crawford, who is in the building most Wednesdays.

Crawford said she became a volunteer after borrowing a scooter for her sister, who had a broken foot.

"Every time I come there, I'm more blessed by the people who come to the building to pick up items. I get an amazing warm feeling from the way people are so appreciative of what

we do, so you could say I'm helping out for both selfish and unselfish reasons," she said.

Stover said that at one point, about \$100,000 worth of medical equipment, including about 60 walkers, 15 or 20 wheelchairs and two or three hospital beds, were stored at the closet. Haury said it has temporarily stopped accepting donations and has given many of its surplus items to charities in Third World nations.

He also said the closet no longer will accept hospital beds because of their size and the difficulty in carrying them up and down the outside steps leading to the closet's basement location.

He said that as people have learned about the closet, its outreach has spread beyond northwest Licking County and into neighboring areas of Franklin, Delaware and Knox counties. The Johnstown-New Albany area is experiencing a growth spurt because of construction of distribution and data centers by Amazon, Google and other companies, so more people are likely to be using the closet.

For more information about the closet, call Haury at (740) 967-2204 or the Ascension parish office at (740) 967-7871.



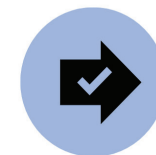
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# 2021 diocesan year in review: Bishop led the news

By Tim Puet

For The Catholic Times

The bishop of a diocese often is its biggest newsmaker in any given year, and that held true for the Diocese of Columbus in 2021. Bishop Robert Brennan was unexpectedly called to serve another diocese late in the year after earlier beginning a strategic planning process that will continue under the stewardship of his successor.

Pope Francis on Sept. 29 appointed Bishop Brennan to serve as the eighth bishop of the Diocese of Brooklyn, New York, only 2 ½ years after his installation as bishop of Columbus on March 29, 2019. Though the appointment was surprising because Bishop Brennan had been in Columbus for a relatively short time, he was an ideal choice for his new position because he grew up, and had spent all of his life as a priest and auxiliary bishop, in the New York City metropolitan area until coming to Columbus.

A large group of Columbus clergy, religious and laypersons attended his installation in Brooklyn on Nov. 30. He will be leading the nation's fifth-largest diocese in terms of population, with 1.5 million Catholics. He succeeds Bishop Emeritus Nicholas DiMarzio, who retired after serving as shepherd of the Brooklyn diocese since 2013. Bishop DiMarzio is 77 and continued to serve his diocese for two years beyond the mandatory retirement age of 75 for bishops.

Msrgr. Stephan Moloney, diocesan vicar general and pastor of Columbus St. Andrew Church, on Dec. 2 was appointed as diocesan administrator of the Columbus diocese until the pope selects Bishop Brennan's successor. Msrgr. Moloney will be the diocese's chief administrative official but does not have all the powers of a bishop.

Bishop Brennan in February announced the beginning of Real Presence Real Future, a strategic planning initiative aimed at increasing the presence of Christ throughout the diocese's 23 counties and upholding the faith for future generations.

The initiative began during Lent, when about half of the diocese's parishes took part in a 40 Days of Adoration program. Each day, from Ash Wednesday to Palm Sunday, at least one church hosted a period of Eucharistic Adoration. Some of the hosting parishes displayed the exposed Eucharist for 24 hours or longer. Others exposed the Blessed Sacrament for periods of eight to 16 hours, from the end of one of their weekday morning Masses and concluding with Benediction in the evening.

The initiative continued in July and August with two in-person and four



**Bishop Robert Brennan incenses the altar at St. Joseph Cathedral on Easter Sunday.**

virtual sessions giving anyone in the diocese a chance to ask questions and offer comments about the initiative.

This was followed by a diocesan Eucharistic Gathering on Aug. 27 at Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral and Aug. 28 at Columbus St. Charles Preparatory School. Bishop Brennan at the cathedral and Philadelphia Archbishop Nelson Perez at St. Charles both spoke about how the Church must adapt to meet the spiritual needs of people in an increasingly secularized culture in which fewer priests serve them.

From September through November, each diocesan parish hosted a pair of two-hour consultation sessions to review findings, receive feedback and continue the planning process at the parish level. More than 4,000 people took part in the meetings.

Father Michael Hartge, diocesan vicar for the Curia, said what was learned from those gatherings will be discussed at parishes in mid-March 2022, with recommendations resulting from the consultation process being announced midyear.

An evangelization leadership summit took place on Dec. 4 at Columbus St. Elizabeth Church, with talks by Curtis Martin, president and founder of the Fellowship of Catholic University Students; Pete Burak, director of id, the young adult outreach of Renewal Ministries; and Catholic author and speaker Kelly Wahlquist, plus workshops on evangelization and ministry.

The COVID-19 pandemic continued to affect the diocese, but as more people were vaccinated, they began returning to church, with Ohio's bishops in June reinstating the obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and holy days of obligation for those physically able to do so. Schools opened as scheduled in late summer, with few COVID-related problems reported during the first four months of the 2021-22 academic year.

Three priests from the Theatine Fathers, also known as the Congregation of Clerics Regular, came to the diocese in 2021, becoming the first members of the congregation to serve in a state outside Colorado since the order



**Bishop Brennan admires a horse while he blessed farms in May. CT photos/Ken Snow**

left New York more than 100 years ago.

Father Tomas Carvahal, CR, arrived in July and is assigned to Dover St. Joseph and Zoar Holy Trinity churches. Newly ordained Fathers Victor Cano, CR, and David Arroyo, CR, came to Columbus Christ the King Church in the fall.

Father Leonardo Cuaute, MSP, came to Columbus in July to serve as associate administrator at Columbus St. Stephen the Martyr Church. His order, the Missionary Servants of the Word, also staffs Columbus St. Agnes Church and helps with Masses in Spanish at other diocesan parishes.

The Salesian Sisters of St. John Bosco began serving at Columbus St. Francis DeSales High School this fall.

The Theatines and the Salesian Sisters join several other religious orders who have established a presence in the diocese in the past two years. These include the cloistered Dominican Nuns of the Perpetual Rosary, the Sisters of Our Lady of Kilimanjaro, the Sister Servants of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Institute of Christ the King Sovereign Priest.

The Order of the Most Holy Savior of St. Bridget, better known as the Bridgettines, are renovating their convent, located adjacent to Columbus Holy Family Church, and announced plans to add an 8,000-square-foot, 150-seat chapel and a guesthouse with as many as 30 rooms. The chapel would be used for Mass and Eucharistic Adoration and would be the first Adoration chapel adjacent to downtown Columbus.

Construction of the chapel would enable the sisters to live a cloistered life, with an area set aside in the convent for them to meet with visitors or family members. The Bridgettines came to Columbus in 2019. Four members of the order live in Columbus. The expansion would allow more sisters to be stationed in the city.

Mother Angeline McCrory Manor in Columbus, operated by the Carmelite Sisters for the Aged and Infirm, converted 21 of its rooms into a memory care unit, offering specialized care for persons with memory loss related

to Alzheimer's disease and other types of dementia.

The Museum of Catholic Art and History, formerly the Jubilee Museum and Catholic Cultural Center, reopened in The Catholic Foundation's building across from the cathedral on Nov. 9. It had been closed since August 2019 because of deteriorating conditions at its previous location, the former Columbus Holy Family School, and because of the pandemic.

St. Charles Preparatory School announced plans to build a new convocation center, which is to be completed this coming spring. It will include a 1,200- to 1,400-seat arena with flexible space for athletic events, public presentations, educational programs and cultural activities.

Dublin St. Brigid of Kildare School was selected by the U.S. Department of Education as one of 325 National Blue Ribbon Schools for 2021. The school also had received the honor, which can be awarded once every five years, in 2008 and 2014. It is the only Ohio school in the past 15 years to have received the award three times.

New Lexington St. Rose School was closed because of declining enrollment on May 20, the end of the 2020-21 academic year, after nearly 110 years of serving Perry County. The school had 73 students enrolled from pre-kindergarten through eighth grade at the time of its closure. Enrollment for 2021-22 was projected at 54 students. The diocesan Office of Catholic Schools assisted St. Rose students in relocating to parochial schools in Somerset, Zanesville, Logan and Lancaster.

The diocesan Catholic Men's Conference took place on Feb. 27 in a virtual format. About 4,000 men registered for the event and watched it either in large groups at more than 30 viewing sites in parishes or individually at home. The diocesan Catholic Women's Conference did not take place in 2021. Both conferences will be held in February 2022 and return to the state fairgrounds.

Stephan Johnson of Ada Our Lady of Lourdes Church received the Catholic Men's Luncheon Club's 2021 Catholic Man of the Year award from Bishop Brennan in a Zoom ceremony. Johnson set up livestream weekend Masses from his parish and Kenton Immaculate Conception Church after the pandemic began and created websites and Instagram and Facebook accounts for both parishes.

At Our Lady of Lourdes, he also is an unofficial parish maintenance person; is co-director, with his wife, of the Parish School of Religion; es-



## YEAR IN REVIEW, continued from Page 8

tablished a daily virtual prayer group; and serves the church in several other ways.

Bishop Brennan appointed Father Hartge as moderator of the diocesan Curia (administrative offices) and Matthew Schlater as chief operating officer. Both are new diocesan positions. William Davis, diocesan finance director, was appointed chief financial officer. He retired on Dec. 1 after 14 years with the diocese and was succeeded by John Mackessy, who had been chief financial officer of the Columbus-based HMB consulting firm for 26 years.

In addition to assisting Bishop Brennan in diocesan governance, Father Hartge's principal role is managing the Real Presence Real Future initiative. Schlater, who runs a commercial flooring business, is responsible for directing and coordinating the strategic and operational efforts of all diocesan offices. He also is board chairman of the Damascus Catholic Mission Campus and Catholic Youth Summer Camp near Centerburg. Mackessy oversees the diocese's technology, insurance and central purchasing offices and provides financial counsel to diocesan parishes, schools and agencies.

The diocese in December entered into a short-term agreement with The Catholic Foundation and New York-based CCS Fundraising to manage the Bishop's Annual Appeal. Andrea Pannell, episcopal moderator for the diocesan Office of Development and Planning, accepted a position as vice president of the Foundation, with Suzanne Roberts, a program assistant in the development office, also moving to the Foundation.

Jerry Freewalt, formerly director of the diocesan Office for Social Concerns and an employee of the office for 26 years, became executive director of the Catholic Conference of Ohio on Aug. 1, succeeding Carolyn Jurkowitz, who retired from that position after 34 years. The conference is the official representative for Ohio's bishops in public policy matters.

Also retiring from the conference after 34 years was Jim Tobin, its associate director for social concerns, who was well-known at the Ohio Statehouse, where he presented the views of the state's bishops on public policy.

Mike Winters, senior principal of the diocese's Catholic high schools in terms of service, retired after 24 years at Columbus Bishop Hartley High School – two as assistant principal and 22 as principal. He spent 46 years as a teacher or principal, all in Columbus diocesan schools.

Catholic Times reporter Tim Puet retired on July 1 after 14 ½ years with the newspaper and 43 years as a journalist in Columbus. He continues with



The annual Catholic Men's Conference was held virtually in 2021. CT photo/Ken Snow

the Times as a contributing writer.

Bishop Brennan ordained Fathers Stephen Ondrey and Jacob Stinnett as priests of the diocese on May 29 at St. Joseph Cathedral. Father Ondrey was assigned to be parochial vicar at Pickerington St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, and Father Stinnett is vicar at Chillicothe St. Peter and St. Mary churches and Waverly St. Mary Church.

Father Eugene Joseph was ordained as a Columbus diocesan priest on July 22 by Bishop Stephen Wright, auxiliary bishop of the Archdiocese of Birmingham, England, at St. Chad's Cathedral in Birmingham.

Father Joseph, who was born in India and had been living in England since he was 10 years old, completed his preparation for the priesthood at the Pontifical College Josephinum but had to return to England before his ordination because of paperwork problems related to his change in immigration status and because the COVID-related closing of the U.S. Embassy in London delayed the paperwork from being processed. Once the embassy was reopened, his situation was resolved, and he now serves as parochial vicar of Powell St. Joan of Arc Church.

Father Jonathan Smith, who attended Columbus St. Timothy Church and School and graduated from Columbus Bishop Watterson High School, is serving as parochial vicar at St. Andrew Church in Clifton, Virginia after being ordained as a priest of the Diocese of Arlington, Virginia on June 5 by Bishop Paul Loverde at Arlington St. Thomas More Cathedral.

Father Joseph Michael Fino, CFR, a Westerville native and former parishioner at the New Albany Church of the Resurrection, was ordained to the priesthood for the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal on May 29 at St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York City by Cardinal Timothy Dolan, archbishop of New York.

Father Justin J. Reis, 77, died on March 2. He was a priest for 51 years, serving as pastor at Marysville Our Lady of Lourdes, Lancaster St. Bernadette and Columbus St. Peter church-



The Eucharistic Gathering in August included a procession. Photo by Andy Mackey

es and associate pastor at four other parishes. He also was active in prison ministry at the Ohio Reformatory for Women in Marysville and in the Columbus Catholic Renewal, Cum Christo and Marriage Encounter.

Father Richard M. Engle, 95, was the senior priest of the diocese in terms of age and time of service when he died on April 21, one month from the 65th anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood. He served as pastor of Dresden St. Ann, Mattingly Settlement St. Mary, Columbus St. Philip the Apostle and Dennison Immaculate Conception churches before retiring in 1995.

Father Victor R. Wesolowski, 64, died on July 27. He was a priest for 13 years, serving as parochial vicar of the Perry County Consortium of Parishes and pastor of Danville St. Luke and Coshocton Sacred Heart churches.

Father Dennis E. Stevenson, 67, died on Nov. 13. He spent nearly all of his 33 years as a priest with the diocesan Tribunal, balancing responsibilities there with pastoral ministry in the parishes where he was assigned or resided. These included Worthington St. Michael, Columbus St. Andrew, Columbus St. Aloysius and Christ the King churches.

Father Michael T. Kottar, 53, died on May 22 in Pickerington, where one of his sisters lives. He had been diagnosed in April with Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease, a degenerative brain disorder. He grew up in the Youngstown area and was a priest for 26 years, serving in the dioceses of Metuchen, New Jersey and Charlotte, North Carolina. He had been pastor of parishes in the North Carolina communities of Shelby and Kings Mountain for 14 years before returning to Ohio to spend his final days.

Father William C. Dettling, OP, 88, died on June 22 in Maryland. The Dominican friar was parochial vicar at Columbus St. Patrick Church in 1992 and 1993 and a theology professor at the Josephinum from 1993 to 2010.

Msgr. Edward Fairchild, 88, died on Dec. 24. He was a priest for 62 years, serving as co-pastor at Columbus Our Lady of Peace, as the founding pastor

of Pickerington St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, and as pastor at Columbus St. Peter Church and Westerville St. Paul Church before retiring in 2003.

Deacon John D. "Jack" Rankin, 84, died on May 12. He was ordained as the Diocese of Columbus' second lay member of the diaconate by Bishop Edward Herrmann on Nov. 3, 1975 at Columbus Our Lady of Peace Church, which he served for 31 years, until his retirement in 2006. He also was a chaplain at Mount Carmel Medical Center for nearly 20 years until also retiring from that position in 2006.

Deacon Thomas V. Johnston, 95, died on June 14. He had been a deacon for 36 years and was assigned to the cathedral, where he served for 30 years until his retirement in 2015. He became associate director of the diocesan diaconate formation program in 1986 and was associate director of the diocesan Office of the Diaconate until 2004.

Deacon Patrick J. Wiggins, 83, died on Jan. 25. He also had been a deacon for 35 years and served at Hilliard St. Brendan Church from his ordination in 1985 until his retirement in 2013.

Religious sisters who died in late 2020 or in 2021 and served in, or were natives of, the Diocese of Columbus, or who were living in the diocese at their time of death, were: Sister Mary Owen Doody, OSF, 92, Dec. 23, 2020; Sister Gwen Koza, SNDdeN, 93, Dec. 29, 2020; Sister Mary Ann Nugent, OSF, 82, Dec. 31, 2020; Sister Catherine Tronolone, OSF, 96, Jan. 9; Sister Agnes Lucille Schubert, OSF, 98, Jan. 11; Sister Anne Rutledge, OP, 85, Jan. 14; Sister Damienne Grismer, SNDdeN, 91, Jan. 15; and Sister Jane Feller, OSF, 77, Jan. 19.

Sister Rita Busch, OP, 96, Jan. 26; Sister Maria DeMonte, OP, 91, Feb. 8; Sister M. Lauren Wiegman, OSF, 95, Feb. 17; Sister Mary Faith Reaney, OP, 86, Feb. 24; Sister M. Paulette Paille, OP, 77, Feb. 25; Sister Susan Youst, SNDdeN, 79, March 9; Sister Martina Keitz, OSF, 91, March 17; Sister Joan Michael McVeigh, OP, 80, June 4; Sister M. Felicity Gaffney, OSF, 100, June 5; Sister Marie Joseph Porrello, OP, 84, June 21; Sister Dolores Marie Schmidt, OSF, 96, July 4; Sister Raymunda Brooks, OP, 93, Aug. 12; and Sister Mary DiLeone, OSF, 88, Aug. 26.

Sister Mary Ann Fedor, OP, 92, Aug. 28; Sister Louella Petry, OP, 91, Aug. 30; Sister Mary Jo Fox, OP, 91, Sept. 19; Sister Joan Popovits, OP, 77, Sept. 26; Sister Carmen Paris, OSF, 98, Sept. 27; Sister Adrienne Colson, OP, 96, Oct. 12; Sister Joan Marie Ford, OP, 91, Oct. 15; Sister Mary Diehl, OSF, 88, Oct. 26; Sister Shawn Bernard Daniel, OCarm, 78, Oct. 28; and Sister Patricia Gavaghan, OP, 83, Dec. 12.



Sister Maria Ecclesiae, HSMCJ, and the children in the DOYMAR prayer movement genuflect at Westerville St. Paul Church.  
CT photos by Ken Snow



The sisters and children kneel as Father Jonathan Wilson, pastor at St. Paul Church, places the Blessed Sacrament in the monstrance for adoration.



Sr. Ingrid de Maria, HSMCJ, explains to the girls how resolutions and amendments they can make each day help them to grow in virtue and love.



Sr. Maria Ecclesiae, HSMCJ, shows (from left) Lesly Cardoza, 8; Hazel Hernandez, 7; and Catherine Fagge, 11, how to make sacrifice beads.

## Sisters present DOYMAR prayer movement to girls, young women

Development of a strong prayer life is a goal of the Daughters of Holy Mary of the Heart of Jesus. And, as contemplative and missionary sisters, the formation of children and youth is at the core of their apostolic efforts.

Their religious family came to the United States from Spain in 2011, and since then they have offered an opportunity to seek, know, love and serve the Lord in a prayer movement called DOYMAR.

This prayer movement, begun in Spain in 1984, was the inspiration of their foundress, Mother María de Jesús Velarde, who, guided by the pontificate of Pope St. John Paul II, saw a need for young people to enter into a life of prayer, to become dis-

ciples who recognize their need for a relationship with Jesus.

“DOYMAR” is a Spanish acronym that translates to “Prayerful and Marian-Apostolic Disciples of the Redemption,” summarizing the identity that the sisters strive to help form in children and youth.

In October 2020, the sisters brought DOYMAR to the Diocese of Columbus, at Westerville St. Paul the Apostle Church.

The prayer movement seeks to facilitate a personal encounter with God in prayer before the Eucharist. Sisters hold DOYMAR encounters every month for different age groups (first- through fifth-grade girls, sixth- through eighth-grade girls, high

school girls and college-age women).

During each gathering, the sisters give a formative talk, guide participants through steps of prayer and allow them to share their faith and apply it to their daily lives. DOYMAR is a time to sit at the feet of Jesus, listen to Him and speak to Him, with Mary as intercessor and guide.

The Daughters of Holy Mary of the Heart of Jesus want to support parents in their mission and help them kindle the love of God in their daughters’ hearts. The sisters also want to help young adults find the lasting love and meaning that only the Lord can give.

In 2022, the sisters will hold DOYMAR at St. Paul Church on the following days:

First- through fifth-grade girls: 9:30-11 a.m. Saturdays Jan. 15, Feb. 12, March 12, April 2, May 7 and June 4.

Sixth- through eighth-grade girls: 4-5:30 p.m. Fridays.

High school girls and college-age women: 6-8 p.m. Fridays Jan. 14, Feb. 11, March 11, April 1, May 6 and June 3.

For more information about the Daughters of Holy Mary of the Heart of Jesus, their charism, spirituality and mission, as well as their DOYMAR worldwide prayer movement, visit [www.hsmcj.org](http://www.hsmcj.org).

To participate in DOYMAR or learn about other opportunities offered by the sisters, call 740-346-2625.



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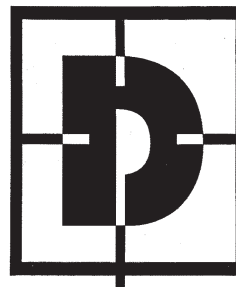
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## Christ Child Society names board members



The Christ Child Society recently elected its 2022 Board of Directors. Pictured are (front row from left) Kathy Kohler, Molly Wood, Barb Groner, Julie Smerdel; (back row from left) Karen Kleinhenz, Jeannette Oxender, Msgr. John Cody (spiritual adviser), Catherine O’Connell, Vicky Hart and Michele Bianconi. The Christ Child Society is a non-profit organization of members dedicated to serving children in need.  
Photo courtesy Christ Child Society



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## Schools offer 100% tax credit opportunity

A program allowing 100% tax credit for tuition assistance at diocesan Catholic schools is now available.

Contributions up to \$750 for an individual and \$1,500 for taxpayers who are married and filing jointly are eligible to receive the tax credit.

The Diocesan Education Corporation is the first entity in Ohio to be certified by the state's attorney general as a Scholarship Granting Organization (SGO), which was created this year.

"We are thrilled that our Diocesan Education Corporation was the first in the State of Ohio to be certified as a Scholarship Granting Organization," diocesan schools Superintendent Adam Dufault said. "This un-

precedented benefit for our generous donors will go a long way in helping to meet the ever present and rapidly growing need for tuition assistance in each of Our Catholic Schools."

Tuition assistance is provided to low income students and families in need that helps make Catholic education affordable at each of the diocese's 52 schools.

No forms are needed to make a gift. Donations are accepted online at [columbuscatholicgiving.org/tuition-assistance](http://columbuscatholicgiving.org/tuition-assistance) or by checks made payable to Diocesan Education Corporation and mailed to Office of Catholic Schools, 197 E. Gay St., Columbus, OH 43215.

## School administrators meet at Josephinum



Administrators from diocesan elementary and high schools gathered Dec. 9 at the Pontifical College Josephinum for a meeting, day of reflection and closing Mass at St. Turibius Chapel. Two of the four seminarian servers at the Mass were graduates of Catholic elementary and high schools. Music was provided by Columbus Bishop Watterson High School students. *Photo courtesy Pontifical College Josephinum*

## Bishop Watterson graduate dots "i" in Script Ohio



Austin Hare, a 2017 Columbus Bishop Watterson High School graduate, received the honor of dotting the 'i' in Script Ohio three times while performing with the Ohio State University Marching Band at football games this season. The revered tradition is reserved for sousaphone players and special honorees, which have included Jack Nicklaus and Bob Hope. Hare dotted the 'i' in the south end zone script at the Ohio State-Akron game on Sept. 25 in Ohio Stadium, the single script at the Ohio State-Michigan State game on Nov. 20 in Columbus and for the Rose Bowl game against Utah on Jan. 1 in Pasadena, Calif. He was originally scheduled to dot the 'i' last fall, but the band was unable to perform at games because of the COVID-19 pandemic. After graduating from Ohio State in May 2021 with a degree in biomedical science, he returned this fall as a continuing education student to play in the band while working. *Photo courtesy Bishop Watterson High School*

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## Epiphany of the Lord Year C

## All can make the journey to God

Isaiah 60:1-6  
Psalm 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13  
Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6  
Matthew 2:1-12

In a world wrapped in confusion and frustration, the Solemnity of the Epiphany bursts forth with a word of hope: "Rise up in splendor, Jerusalem! Your light has come, the glory of the Lord shines upon you. See, darkness covers the earth, and thick clouds cover the peoples; but upon you the Lord shines, and over you appears his glory."

The Magi come to Herod, seeking direction, and, as far as it goes, they are given the help that can be found from an earthly adviser. Ironically, Herod in this instance is willing to work with religious leaders to find an answer for those who are in search of the true King.

The encounter with the Child and His mother takes place, completing their journey, with heavenly aid because the star reappears to light their way. They are also invited by divine intervention to change their plans for the return trip, going home by a different route.

The consequences of this "change of plans" are dire for the residents of Bethlehem and the surrounding countryside due to Herod's cruelty and his inability to attend to the divine signs that had guided the Magi. But the witness of the wise men from the East leaves its mark and stands as a beacon for all.

Following God's will does not mean that we will have an easy time in this life. On the contrary, it often leads to times of struggle that are unforeseen. Gold and frankincense, the treasures of the Magi that the world can understand, point to fulfillment of the prophecies of old and to the divine dignity and power of the Child. The surprise gift of myrrh, not mentioned in the prophecies, alludes to the redemption

## Baptism of the Lord Year C

## Time to renew our commitment to live a life of faith

Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11  
or Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7  
Psalm 104:1b-2, 3-4, 24-25,  
27-28, 29-30  
Titus 2:11-14; 3:4-7  
or Acts 10:34-38  
Luke 3:15-16, 21-22

Pope Francis continually reminds us that God is at work in all of us through the power of the sacrament of baptism. The Baptism of the Lord, which

## 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.



of suffering that will be the Child's destiny.

"Lord, every nation on earth will adore you." The travelers from the East stand in for the nations at the birth of the Child of Bethlehem, the One destined to rule all nations. As they show homage, adoring Jesus when the earthly king plots His death, they remind us of our call to seek unity through our cooperation with divine grace.

God's plan, the mystery that has "now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: that the Gentiles are coheirs, members of the same body, and copartners in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel" is a promise for our times.

The events of the past few years have made known to us just how tenuous our life can be. In a moment, everything can change so dramatically that we hardly recognize what comes after. The violence of terrorism, the sad effects of COVID in all of its strains and the divisions evident among us caused by different ways of thinking all threaten to destroy our hope.

The Incarnation of God in our human nature is the truth expressed by the Epiphany. This is also a charge to see the world – and our own lives – from God's point of view.

The Epiphany arms us with awareness that we are truly one. Every nation and people, every family and each unique individual are destined for a glory that is to be found in our own human nature through Jesus Christ. If we have the eyes to see it, everything is a grace.

concludes the Christmas season in our liturgy, highlights what baptism is all about.

Each soul is a beloved son, a beloved daughter of the living God. God, who is Father, Son and Holy Spirit, is manifested in our world through the power of the sacramental life that begins with baptism.

To be baptized is to fulfill our human destiny. John the Baptist reminds those who approach him for his form

## THE WEEKDAY BIBLE READINGS

1/3-1/8

## MONDAY

1 John 3:22-4:6  
Psalm 2:7bc, 8, 10-12a  
Matthew 4:12-17, 23-25

## TUESDAY

1 John 4:7-10  
Psalm 72:1-4, 7-8  
Mark 6:34-44

## WEDNESDAY

1 John 4:11-18  
Psalm 72:1-2, 10, 12-13  
Mark 6:45-52

## THURSDAY

1 John 4:19-5:4  
Psalm 72:1-2, 14, 15bc, 17  
Luke 4:14-22

## FRIDAY

1 John 5:5-13  
Psalm 147:12-15, 19-20  
Luke 5:12-16

## SATURDAY

1 John 5:14-21  
Psalm 149:1-6a, 9b  
John 3:22-30

1/10-1/15

## MONDAY

1 Samuel 1:1-8  
Psalm 116:12-19  
Mark 1:14-20

## TUESDAY

1 Samuel 1:9-20  
1 Samuel 2:1-4, 8abcd (Ps)

Mark 1:21-28

## WEDNESDAY

1 Samuel 3:1-10, 19-20  
Psalm 40:2, 5, 7-10  
Mark 1:21-28

## THURSDAY

1 Samuel 4:1-11  
Psalm 44:10, 11, 14-15, 24-25  
Mark 1:40-45

## FRIDAY

1 Samuel 8:4-7, 10-22a  
Psalm 89:16-19  
Mark 2:1-12

## SATURDAY

1 Samuel 9:1-4, 17-19; 10:1  
Psalm 21:2-7  
Mark 2:13-17

## DIOCESAN WEEKLY RADIO AND TELEVISION

## MASS SCHEDULE: WEEKS OF JAN. 2 AND JAN. 9, 2022

## SUNDAY MASS

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

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](http://www.stgabrielradio.com).

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

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

"We pray Weeks II and I of the Liturgy of the Hours.

Gold reminds us to give our best selves to the God Who offers salvation. Frankincense lifts our spirits, uniting us in worship and prayer before the one God, Who has sent His Son among us and Who empowers us by His Spirit to discover the mystery of our relationship with Him and with one another. Myrrh tempers our enthusiasm, chal-

lenging us to realize that the kingdom we see is not of this world but that we are destined to a higher realm, living God's own life.

Let us continue to come to Him, bearing our gifts, ever willing to discover the journey He has in store for us. The Light has come, and every nation on earth will see the glory of God.

of baptism, a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, that they have to change their way of life, how they relate to others. He makes clear that his baptism is a preparation for a more powerful form of baptism to be offered by the One Who is to come: "He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire."

When Jesus is baptized by John, the world is given a visible reminder that it is through Jesus, the beloved Son of

God, that divine life is given to those who are open to receive it. The Spirit become visible as a dove, recalling the new creation, and the Father's voice is heard expressing the intimacy of love that is shared: "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased."

It is fitting, on the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, for each of us to recall the day of our own baptism.

**BAPTISM, continued from Page 12**

Did it take place soon after our birth, with godparents and family members promising to raise us in awareness of the new dignity as sons and daughters of the Father that was conferred on us through water and the Holy Spirit?

Did we speak for ourselves at a later time of our lives, having come to the Catholic faith through the witness of others who drew us into the family of the Church?

It is also fitting for us to renew on this day the pledge made for us or that we made ourselves, so that we may commit ourselves once again to the life that is given to us through Jesus Christ.

The most recent revision of the Order of Baptism for Children has some adaptations that emphasize the role of the parents and the Christian community as the children are welcomed into the Church. At the beginning of the ritual, the celebrant addresses those gathered with these words:

Dear parents and godparents: Your families have experienced great joy at the birth of your children, and the Church shares your happiness. Today this joy has brought you to the Church to give thanks to God for the gift of your children and to celebrate a new birth in the waters of Baptism. This community

rejoices with you, for today the number of those baptized in Christ will be increased, and we offer you our support in raising your children in the practice of the faith.

Therefore, brothers and sisters, let us now prepare ourselves to participate in this celebration, listening to God's Word, praying for these children and their families, and renewing our commitment to the Lord and to his people.

Just before the baptismal vows, it is made clear that the sacrament of baptism is about the whole of life, not just a superficial ceremony that is a simple "rite of passage":

For your part, you must strive to bring them up in the faith, so that this divine life may be preserved from the contagion of sin, and may grow in them day by day. If your faith makes you ready to accept this responsibility, then, mindful of your own Baptism, renounce sin and profess faith in Christ Jesus, the faith of the Church, in which children are baptized.

As we recall the Baptism of Jesus, may we open our hearts to the action of His Spirit. May we be ever aware that we are children of God, endowed by our Father with the grace and life that free us to repent of sin and to live the very life of the Trinity.

**Local news and events**

**Holy Rosary-St. John sets MLK event**

The Columbus Community of Holy Rosary & St. John Church is hosting its annual Martin Luther King Day celebration on Monday, Jan. 17, from noon to 1:30 p.m. at the church, 660 S. Ohio Ave.

Guest speaker will be Andrea C. Pannell, vice president of stewardship for The Catholic Foundation.

Before joining the Foundation, Pannell served as director of development and planning for the Columbus diocese. She also serves on the diocesan Ethnic Ministries Board and its Hope Task Force.

Vernon Hairston will be directing the Gospel choir during the celebration.

For more information, email [hrsjevents@gmail.com](mailto:hrsjevents@gmail.com) or call (614) 252-5926, ext. 7.

**Retreat for dating, married couples offered at Newark St. Francis de Sales**

A retreat for singles discerning marriage, couples who are dating or engaged, and couples married for decades will be held Feb.

3-5 at Newark St. Francis de Sales Church, 40 Granville St.

The retreat, titled Unveiled: Discovering the Great Mystery in Your Marriage, aims to provide a vision for a mutually fulfilling and intimate marriage, based on Pope St. John Paul II's Theology of the Body.

The event will be led by Dr. Bob Schuchts of the John Paul II Healing Center in Tallahassee, Fla. Participants will learn about God's design for marriage and the skills needed to build unity, passion, intimacy, healing and reconciliation in marriage.

The retreat is available in-person and livestreamed and is sponsored by St. Francis de Sales Church, the diocesan Marriage & Family Life Office and St. Gabriel Catholic Radio.

Box lunch is included on Saturday. For more information, contact Unveiled-NewarkOH@gmail.com.

To register, visit <https://jpiihealingcenter.org/events/unveiled-discovering-the-great-mystery-in-your-marriage-newark-oh/>.

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# PRAY FOR OUR DEAD

**ADAIR, Dominique E. (Antommarchi), 36, Dec. 16**

St. Pius X Church, Reynoldsburg

**BANNING, Michael, 74, Dec. 5**

St. John Neumann Church, Sunbury

**BEDNARCZYK, Stanley P. Jr., 74, Dec. 15**

Our Lady of Peace Church, Columbus

**BERGMANN, Daniel J., 92, Dec. 13**

St. Ladislav Church, Columbus

**BOCSY, Margaret L., 86, Dec. 12**

Our Mother of Sorrows Chapel, Columbus

**BRESSLER, Dr. Franklin D., 88, Dec. 6**

St. Pius X Church, Reynoldsburg

**BRICKER SWARTZ, Margaret H., 86, Dec. 16**

St. Michael Church, Worthington

**CAHILL, Patricia M., 69, Dec. 1**

St. Pius X Church, Reynoldsburg

**COUDEN, Mary G. (Hatem), 92, Dec. 12**

St. Matthew Church, Gahanna

**DEW, James F., 89, Dec. 11**

St. Patrick Church, Columbus

**DILLON, Terry T., 76, Dec. 8**

St. John Neumann Church, Sunbury

**DIX, John F., 80, Dec. 14**

Our Lady of Victory Church, Columbus

**GIBBONS, Charles, 68, Dec. 6**

St. Joseph Church, Dover

**GILDEA, Peter T., 81, Dec. 20**

St. Brigid of Kildare Church, Dublin

**KOEBEL, Nancy A. (Selish), 85, Dec. 13**

Christ the King Church, Columbus

**KUNKLER, Marcia Ann "Pat," 89, Dec. 11**

St. Mary Church, Bremen

**MANUS, Demetrios A. "Demo" Jr., 21, Dec. 7**

St. Christopher Church, Columbus

**MARTIN, William T., 92, Dec. 13**

St. Mary Church, Delaware

**MATYAC, Cecilia "Cece," 79, Dec. 4**

St. Mary, Mother of God Church, Columbus

**NELSON, Floyd A. Jr., 94, Dec. 6**

Our Mother of Sorrows Chapel, Columbus

**O'NEIL, Marjorie, 95, Dec. 15**

Immaculate Conception Church, Columbus

**PACKARD, Ronald J. Jr., 56, Dec. 17**

St. Bernadette Church, Lancaster

**ROTOLO, Kathryn A., Dec. 2**

Christ the King Church, Columbus

**SCHWAN, Nancy L., 88, Dec. 17**

St. Christopher Church, Columbus

**THOMAS, LuAnne M., 64, Dec. 12**

St. Paul Church, Westerville

**TRAINOR, Maureen C. (Killilea), 80, Dec. 14**

Our Mother of Sorrows Chapel, Columbus

**UNGER, Joan, 93, Dec. 13**

Sacred Heart Church, Coshocton

**WALKER, William E., 90, Nov. 24**

St. Philip Church, Columbus

**WOLF, Michael C., 70, Nov. 29**

Our Mother of Sorrows Chapel, Columbus

**ZUBOVIC, Jacob J. "Jack," 90, Dec. 13**

St. Philip Church, Columbus

## Msgr. Edward Fairchild passed away on Dec. 24

Funeral Mass for Msgr. Edward J. Fairchild, 88, who died Friday, Dec. 24, was celebrated Wednesday, Dec. 29 at Pickerington St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish. Burial was at St. Joseph Cemetery, Columbus.

He was born on March 22, 1933 in Columbus to Joseph W. and Marie (Lawler) Fairchild.

He graduated from Columbus Holy Rosary High School in 1951. He then attended St. Charles College Seminary in Columbus and Mount St. Mary of the West Seminary in Cincinnati before he was ordained to the priesthood on May 30, 1959 at St. Joseph Cathedral by Bishop Clarence Isenmann.

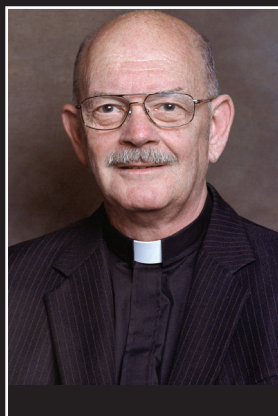
He was a teacher at the former Chillicothe Central Catholic High School and Columbus Bishop Hartley High School. His pastoral assignments included assistant pastor at Chillicothe St. Mary Church and Columbus Christ the King Church. He was co-pastor at Columbus Our Lady of Peace Church before becoming the founding pastor of Pickerington St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish in 1978. He went on to serve as pastor at Columbus St. Peter Church and Westerville St. Paul Church.

Msgr. Fairchild was a member of the priest senate and the diocesan finance review board, and was chairman of the bishop's committee on priests' salaries.

He was appointed a monsignor, with the title of prelate of honor, by Pope St. John Paul II on Sept. 24, 1992.

Following his retirement from active ministry in July 2003, he served for many years as weekend associate at Seton Parish and lived in south Columbus before moving to the Villas at St. Therese and McCrory Manor.

He is survived by his brothers William (Jean), Joseph Jr. (Elaine) and James (Linda), all of the Columbus area; five nieces, three nephews and numerous great-nieces and great-nephews.



## Sister Patricia Gavaghan, OP

Funeral Mass for Sister Patricia Gavaghan, OP, 83, who died Sunday, Dec. 12 at the Mohun Health Care Center, was celebrated Tuesday, Dec. 21 at the Motherhouse of the Dominican Sisters of Peace. Burial was at St. Joseph Cemetery, Columbus.

She was born on Sept. 2 1938 in New York City to Patrick and Catherine (Crehan) Gavaghan.

She was a graduate of St. Vincent Ferrer School in New York City and attended the Thorpe Secretarial School in New York before entering the congregation of the Dominican Sisters of St. Mary of the Springs (now the Dominican Sisters

of Peace) in 1957. She pronounced her first vows in 1959, taking the name Sister Mary Agnese.

She had lived in Columbus since 1986, working at the Mohun center as a driver from 1986 to 2003 and in the central supply department from 2008 to 2014 and as a member of the transportation team at the Motherhouse from 2003 to 2008. She also worked at the former St. Joseph Priory in Somerset from 1960 to 1962 and in food service in Connecticut and New York. She moved to the Mohun center in 2016.

She was preceded in death by her parents and a sister, Anna.

## Mildred Gain

Funeral Mass for Mildred Gain, 71, who died Monday, Dec. 6, was celebrated Wednesday, Dec. 29 at Columbus St. Peter Church. Burial was at Resurrection Cemetery, Lewis Center.

She was born on Dec. 29, 1949 in the Philippines to the late Zacarias and Natividad (Gabat) Valdez.

She received a Bachelor of Science degree in commerce and accounting from Stella Maris College in Quezon City, the Philippines, came to the United States with her husband, Fred, in 1972 and lived in the Chicago and Houston areas before moving to Worthington in 1989.

She was chief financial officer of Catholic Social Services from 1997 to 2003, then was employed in the same posi-

tion by LifeCare Alliance of Columbus until her retirement in 2020. She earlier worked for the Grant Thornton accounting firm in Chicago and Sanese Services in Columbus.

At St. Peter Church, she was an extraordinary minister of the Eucharist, president of the parish finance committee, led several fundraising activities and volunteered for Meals on Wheels.

She is survived by her husband; sons, John (Leilani) Gain and James (Elizabeth); daughter, Margaret (David) McKenzie; brothers, Efren, Joseph (Liza), Lincoln and Terry (Emy); sisters, Lorna (Steve) Straw and Marilyn (Norrie) Romero; and five grandchildren.

# Women's Care Center offering white ribbons to support life

"We had no idea how to be parents," Leah said.

Leah and her boyfriend, Andrew, had college and their whole lives ahead of them. Plus, Leah's family members were strong Catholics. She didn't know how to tell them about her unexpected pregnancy. How could they continue?

They continued because of you.

"I just remember Women's Care Center giving me a lot of peace about my decision to keep her," Leah said of her daughter. "I can tell that people at Women's Care Center are genuinely nonjudgmental. I really felt like God was calling me to be a parent right now."

Leah accepted the call and leaned on Women's Care Center of Columbus every step. Now, she is happy with Andrew and baby Marrabella.

Leah and Andrew are both working in the medical field at the local hospital where they nervously delivered their baby just a year before.

"I don't think I'd be able to live without this little, frisky child of mine!" Leah said. This young mom wants you to know how grateful she is.

"Having someone here with such



**Leah and her baby are pictured above. White ribbons (above right) will be available at parishes on the weekends of Jan. 16 and 23.**

clarity of how to help me was so big for someone like me who was so scared."

Every year, thousands of women like Leah walk through the doors of Women's Care Center. And, because



of you, they are welcomed into an environment where they are valued, heard, supported and empowered to choose life.

With 1 in 9 babies in Franklin County getting their start with help from the Women's Care Center, no one serves more pregnant women or new moms. And, after a choice for life, the center offers help to create nurturing parents and build strong families.

The March for Life is coming soon. This January, after speaking with Catholic advisory members in the

community, the Women's Care Center will be offering parishes throughout Franklin County an opportunity to honor the local families facing unplanned pregnancy, their little ones and all of the little ones not here today.

To support locally, wear a white pin ribbon, which will be distributed at your Catholic parish.

During the weekends of Jan. 16 and 23, these white pin ribbons will be made available throughout the Diocese of Columbus donated by the Women's Care Center and distributed after Masses by community volunteers.

You can wear your ribbon throughout January as a way to honor, pray for and remember babies lost to abortion. And, we hope that wearing these ribbons will spark conversation about the dignity of each woman and child and the good work being done to support families facing unplanned pregnancy and parenthood today.

To find out if your parish is participating in the white ribbon distribution, contact Madeline Pesavento at [madeline@supportwcc.org](mailto:madeline@supportwcc.org). You can also email her to tour the Women's Care Center and see the lifesaving and joyful work happening there.

## DeSales High School students help needy mom-to-be

Juniors and seniors in the child development classes at Columbus St. Francis DeSales High School recently undertook a special service project.

The students were learning about pregnancy and prenatal development in the classes. They decided a baby shower would be the perfect way to support a pregnant woman. After praying that God would lead them to a woman in need, they were quickly connected with a community college student who was expecting her first child. This young mom participates in a program at Catholic Social Services called Stay the Course®.

Stay the Course® addresses barriers such as housing or family issues that often cause students to drop out of school. The goal of the program is to increase community college completion for low-income students.

Stay the Course® has a track record of improving outcomes for vulnerable students. Program participants are twice as likely to graduate as those in a comparison group. Female students are four times more likely to graduate.

A teacher from St. Francis DeSales contacted Julie Naporano, director of development for Catholic Social Services. Her response: "Students help-



**Juniors and seniors in child development classes at Columbus St. Francis DeSales High School display the baby care and layette items they collected to present to a young pregnant mother as part of Catholic Social Services' Stay the Course program, which helps vulnerable students remain in school and greatly increases the chances of graduation.**

*Photo courtesy Catholic Social Services*

ing students! What a wonderful role model for all."

After speaking with Naporano, the high school students began planning to provide for this first-time mother and college student. They hosted a bake sale at the high school that sold out

in the first two lunch periods. Students and staff members also made cash donations, and alumni parents made contributions as well. Enough money was raised to buy the needed items.

Students shopped for baby care and layette items. Before delivering the

gifts, the students wrapped the presents and wrote notes of encouragement.

Child development is an elective course open to juniors and seniors at St. Francis DeSales. The class teaches the importance of family as the building block of society. Students learn about family and cultural traditions. They also discuss developmentally rich activities for young children and the positive role fathers play in marriage and parenting.

Students also explore the science of life from conception to birth. They learn about pregnancy health for mom and baby. Natural family planning, adoption, miscarriage and birth defects are all covered. Students discuss screening and early intervention for children with developmental disabilities.

Additionally, students learn about the impact of poverty on children and families. The class explores resources available to families through Catholic Social Services and other organizations.

Naporano spoke to the class about the work of Catholic Social Services and the impact of the Stay the Course® program.

To learn more about Stay the Course® and Catholic Social Services, visit [colscss.org](http://colscss.org) or contact Naporano at 614-857-1236.

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