

# The Catholic **TIMES**

The Diocese of Columbus' Information Source

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## OUR LADY OF PEACE CHURCH, SCHOOL STILL GOING STRONG AFTER 75 YEARS

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## Local news and events

## Columbus Catholic Renewal to sponsor praise meeting

The Columbus Catholic Renewal organization will sponsor a citywide praise and adoration meeting from 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, April 24 at Columbus Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal Church, 5225 Refugee Road.

The program will include Mass celebrated by Father Dean Mathewson, a teaching by Patrick Shroyer on "The Promise of the Father," worship music by Michael Melliore, and Eucharistic Adoration. The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available and healing and prayer teams will be on hand. Safe-distancing requirements will be observed and masks will be required.

Columbus Catholic Renewal is under the authority of Bishop Robert Brennan, with Father Mathewson as its liaison to the bishop. For more information, call (614) 980-3021.

## Father Toner plans pilgrimage

Father Pat Toner, pastor of Columbus St. Mary Magdalene and St. Aloysius churches, has rescheduled the pilgrimage to the Passion Play in Oberammergau, Germany, which was canceled in 2020 because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

New dates for the pilgrimage are May 17 to 28, 2022. It also will include stops in Berlin, Dresden, Prague, Vienna, Salzburg and Munich.

This will be Father Toner's fourth time to see the world-famous play, which takes place once every 10 years. He is an experienced tour guide who has led pilgrimages to Ireland, the Holy Land, Italy, Lourdes, Fatima, South Africa, Iceland, and in the Footsteps of St. Paul. He has celebrated Mass on all seven continents, including at the South Pole.

For more information, contact Fa-

ther Toner at patricktoner00@gmail.com or 473 S. Roys Ave., Columbus OH 43204.

## Josephinum 4-Miler to resume

The Pontifical College Josephinum's annual 4-Miler run/walk, which was canceled last year because of the COVID-19 pandemic, will resume Saturday, Oct. 2 at the college's campus, 7625 N. High St., Columbus.

The field size will be limited to the first 800 entrants and the start time is set for 9 a.m. This year's event will be run entirely on the college grounds. Parking will be available at One Crosswoods Center or Two Crosswoods Center, immediately across from the race course.

Race packet pickup will begin at 7:30 a.m. on the event day. Pre-race packet pickup will be available at Fleet Feet Sports, 1270 E. Powell Road, Lewis Center.

Participants should register using the Josephinum 4-Miler's event page maintained by M3S Sports. The website address is [www.m3ssports.com/events/Josephinum.htm](http://www.m3ssports.com/events/Josephinum.htm).

Gift bags for all registrants will include a loaf of bread, a bottle of wine or a jar of Trappist jam, an event T-shirt and retail coupons. Commemorative medals and ribbons will be presented to each participant after crossing the finish line.

More than 600 participants, including 36 Josephinum seminarians, registered to participate in the 2019 running of the event. The first running was in 2018.

The run/walk will be sponsored by the Friends of the Josephinum, which has raised more than \$1 million since 2001 to cover the unexpected expenses of Josephinum seminarians.

## Father Smith to speak at retreat

Father Stephen Smith, parochial vicar at Powell St. Joan of Arc Church, will lead a men's retreat at the Maria Stein Spiritual Center in Mercer County from Friday, May 14 to Sunday, May 16.

The retreat will be sponsored by the Knights of Columbus Council of Hilliard St. Brendan the Navigator Church, but all men are invited to attend. Its theme will be "The Spirituality of the Holy Family." Father Smith will give presentations on Mary, Joseph, Jesus, and spiritual growth and our Christian mission.

Casual attire is appropriate for the weekend. The cost is \$170, which includes all meals and a private room with bath. A one-night Saturday-Sunday package is available for \$110. For registration information, contact Gerry at (614) 946-8117 or email [Gerryliz90@gmail.com](mailto:Gerryliz90@gmail.com).

## Floral offering to be presented at Holy Cross' First Friday Mass

A floral offering will be presented to the Virgin Mary during the monthly first Friday Mass at 7:30 p.m. May 7 at Columbus Holy Cross Church, 205 S. 5th St. Those attending are asked to bring their own small bouquets. Vases will be stationed by the image of Mary. A Holy Hour with communal prayers will follow the Mass.

The Eucharistic Vigil Association has resumed its longstanding practice of attending the 7:30 p.m. First Friday Mass at Holy Cross, followed by the Holy Hour, but there no longer are confessions during the Holy Hour.

## Watterson sports camp schedule available

Columbus Bishop Watterson High School's summer sports camp schedule is out and registration is open.

The school is offering camps for baseball, boys basketball, girls basketball, cheerleading, field hockey,

football, boys and girls lacrosse, boys soccer, girls soccer, track and girls volleyball. Go to [bishopwatterson.com/athletics/eagle-summer-sports-camps](http://bishopwatterson.com/athletics/eagle-summer-sports-camps) for dates, registration and other details. Theater and wood shop camp information will be available soon.

## Longtime professor to speak at ODU commencement

Dr. Ronald Carstens, professor of political science at Ohio Dominican University (ODU), will deliver the keynote address to more than 200 graduates, as well as faculty, staff, alumni, family and friends at ODU's 112th commencement ceremony at 11 a.m. Saturday, May 8.

To help ensure the health and safety of all participants because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the ceremony will take place outside in Panther Stadium, located on ODU's campus at 1216 Sunbury Road. There will be a baccalaureate Mass at 9 a.m. in the Sister Mary Andrew Matesich, OP Theater on the second floor of Erskine Hall. Both ceremonies will be available via livestream.

Because the pandemic forced the university to cancel last spring's ceremony, members of both last year's and this year's graduating classes have been invited to participate, with each participant receiving as many as four guest tickets.

"After the challenging and extraordinary historical events of the past year, I have never been so eager to celebrate and recognize a class of graduates than I am at this very moment," said Dr. Robert Gervasi, ODU president.

Carstens, the keynote speaker, has been teaching at ODU for 47 years. During that time, he has directed its humanities program and chaired the departments of history, political science and criminal justice. In 2002, he

## CORRECTION

In a story in the April 11 *Catholic Times*, an incorrect last name was given for the late Father Rod DiPietro, former associate pastor at Reynoldsburg St. Pius X Church. Father Rod Damico, whose name was erroneously mentioned, is a retired priest of the Diocese of Columbus who lives in Morrow County.

See LOCAL NEWS, Page 15



Front Page photo:

**OUR LADY OF PEACE THRIVES AT 75**  
Our Lady of Peace Church, established in 1946 on Columbus' north side, is commemorating 75 years of service to the Catholic faithful with a number of special events in 2021.

CT photo by Ken Snow

## Catholic TIMES

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Bishop Robert J. Brennan: President & Publisher  
Doug Bean: Editor ([dbean@columbuscatholic.org](mailto:dbean@columbuscatholic.org))  
Tim Puet: Reporter ([tpuet@columbuscatholic.org](mailto:tpuet@columbuscatholic.org))  
K. Colston-Woodruff: Graphic Designer  
Mailing Address: 197 E. Gay St., Columbus OH 43215  
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# Real Presence, Real Future in our Catholic schools

By Adam J. Dufault

Recently, a friend connected me to a small book with a big, powerful message. Msgr. James P. Shea, the president of the University of Mary in North Dakota, published an essay titled, *From Christendom to Apostolic Mission*. In it, Msgr. Shea argues that our Church has encountered a new era of history, as we have seen the end of the time when one could assume that a Christian worldview is the shared norm, a time that he calls the era of Christendom. In response to our new era, the Church must go back to its foundation and reconnect with its apostolic roots. The very first apostles, he wrote, began sharing the Good News with nothing but the grace of the Holy Spirit – just 11 people gathered and charged to “make disciples of all nations” in a hostile land. Their success, and our model to follow, is missionary discipleship.

It is in this same spirit that our Diocese has embraced Bishop Robert Brennan’s call “to increase the presence of Christ throughout the Diocese and uphold the Faith for future generations of Ohioans” through the Real Presence, Real Future initiative. By going back to our foundations and



re-kindling the truth of our faith in all Catholics, we will bring forward a renewal of our Church here in the Diocese of Columbus.

I have the honor of serving as the superintendent of Catholic schools here in our Diocese. Our 53 schools, which serve more than 16,000 students from preschool through 12th grade, play a special part in bringing forward this new vision. Our schools are called to increase the presence of Christ within our students, bringing to life Msgr. Shea’s idea that “the importance is not found in numbers but in the intensity of the flame, as the Apostles understood.”

To do this, our schools have been engaged in a strategic planning process over the past year. Our goal is to establish a comprehensive plan for the schools of the Diocese and the Office of Catholic Schools over the next three to five years that will ensure that the schools are unapologetically Catholic, academically excellent, and financially viable well into the future. This plan

will address four key elements.

First, we want to affirm the importance of Catholic education in our Diocese, recognizing that our Diocese is not a one-size-fits-all environment. We want to ensure that we have structures in place that encourage collaboration and coordination among the schools while recognizing the distinct needs of the communities they serve.

Second, we are working to create a plan that nurtures and celebrates the Catholic identity of our schools. Our schools must be enthusiastically and unapologetically Catholic – no question about that. Several efforts are already underway in this area, a thorough revision of the religion curriculum for schools, and a new approach to teacher certification.

The third goal is to examine the supportive structures that are in place for the schools. We need to look at new governance models with the goal of creating a small array of models that can be matched to the local needs of each school, connecting with and supporting the parish structures that are being addressed by other plans. We have a critical need to re-envision the financial model that we have used in the Diocese, and we also must look at new curricular models that better meet local needs. At the same time, the Of-

fice of Catholic Schools must adapt to facilitate this work, as our primary purpose must be to provide service and support to the schools. We are already starting to restructure to do this, putting an emphasis on direct service for government affairs, finance, marketing, enrollment, development, religious instruction, curriculum, assessment and personnel.

Finally, the planning process will help us lay a foundation for the future. If we can set these goals properly and create the right action steps and timelines, we can create a structure that will keep our schools viable and growing for the future. It is possible, but it requires this hard work of planning.

In Pope Francis’ 2019 encyclical, *Christus Vivit*, the Holy Father tells us that young people are “the ‘Now’ of God.” They are not just the future of our Church and our world, they are the present. Our Catholic schools are the best way to surround our students with the love of Jesus Christ and to inspire a deep relationship with Him and His Church, forming the missionary disciples who will transform the world just like those first Apostles.

*Adam J. Dufault is the Episcopal Moderator for Education and Superintendent of Schools in the Diocese of Columbus.*

## Marketing CEO helps caring companies thrive

*The following story is the seventh in a series on missionary discipleship in the Diocese of Columbus. Video interviews with the missionary disciples are available on the diocese’s YouTube, Facebook, Twitter and Instagram accounts.*

By Tim Puet  
Catholic Times Reporter

Marc Hawk of the RevLocal marketing firm says that by helping businesses thrive, he not only is fulfilling his company’s mission, but he’s also practicing missionary discipleship in a way that suits him.

“RevLocal helps business owners gain and retain customers by using digital marketing strategies to enable them to flourish in a time of rapid change,” he said. “What we do is not directly about evangelization, but about the ability to work together to do good things. It’s good for the world because it’s helping business owners



**RevLocal’s Marc Hawk holds a picture of his family. Photo courtesy Andy Mackey**

protect their businesses and, in turn, their families.”

“It doesn’t matter whether business owners are Christian when we work



Fourth Sunday of Easter, April 25, 2021  
The Good Shepherd  
Stephanie Rapp, Westerville St. Paul Church & RPRF  
Commission Member

In today’s Gospel, Jesus describes Himself as a good shepherd, leading, caring for, and protecting His sheep. Knowing the flock intimately, a good shepherd claims them as his own just as Jesus does for us. A good shepherd is always present, never abandoning the flock, even in the midst of danger. He sacrifices out of love, just as Jesus sacrificed Himself for our salvation! Jesus is the Good Shepherd, always present in our lives, inviting us to trust in Him. As members of his flock, may we respond in faith, listening to and following Him as he guides us into the future.

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

bus, visit [www.RealPresenceRealFuture.org](http://www.RealPresenceRealFuture.org).

En el evangelio de hoy, Jesús se describe a sí mismo como un buen pastor, el cual lidera, cuida y protege a sus ovejas. Conociendo íntimamente a su rebaño, un buen pastor puede reclamarlas como suyas, así como Jesús lo hace por nosotros. Un buen pastor está siempre presente, nunca abandona al rebaño, incluso en medio del peligro. El buen pastor se sacrifica por amor, así como Jesús se sacrificó a sí mismo por nuestra salvación! Jesús es el Buen Pastor, siempre presente en nuestras vidas, invitándonos a confiar en Él. Como miembros de su rebaño, debemos responder con fe, escuchándole y siguiéndole mientras nos guía hacia el futuro.

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

Fifth Sunday of Easter, May 2, 2021  
Are you Bearing Fruit?  
Dcn. Jesus (Jesse) Figueroa Jr., Columbus St. Mary  
Magdalene Church & RPRF Commission Member

The Glory of God manifests itself to produce fruit in abundance. When we are connected and intentional about our relationship with God, we produce the fruit God is cultivating within us. We must stay firmly attached to the vine. As Disciples of Christ, we must stay firmly connected to Him and take action. We must pray and listen to God’s word and share with others His message of love. This brings strength, nourishment and energy from the vine. We are then connected and bear fruit. It is God who does the work in us; our fruit bearing

is all because of Him.

La gloria de Dios se manifiesta en sí misma para producir frutos en abundancia. Cuando estamos conectados con Dios y deseamos profundizar nuestra relación con Él, producimos los frutos que Dios ha cultivado en nosotros. Debemos permanecer firmes unidos a la vid. Como discípulos de Cristo, debemos estar firmemente conectados con Él y tomar acción. Debemos orar y escuchar la palabra de Dios y compartir con los demás Su mensaje de amor. Esto nos da fortaleza, nos nutre y nos da la energía que proviene de la vid. Solo así estaremos conectados y daremos frutos. Es Dios quien hace el trabajo en nosotros, los frutos que damos son solo por gracia de Él.

## You are my witnesses

This past Sunday's Gospel recounts another one of Jesus' post-Resurrection appearances to His apostles and disciples. It also shows that those same apostles and disciples had difficulty recognizing that the Jesus who stood before them was not a ghost but fully alive in His humanity and His divinity. We tend to give these apostles and disciples a hard time by questioning how those who were closest to Jesus in His public ministry could not recognize this. But in so many ways, we are not at all that different, certainly as a society and also as individual believers, in failing to recognize the fully alive humanity of those around us and God's presence within them. It has a lot to do with the circumstances and prior experiences that cloud the reality in front of them. How we understand, even what we see, is more subjective than we realize.

For the apostles and disciples, the brutal reality of Jesus' crucifixion, the unfulfilled hopes for a Messiah whose kingdom was of this world, and the fear of suffering a similar fate made it very difficult to understand that the Jesus standing in their midst was alive. Jesus had to invite them to touch his flesh and feel his bones. He had to do what no ghost could do, eat a real fish in their presence. He had to enlarge their understanding of Scripture. And then they believed. Jesus told them that they were to be witnesses of this.

### FAITH IN ACTION

Mark Huddy

*Mark Huddy is the Episcopal Moderator for Catholic Charities and the Office for Social Concerns in the Diocese of Columbus.*



Now what about us? Circumstances in our own lives or in our family of origin, difficult past experiences or the effects of generational sins may cloud our ability to see the full humanity of people around us, who don't look like us, or who don't think like us, or who may threaten us by their success or their need, their strength or their vulnerability, their cries for justice or their extension of mercy. All social issues are connected in some way to our inability to see the sacred dignity and the fully alive humanity of fellow travelers with us. Hunger, homelessness, poverty, unemployment, abortion, euthanasia, racism, immigration issues and armed conflict bear in their roots the denial of the dignity and humanity of the other. The clearing of our vision happens when we are willing to encounter another, when we are willing to touch and feel the pain of their experience, and when we are willing to allow God to enter in and enlarge our understanding. When we see, we are given opportunities to be witnesses.

Recently, the United States Conference of Catho-

lic Bishops has given us two opportunities to be witnesses to the fact that life in the womb and at birth is both sacred and fully human. The Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act (BAASPA) is a bill to protect the lives of babies born during or after an abortion attempt. It insists that doctors must provide the same care as he/she would for any other child born at that same gestational age if an abortion had not been attempted. It also requires the newborn to be immediately transferred to a hospital, thus ensuring the baby is provided with appropriate neonatal care outside the influence of the provider who was paid to end his/her life. To take action to support this bill, go to: <https://www.voterve.net/USCCB/Campaigns/83732/Respond>.

The Hyde Amendment, contained in the federal government's annual appropriations legislation, prohibits federal funding of domestic abortions, except in cases of rape, incest or to save the life of the mother. It is a bipartisan provision that has been part of federal appropriations for 45 years (since 1976). Hyde and Hyde-related policies save lives and respect the consciences of Americans. However, these policies are now under grave threat of being repealed. To support unborn human life and freedom of conscience, go to: <https://www.voterve.net/USCCB/Campaigns/83763/Respond>. Be a witness.

## Christ offered peace to stricken apostles; should we do less?

I often imagine what the apostles must have felt like after the crucifixion. I imagine their hearts so battered from the loss of Jesus, only then to rejoice in wonder and awe at the news of His resurrection.

His visits must have been balm to their weary souls. There they were in the upper room with the door locked in fear of being caught. Tensions were high, and tempers might have been running short, but then He appears. His first words to them are, "Peace be with you." He actually repeats himself and says it again, "Peace be with you."

I recently went on a women's retreat at Damascus Catholic Mission Campus where Father Bill Hahn preached on this gospel. I spent time in prayer thinking about each moment. Why did Jesus say it twice? How were the apostles feeling? I tried to imagine their thoughts and how they might receive His greeting.

There is, of course, the literal and immediate interpretation where Jesus is recognizing that what is happening outside the locked doors of the upper room is dangerous and concerning. His words of peace offer calm and invite trust. And, from personal experience, these men know Jesus can calm any storm.

Why then did he repeat it? What might his offer of peace really mean? In Father Hahn's homily, he described these men abandoning Jesus in the darkest hour. These are the men who fell asleep while on watch, denied Him when asked if they were followers and are now hiding out for fear of knowing Him.

I wonder, however, if in the recesses of their hearts they wondered if He knew everything. Did He know who had left? Did He know who denied him? Who hid? Like Adam and Eve, who hid from the Lord after they first sinned, perhaps the apostles were hiding from their shame of having left Him in his hour of need. And now, He is resurrected. How

### 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.*



does one reconcile with that?

Peace is sometimes defined as freedom from disturbances. It is also defined as a state where there is no war or where war has ended. It is this second definition that gives me pause. I think of my own wars, so many of which are internal and hold me captive.

The person whose words left me bruised and beaten, the judgment I make of others on a daily basis and the division that stands between myself and a friend all are interior wars that I fight with myself.

I firmly believe that the words Christ spoke are not for naught. Each word has deep and profound meaning and is to be modelled. What if we used these words, so often spoken on a Sunday morning during the sign of peace, and offered them to our enemies? What if we didn't have any enemies because we sought to see Christ in those we encounter? What if in every conflict,

whether with a co-worker, our children, the waitress or a friend, our first words, like those of Jesus, were to offer peace?

Think about it. We can think to ourselves, in the spirit of Christ, I am offering peace and accepting His healing into this situation. I lead with mercy. That's what Jesus did. He led with mercy right from the start. He saw his disciples, and His words spoken were direct and intentional.

The next time we find ourselves at war internally or externally, let us seek to imitate what the Lord models and lead with an offer of peace that surpasses our understanding and delivers us from all that holds us captive. Christ calls us to a life of freedom. Let us embrace it in its fullness and glory.



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PONTIFICAL COLLEGE JOSEPHINUM

## Woe to compare

One of the tenets of physical strength training is to listen to your body and go at your own pace. It can be tempting to compare our progress to others, but comparison can lead to discouragement and frustration. It can take the fun out of our little successes.

Theodore Roosevelt said, “Comparison is the thief of joy.”

In the spiritual life, comparison can also lead to discouragement. God gives each of us different gifts and inspirations about how to use them. Praying for guidance, being faithful to the Sacraments, and learning about ourselves through the study of scripture are some ways God reveals who we are through Him and how we are called to use our gifts and talents to accomplish our unique mission.

St. Paul addressed comparison in 2 Corinthians 10:12, “Not that we dare to class or compare ourselves with some of those who recommend themselves. But when they measure themselves by one

### HOLY AND HEALTHY

Lori Crock



*Lori Crock is a parishioner at Plain City St. Joseph Church. Lori leads SoulCore Rosary prayer and exercise at parishes, teaches physical strength classes and writes about faith and fitness at holyandhealthycatholic.com.*

another and compare themselves with one another, they are without understanding.”

As Christians, we are called to support, encourage, love and be inspired by each other. We are on the same team! We are each given unique gifts for the purpose of lifting up the Body of Christ and bringing people to Christ. How ineffective we would be if we all had the same gifts!

God is so generous and has such great plans for each of us that if we wallow in the fact that some people have more gifts (or what we consider better

gifts) than we do, we may miss out on our unique mission and purpose. Most certainly, comparison opens the door to Satan to discourage us and perhaps even stop us from striving for holiness (and sainthood!) altogether.

Christ knows our individual strength and weaknesses and he works with us just as we are — so let us seek Him rather than looking to people to give us our mission and identity. St. Francis de Sales said, “Be who you are and be that well.”

Let us pray for the humility to be honest with ourselves about our gifts and to patiently discern how to use them. Often our mission is small and hidden, but of no less importance than what appears to be someone else’s grandiose mission. May we be grateful for whatever gifts we have and pray to find God’s peace and joy in living authentically with Him as our guide.

## Saint’s writings on faith, reason reveal connection

“Oh, how great is the goodness of God, greater than we can understand.”— St. Maria Faustina Kowalska

Welcome to Aquinas Corner! This column will highlight how reason aids in understanding the mystery of our faith and has application in our day-to-day lives. I will draw from various sources including *Practical Theology: Spiritual Direction from St. Thomas Aquinas* by Peter Kreeft, Church documents such as the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, papal encyclicals such as *Fides et Ratio* (Faith and Reason) and the Bible.

I could give you a lengthy biography of St. Thomas Aquinas, but all you need to know about him is that he really loved God and you. Notice I said *you* and not *others*. Granted, he didn’t know you personally.

Let me explain. In 1272, Thomas went to Naples to teach and to finish the *Summa Theologiae*. On one occasion while celebrating Mass, three of his brethren saw him lifted in ecstasy, and they heard a voice proceeding from the crucifix on the altar, saying, “Thou hast written well of me, Thomas; what reward wilt thou have?” Thomas replied, “None other than Thyself, Lord.”

Wow!! Read that again: “well of me,” not “me and the Church” or “me and others” or “me and (fill in the blank). Me! As Christ is the mystical body of the Church, you are members of that body, therefore Thomas wrote well of Him and of you.

St. Thomas relied on many great saints such as St. Augustine and non-saints such as Origen, an early theologian and biblical scholar. St. Thomas even found inspiration from pagans such as Aristotle and Plato. He never began to write without previous prayer and tears. Whenever a doubt arose, he had recourse to prayer. After shedding many tears, he would return to his work, newly enlightened and instructed.

### AQUINAS CORNER

Richard Arnold



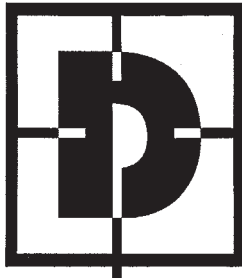
*Richard Arnold, a parishioner at Chillicothe St. Mary, holds an MA in Catechetics and Evangelization from Franciscan University of Steubenville and is a husband and a father to two children.*

In *Fides et Ratio*, Pope St. John Paul II says, “Faith and reason are like two wings on which the human spirit rises to the contemplation of truth; and God has placed in the human heart a desire to know the truth – in a word, to know himself – so that, by knowing and loving God, men and women may also come to the fullness of truth about themselves (cf. Exodus 33:18; Psalms 27:8-9; 63:2-3; John 14:8; 1 John 3:2).” It is through his writings, namely the *Summa Theologiae*, that we will journey together learning about faith and reason.

St. Thomas never finished his *Summa*. On Dec. 6, 1273, he laid aside his pen and would write no more. That day he experienced an unusually long ecstasy during Mass; what was revealed to him we can only surmise from his reply to Father Reginald, who urged him to continue his writings: “I can write no more, for compared with what I have seen, everything I have ever written is only straw.” Detractors say, “See, even he said what he had written was ‘straw.’”

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## Hans Küng and the perils of fame

During his 1977 rookie year with the Baltimore Orioles, future Hall of Famer Eddie Murray got a piece of advice from veteran Lee May: If you've got talent, May told the 21-year-old slugger, fame can't help you, but the odds are it'll ruin you. Murray followed May's sage counsel and avoided the limelight. Father Hans Küng, the mediagenic Swiss Catholic writer who died at age 93 on April 6, didn't. Therein lies a sad tale.

Hans Küng certainly had talent. His doctoral dissertation on Karl Barth, arguably the greatest of 20th-century Protestant theologians, became a pioneering book in ecumenical theology. His small tract, *The Council: Reform and Reunion*, helped frame the discussion at Vatican II's critical first session. Küng could also recognize and promote talent; he personally engineered Joseph Ratzinger's appointment to a professorial chair in the prestigious theology department at the University of Tübingen.

Yet, mythologies notwithstanding, Hans Küng had virtually no impact on the great documents of the Second Vatican Council. During the council years, he spent more of his time in Rome with the world press and with the "Off Broadway" council of public lectures and debates than doing the harder work of developing Vatican II's texts. Ratzinger, by contrast, made critically important contributions to several conciliar documents. So did Belgian theologian Gérard Philips, who got (at best) .0001 percent of the media attention Küng received, but who was so influential in developing what the Council actually taught that another important Vatican II theologian, French Dominican Yves Congar, joked that "Vatican II" should be renamed "Louvain I," after Philips's university.

During and after the Vatican II years, Hans Küng

### THE CATHOLIC DIFFERENCE

George Weigel

*George Weigel is the Distinguished Senior Fellow at the Ethics and Public Policy Center in Washington, D.C.*



invented and then exploited a new personality type: the dissident Catholic theologian as international media star. Handsome, articulate, and a reliable spokesman for the progressive cause of the moment, Küng was one of the first Catholic intellectuals to figure out that the world press couldn't resist the man-bites-dog storyline in which a Catholic thinker challenges Church doctrine – and does so in ways that confirm progressive cultural biases. Thus the man who once wrote a truly bold book (*Justification: The Doctrine of Karl Barth and a Catholic Reflection*) became more of a media personality than a serious Catholic theologian. And with the 1971 book, *Infallible? An Inquiry*, Küng declared himself in sharp dissent from a defined dogma of the apostolic faith.

Thus whatever his influence among the Davos elites – and one must hope that this man who never left the priesthood had some spiritual impact with that ultramundane world – it's arguable that Hans Küng's most serious contribution to theology after his book on Barth was an accident of the academic sabbatical system. For as he was about to go on leave from the university one year, Küng asked Joseph Ratzinger to take over one his Tübingen courses – and Ratzinger's lectures in that course became the international bestseller, *Introduction to Christianity*.

Hans Küng was admirably clear about his posi-

tion: he did not believe to be true, nor would he teach as the truth, what the Catholic Church definitively taught to be true. Thus it should have come as no surprise to anyone when, on December 15, 1979, the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith agreed with Father Küng, declared that he "could not be considered a Catholic theologian," and withdrew his mandate to teach as a "Professor of Catholic Theology." The German episcopate agreed with CDF's decision, which reflected the bottom-line Catholic conviction that, thanks to the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, the Church abides in a truth it can articulate authoritatively, even as its understanding of that truth develops. (Things have, obviously, changed among the German bishops.)

The last decades of Hans Küng's life were marked by bitter attacks on Pope John Paul II and Pope Benedict XVI – although the latter, always the Christian gentleman, invited his old Tübingen colleague to share an afternoon with him at Castel Gandolfo, shortly after his election. At certain points, as I noted in a 2010 open letter to Father Küng (<https://www.firstthings.com/web-exclusives/2010/04/an-open-letter-to-hans-kng>), those anti-papal polemics descended into the toxic waste dump of calumny, not least because of Küng's inability to liberate himself from liberal shibboleths on everything from abortion to AIDS to Catholic-Islamic relations to stem cell research – a sorry record for an intelligent man.

Lee May's warning to Eddie Murray was spot on: fame is dangerous. Which is why, to paraphrase F.R. Leavis on the literary Sitwells, Hans Küng belongs more to the history of publicity than the history of the theology. *Requiescat in pace.*

## Holy Sacrifice of the Mass unites us with Christ's Atonement

By Michael Ford

The Palm Sunday edition of *The Catholic Times* includes a column written by Mary van Balen in which she shares her struggle with Calvinism's Penal Substitutionary Atonement Theory.

It's clear that she has been trying to make the cross of Christ make sense to her, following the lead of Richard Rohr, who teaches that Jesus grew into and became the Christ, as well as some other ideas that undermine orthodox Catholic doctrine. Van Balen's article warrants a Catholic response.

As a convert from the amalgamation that is evangelical Protestantism, I have also wrestled with a substitutionary understanding of the Atonement for the same reason van Balen does: It paints God the Father as a heavenly ogre who demands blood be spilled to make up for us breaking His rules.

Having been taught that Jesus went to the cross *in our place*, I struggled hard and for many years to understand the doctrine of the Atonement in a way that made sense to me. Having intentionally and actively consumed Catholic teaching since coming into

### READERS REFLECTIONS

the Church in 2015, I have found the antidote for that struggle in the holy sacrifice of the Mass.

Van Balen and others who wrestle with this element of Calvinism need look no further than the Mass for their answer because Christian worship is not the feelings of affection we give God, but the offering of our very selves.

Throughout salvation history, sacrifice, offering and worship have been interchangeable terms going back to Abraham and the institution of temple sacrifice, which are the context for the Atonement and which are fulfilled by Jesus' offering of Himself to God as the most valuable gift anyone could give the Father to reconcile us to Him.

St. Paul admonished the believers in Rome and us to "offer our bodies as a living sacrifice" (Romans 12:1). Our worship is to offer ourselves as a "living killing," but the problem with a living sacrifice is that it keeps crawling off the altar. We are not able to give ourselves to God perfectly, and even if we were, we would not be an offering big enough to repair our bro-

ken relationship with God.

So Jesus gave us a way to do this by uniting ourselves to His offering – not only made on the Cross, but also beforehand at the Last Supper. He offered Himself up for us in the seamless garment that is the institutionalizing of the Mass by Jesus at the Last Supper and His crucifixion together as one event that took place within time and space.

That one event took place within the context of the Passover, which the Jewish people celebrate as a present-tense event coming into time and space from the outside. Likewise, Christ's self-offering now comes into time and space from the eternal position of the resurrected and ascended Christ when His priests celebrate the Holy Eucharist in His stead.

At the Mass, His self-offering is made present, and we can offer ourselves to God because He unites Himself to us in the most intimate of ways – giving us His body and blood to consume. He even instructs us that unless we eat His flesh and drink His blood, we have no life in us (John 6:53). We then can unite ourselves to His sacrifice in our intentions, getting back on the altar every time we crawl off of it by going to con-

fession and receiving the Eucharist.

It is not necessary to reduce the Atonement (at-onement) to the world taking vengeance on Jesus because He asked it to be more loving than it wants to be. Theological reductionism is a plague storming through the religiously "progressive" ranks; we need to be on the lookout for it and its influence so we don't spread it and cause confusion among the faithful.

I understand the modern and post-modern temptation to rationalize away the miraculous and supernatural, but doing so in the name of Christian theology undermines the entirety of the Christian faith, the definitive standard of which is upheld in Christ's designated Church.

We need not undermine it or look beyond it to make the Atonement make sense. All of heaven is lifted up before us each day – at every altar in the world by every priest in His Church – when the consecrated host is raised with the proclamation "behold the Lamb of God; behold Him who takes away the sins of the world."

*Michael Ford is a parishioner at Columbus St. Catharine of Siena Church.*

# Finding a true home during 40 Days of Adoration

By Anne Mallampalli

The Diocese of Columbus is a great place to be Catholic. And now I call it home. I moved here from Pittsburgh in fall 2018. Just as I was starting to hit my stride, the pandemic shut me down. I didn't have a lay of the land, and I was still trying to navigate being new, feeling old and experiencing the empty nest. I'd best describe it as homesick, but for what, where, whom? I wasn't sure.

The 40 Days of Adoration from Ash Wednesday to Palm Sunday just might have provided the answer. I decided to make the whole pilgrimage. What I found in parishes large, small, old, new, rural, suburban, affluent, pinched, red and yellow, black and white, was the Real Presence: "Be Still and Know that I AM God." And my response: How good, Lord, to be here.

My Lenten journey began with loads of snow and icy backroads, and by the end, forsythia burst onto the scene. I've learned to navigate the many interstate ins and outs of Columbus, state roads and blacktops. County seat towns felt familiarly Midwestern to me. I appreciate south-central Ohio geography and have come to love the landscape, which is more similar to eastern Iowa than western PA.

At each church I took a nugget with me. Hard to say which is my favorite – they are all, in one way or another. I filled my notebook with impressions. My cell-phone camera recorded everything from the silly-serious to the sublime.

I loved that quiet smell in every church. Loved seeing the schoolchildren at several of the churches. Catholic school teachers! Kudos! You are doing a great job. I witnessed real piety in your students. Young moms with toddlers, old people fingering wear-worn rosary beads. The steady hands and backbones of those parishes were soothing.

I considered the sacramental life of each of the churches. In the old ones, especially, it was the history that was so consoling – the baptisms, weddings and funerals. In those "newer" churches – about as old as me – I thought about first Holy Communion, and I could picture in my mind's eye the girls and boys in their white dresses and suits. One church especially reminded me of where I attended from grades one-four. In those days, we would walk to school and could even walk home and back for lunch. Church, school, rectory and convent all still intact, very much a part of the neighborhood. Real Presence – real past.

Some of the largest and newest churches of the diocese have done an exceptional job in their architecture and in spectacular statues, stained



Reflecting on humility at Columbus St. Mary Magdalene Church

glass and Stations of the Cross. It's easy to feel peace, a connection. Familiar rhythms of the rosary and angelus brought reassurance.

The oldsters reminded me that I'm closer in age to church lady than schoolgirl. It was thrilling to watch a fourth-grade recess kickball game. Those navy and gray plaid jumpers are exactly the same as they were in 1971.



The 10th Station of the Cross "Despoilment" at Lancaster St. Mary

entire story. I thought of the sacrifices made over the generations to make our churches glorious. Even the window "From the School" – I could picture the collection of pennies, nickels and dimes in the jar in each classroom. A new one on me was the Nativity scene



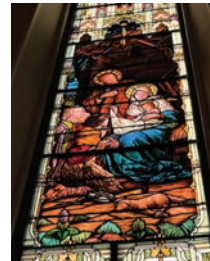
A stained glass window donated by the school at Mount Vernon St. Vincent de Paul Church Photos courtesy Anne Mallampalli



Praying before the Blessed Sacrament at Columbus St. Christopher Church

with the lamb bound for sacrifice. Powerful. And I wondered at all those people over the years for whom that was also a new image.

Pillar-parishioners are proud of their churches, and they could spot a new face, ready with a praise-worthy note. "Our restrooms are the nicest in the diocese!" Sparkling! "Refreshments during Adoration provided by the First Graders" made me smile. And the box of Buckeye Donuts next to the rice bowls – "take 1 - or two!" – was a most welcome surprise!



Sacrificial lamb in a nativity scene



Refreshments at St. Colman of Cloyne in Washington Court House



Free doughnuts at Columbus St. Anthony Church

"The Eucharist. These people get it." Extremely life-affirming. And, not sure how I would report on my own parish, imagine my delight when I noticed Bishop Robert Brennan in the pews.



Spending time in adoration at Plain City St. Joseph Church



One of the stops on the 40 Days of Adoration tour was the beautiful chapel at Columbus St. Catharine Church.

So, for whatever it is that ails you, the cure is a visit to the Blessed Sacrament. And you can find Jesus, body, blood, soul and divinity, in every Catholic Church. That tabernacle lamp means He is there.

I hope you will consider this your personal invitation to make a visit. Even better, sign up for an hour of weekly Eucharistic Adoration. I can speak as one who knows homesickness, that visceral and universal sadness that is not assuaged until you're home. And I've figured it out. We are all homesick, and what we are homesick for is heaven. So, until we are there, spend some time with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. It will make all the difference.

A lifelong Iowan, Anne Mallampalli moved with her husband and four children from Iowa City to Pittsburgh in 2009, and then she and her husband relocated to Dublin in 2018. Anne is a member of Powell St. Joan of Arc Church and coordinator for the parish's Eucharistic Adoration – [stjoanofarc.weadorehim.com](http://stjoanofarc.weadorehim.com).

## Parents, church staff aid children with autism

*“Compassion and acceptance for those of special needs should go hand in hand with our Catholic faith. God has willed these beautiful lives to be among us, and He has a mission for these souls.”* – Darla Quail, mother of a child with autism

By Lauren Shiman

April provides the opportunity to pay attention to and consider the compassion and acceptance shown to individuals with autism. April is Autism Acceptance Month, as referenced by the Autism Society of America (ASA). This shifts from Autism Awareness Month to foster inclusivity, support and belonging in the community.

“Your children are loved by God. They’re valued by the Church, and your children belong at Mass, belong as members of the Church, and the question is: How can we help you help them, help your family make that happen?” said Deacon Steve Petrill. He is deacon at Powell St. Joan of Arc Church and earned a doctorate in psychology from Case Western Reserve University, specializing in intellectual and developmental disabilities.

The evolving compassion and sense of belonging manifest themselves in various ways in the Catholic community, including among the laity and religious leaders, and in Catholic education and the sacraments.

As defined by the ASA, “Autism is a complex, lifelong developmental disability that typically appears during early childhood and can impact a person’s social skills, communication, relationships, and self-regulation. Autism is defined by a certain set of behaviors and is a ‘spectrum condition’ that affects people differently and to varying degrees.”

Dr. Rudolf Bond and his wife, Monica, attend Columbus Our Lady of Victory Church and St. Agatha Church with their son, Andre, 19, and daughter, Nicole, 17. Andre was diagnosed with autism at age 2½, and he experiences seizures, Monica said. She and her husband were told that Andre would never speak or learn. Speech, equine, music and art, and occupational and physical therapies facilitated Andre’s communication and socialization skills and abilities. He started speaking at age 10, and among his first words was “Jesus.” Now, Andre prays the Our Father and Hail Mary in Spanish and English, Monica said.

Monica traces Andre’s connection

to faith to his baptism.

“When you have a son with a disability, faith is all we have to turn to. Andre’s baptism started his journey into a wonderful world filled with faith and always trusting Jesus,” she said.

Alan and Julie Ratliff, parents of Gabriel, 26; Zachary, 24; Cecilia, 20; Dominic, 18; and Kathryn, 13, attend Gahanna St. Matthew the Apostle Church. Gabriel was diagnosed with autism at age 3 years and 4 months. He has challenges remaining quiet at Mass. At a parish the family attended prior to St. Matthew, Julie said, she felt rejected and judged by fellow parishioners.

“The behaviors that were most hurtful were the glares over or across the pews. The week someone hissed at me to ‘get my child under control’ was the last time we brought Gabe ... with us when he was younger. Thinking back, he would have been around 5 or 6 years old,” she said.

After the family moved, they joined a new parish and started bringing Gabriel to Mass again. “He was older, a little calmer, and it was also a very large, vibrant parish with lots of children, so we didn’t stand out so much there,” Julie said.

Charlotte and Jamaal Bell, parents of Jeremiah, 8, and Elizabeth, 5, attend New Albany Church of the Resurrection. Jeremiah was diagnosed with autism at age 3. He experiences challenges with social prompts, visual and motor skills, and fine motor skills, Charlotte said. She also said he has a particular interest in drawing and needs prompting to do other activities. She said she and her husband work at establishing routines and setting guidelines.

She described the interactions Jeremiah has experienced with parishioners and parish staff:

“The parishioners always speak to him and try to talk to him before Mass when we arrive. Both Father Denis (Kigozi) and the deacon (Kevin Murrin) always speak to him in the greeting line after church to actively build a relationship with him.”

Jeff and Heather Bernard attend St. Matthew with their children: Joseph, 17; Andrew and Samantha, 14; Joshua, 8; Natalie, 6; and Leo, 4. Joseph and Andrew both have autism. “Joseph is high functioning, but Andrew is severely autistic and almost completely non-verbal. He also has brain seizures, which causes him a lot of problems,” Jeff said.

At St. Matthew, “Andrew had a lot of difficulty between the ages of

3-6 but eventually caught on,” Jeff said. “He has a lot of visual and auditory issues, so he would sometimes lie down in the pew or wear noise-cancelling headphones during Mass.

“The families around us soon recognized that he was struggling, but they would often encourage us. Father (Ted) Sill, Father (Peter) Asantebwana and the deacons have all been wonderful with Andrew.”

Families with children who have autism may decide to enroll their children in Parish School of Religion (PSR) classes to learn about the Catholic faith and to prepare for the sacraments. Charlotte and Jamaal Bell enrolled Jeremiah in PSR because “we wanted him to learn about our Catholic faith and encounter Jesus in the folks who are in the church. They are absolutely wonderful Catholic people,” Charlotte said.

Julie Ratliff enrolled her children in PSR because it was required to receive the sacraments and to help her children meet others their own age. “Honestly, I was a little nervous about enrolling Gabriel,” she said, “but was put at ease when I met his catechist and the aide who was going to be attending classes with him.”

The Bernards also enrolled their children in PSR. “We knew they needed a solid religious education and entrusted them to St. Matthew’s program. We knew that autism might add some complexities, so we offered our assistance to the program,” Jeff said.

De Ann Bukowski is coordinator of religious education at Reynoldsburg St. Pius X Church. Students with autism generally thrive on routine, consistency and a low noise level, she said. Teachers work to maintain the class routine, which generally consists of an opening prayer, lesson, activity and closing prayer, and all students receive the same worksheet, she said.

At times the routine is changed, such as when activities run longer or assemblies or fire drills occur, she added. In that event, teachers try to communicate with the students and parents ahead of time, she said, but a student with autism still might experi-



Andrew and Samantha Bernard Photo courtesy Bernard family



Gabriel (left) and Zachary Ratliff Photo courtesy Ratliff family

ence confusion.

Tactile learning tools available to PSR students include a 23-piece Order of the Mass floor puzzle, a rosary with each decade in a different color and first Eucharist and reconciliation adaptive kits created by Loyola Press, Bukowski said. These learning tools break the subject matter into the basics, and “the larger, colorful pieces help them to learn,” she said.

She said each child with autism is unique. “We have to remember that some are on the high-functioning end of the spectrum or on the lowest, and a lot of them are in between. Some are of high intelligence, while others are struggling. Some have other disabilities to add on to the autism,” she said.

Joseph and Andrew Bernard utilized the Loyola Press kits for first



## AUTISM, continued from Page 8

Holy Communion and confirmation. “They provided visual symbols of the different concepts. ... They helped us prompt conversations with the boys, to ensure they understood what would happen in the actual sacrament. With Andrew, the kits helped him communicate back to us his understanding,” Jeff said.

Family support greatly assists a child with autism in PSR and in preparation for the sacraments. Some parents serve as volunteers or catechists to help their child.

“We usually teach the kids, and the parents complete the lessons by working with them during the week, if needed,” Bukowski said.

The Bernards are catechists at St. Matthew. Heather became a co-catechist or co-teacher when Joseph entered first-grade PSR class. “That teacher helped Heather learn how to teach in the PSR program, while Heather was working one-on-one with Joseph. They did all the regular course work with the class,” Jeff said.

“We were terrified, because he was still very erratic in his behavior and had a lot of trouble communicating. He spoke very little and was very hard to keep on task,” Jeff said.

Jeff said Andrew had difficulty adapting to the PSR class. “He couldn’t sit in class and couldn’t focus on the topics, so the teaching staff worked closely with us to find adaptations for him. His twin sister, Samantha, was in class with him, so she would help him out when she was able, since they had a close bond.

“They (the teachers) would take him on breaks to walk in the hall and would even let him play a bit. He eventually learned to come back to the classroom, and we would work with him at home on the missed content,” Jeff said.

Some parishes offer families an aide for their PSR student. “During the years he (Gabriel) was at St. Matthew, he always had an aide with him in the classroom,” Julie Ratliff said. “The PSR office looked for people with experience with children with special needs. And so we were really blessed that there were a number of people that worked with Gabe, and they see him in Mass now and reach out and talk to him, check in, see how he is doing.

“Classroom aides helped Gabriel to stay focused on the materials and lessons being taught or redirect his attention if he was distracted and off topic. Some of these prompts would have been verbal but also could have been visual (a written schedule or one with pictures),” Julie said.



**Joseph Bernard (left)**  
Photo courtesy Bernard family

Julie noted the benefit of music in Gabriel’s and the family’s faith development and practice. “We also sang or chanted the Chaplet of Divine Mercy together as our children were growing up (and still do at certain times of the year). We recognized that music engages Gabriel and his attention in a particular way and for longer periods of time, and, honestly, I think it benefited all of our children,” she said.

Gabriel’s siblings also utilized game shows to help him recall Mass events and scripture readings, Julie said. “Gabe likes Jeopardy! and Who Wants to Be a Millionaire, so they might use those formats if they were going to engage him in that way.”

Jeremiah Bell’s speech and occupational therapies and his experiences in public school and Cub Scouts assisted his transition to PSR, Charlotte Bell said. “Jeremiah is very accustomed to participating in group activities, so it wasn’t a difficult transition into PSR for him, as he had many skills necessary to function with his peers in a small group setting. However, one area that needed more support was the comprehension piece, because again, God is still a very abstract and foreign idea to him.”

The Bells worked with Jeremiah to prepare him for his first Holy Communion. “We did a lot of reinforcement of directions with Jeremiah in addition to the materials provided to him just like all the other students,” Charlotte said.

She also said they read children’s Bible stories to him and discussed receiving Holy Communion. “Thankfully during PSR there were opportunities to practice and taste the host so that it was not unfamiliar when the time came for him to take Communion,” Charlotte said.

Individualized PSR instruction may be utilized. At Our Lady of Victory, Andre Bond received such special-



**Samuel Quail** Photo courtesy Quail family

ized instruction to prepare for confirmation, Monica said.

“The teachers were able to work with Andre by using simple ways to connect Church teaching in a way that Andre learns – simple illustrations, coloring, reading and simple text. He is a visual learner, so they worked also with iPads,” Monica said.

Monica said a team appointed by Father Romano Ciotola to work with Andre on his confirmation was patient and compassionate. “Andre’s spiritual journey has deepened due to all the people that have welcomed and taught him and inspired him to believe in God.”

Catholic school is another option parents might pursue for their child with autism. Samuel Quail, 11, was diagnosed with autism at age 4 and attends Delaware St. Mary School. He and his siblings, Hannah, 9, and Noah, 6, are the children of John and Darla Quail.

Darla said at first she wondered if Catholic school could meet Samuel’s need. “During our enrollment meeting, it became clear that St. Mary’s was willing and capable to meet each student’s needs and is allowed the flexibility that our public school was not,” she said. St. Mary School provided a summer education support for Samuel; the public school indicated that Samuel did not qualify for such support, she said.

At St. Mary, Samuel receives speech and occupational therapy, Darla said. The therapies have helped him with socialization and have improved his independence, she said.

An Individualized Social Stories program assisted Samuel in making his first Holy Communion and first reconciliation, Darla said. These stories can include pictures and can explain expected behavior and break

down what occurs in the sacrament step by step. His intervention teacher created the Social Story for first reconciliation, and it details what to do before, during and after the sacrament.

St. Mary parish has a Special People in Catholic Education (SPICE) program assisting both PSR and St. Mary School students. Darla said she served three years as SPICE chairperson at the school. The parish school and the PSR programs for special needs students receive financial support from SPICE, she said.

SPICE has provided funding for teacher training, student tutoring, adaptive learning materials, adaptive playground equipment, adaptive Mass kits, and hearing devices, Darla said.

Deacon Petrill said it’s important to look beyond the autism diagnosis to assist individuals and families and remove barriers to participating in the Church.

“How do we take the time to look deeper – to find the strengths and challenges a person has? How can we help?”

Deacon Petrill said questions persist surrounding inclusivity and openness in regard to adult ministry and autism.

He provides Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults as an example. “You want to become Catholic as an adult, and you’re on the autism spectrum. How does that work? How do we think about that? Do we think about it?”

Similarly, Darla Quail said she wonders if Samuel could have the opportunity to explore consecrated religious life as a vocation if God calls him there. “It’s where he shows himself emotionally now, and where it’s always been, but I don’t know. Is there going to be a place for him or other people like him?”

Deacon Petrill said, “Everyone is called by God, and everyone has gifts and talents to bring to the Church. Adults with autism have many gifts, and we are just beginning to understand how to respond in our adult programming and ministries to allow those gifts to be expressed.”

Reflecting on her son Gabriel, Julie Ratliff said, “I truly believe that our family and community has been so blessed to be in relationship with Gabriel. The ways that he calls us to love, to give of ourselves, to grow in patience and understanding, to give to him in new and unexpected ways has been a true gift and has expanded our capacity to love and therefore our knowledge and experience of God’s love and mercy for all of us.”

*Lauren Shiman is a parishioner at Reynoldsburg St. Pius X Church and a freelance writer in central Ohio.*

# Pandemic forces creativity with high school retreats

By Jenna Mar

The need for social connection is part of the human experience. High school religious retreats can meet this need by providing a safe and welcoming place for students to build stronger connections with God and one another.

Because of concerns regarding the COVID-19 pandemic, some students at Columbus Catholic high schools doubted that retreats would be an option during this academic year. Nonetheless, campus ministers and students found ways to give their school communities opportunities to connect.

Beth Simmonds, campus minister at Bishop Watterson High School, emphasized the importance of retreats: “Mental health continues to be a challenge in our world, and building community is a piece of helping others be mentally well and normalizing the challenges we face.”

Simmonds said students and staff were determined to provide opportunities to strengthen community amid the pandemic, and from that determination emerged new ways to conduct retreats.

During a normal school year, Watterson holds a Freshman Day of Reflection, a Junior Retreat, an Urban Plunge for seniors and three optional Kairos retreats for seniors.

Urban Plunge, a program in which students assist charities throughout Columbus, could not be held. The school decided, however, to go ahead with its three-day Kairos retreats. Kairos retreats are four-day, three-night retreats.

Retreats are held under this name and using similar formats all around the United States. Simmonds said students formed “unique connections” as they worked together to create safe and impactful Kairos retreats.

“I found those who went on Kairos felt a sense of ease knowing they had classmates who support them during these hard times,” senior Margo Lawson said.

Simmonds said no transmissions of the COVID-19 virus have been traced to Watterson’s retreats, which have taken place at the Spiritual Center of Maria Stein in Mercer County. At this retreat center, each student has a private bedroom and bathroom. In addition, the retreat center has worked with the local health department to create safe dining. Students and staff were also required to wear masks and maintain social distancing.

Simmonds attributes the success of Kairos to her student leaders.

“In spite of their uncertainty, they



**Bishop Ready students participate in a freshman retreat at the high school. Photo courtesy Bishop Ready High School**

remained diligent, focused and committed,” she said. “They didn’t act out because of uncertainty. They embraced the challenge.”

Watterson senior Will Garey reflected on the challenge with positivity.

“Kairos is something that needed to happen for the growth and peace of our classmates,” he said.

The staff at St. Francis DeSales High School also worked to create safe retreat experiences for their students. Rebecca Metzger, campus minister at the school, said students are normally required to go on a one-day retreat once a year. Under normal circumstances, DeSales would have a Freshman Retreat, a Sophomore Retreat, an Urban Plunge for juniors, Kairos for seniors and a one-day retreat for those unable to go on Kairos. Through hard work and creative thinking, DeSales staged several of these retreats.

Campus ministry at DeSales was forced to cancel the first Kairos, and the second was postponed. The second Kairos eventually took place at Recreation Unlimited in Delaware County. Metzger said that participating students followed COVID-19 protocols, wearing masks, keeping physical distance and using hand sanitizer.

Campus ministry at Bishop Hartley High School adjusted its retreats by utilizing a new auxiliary building at the

school. Also, missionaries from Damascus Catholic Mission Campus in Knox County helped run the class retreats with assistance from Hartley students.

“What I took away from this situation is the many opportunities that campus ministry has to give students leadership roles,” said Tera Chun, campus minister at Hartley. “We stopped trying to do everything for the kids and let them be a part of the process.”

Chun said that while the pandemic inhibited a traditional retreat format, she was reminded of why retreats exist in the first place. Rather than be distracted by logistics, she said that she was able to “refocus and reframe” the events.

St. Charles Preparatory School brought all of its retreat efforts on campus this year, with sophomores, juniors and seniors experiencing one-day retreats.

“There is a value to getting off-campus, leaving daily reminders of school, so I think we lost a lot with not being able to be somewhere else,” said Mike Warner, campus minister at St. Charles. “Retreat leaders did everything they could to make it meaningful in the short time allotted, but it’s a steep uphill climb to make up for being on-campus.”

Student leaders and campus ministry staff met on Zoom during the summer to plan school liturgies, retreats and Eu-



**St. Charles Preparatory School students pray in the Mother of Mercy Chapel on campus during a senior retreat. Photo courtesy St. Charles**

charistic Adoration.

“Student efforts were a reminder that these were spiritual needs of the community,” Warner said. “I would say that a lot of institutions are using the pandemic as a reason to change things that might need to be changed otherwise, and I think that’s true for us when it comes to retreats.”

“We’ve been looking at some changes, like the shift from contracting out our retreats towards student-led models. The pandemic may help accelerate those conversations.”

Bishop Ready High School normally holds retreats at the Jesuit Spiritual Center in Milford. Katie Kapala, campus minister at the school, said that this year organizers attempted a virtual retreat for the seniors early in the academic year. Later, the school held in-person, one-day retreats for other classes in the school building.

“They struggled with being virtual,” Kapala said of the seniors. “Other classes were ecstatic that they were able to be together.”

This resulted in the senior class having a one-day retreat to make up for the virtual event. With the help of the Jesuit Spiritual Center, Ready’s one-day retreats incorporated fun and safe activ-

**RETREATS, continued from Page 10**

ities, including human tic-tac-toe and human foosball. Students were glad to finally be together.

“We are a faith family, and they have missed their family. This gave them the opportunity to be together, break bread, laugh – truly a beautiful testament to what we are building as a faith community in our schools,” Kapala said. “The Jesuit Spiritual Center did a fabulous job being creative and still making it meaningful and prayerful for our students.”

Campus ministry at Cristo Rey Columbus High School held retreats that were entirely virtual.

“We did not try to do anything in-person,” said Sarah Saliba, campus minister at Cristo Rey. “We have done exclusively virtual, on Zoom. This format almost works better for games and ice-breakers. Students are almost more comfortable doing things virtually.”

While Saliba found it difficult to judge students’ engagement from Zoom, she says that there were still signs of social connection and encouragement. She and other staff members were pleasantly surprised.

At most of the schools, many retreat traditions were altered to meet health protocols. For example, Watterson students have historically partaken in “hand-washing” during Kairos – a symbol of forgiveness, connection and gratitude. This ritual and several others were replaced with safer alternatives.

With the lack of physical contact such as hugs, students at DeSales were encouraged to bring their pillows around

with them on their Kairos retreat, the idea that hugging their pillows would bring the same comfort as hugging one another.

At Watterson, students have also created new ways to spiritually connect in their everyday lives. Now, all students can take part in biweekly Emmaus Talk Lunches. They have also started Made for More, a weekly after-school opportunity for students to hear a story and briefly reflect on it together.

“The only thing you miss is traffic,” Simmonds said, referring to the after-school chaos in the parking lot. “Emmaus Lunches and Made for More were gifts born out of the pandemic. I’m confident that these will continue.”

The DeSales sophomore retreat, which is focused on love, is normally held with the entire class. This year, however, the retreat was split into two days, one for boys, one for girls. “It was more open,” Metzger said, “because we were able to direct the retreat messages more specifically – like, ‘What does it mean to love someone as a man of God.’”

“Out of the pandemic there was an improvement on that retreat.”

Although the COVID-19 pandemic created challenges for retreat planners this school year, Simmonds called these challenges “opportunities to trust the Holy Spirit.”

*Jenna Mar is a student at Kent State University and a Columbus Bishop Watterson High School graduate.*



**Bishop Watterson students on a retreat**



**Bishop Watterson student Gavin Greene engages in a retreat activity.**



**A Watterson student prays at a shrine at the Spiritual Center of Maria Stein.**



**Pablo Smith (left) and Erin Connors were among Bishop Watterson students at one of the school’s retreats at the Spiritual Center of Maria Stein in Mercer County.**

*Photos courtesy Sylvia Rinderle*



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## Eight join Church at Easter Vigil



**Eight people joined the Catholic Church during the Easter Vigil at Columbus Immaculate Conception Church. Pictured with their sponsors, they are (from left): first row, Max Congrove, sponsor; Shaki Marshall, Colleen Campbell, sponsor; Noah Harris; Shanna Hill; Sue Beman, sponsor; Brody Hill; John Canty, sponsor; Laura Julian, sponsor; Nicole Herath; Sue Ruschau, sponsor; Grace Stevens; Beth Stevens; Gabby Stevens; and Diana Winkler, sponsor.**

*Photo courtesy Immaculate Conception Church*

# Our Lady of Peace Church has served Clintonville for 75 years

By Tim Puet  
Catholic Times Reporter

From its beginnings, Columbus Our Lady of Peace Church has been a neighborhood parish.

The Feb. 1, 1946 issue of *The Catholic Times*' predecessor, *The Columbus Register*, announced formation of the parish from part of the territory then served by Columbus Immaculate Conception Church. The new parish's boundaries were Glenmont Avenue on the south, the Olentangy River on the west, a railroad right of way on the east and Kanawha Avenue and Chase Road on the north. That includes the northern part of the Columbus neighborhood familiarly known as Clintonville.

"Those boundaries have remained essentially unchanged for 75 years," said Debbie Mahler, who has been the church's office manager for 25 years and a parish member for 43 years. "We haven't grown in the same way as the suburban parishes north of us because Clintonville is fairly compact and had been mostly settled by 1946. But being a relatively small parish, currently with 892 families, has been a strong asset for us. We have many families who have been here forever, but because of our location, there's constant turnover, and we're always embracing new parishioners."

Clintonville is north of the Ohio State University campus and is bisected by Columbus' main north-south artery, North High Street. This location has brought a diverse, mobile population to the neighborhood.

"The parish may be 75 years old, but it still has a young attitude," said Jim Silcott, who is in his fourth year as principal at Our Lady of Peace School and has been a parishioner since the 1980s.

"Clintonville's minority population in the neighborhood has grown steadily, as it has throughout Columbus, and the demographics of the school's student body are becoming closer to that of the neighborhood. This is a great selling point. Parents want their children to go to a school where they're exposed to other students of different cultures and religions."

Silcott says the school has 210 students in kindergarten through eighth grade and a staff of 18, including specialists, the principal and a secretary. About 70 percent of the students are Catholic, and 25 percent are minority students.

"As a small school, it's easier for us to offer personal attention to students



**Our Lady of Peace Church was established on the north side of Columbus in 1946.**

CT photos by Ken Snow



**Father Sean Dooley has served as the pastor at Our Lady of Peace since 2019.**

than it may be in larger schools," he said. "We want every child to be known and loved. We offer one-to-one technology, with a Chromebook for every student. We have something people are willing to invest in, and the availability of Ohio EdChoice funds gives students who otherwise could not afford to come here the opportunity to be part of this."

Like all schools in Ohio, Our Lady of Peace School was closed from mid-March 2020 to the end of the school year because of the COVID-19 pandemic. But it's been open full-time since classes for the 2020-21 academic year began on Aug. 31, with safe-distancing protocols and mask requirements in place.

"That was our goal since we began planning the return to classrooms," Silcott said. "The teachers worked



**The cleaned and reinstalled Marian statue stands in front of Our Lady of Peace.**

Photo courtesy Our Lady of Peace Church



**A banner on N. High Street in front of the church informs passers-by that the parish is celebrating its 75th anniversary in 2021.**

incredibly hard, and our parents appreciate having kids in a safe environment. All of our students still go to weekly Mass. We now have them attending on different days instead of all at the same time.

"The parents had a can-do attitude through all this, and our annual pizza sale in October was a good example. Until this year, parents would take off work, and huge assembly lines were formed to make all the pizzas from scratch. Students and teachers would join in on the line at different times during the day. We couldn't do that because of COVID, so the parents sold coupons to local pizza shops instead, and the sale again was successful."

Father Sean Dooley has been the parish's pastor since July 2019. He is assisted by Deacon Jeffrey Fortkamp,

who has served the parish since his ordination in 2008; Sister Barbara Kolesar, OP, in her 20th year as pastoral minister; administrative assistant Katy Wyatt, a staff member since August after a number of years with New Albany Church of the Resurrection; business manager Angie Lee; liturgy and music director Julie Cottrill; faith formation director Peter Richards; maintenance staff members Garrett Miller and Jenny Bryant; and bulletin editor Frances Black.

Father Dooley said parishioners have been gradually returning to Sunday Masses since the state's Catholic bishops permitted the resumption of public worship at the end of May 2020. Safe-distancing requirements allow about 200 people to gather in the sanctuary, which has a seating capacity of approximately 650.

"Attendance was low when Masses were resumed, but in the past two months there has been a noticeable increase, especially among older parishioners," Father Dooley said. "More people have been vaccinated, the weather has gotten warmer and people had a chance to attend the Holy Week and Easter services they had to miss last year."

Masses are at 4:30 p.m. Saturdays and 9:30 a.m. and noon Sundays, 5:30 p.m. Tuesdays and 8:30 a.m. Wednesdays and Fridays, with Eucharistic Adoration from 6 to 7 p.m. on the first Tuesday of the month.

The parish prayer ministry prays the rosary every Thursday at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom. This is one of several parish functions that have continued online for the past 13 months. These include the Parish School of Religion, directed by Jennifer Pawley; the That Man Is You! program and the Knights of Columbus for men; the Walking With Purpose program for women; and the Alpha course, which provides a fresh look at basic Church teachings for all adults.

The parish has one of the diocese's most active Scouting programs. Cub Scout Pack 169 was started in 1968, and Boy Scout Troop 169 began in 1999. Members of both organizations are frequent recipients of Scouting's religious emblems corresponding to their age.

The Cubs go on weekend campouts and weeklong summer camps and pay frequent visits to nearby sites such as a fire station, an animal rescue facility and an urban farm. The Scout troop is

## OUR LADY OF PEACE, *continued from Page 12*

planning high-adventure trips to Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico this year and the Northern Tier Scout camp in Minnesota next year, as well as many local camping trips. It also supports the St. Vincent de Paul Society and the Knights of Columbus in clothing and food drives and manages the parish Giving Tree program, benefiting the St. Francis Center in McArthur.

The annual parish festival, which had taken place on the third weekend of July since 1986, was canceled for the second straight year, in part due to the coronavirus but also because a number of special activities are being planned to mark the parish's 75th anniversary.

"Not everything stopped because of the coronavirus," said parishioner Ed Price. "The Holy Spirit defeated the downside of the pandemic, introducing us to new ways to keep the spark alive. We embraced Zoom as an unlikely gift of the Holy Spirit to reach out and evangelize."

He said that in 2010, during the pastorate of Father Kevin Kavanagh, the parish became the first in the diocese to offer the That Man Is You! program. The Alpha course and Walking With Purpose were added while Msgr. John Johnson was pastor from 2014 to 2018.

"Msgr. Johnson encouraged us to think big and dream bigger," Price said. "He emphasized that Our Lady of Peace was our parish, and we needed to have a vision of where we wanted to go." Price and several other parishioners attended an Amazing Parish conference in Denver. "We were highly charged with the Holy Spirit's guidance to make a difference in our parish," resulting in formation of the Alpha and Walking With Purpose programs, Price said.

This year's anniversary activities began on Jan. 16 with a special Mass celebrated by Bishop Robert Brennan. Statues of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and of Jesus and Mary in the traditional Pieta setting following the crucifixion were dedicated on March 19, the Feast of St. Joseph. The statues originally were in churches in the Cleveland area and were obtained from Henninger's religious goods store in Cleveland.

An 80-inch-tall, 1,500-pound statue of Our Lady of Peace that had stood in front of the current church and its predecessors for the past 75 years was taken to Henninger's in March for cleaning and was returned on April 16.

On April 14, the parish began offering a six-week virtual seminar titled "The Gift" that looks at the role of the Holy Spirit. The seminar, presented in cooperation with Columbus Catholic Renewal ministry, continues at 7



**Our Lady of Peace School has 210 students in kindergarten through eighth grade.**

p.m. Wednesdays through May 19 and is free to all who wish to participate. It lasts for about 90 minutes and includes a video presentation, followed by discussion. Anyone may sign up for the remainder of the seminar by going to <http://bit.ly/olpthegift>.

Students in grades six through eight of the school are putting together a 100-question quiz about parish history that will be part of the 2021-22 school year. "We want the students to know all about how the parish has become what it is today. By having them explore its history, we'll be educating the whole parish," Silcott said.

Other anniversary events scheduled this year are: Sunday, May 2, return of the parish's longstanding tradition of coffee and doughnuts on the first Sunday of the month; Sunday, May 16, May crowning; Sunday, June 6, Corpus Christi procession through the church's neighborhood; Sunday, June 13, women's tea and social; Wednesday, July 14, social event celebrating marriage; Sunday, Aug. 22, drop-off of backpacks for children in need, plus an ice cream social and ministry fair; Sunday, Sept. 12 (rain date Sunday, Sept. 19), picnic on parish grounds; Saturday, Oct. 2 or 9, Ohio State University football tailgate in parking lot; November, date to be determined, Family Service Day; and Saturday, Dec. 4 (tentative date), tree lighting and blessing of Christmas crèche.

The church is at the corner of Dominion Boulevard and North High on land that was sold to a man named Ansel Phinney in 1855 and still was known as the Phinney farm when it was purchased by the diocese from Benjamin and Emma Patterson in 1946.

Its first Sunday Masses were in a funeral home and in the former Beechwood Theatre, with weekday Masses



**Kindergarten students enjoy recess on the playground.** *CT photos by Ken Snow*



**Longtime parishioner Jim Silcott is in his fourth year as the school's principal.**

in the home of Father George Foley, the founding pastor, who served the parish for 19 years until his death in 1965. Separate surplus barracks from a closed Army depot in Marion served as the first permanent church and school buildings and were moved to the parish property in 1946 and 1947, respectively.

The school building in use today was dedicated in 1952, and a combined church and gymnasium connected to it was added the following year. The current church, which included a rectory, offices and meeting rooms, was dedicated in 1967. The diamond-shaped building has a spire rising 110 feet, making it a North High landmark.

In 2011, parishioner Jerry Ulibari renovated the building's sanctuary, restoring its original "Lamb of God" cross and adding rays of light and panels depicting "living water." He also created murals of St. Joseph and the Virgin Mary, which mirror images found elsewhere in the church.



**Fifth-grade teacher Alicia Zeyen helps a student in the classroom.**



**The school's cafeteria serves as a fourth-grade classroom during the pandemic.**

An athletic field adjacent to the school is known as DeSantis Field because it formerly was the site of a greenhouse and garden for DeSantis Florists. A home across Dominion Boulevard from the church was purchased to serve as a rectory in 2011, allowing the former rectory space to become meeting rooms.

Since November 2019, the parish has been raising money for improvements to the school, primarily a new gym floor and a new heating, ventilating and air conditioning system. The pandemic slowed fundraising for much of last year, but the campaign has resumed and to date has raised about \$311,000 of a \$450,000 goal. The gym will be named for Msgr. Kenneth Grimes, the parish's pastor from 1986-2006, the longest tenure of any of its pastors.

For more information about the church, go to its website at [www.olp-parish.org](http://www.olp-parish.org) or call its office at (614) 263-8824.

# Conference seeks to inspire young adult Catholics

By Jenna Mar

Young adults from the Columbus area gathered on Saturday, April 17 to take part in the Columbus Catholic Young Adult Conference. The theme, "Rest in Thee," was appropriate after a pandemic-altered year.

The conference, held at Sunbury St. John Neumann Parish, featured three keynote speakers, breakout sessions, lunch and opportunities for prayer, reflection and social connection while following all COVID-19 safety protocols.

"God wants these young people to form community," said Maria Tarbell, event co-leader.

Tarbell, a part-time professor at Otterbein University, was at a Catholic women's conference in 2018 when she asked herself, "What about the young people?" She felt called by God to provide a similar opportunity for young adults in the Columbus area.

"It's His idea," Tarbell said. "He's the founder."

The conference, open to all Catholics ages 18 to 35, was first held in 2019. Though Tarbell initiated the planning, young adult co-leaders are the primary organizers.

"It's for young adults, planned by young adults," Tarbell said. "That has been very crucial."

This year's event was set to take place in October 2020 but was rescheduled due to COVID-19. Tar-

bell said the event was completely redesigned.

"We had to reconfigure the space for social distancing," she said. "I hope that the next conference will be as close as possible to (the setup of) 2019."

Committee member John Homan said that this conference was limited to 150 attendees. With 62 registered to attend and 38 volunteers, there were about 100 participants.

"There's an intimacy to 2021 because it's smaller, but I still see the same joy, the same energy and the same peace," said young adult co-leader Kate Giddens.

Giddens also emphasized the importance of the conference.

"We want young adults to feel empowered, and through that empowerment bring others to the faith," she said.

Keynote speakers were Sarah Kaczmarek, Brad Pierron and Bishop Robert Brennan.

Kaczmarek, who has served in ministry for 15 years, opened the conference with her talk, "Rest in Peace." She discussed ways of resting and the



idea that Catholics are meant to rest in Jesus.

"It is a rest in our soul ... a rest that only comes from Him," Kaczmarek said. "Jesus says, 'My rest for your soul is different.'"

Breakout sessions that followed were led by Columbus Bishop Hartley High School graduate Noah Gilchrist, the director of outreach at the Damascus Catholic Mission Campus in Knox County, as well as Aaron and Monica Richards, the co-founders of Damascus.

Participants were then given an hour of free time to go to confession, walk the parish grounds or eat the lunch provided. The break also offered a chance for conversation.

"The conference is a good place for young adults who feel isolated, especially this year, but not just because of the pandemic," Homan said. "It's a good place for young adults to meet and form communities."

The second keynote speaker, Pierron, spoke about the social aspect of the conference, saying, "I was missing just being with people. We were all missing this."

Pierron, the mission program director at Damascus Catholic Missionary Campus, is well versed in speaking to young adults.

"When I travel around and meet young adults like you, from all over, the one thing I think they need more of is purpose," he said.

Participants went on to separate

breakout sessions for men and women that included talks on the Mass, marriage and family life and patron saints. The men's session was led by Pierron; the women's by Kaczmarek.

Other presenters included Father Adam Streitenberger, the coordinator for evangelization in the Diocese of Columbus, and Sister Benedicta Duna, a member of the Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration who is the assistant director of campus ministry at the University of St. Francis.

The conference ended with Mass celebrated by Bishop Brennan.

"You have had an encounter with the risen Lord right here. You are His witnesses," Bishop Brennan said. "He sends you out so His name can be preached."

Organizers hope the Columbus Catholic Young Adult Conference will pick up momentum in the coming years.

"We hope to continue and grow," Giddens said.

The next conference is set for Oct. 23, 2021.

"We didn't want to lose momentum," Tarbell said.

Tarbell and Giddens also said they are seeking motivated young adults to plan future conferences. For more information, visit the conference website at [ccyac.org](http://ccyac.org).

*Jenna Mar is a Kent State University student and a Columbus Bishop Watterson High School graduate.*

## Medical ethics conference set for this weekend at Josephinum

Speakers from several branches of medicine will be featured this weekend at a medical ethics conference offering continuing education for health-care professionals while equipping them to practice high ethical and medical standards.

The conference, titled "Converging Roads," will take place from 8:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday, April 24 at the Jessing Center of the Pontifical College Josephinum, 7625 N. High St., Columbus.

Presenting one-hour talks will be Drs. Thomas McGovern, DiAnn Ecret, Greg Burke, Ashley Fernandes, Robin Pierucci, Cynthia Hunt and Claudia Sotomayor. The conference will conclude with a Mass celebrated by Bishop Robert Brennan, followed by a wine and cheese reception.

McGovern will open with a talk on the role of faith and religion in the practice of medicine and the challenges of being a medical practitioner with

a Catholic worldview. He specializes in treating skin cancer patients and is co-host of EWTN radio's "Doctor, Doctor" program.

Ecret, assistant professor at the Jefferson College of Nursing and a staff member of the National Catholic Bioethics Center, both in Philadelphia, will follow with a presentation on the criteria that determine whether a treatment is morally obligatory in end-of-life situations.

Decision-making and application of the principles of proportionate and disproportionate means and the medical realities of such situations will be discussed by Burke, who is chief patient experience officer of the Geisinger Medical Center of Danville, Pennsylvania.

After lunch, Fernandes, from the Center for Bioethics at Ohio State University's College of Medicine, will speak on the appropriate role that

the religious or ethical convictions of medical professionals play in clinical settings.

The sacrament of reconciliation will be available from 1:30 to 2:15 p.m. At 1:50, there will be a talk on palliative care strategies and their ethical implications associated with the care of neonatal and fetal patients. The speaker will be Pierucci, a neonatologist with Bronson Children's Hospital in Kalamazoo, Michigan.

Hunt, chair of the national opioid task force of the Catholic Medical Association (CMA), will follow with a look at the scope of the opioid crisis and how medical professionals and hospitals can respond to the situation.

The concluding talk will be by Sotomayor, a clinical ethicist and adjunct assistant professor at Georgetown University, on access to health care for the poor.

Sponsors for the event include

the Diocese of Columbus, the St. John Paul II Foundation, the CMA of Central Ohio, Ohio Right to Life, Neurosurgery Associates, Columbus Immaculate Conception Church, the Ohio Knights of Columbus Charitable Fund, the Order of Malta Center of Care, the Josephinum and St. Gabriel Catholic Radio AM 820.

The organizing committee includes Fernandes; Dr. Alexandra Einhorn; Dr. Michael Parker; Ansel Nalin, an Ohio State medical student; Michele Faehnle, a nurse at Columbus St. Andrew School; Mark Huddy and Jerry Freewalt of the diocesan Office for Social Concerns; and Father Bob Penhallurick, pastor of Hilliard St. Brendan the Navigator Church.

Continuing education credits for health-care professionals will be offered. For more information, visit [convergingroads.com](http://convergingroads.com) or email [sara@forlifeandfamily.org](mailto:sara@forlifeandfamily.org).

## Pope St. John Paul II's play to be staged at Ohio Dominican

The Jeweler's Shop, a drama written by Pope St. John Paul II while he was a bishop, will be presented by a group of young adults known as Catholic Creatives Columbus at 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday, April 30 and May 1, and 2 p.m. Sunday, May 2 in the Matesich Theatre at Ohio Dominican University, 1216 Sunbury Road, Columbus. The Sunday performance also will be available via livestreaming.

St. John Paul was Bishop Karol Wojtyła, auxiliary bishop of Krakow, Poland, when he wrote the play in 1960. It tells the story of three couples as their lives become intertwined, offering a moving meditation on marriage and a celebration of the choice to love.

"It provides an early look at John Paul's thoughts on marriage, which he expanded on in his Theology of the Body," said Catherine Suprenant,



marriage preparation coordinator for the diocesan Office of Marriage and Family Life, who co-directs the play. The other director is Ariel Garsow, a doctoral student in nutritional science at Ohio State University. Both women have theater experience, but it is their first time directing.

Suprenant said 32 young people are involved in the production as actors or in other work such as costume design, lighting, photography, program design

and set preparation.

Tickets are \$10 for the live and livestreamed performances. Proceeds will benefit the Mommies Matter ministry, which supports single mothers. The performance will follow the Ohio Department of Health's Responsible RestartOhio for Performing Arts theater guidelines concerning seating limits and safe distancing.

"Catholic Creatives of Columbus is a group of young people, most of them Catholic, who came together during the pandemic and realized through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit that they have various gifts which could be used as a way of evangelizing people through art," Suprenant said.

She said planning for the play began in August and September after she read its script. "I was really struck in my role as diocesan marriage prep coordinator

by the play's powerful message of the impact of the vocation of marriage on couples and the Christian community," she said. "We don't realize how powerful and subversive art can be.

"John Paul, who was both an actor and a playwright, understood how art can speak to the community and reminds us through this play of some of the basic truths of marriage which popular culture often overlook. The Jeweler's Shop looks at marriage in all its complexity and at how God uses human beings to fulfill His intentions."

Cast members for the production are Christian Ifft, Lucy Groeber, Denis Veneziano, Andrea Lopez, Adora Namigadde, Devan Kline, Max Timko, Theodore Madrid and Naomi del Guidice, with original music by Vince Gillotti.

For tickets, visit [doc.booktix.com](http://doc.booktix.com).

## Face Forward service award winners announced

Thomas Matthews of Dublin St. Brigid of Kildare Church and Amelia Steele of Columbus St. Peter Church are this year's recipients of the service awards sponsored by the Face Forward program of the diocesan Office of Vocations.

In its ninth year, the awards program recognizes two students in the Diocese of Columbus in grades eight to 12 for outstanding service within their community and parish. The winners were selected from among 12 finalists and will receive \$500 each. This year, applicants were asked to write an essay on how the pandemic strengthened their faith.

Matthews, a sophomore at Columbus St. Charles Preparatory School, said that what was supposed to be the temporary pause of in-person schooling in spring 2020 seemed like a welcome reprieve from the challenges of high school life. However, as schools remained closed, the isolation of the pandemic caused him to question "where

my life was going, and what little purpose I felt I had was not worth living," his essay said.

He said that when he got away from computer screens and began riding his father's bicycle, he began "to step back from it all and look at everything with a new perspective." He also said that although he would go back in time to stop the pandemic if he could to prevent the suffering of others, 2020 represented a new start for him.

"I use my newfound maturity to fulfill my purpose of joining God in Heaven, and to also help those around me, who



Thomas Matthews



Amelia Steele

all share the same journey," he wrote.

Steele, a ninth-grader at Worthington Kilbourne High School, wrote, "I called myself a Catholic-Christian but I never

walked by faith until a night in June 2020" when, as she scrolled through social media at 3 a.m., "suddenly, my entire social media feed had turned into Christian preachers. I chose to listen to them all." She said from that point, it became extremely important to change her relationship with God.

She credits this relationship with helping her cope with her grand-

mother's death in the midst of the pandemic. As she prayed over her grandmother before her death, "I reached out to God and asked Him to help me. He did. ... I felt so close to God. I felt Him holding me the whole time," she said.

"COVID-19 has taken the world by a landslide but during that time, it took my old life with it. In Christ I am made new. I am His child. I am redeemed," she wrote.

The Face Forward program gives a digital community of more than 15,000 young Catholics a chance to explore their faith and make connections with others walking the same path. The Face Forward website is updated weekly with blogs on current events and news, stories on diocesan seminarians and reflections on Scripture.

The program also has online communities on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram, as well as an email program that sends out regular communications. To learn more about Face Forward, visit [faceforwardcolumbus.com](http://faceforwardcolumbus.com).

### LOCAL NEWS, continued from Page 2

became founding dean of the university's school of graduate studies.

#### ODU instructor raising funds for elementary school in Kenya

A longtime instructor at Ohio Dominican University is raising money for the renovation of an elementary school in her hometown in Kenya that is in a state of severe decay.

Pictures that are part of a presentation about the Kerongo Primary School by Imali Judith Abala show crumbling walls, potholes in the floors and peeling paint. She said

about \$40,000 is needed to bring the school's five small classrooms up to acceptable standards.

In October, she learned the school was facing closure for poor sanitation and was able to raise \$5,000. That money was used to clean, repair and paint latrines and to find a way to incorporate water and sanitizing liquid for students after latrine use.

Abala has been a teacher of literature and composition at Ohio Dominican since 1992, 10 years after coming to the United States at age 19 to attend Wilmington College.

Kerongo is near that nation's border with Uganda and just a few miles from the equator. Its school has 190 boys and 170 girls attending classes from pre-kindergarten to eighth grade.

To learn more about her project, email Abala at [imaliabala@yahoo.com](mailto:imaliabala@yahoo.com) or call her at (614) 560-5179.

#### ODU awarded grant for STEM scholarships

The state of Ohio has awarded Ohio Dominican University (ODU) a five-year, \$494,606 Choose Ohio First (COF) grant to support students and

strengthen the state's workforce development in science- and technology-related fields.

The grant will provide scholarship assistance to students in the university's biology, biopsychology, chemistry, environmental science, exercise science and mathematics programs. It is among \$69.8 million in COF grants that will support students at 57 colleges and universities across the state.

ODU also received a Choose Ohio First grant in 2019 to provide scholarship assistance for students in its computer science program.

## Fourth Sunday of Easter Year B

## We can help Good Shepherd lead others to faith

**Acts 4:8-12**  
**Psalm 118:1, 8-9, 21-23, 26, 28, 29**  
**1 John 3:1-2**  
**John 10:11-18**

Good Shepherd Sunday, the Fourth Sunday of Easter, which is also World Day of Prayer for Vocations, is rich with Scriptures that touch our hearts. The promise of salvation offered to us by One Who loves us intimately gives us hope even in the worst of times.

*“Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said, ‘... It was in the name of Jesus Christ the Nazorean. ... There is no salvation through anyone else, nor is there any other name under heaven given to the human race by which we are to be saved.’”*

*“Beloved: See what love the Father has bestowed on us that we may be called the children of God. Yet so we are.”*

*“Jesus said: ‘I am the good shepherd. A good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ... I am the good shepherd, and I know mine and mine know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I will lay down my life for the sheep.’”*

The Good Shepherd knows us. The Good Shepherd speaks to our hearts. We hear His voice and we must follow where He leads. We know we are destined for a purpose that involves imitating our Shepherd. What is the heart of our Shepherd? It is a heart willing to die to itself to bring life to His sheep.

The Good Shepherd has all of us in mind. He leaves out no one. But we are free. If we choose to stay in worlds of our own creation, He will not violate our freedom. True freedom is to follow the Shepherd where He leads. He calls. He comes to us at Mass and gathers us, teaches us, feeds us and

## 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.*



sends us out as shepherds in our own right to repeat this pattern in our lives as disciples and witnesses.

Our world has lots of straying sheep. We are the sheep who often stray by our own selfishness and sin. The Good Shepherd comes looking for us and invites us back. He wants our hearts to open to Him, so that He can transform us into His own likeness. We are here now, and we want to listen to the voice of the Shepherd as He calls our name.

Each of us is called to serve the Good Shepherd by being willing to walk with Him and to go out ourselves to find the lost sheep. Can we pay attention to the Shepherd? He wants to find us, to heal us, to change our hearts to be like His heart. Can we look around in the fields to which the Shepherd has led us and see those who are waiting to hear His voice in ours?

They might be our children, who need to see us responding to the Shepherd's call, so that they, too, may hear Him and discover their own vocation. They might be co-workers and friends, who want something more from life but don't know where to look. In these troubled times, many are feeling loneliness and loss. The Shepherd is seeking them out. Can we bring them to Him by our way of living so that they may be found?

One profound way that many parishes have discovered to pass on the

See SHEPHERD, Page 17

## Fifth Sunday of Easter Year B

**Acts 9:26-31**  
**Psalm 22:26-27, 28, 30, 31-32**  
**1 John 3:18-24**  
**John 15:1-8**

Growth is part of God's plan for His Church. We are all part of that plan. Just as the first Christians had to move past their fear of Paul due to his previous life, so we have to embrace as brothers and sisters in the Lord many who do not think as we do.

Jewish Christianity had to open to a new way of incarnation in the Hellenis-

tic world, and God used Paul to bring that about. Now, our Judeo-Christian heritage is opening up in ever new ways to a form of Christianity that is called to embrace the world for its salvation.

Jesus is the vine. We are the branches. When we are in contact with Him, we are part of the Father's gift of life to the world. We are called to live the truth. As members of the vine, we have the very blood of Christ flowing through our veins. We must bear fruit to bring life to the world.

## THE WEEKDAY BIBLE READINGS

4/26-5/1	John 13:16-20	Psalm 145:10-13b,21 John 14:27-31a
<b>MONDAY</b> Acts 11:1-18 Psalms 42:2-3;43:3-4 John 10:1-10	<b>FRIDAY</b> Acts 13:26-33 Psalm 2:6-11b John 14:1-6	<b>WEDNESDAY</b> Acts 15:1-6 Psalm 122:1-5: John 15:1-8
<b>TUESDAY</b> Acts 11:19-26 Psalm 87:1b-7: John 10:22-30	<b>SATURDAY</b> Acts 13:44-52 Psalm 98:1-4 John 14:7-14	<b>THURSDAY</b> Acts 15:7-21 Psalm 96:1-3,10: John 15:9-11
<b>WEDNESDAY</b> Acts 12:24--13:5a Psalm 67:2-3,5-6,8: John 12:44-50	5/3-5/8 <b>MONDAY</b> 1 Corinthians 15:1-8 Psalm 19:2-5 John 14:6-14	<b>FRIDAY</b> Acts 15:22-31 Psalm 57:8-10,12: John 15:12-17
<b>THURSDAY</b> Acts 13:13-25 Psalm 89:2-3, 21-22,25,27:	<b>TUESDAY</b> Acts 14:19-28	<b>SATURDAY</b> Acts 16:1-10 Psalm 100:1b-2,3,5 John 15:18-21

## DIOCESAN WEEKLY RADIO AND TELEVISION

## MASS SCHEDULE: WEEKS OF APRIL 25 AND MAY 2, 2021

## SUNDAY MASS

10:30 a.m. Mass from Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral on St. Gabriel Radio (AM 820), Columbus, and at [www.stgabrielradio.com](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.stannstmary.org](http://www.stannstmary.org)); Columbus St. Patrick ([www.stpatrickcolumbus.org](http://www.stpatrickcolumbus.org)); Delaware St. Mary ([www.delawarestmary.org](http://www.delawarestmary.org)); Sunbury St. John Neumann ([www.saintjohnsunbury.org](http://www.saintjohnsunbury.org)); and Columbus Immaculate Conception ([www.iccols.org](http://www.iccols.org)). Check your parish website for additional information.

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

## Staying on the vine, bearing fruit not easy but necessary

To remain in Christ means to reach deep down into our spirits, into the very roots of our faith. It means coming to know the truth in our own being and to live from there.

God wants us to cooperate with His grace. This is not something for the foolhardy or the half-committed. It is serious business. It is a matter of life and death. It involves suffering. It involves a greater glory than is ours by right.

The image of the vine is given as a way to understand what Jesus wants

from His disciples. Simply put, we are to remain in Jesus Christ in and through His Church. We must continue to believe in Him and in our fellow disciples, even when they have not always proven trustworthy.

Each of us knows what it is to lose faith in someone. One we trusted did something to us that hurt or that we experienced as a betrayal. Or we heard a story about that person that changed

See GROWTH, Page 17



CATHOLIC WORD SEARCH

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| ANGELUS      | FAITH     | MAGNIFICAT |
| CONFITEOR    | GLORY BE  | MEMORARE   |
| CONTRITION   | HAIL MARY | NOVENA     |
| CREED        | HOPE      | OUR FATHER |
| EUCCHARISTIC | LITANY    | ROSARY     |

**SHEPHERD**, continued from Page 16

faith to the next generation is the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (CSG). Developed by Sofia Cavalletti in Italy, it has become a worldwide method of inviting children ages 3 to 12 and adults as well to discover the Good Shepherd for themselves.

One little girl put it together for herself as she worked with the CSG materials. She cried out in delight: "The Good Shepherd is Jesus! Jesus

is the Good Shepherd!" Her joy overflowed into the catechists and into the heart of her pastor, who shared the discovery in a homily at which she was present. She was delighted again as she said to the catechist: "That was me!"

The joy of Easter that we celebrate is the joy of discovery. Have you met the Good Shepherd? Do you invite others to meet Him through your joy?

**GROWTH**, continued from Page 16

the way we see him or her. We begin to find it hard to put our trust in that person the way we once did. This can happen also with Jesus. He satisfies the longings of our hearts, if we let Him, but He does not do it in the way that the world expects.

A savior Who asks us to put Him above our dreams for this life is not an easy savior to accept. There is a cost. We experience disillusionment with Jesus and with His Church, and we are tested. Will we still have faith in Him? Can we see this test as a pruning that purifies our faith in Jesus as Lord?

We must learn from Jesus and from His Church how we are to live. In the world today, the Church is being condemned for the faults and sins of her members. This is understandable, and there is something right about the condemnation of the sins and failings of us who profess to be disciples of Jesus.

But the world often denies any value to the Church. Her teachings are

ridiculed and rejected by a world that claims to know better. To be identified with the Church is now a banner of shame, as the world sees it. If we accept the world's way of thinking, we are tempted to go out on our own. Many who have left our company have chosen to do this. As disciples of Jesus, we are to remain in Jesus and in His Church.

Our lives in Christ and in His Church are meant to bear fruit that will last. God is glorified in us. True disciples of Jesus choose to remain on the vine, because we know that the vine gives us nourishment and leads us to glory.

As disciples of the Lord and members of the vine, we must believe in Jesus and in the Church. We are the Church together. "Let us love not in word or speech but in deed and truth." If we believe and if we love as Jesus loved, we are in touch with glory, and something new is given to the world. This is the fruit that lasts.

**POSITION AVAILABLE**

**BLESSED SACRAMENT PARISH**  
Newark, Ohio

**COORDINATOR OF MINISTRY AND FAITH FORMATION**

Blessed Sacrament Parish, Newark has an opening for a full time Coordinator of Ministry and Faith Formation. Under the direction of the Pastor, this position has responsibility for coordinating the parish pastoral ministry to parishioners, including directing youth ministry and young adult programs, and overseeing faith formation programs. There is a special emphasis on family ministry. It will be necessary that a portion of the employee's work time will be on weekends and evenings.

The ideal applicant must be a practicing Catholic and exhibit an attitude and behavior for cultivating lifelong learning and development in faith. A BS or BA is preferred in a relevant degree in theology or religious education. 3 to 5 years of youth ministry experience or similar is required. Capacity to lead parish programs and work with volunteer team members with strong writing skills, excellent speaking and teaching skills, along with the ability to speak to a diverse audience from priests, to parents, to young people is required. Computer, audio/visual, social media proficiency, and video production skills is required.

Job offer is contingent on the successful passing of the mandatory background screening and completion of the VIRTUS "Protecting God's Children" program. Compensation is commensurate with experience and ability. Full complement of benefits offered: health, dental, vision, life, short & long-term disability, and matching 403(b). Benefits are according to Diocesan policy.

Send cover letter, resume, salary requirement, and references (3) to Deacon Patrick Wilson at [deacon394@outlook.com](mailto:deacon394@outlook.com).

World Day of Prayer for Vocations, Sunday, April 25

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## Margaret A. "Peggy" Hooks

A funeral service will take place at a later date for Margaret A. "Peggy" Hooks, 69, who died Thursday, April 8.

She was born on March 25, 1952 to Bob and Faithe Hooks.

She graduated from Columbus St. Timothy School and Columbus Bishop Watterson High School and received a bachelor's degree in elementary education from Ohio State University.

She taught elementary school at New Lexington St. Rose School for two years and Columbus St. Mary Magdalene School for 25 years.

She was preceded in death by her parents and a sister, Johann Cozart. Survivors include brothers, Bob (Kathi), Dan, Greg (Jane Rosenberg) and Tim (Krista Barber) and sisters, Miki (David) Barnes, Tess and Jenny.

## Marjorie A. Kottenstette

Funeral Mass for Marjorie A. Kottenstette, 88, who died Wednesday, April 14, was celebrated Monday, April 19 at Columbus St. Agatha Church. Burial was at Resurrection Cemetery, Lewis Center.

She was born March 4, 1933 in Pittsburgh to Donald and Virginia Duff, graduated from East High School in Denver and attended the University of Colorado.

She and her husband, Fred, lived

in Houston, Denver and New Jersey before settling in 1965 in Columbus, where she was secretary at St. Agatha School for many years.

She was preceded in death by her parents and a brother, Robert. Survivors include her husband; sons, Tom (Laura), Ed (Donna), Bob (Julie), Andy (Desiree) and Dan (Jayma); daughter, Virginia (Paul) de Verteuil; 15 grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren.



To have an obituary printed in the Catholic Times, send it to: [tpuet@columbuscatholic.org](mailto:tpuet@columbuscatholic.org)

## PRAY FOR OUR DEAD

**ANDERSON, Dennis B., 79, April 11**  
St. Christopher Church, Columbus

**ARRIGO, James S., 83, April 5**  
St. Christopher Church, Columbus

**BOEHM, Nancy L. (Graham), 80, April 5**  
Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, Grove City

**BORCHIEWICZ, Robert J., 82, April 11**  
St. Peter Church, Columbus

**BRUGGER, Eugene V., 92, March 30**  
St. Matthew Church, Gahanna

**BRYANT, James C., 89, April 9**  
St. Mark Church, Lancaster

**COLEMAN, Deborah A., 68, April 11**  
St. Andrew Church, Columbus

**CORCHINSKI, Barbara A., 91, March 27**  
St. Matthias Church, Columbus

**CUA, Ronald J., 88, March 28**  
St. Paul Church, Westerville

**DAMRON, Charles, 90, March 27**  
St. Mary Church, Portsmouth

**DAVIDSON, Rosemarie (Marabella), 94, April 3**  
St. Matthew Church, Gahanna

**FEDERER, Carmela A. (Perna), 98, April 10**  
St. Matthew Church, Gahanna

**FOLEY, John F., 21, April 11**  
St. Timothy Church, Columbus

**FOX, Daniel E., 64, April 9**  
St. Agnes Church, Columbus

**FUCCI, Gerald, 74, Jan. 11**  
Holy Redeemer Church, Portsmouth

**GEMPERLINE, Donna (Kimberling), 89, April 3**  
St. Mary Church, Portsmouth

**GILLEN, Joe L., 72, April 13**  
St. Leo Church, Columbus

**GULLIFER-BUZENSKI, Amy E., 44, April 11**  
St. Brendan Church, Hilliard

**HANLON, John R., 96, April 1**  
St. Peter Church, Columbus

**HATEM, Chris M. "Mike," 68, March 27**  
St. Rose Church, New Lexington

**HELD, Edward J. Jr., 98, April 14**  
Corpus Christi Church, Columbus

**KIRWIN, Loretta, 97, April 11**  
Christ the King Church, Columbus

**KULLMAN, Joseph J., 88, April 5**  
St. Matthias Church, Columbus

**LINDEMANN, Dora J. (Oddi), 86, formerly of Columbus, March 29**  
St. Peter Church, Spring Grove, Ill.

**LOCKE, Ralph C. Jr., 71, April 7**  
St. Cecilia Church, Columbus

**MAHAFFEY, Betty J. (Smith), 103, April 1**  
Our Lady of Peace Church, Columbus

**MENGHINI, Mary L. (Mahanes), 92, formerly of Reynoldsburg, April 2**  
St. Mary Magdalene Church, Greenville, S.C.

**MILITELLO, Phyllis (Carfagna), 97, April 3**  
St. John the Baptist Church, Columbus

**REINDL, Jo Ann (Flannegan), 87, April 8**  
St. Francis de Sales Church, Newark

**ROSS, Carol (Heakin), 72, March 29**  
Immaculate Conception Church, Dennison

**SHORT, Angela J., 76, April 10**  
St. Mary Church, Lancaster

**WHITINGER, Cheryl (Williams), 52, April 5**  
Holy Redeemer Church, Portsmouth

**ZORICH, Joseph A., 75, March 24**  
St. Pius X Church, Reynoldsburg

### PRAYER TO THE VIRGIN

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



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**DISCIPLESHIP**, *continued from Page 3*

with them. What's most important is focusing on how they and their companies care for people. But in helping companies and individuals flourish, certain Christian principles do apply. By following those principles, people hopefully will find a more meaningful, balanced life, helping them do good things."

Hawk, 51, is chief executive officer of RevLocal, which he and his brother Michael founded in 2010 after starting other internet- and computer-related businesses. The company employs about 400 people, 175 of whom are based in about 40 cities from coast to coast, with the balance based at RevLocal's headquarters just outside of Granville. The company originally was based in the Polaris area of northern Franklin County before moving to its current location in 2013.

Hawk graduated from the University of Notre Dame in 1992 with a degree in accounting, was employed by the Ernst and Young accounting firm for two years and then was with Park National Bank in Newark for 10 years before partnering with his brother in 2004.

"A business consultant named Patrick Lencioni, who also happens to be a strong Catholic, defines six categories of what he calls working geniuses, saying that to put the right people in the right jobs, you have to understand which categories they best fit. Great teams have complementary working genius styles. This has helped Michael and I feed off one another's strengths," Hawk said.

"Michael is what Pat would call a wonderer and an inventor. I'm more of a galvanizer and a discerner. Michael envisioned people's needs and the ability of our team to create RevLocal, which has that name because its mission is to revolutionize local searches for business owners. My strength has been to concentrate on executing the idea he envisioned."

Hawk said that when it became apparent that dial-up internet service would be superseded by faster platforms, his brother took about six months to determine what the next phase of internet access would be.

"In 2010, perhaps 10 percent of companies had smartphones, and businesses didn't know what to do with them," he said. "Michael realized that smartphones presented a great opportunity for localized, phone-based marketing, but business owners were struggling to realize this and make the changes necessary."

"We enable business owners to access strategies that can help them with more localized marketing through partnership with a RevLocal representative and a robust technology platform. It's a priority for us to build a culture of trust and relationships, in which our people and our customers help each other grow together."

"Today, RevLocal adapts to online channels and strategies that help people market their businesses in whatever way that best fits their customers. Television, radio and newspapers were once the primary channels to reach people. Now it's through digital marketing and platforms like Google, Facebook or Instagram, to name a few. We're partnering with companies to help them figure out where to go."

"Our people get better if they focus on the right things," Hawk said. "One example is Diana Park-Alford, our national sales manager," who is



**Marc Hawk at his RevLocal office in Granville**

*Photo courtesy Andy Mackey*

based in Phoenix. "We look for people who have a heart for caring about others, not themselves. When Diana joined us as a digital marketing consultant, it soon became apparent that the Lord had put her in our path. She shared our desire to do something great and to help other people thrive, knowing that we also would benefit."

"We're privileged to have a lot of individuals who share Diana's approach to working for the company – people who believe in the concept of servant leadership, meaning that when you get the chance to serve, it gives you the opportunity to serve more and not just to do what you want. This provides mirrors of accountability everywhere. You hire people, and they hold each other accountable, and, in turn, they're going to hold you accountable."

Marc and Michael are among four sons and a daughter of Ron and Joyce Hawk, who attended Danville St. Luke Church in Knox County. "Mom and Dad provided me with an example of faith that I try to follow," Marc Hawk said. "Dad was a dairy farmer, and at age 24 or 25, he was able to convince the local bank to give him money to reopen a bankrupt grain elevator and feed store in Danville."

"He became an entrepreneur and figured out how to put the five of us through college. He was a man of action who led by example – a real alpha male, but a humble man who always put others ahead of himself. After my mom was diagnosed with ALS (amyotrophic lateral sclerosis), Lou Gehrig's disease, he took care of her for two years until she died in 2017."

"Now he's in his late 70s and suffering from dementia," Hawk said. "He stays positive most of the time. He's brave and strong and recognizes his limitations. Our family shares in caring for him daily. We are blessed that he is still with us."

"It's fascinating how Dad has changed in these last few years. It used to be that he never cared for dogs or any other kind of pet. Now he cares for a herd of little kittens, and they're like his children. I've learned a lot through watching Dad. For one thing, it's made me realize some day I may be in the same place."

Hawk said he also learned a great deal from his

mother's final years. "She graduated from Good Samaritan Hospital's nursing school in Zanesville but never used her degree," he said. "Instead, she chose to raise the five of us. She was a strong Catholic who was inspired by her own mother-in-law's deep faith."

"Through Mom's journey of faith, she still feeds me and brings me lots of acceptance and awareness of my own life. When she was diagnosed with ALS, she waited for about three months to tell us as she came to terms with her fate. In her final days, she asked for prayers to be able to endure with grace. She said, 'I need to suffer with joy. That's my role now.'

"'Suffer with joy' – what a powerful statement," Hawk said. "It gives me confidence in knowing how things will end, for we all will have to face death. Mom showed me you have to make yourself available to God, turn to Him and accept His help."

"Our parents taught all of us how both to be independent and to accept reality. The inspiration from Mom challenges me every day to be ready for whatever might happen and to live a lifestyle that says, 'I'm not going to ignore reality.'"

He said that about 10 days before she died, his mother, who always was carefully groomed and looking elegant, asked to have her hair dyed red. "When I asked her why, she said, 'I realized I wanted to see everyone smile. I've always been so vain in my life,'" Hawk said. "That story inspires me. I want to help others like Mom helped them. She was a woman of both vulnerability and strength. My closest relationship and my greatest peace after someone's death both came with Mom. What a well-lived life she had."

Hawk and his wife, Tonya, have been married for 25 years and are the parents of five children, three of whom – Jonathan, 33, who lives in Greenville, South Carolina, and brother and sister Tony, 18, and Aaliyah, 16, who attend Granville High School – are adopted. Their daughter Rachel, 22, attends St. Louis University, and son Derek, 20, goes to Ohio State University.

"Tonya was a teacher of emotionally disturbed children and an intervention specialist for the Olentangy Local schools," Hawk said. "The Lord brought us together. Even before marriage, she had a heart to adopt children."

"Three months after our marriage, we adopted Jonathan, who was 8 years old at the time, from a homeless family. Raising him has been both our greatest challenge and our greatest gift. We deserve no credit for doing this. It was a decision to say 'Yes' to God, make ourselves available to Him and let Him do the work."

"Several years later, the opportunity arose to adopt a brother and sister with special needs. Again, we made ourselves available to take on a challenge, and now the two are thriving in our family," he said.

"Tonya and I both want to live a life of no regrets. We have been blessed. Adoption is not the easiest thing to do, but we have a willingness to be called to something and to accept that call."

Tonya no longer is a teacher but is active with the SPICE (Special People in Catholic Education) pro-

# Lang retires after 40 years as Bishop Ready girls coach

After 40 years as the head girls basketball coach at Columbus Bishop Ready High School, Joe Lang decided this month it's time to step away.

The 1973 Bishop Ready graduate announced his retirement to the team April 6, ending a coaching career that spanned 48 years. Lang had retired from teaching and as the school's director of admissions in 2020, but he has continued to serve as a substitute teacher during the current academic year.

No current head basketball coach in central Ohio had held the same job as long as Lang did.

Forty years is a long time to stay in one place these days. A coach has to really enjoy his job, his employer and his surroundings to make that type of commitment. Lang's love for Ready goes without saying.

"To be honest with you, all the years that I've been here, the discipline, the atmosphere and the emphasis on religion and faith that the kids get here was a big plus for me, and getting the kids to play the way I wanted them to play," Lang said.

"I had to deal with very few personalities (issues) in 40 years. They just all seemed to buy into the team concept (and) worked together. I can think back on all those kids, and I just loved to coach them."

Lang was an assistant boys coach before he took the girls' job to start the 1981-82 season. He went on to compile a 534-366 record, and his teams won six Central Catholic League titles while competing against larger schools in the CCL and five district championships.

"Coach Lang was a great role model and leader for the Bishop Ready girls basketball program for 40 seasons," Ready athletic director Stevie McQuade said. "He gave his heart and soul to not only the girls basketball program but to Bishop Ready High School."



**Retiring Bishop Ready girls basketball coach Joe Lang was a fixture on the sideline for 40 seasons.**

*Photo courtesy  
Aria Ala-U-Dini/ThisWeek Community News*

"If you walked into Bishop Ready on a Saturday morning the last 40-plus years, coach Lang was probably here working on admissions paperwork, grading papers, or basketball. Replacing coach Lang will be extremely hard to do. His love for the game, the program and BRHS was amazing to watch and be around."

This past season proved to be a challenge. Three COVID-19 quarantines totaling 42 days limited the Silver Knights to 10 games and a 2-8 record. But that wasn't the reason for his coaching retirement.

"This is something that I've been thinking about probably for the last three years," Lang said. "I remember about a week ago looking at the calendar and thinking workouts (for next season) start in two weeks. And I just thought I'm out of gas. And I always said if I feel that way that it's not fair to the kids, and it's time to go."

On the court, success came in spurts for the Silver Knights under Lang. Ready won three straight CCL titles in the late 1980s and early '90s, two district championships from 2005 to 2007 and another district title and two district runner-up finishes from 2014 to 2016. One of his most memorable wins came when Ready upset Jonathan Alder, ranked No. 1 in the state in Division II, in a game during the 2005-06 season.

"I look at it more in terms of, we had 130 girls graduate out of the program, and not just that so many of them developed and became great players, but they became great people," Lang said. "Now they're great mothers and great members of society."

Being at one school so long, Lang has coached the daughters of several former players.

"Honestly, I've been very lucky being here," Lang said. "I started out coaching in the boys program, and I really wasn't sure about switching over to girls, but, no question, it's the greatest decision I've ever made."

So much has changed in the past 40 years. Basketball has become a year-round sport that includes off-season conditioning, camps and summer leagues. But Lang, who also coached softball for 10 years in the spring, said he has tried to maintain and instill the same values in his players.

"Nowadays, you hear the word 'culture' all the time, and we preached that to the girls – not being selfish – and the kids listened," he said. "We had a lot of success, but it was just good kids from good families. And when you have that, I don't care what anybody says, that makes a big difference."

Lang hopes he has made a difference in the lives of Ready players and students.

"We preached to them about being good people," he said. "We've done

community service for many years. We talked a lot about paying back.

"When I was growing up, all the nuns I had at St. Mary Magdalene and here at Ready, and all the teachers I had and every coach I had, they were preaching the exact same thing as my mom and dad. So everything got reinforced every day. And I just tried to continue doing that."

One valuable lesson that athletics teach is how to handle failure as well as success.

"I've told the kids that aren't getting to play a lot that everybody is going to have the opportunity in life to have their time, and it's not necessarily going to be the first 18 years of your life," he said. "I played here on two state championship teams, but, I'll be honest with you, I didn't play, and a few years later I'm the head coach here."

"So we try to tell the kids, 'You're going to have success, that your time is going to come as long as you're a good person.' I think people naturally gravitate toward good people."

Now that Lang is no longer a full-time coach or teacher, he'll have more free time to spend with his family, but McQuade expects the old coach to still maintain a presence at the school where he has spent a considerable portion of his life.

"There are very few coaches and educators, at any level, that can say they were the leader of their program for 40 years," McQuade said. "He is the true definition of dedication and service. We will miss coach Lang in our building, but I know he will still help us out in some capacity. That is just his personality."

The search for Lang's replacement has begun. McQuade is accepting resumes and references via email at [smcquade@cducation.org](mailto:smcquade@cducation.org).

## DeSales' Watson named first-team all-state

Desmond Watson of Columbus St. Francis DeSales capped his high school basketball career by being named first-team All-Ohio in Division II for the second consecutive year.

The 6-foot-5 senior, who led the Stallions (19-8) to the state championship game in March, also was among six finalists for the Ohio Mr. Basketball award that went to Malaki Branham of Akron St. Vincent-St. Mary, which defeated DeSales 72-50 in the state final.

Columbus Bishop Ready's Darius Parham, a 6-2 senior, was selected to

the third team in Division III after averaging 18.2 points during the 2020-21 season.

Zanesville Bishop Rosecrans' Thomas Spohn, Lancaster Fisher Catholic's Josh Burke and Newark Catholic's Cole Canter received special mention in Division IV.

Spohn, a 5-10 senior, averaged 15.2 points per game this past season. Burke, a 6-5 senior, averaged 18.6 points per game, and Canter, a 6-3 junior, scored 15.6 points per game.

Honorable mention recognition in Division IV went to Zander Sabin, a

5-8 sophomore who averaged 18.5 points per game for New Philadelphia Tuscarawas Central Catholic, and Johnathan Strickland, a 6-2 junior who averaged 17.2 points per game for Portsmouth Notre Dame.

Watson became the first two-time all-state selection in DeSales history, and he was also the Central District Player of the Year. The Davidson College signee (the same school that produced NBA star Steph Curry) finished with a school-record 1,722 points and



**Desmond Watson, named first-team all-state in Division II for the second straight year, led DeSales with 23 points in a loss to Akron St. Vincent-St. Mary in the state championship game last month in Dayton.**  
*Photo courtesy John Hulkenberg*

## St. Charles junior invited to Olympic swim trials



Columbus St. Charles Preparatory School junior Spencer Aurnou-Rees will compete in the U.S. Olympic Swimming Trials in June in the 200 individual medley. He qualified with a time of 2 minutes, 4.01 seconds at the Toyota U.S. Open in Indianapolis in November. Competing against college swimmers at the Speedo Sectionals on March 26-27 in Elkhart, Indiana, he won bronze medals in the 200 IM and the 200 freestyle. The University of Texas signee previously swam in the Summer Junior Nationals at Stanford University and the Winter Nationals in Atlanta. Swimming for St. Charles, he helped the Cardinals finish fifth in the Ohio Division I state swimming and diving championships in February. Aurnou-Rees placed second in the 100 freestyle and third in the 200 free in the state meet and was a member of relay teams that finished third and sixth. The school record-holder in the 200 IM, 100 freestyle, 200 free and 500 free holds several school relay records and St. Charles pool records and a Central District record in the 200 free. He was named a high school All-American in the 100 and 200 free.

*Photo courtesy St. Charles*

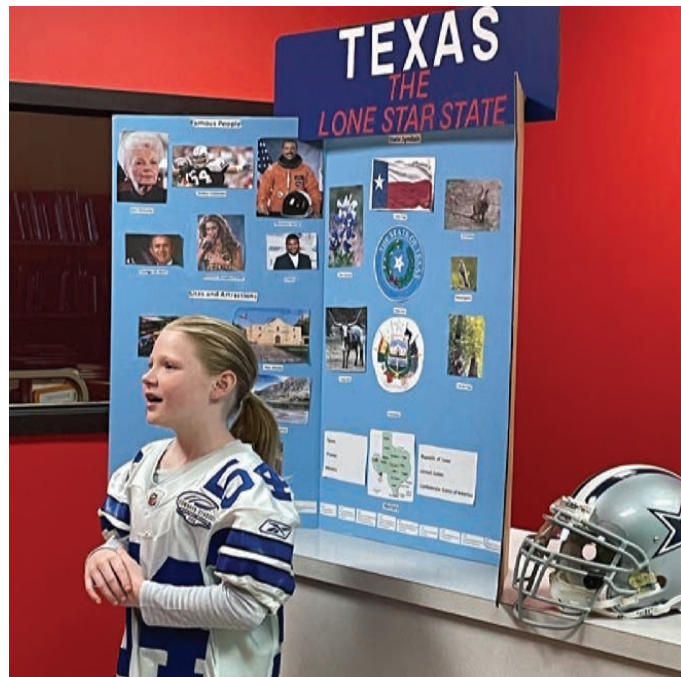
**ALL-STATE**, continued from Page 20

averaged more than six rebounds and nearly four assists per game as a senior.

“Des is the best player that I have ever coached,” head coach Pat Murphy said. “Des is the best player to ever play at DeSales. I do not make either of those statements lightly.

“His accomplishments on the court, which are well documented, just scratch the surface of his greatness. His leadership, work ethic and coachability are what make him really special. Once he made the decision to become elite in those areas, his talent took him to a place that most players will never know.”

## State Day at St. Agatha



McClain Carpenter and other fourth-graders recently took part in State Day at Columbus St. Agatha School, livestreaming presentations on individual states to students at school, their parents and family and friends. The project taught them to pick out important information from various resources, take notes, type a final paper, complete a poster board and make a presentation in front of live audiences.

*Photo courtesy St. Agatha School*

## 12 Watterson athletes sign



Twelve Columbus Bishop Watterson High School students have signed letters of intent to continue their athletic careers in college. They are (from left): first row, Jacob Hoying, Cincinnati, football; Anna Kessler, William & Mary, track and field; Kervin Azor, football, Ohio Dominican; Colin Robinson, Baldwin Wallace, soccer; second row, Lauren Neutzling, Wittenberg, field hockey; Aubrey Bower, DePauw, lacrosse; Julia Flanagan, Ohio Northern, soccer; Ashley Ward, Marietta, volleyball; third row, Noah Gruver, Otterbein, baseball; Nicholas Malagrecia, Wilmington, basketball; Max McCann, Heidelberg, baseball. Not pictured is Carson Blank, who will play football at Ashland.

*Photo courtesy Bishop Watterson High School*

## Bremen St. Mary organ dedicated



Former Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral organist Nicole Simental presented a recital on Sunday, April 11 to dedicate the rebuilt organ at Bremen St. Mary Church. She is shown with Father Ty Tomson, the church's pastor, who bought the organ and had it repaired by local organ builders John Schechter and Charlie Potter. It was built in 1964 by the Moller Company of Hagerstown, Maryland and had two previous owners. Simental left her position as cathedral organist early this year and is in formation with the Bridgettine Sisters at their convent in Columbus. The organ dedication program, titled “His Mercy Endures Forever,” included works by Johann Sebastian Bach, Percy Whitlock, William H. Harris, George Frederic Handel, Jean-Francois Dandrieu and Louis Vierne.

*Photo courtesy St. Mary Church*



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**All proceeds go towards scholarships for 8th graders attending a Catholic High School.**

# Oakland Nurseries has deep roots in community

By Tim Puet  
Catholic Times Reporter

## CATHOLIC BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

*A monthly feature highlighting Catholic business owners and entrepreneurs working to share their faith in the marketplace.*

Driving through Columbus' Clintonville neighborhood, John Reiner sees reminders of his family's legacy of more than 70 years operating Oakland Nurseries, a premier garden supply company and landscape architecture business. Reiner is co-president of the business, which has been based at 1156 Oakland Park Ave., just east of Clintonville, since 1950.

His father, Gus, was involved in winemaking and horticulture in Germany. Gus immigrated to the United States in the 1920s and met his wife, Bertha, in Columbus. Together they opened a garden supply store in 1940 on Maize Road. As the city expanded after World War II, Gus grew his business and moved it to its current location. Today, Oakland Nurseries has about 500 employees at retail locations in Columbus, Delaware, Dublin and New Albany.

"When my father first opened this nursery 71 years ago, Clintonville was still a developing neighborhood," Reiner said. "When I was young, he would drive me around and show me the trees he had planted and homes and churches he had landscaped.

"My mother came from a strong Catholic background. She and my father taught us ideals of hard work, service to others and choosing lasting quality. Bertha also taught us compassion and integrity, virtues that motivated her to help liberate a family of Jews from Nazi Germany. Gus always wanted the finest plants for his customers."

The couple had four sons, with John and his brother Paul following their father into the business. John met his wife, Sheila, whom he describes as "the calming, serene and sane presence in my life," when the two were students at Columbus St. Francis DeSales High School. They have been married for 47 years and have three daughters, one son and eight grandchildren.

Their daughter Genevieve and son Max, as well as Paul's son Mark, represent a third generation of Reiners involved with the company. Genevieve, an attorney, is chief operating officer and in-house counsel. She also supervises the company's interior landscape operations. Max is vice president for landscape operations, and Mark is vice president for nursery operations.

John Reiner manages the company's

landscape and design-build division, Oakland Design Associates. He created the design company in 1974, three years after graduating from Ohio State University, where he majored in landscape architecture and international affairs. Oakland's wholesale business, Acorn Farms, was founded in 1976 and includes 800 acres of shade and ornamental trees and 45 acres of plant stock for customers throughout the East Coast and Midwest.

"We can do everything for a property except build a house," Reiner said. "We have eight of the best-trained landscape architects and designers and 22 construction crews. We're the oldest irrigation company in the region and have separate divisions for ponds, night lighting and urban landscapes."

The walls of the company's office are filled with awards from state and national nursery and landscape design associations. Perhaps the best-known of Reiner's designs are the nine room-sized landscapes built at the Franklin Park Conservatory as centerpieces of the AmeriFlora international horticultural exhibition hosted by the conservatory in 1992.

Reiner also is active in political and church affairs. He and Sheila have lived in Dublin since 1978, and he is the longest-tenured member of Dublin City Council, serving in that role since 1997. Before that, he was on the city's planning and zoning commission for eight years. With his experience as a landscape architect, he played a key role in developing the planning rules that have given Dublin a reputation as a well-designed community. As a parishioner of Dublin St. Brigid of Kildare Church, Reiner served on the church's design committee.

His military service, in which he served as an Army captain, has influenced his outlook on Catholic life. "From the military, I learned the importance of getting a mission accomplished while taking care of my people at the same time," he said. "That's part of my philosophy of servant leadership, which has been refined through the privilege of being involved in Catholic charitable organizations.

"You get so much from this kind of work than you ever can give back. The late Dr. Frank Dono and his wife,



Sheila and John Reiner

CT photo by Ken Snow

Marilyn, and the late Alan Dekker and his wife, Ellyn, got me involved with those groups, and I'm so grateful to them for the opportunity this has given me to serve."

Reiner is co-chair with Dan Brown of the Friends of the Josephinum's annual 4-mile run/walk, which will resume on Saturday, Oct. 2 after being canceled last year because of the COVID-19 pandemic. This year, the run/walk will be entirely on the seminary's grounds. The most recent of these events took place in 2019 and attracted more than 600 participants, including 36 Josephinum seminarians.

"It's a great time," Reiner said. "Besides getting a participant medal for completing the course, those who take part will get free breakfast from White Castle at the start and pizza from Donatos Pizza at the finish, plus goodie bags with a loaf of bread and a bottle of wine or a jar of jam from the Trappist monks, and a race T-shirt."

Clergy Who Cook, another fundraising event for the Josephinum, allows seminarians and priests to showcase their culinary skills. It is one of the Friends of the Josephinum's principal fundraising activities. Before those events began, Reiner helped raise funds for the Friends of the Josephinum by auctioning European icons and rare artwork and organizing the Vienna Court Ball in the 1980s and '90s, at which European nobility mingled with seminarians, priests and

guests during a black-tie dinner and dance at the Josephinum. "Members of the Habsburgs (Austria's former ruling family) or another royal family would come to Columbus and stay for a week. Those balls were the classiest, most wonderful evenings that ever happened in Columbus," Reiner said. "They never asked to be treated in a special way when they visited but made friends with everyone."

He said he is involved with the Friends of the Josephinum because "if you don't have priests, you don't have much of a Catholic Church or sacraments. These guys (seminarians) are just wonderful. They were picked by the Holy Spirit to be there, and it's an absolute joy to know them."

John is a member of two ancient chivalric orders of the Church: the Order of Malta and the Order of the Holy Sepulchre. Reiner said that a few years ago, he and other active Catholic laymen including Dr. Dono, Robert Morosky, Jack Gibbons, Charles Mifsud, David Martin and Dr. Michael Parker began recruiting men to join them in the Order of Malta's charitable work. The order's Columbus region has flourished ever since.

Its most visible local presence is its Center of Care at the St. John Center, adjacent to Columbus Holy Rosary-St. John Church. The care center opened in August 2017 and operates a free medical clinic open to anyone every Thursday. It also is planning to open a dental clinic at the same site in a few weeks after plans for that facility were delayed by the pandemic.

"The order has a history going back more than 900 years, to the days before the Crusades," Reiner said. "Its mission always has been to serve the sickest of the sick and the poorest of the poor. We learned a few years ago that Franklin County had the highest infant mortality rate in the state and knew Holy Rosary-St. John was looking for a way to respond to that, so we began making plans for the clinic as a way of continuing that mission. Chuck Mifsud and Jason Thomas have done an excellent job of managing the clinic, and I am grateful for their hard work."

The Order of the Holy Sepulchre, another Catholic organization with a centuries-long tradition, is devoted mainly to the welfare of Christians in the Holy Land. It sponsors an annual Mass in the Diocese of Columbus and inducts new members during the

**OAKLAND, continued from Page 22**

annual meeting of its North-Central region, which covers six states.

Reiner was diagnosed with stage IV colon-liver cancer 17 years ago, one year after undergoing surgery, chemotherapy and radiation for colon cancer.



**John Reiner**

After much reading and consultation with experts, he made significant diet and lifestyle changes that have benefited him ever since. Through working with other cancer patients, he said he has come to realize that “terminal illness isn’t the end. I believe God harvests the people He loves in the way that fits His plan for the universe.”

“Some people are cured because they have some kind of purpose yet to be fulfilled, a work God wants them to perform or a way to know Him better before passing. Others have fulfilled that purpose, and God calls them to His side to share His joy.

“What has been great about the people I’ve worked with, no matter which organization they are part of, is that they all have been givers,” Reiner said. “It’s been a wonderful experience to be around such people who care about others first and themselves second.”

**DISCIPLESHIP, continued from Page 19**

gram at Newark St. Francis de Sales School, which supports the education of children with diverse needs in Licking County parishes and schools.

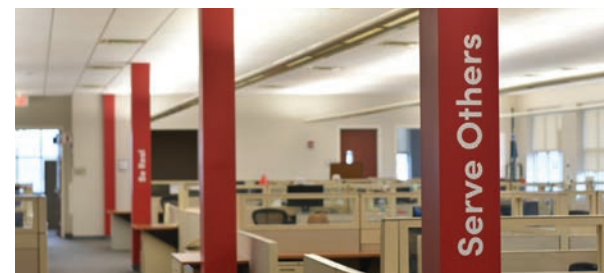
“She saw instances where she felt special-needs children weren’t being served in a way she felt was sufficient, so she and a few other people got together to start the SPICE program here. This allows her to continue caring for children’s needs as she did while teaching,” Marc Hawk said. SPICE was founded at Columbus St. Catharine School in 1999 and has expanded to several other Catholic schools in Franklin County and nationwide.

Hawk also served on the board of directors for St. Gabriel Catholic Radio, AM 820, from its beginnings in 2006 until January of this year, when he resigned from the board. He had been its chairman since 2009.

“(Station founder) Chris Gabrelcik came to me 15 years ago and asked for help in getting the station going, and I’ve been with it ever since,” Hawk said. “It was another chance to make a decision in support of God’s kingdom. These are the instances where God presents an opportunity to use us, and we need to ask, ‘If not us, then who?’”

Hawk said his greatest pleasure in working with the radio station has come through seeing it touch people’s lives. “We provide Christ with a megaphone,” he said. “It’s helped create the vibrancy you can feel within the diocese that spreads from Bishop (Robert) Brennan outward.

“St. Gabriel Radio has given this a chance to grow because it’s boldly and authentically Catholic. We Catholics sometimes are like spoiled chil-

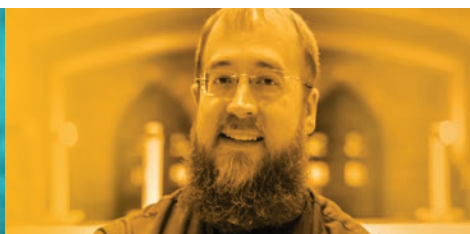


**RevLocal's headquarters** Photo courtesy Andy Mackey

dren in that we often don’t realize what we have with the Eucharist and a faith passed down from the Apostles. Christ told the Apostles to tell people what they learned from him, and that’s what St. Gabriel Radio and The Catholic Times are doing.

“Being Catholic is believing in the Eucharist,” Hawk said. “As my mom said, ‘There’s nowhere else you’ll find the Eucharist. Where else would you go?’ There’s no doubt Jesus meant what he said about having life by eating His flesh and drinking His blood, even though it doesn’t seem logical. The proof for that is in the many Eucharistic miracles that have occurred through the centuries.

“I’ve personally felt Jesus’ presence in the Eucharist, and that’s why I’m passionate about Catholicism. I believe everyone needs an encounter with Jesus, but it seems that we must be open to have that type of encounter. You have to want it. He’s not going to coerce you, so recognize His invitation is always there, and your life can be transformed by Him.”



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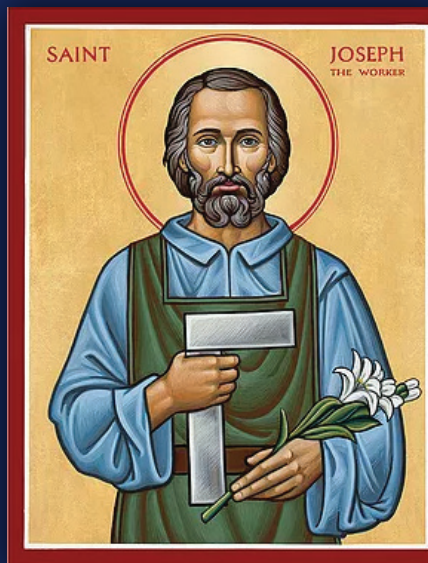


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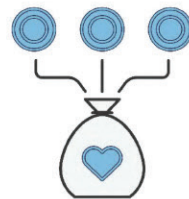


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