

The Catholic TIMES

The Diocese of Columbus' News Source

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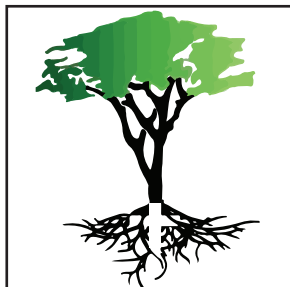
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**MORE THAN 500 PEOPLE EXPRESS THEIR
DESIRE TO JOIN CHURCH AT EASTER VIGIL**

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Diocese addresses concerns over coronavirus

In the midst of the influenza season and with growing concerns regarding the potential spread of the coronavirus in the United States, Bishop Robert Brennan is encouraging all members of the Diocese of Columbus to take reasonable precautions and demonstrate good judgment in safeguarding their own health and the health of fellow parishioners, those in schools, diocesan facilities, outreach locations and wherever there is interaction with the general public.

Diocesan offices are working with various health officials to stay abreast of the coronavirus and any public health issue. At present, the message from public health agencies is to be cautious and aware. If notified by state or county health authorities that

Resources

Ohio Department of Health (odh.ohio.gov) -- Seasonal Influenza Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (cdc.gov/flu)-- Influenza

Ohio Department of Health (odh.ohio.gov) -- COVID-19

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (cdc.gov/coronavirus) -- Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

further precautions are necessary, that information will be shared with the faithful and diocesan offices will work with all concerned in order to take appropriate concerns. In the meantime, please consider the following:

- As always, if you or a member of your family are ill, or even experiencing symptoms of illness, you are

not obliged to attend Mass. In a spirit of prudence and charitable concern for fellow parishioners, please remain home and attend to your own health. If you wish to stay connected in prayer, St. Gabriel Radio (AM 820 in central Ohio, FM 88.3 in southern Ohio and www.stgabrielradio.com on the web) broadcast Mass from Columbus St. Jo-

seph Cathedral (AM) and Portsmouth St. Mary's Church (FM) on Sunday mornings at 10:30 a.m. Sunday Masses are also viewable on both WWHO-TV in Columbus and WHIZ-TV in Zanesville, in addition to other cable stations.

- In that same spirit, exercise good judgment and concern for others regarding coughing, sneezing, keeping surfaces clean and the shaking of hands.

- No one should feel obliged to shake hands. While it is the customary form at the greeting of peace, it is not the only form. It is sufficient simply to turn and offer a sincere expression such as "peace be with you," for example.

All ministers of Holy Communion

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Zanesville St. Thomas Aquinas Church closed during structural evaluation

The Zanesville St. Thomas Aquinas Church building has been declared unsafe by officials of the Mid-East Ohio Building Department, which inspects all building activity regulated by the state building code in Muskingum County.

Masses and other events that take place in the church will be relocated to the parish activity center until a decision is made on the building's future. Weekday Masses will be in the parish chapel.

The code enforcement agency on Wednesday, Feb. 26 issued a condemnation order for the building until repairs have been made, said Jason Baughman, chief building official with the department. The decision to do so was made after an inspection that day by structural engineers of the trusses and posts in the church attic and a preliminary review of the findings of the inspection.

Parish staff members will work with structural engineers and the Dio-

cese of Columbus facilities engineering team to provide a full assessment of the structure. Parishioners will be informed of further developments as information becomes available.

St. Thomas Aquinas Church, at 144 N. 5th St. in downtown Zanesville, was dedicated in 1844. Its cornerstone was laid in 1842. In that same year, Zanesville's other Catholic parish, St. Nicholas Church, was founded. The two churches are located within a half-mile of each other.

Dominican friars served St. Thomas Aquinas, originally known as St. John Church, for 194 years – from 1823, when Father Stephen Montgomery, OP, became Zanesville's first resident priest, until 2017, when the Dominican Province of St. Joseph decided to withdraw the friars from Zanesville because the province has refocused its ministries on larger communities of friars.

Father Jan Sullivan has been the parish's pastor since the friars' departure.

Diocese adds name to list of credibly accused clergy

The name of Father Francis Massarella, a member of the Glenmary Home Missioners, has been added to the Diocese of Columbus' list of priests credibly accused of sexual abuse of a minor.

This action and announcement are made in accordance with the *Catholic Church's Charter and Norms for the Protection of Children and Young People* and the diocese's published *Policies for Prevention of Sexual Abuse of Minors and Response to Allegations Thereof*.

Father Massarella, who died in May 2014 at age 98, has been added to Section V of the list, for "extern or religious clergy who served in the Di-

ocese of Columbus that were credibly accused of sexual abuse of minors elsewhere (alleged conduct occurred outside the Diocese of Columbus)."

During a review of clergy lists of religious orders, diocesan staff members found Father Massarella's name listed on the Glenmary website, with service in the Diocese of Columbus.

A review of *Official Catholic Directory* records indicates that he served at Pond Creek Holy Family and Otway Our Lady of Lourdes parishes in 1944 and 1945. Those parishes were part of the Archdiocese

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CORRECTION

The March 1 *Catholic Times* listed incorrect times for Eucharistic Adoration at Sugar Grove St. Joseph Church. The correct times are from the end of the noon Mass to 1:30 p.m. Thursdays and from 8 p.m. Saturday to 8 a.m. Sunday.

The date for the fish fry at Columbus St. Andrew Church was incorrectly listed as Friday, March 20. The correct date is Friday, March 6 from 4 to 7 p.m.



Front Page photo:

RITE OF ELECTION
Guinevere Irwin signs the Book of the Elect, declaring her desire to join the Catholic Church, during the diocesan Rite of Election on Feb. 29 at Grove City Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church. (CT photo by Ken Snow)

Catholic TIMES

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Rite of Election participants inspire others, bishop says

By Tim Puet
Catholic Times Reporter

Bishop Robert Brennan told people who are planning to receive the Sacraments of Initiation next month that even before joining the Church, their example is inspiring Catholics throughout the Diocese of Columbus.

The bishop presided at diocesan Rite of Election ceremonies on Saturday, Feb. 29 at Grove City Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church and on Sunday, March 1 at Westerville St. Paul the Apostle Church. For the first time in the diocese, both ceremonies were bilingual, with Scripture readings, the bishop's homily, the prayers of the faithful and music alternating between English and Spanish.

The diocesan Office for Divine Worship said 521 people from throughout the diocese declared at the ceremonies that they intended either to become Catholics or to enter into full communion with the Catholic Church at the Easter Vigil. A total of 378 are candidates, who already have been baptized in another Christian denomination but who have not been confirmed or received the Eucharist, while 143 are catechumens, who neither have been baptized nor received the other two sacraments (Holy Communion and Confirmation).

The catechumens and candidates are taking part in the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA), a yearlong program of weekly classes explaining Catholic beliefs and practices.

"There is something about this Church that really makes an impact in the world, that can lead others into a deeper meaning of life," Bishop Brennan said in his homily at the rite. "You catechumens and candidates do something profound to all of us.

"We who already are Catholics get used to this gift of faith we have. Seeing your response, your numbers, your enthusiasm, your deep faith lifts up the rest of us. It reminds me and all of us of the great gifts of faith, hope and love in the sacraments. You spark something that says to us the encounter with Jesus is no ordinary encounter."

Bishop Brennan noted that he attended a fish fry for the first time on Friday, Feb. 28 at Danville St. Luke Church. "It's just not a big deal on the East Coast," where he lived all his life until becoming bishop of Columbus last year, he said. "But everybody in central Ohio knows that fish fries in Lent are a big deal. Leave it to Catholics to turn a sacrifice (abstaining from meat) into a party."



Megan Henderson, 10, a Hilliard resident who will attend Columbus St. Patrick Church, signs the Book of the Elect at the diocesan Rite of Initiation on Feb. 29 in Grove City. Her godparents are standing beside her. CT photo by Ken Snow

Finding Church via work

At least two of this year's Rite of Election participants – Ken Snow and Britanie Powers – will be joining the Church after coming in daily contact with Catholics through work connections related to the diocese.

Snow, of the New Albany Church of the Resurrection, is a photographer whose work appears in

The Catholic Times nearly every week and who is a former employee of the diocesan Communications Office. Some of his photos accompany this story. Powers is a teacher at Coshocton Sacred Heart School.

Snow's family went to Presbyterian churches in Texas, where he was born, and in central Ohio, where the family moved when he was 4 years old. He believes he was baptized at some point, but no baptismal records could be found for him, though there are records for his two younger brothers.

He has been involved with the Diocese of Columbus for more than three decades, but many diocesan employees were unaware until now that he is not a Catholic. "It was a very pleasant surprise to see Ken one Sunday at Mass and find out from him that he was joining the Church," said Resurrection parishioner Julie Greer, executive assistant at the diocesan Chancery.

"He worked at the Chancery and has been a part of the diocese for so long that I just assumed he was Catholic," she said. Snow said Greer told him she thought he might be the only non-Catholic who ever worked in the Chancery, but that's not the case.

"I've been around the Catholic Church for 35 years," he said. "When I was helping with the diocese's televised Sunday Mass, people kidded me, saying I was more Catholic than most Catholics they knew."

In 1985, Snow became diocesan coordinator of the Mass, which the diocese had been presenting on WCMH-TV, Channel 4, since the mid-1960s. The Masses at that time were taped during the week at the Channel 4 studios. Snow and station employees shared production duties, with Snow scheduling priests, readers and musicians from throughout the diocese to take part in the program. Production of the Mass moved in the early 1990s to St. Turibius Chapel of the Pontifical College Josephinum, with Father Thomas Kessler as director.

"Father Kessler said to me once that Mass is not a 'show,' and I always tried to treat it reverently, but for many years, I approached it with the

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Confirmation class provides hope in the midst of tears

Nothing prepared me for the request my daughter made.

It came, as these things often do these days, in a text.

It was the schedule of calling hours and the celebration of life.

It took me a moment to realize that she was asking me to take her to a funeral.

Our small community has been hit, as have many around us, with way too many teen suicides. This particular funeral was her school's second of this school year. (That doesn't include those in other neighboring school districts.)

The young person who committed suicide had a close relationship to friends of my daughter, who are part of her circle of influence but not extremely close.

I don't know that there's any comfort in that. To be honest, I've been struggling to find comfort in any of this since the suicide of a fifth-grader in my other daughter's class last spring.

There is no easy way to see children killing themselves. I don't have any answers. I have only prayers. Lots and lots of prayers.

And I also have hope.

Every Sunday evening, I do what many adults find unthinkable and surround myself with a group of Confirmation teens.

While some find this a terrifying idea, I find it inspiring and charged with more energy and hope than I find anywhere, except in front of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament.

FINDING FAITH IN EVERYDAY LIFE

Sarah Reinhard

Sarah Reinhard is a Catholic wife, mother and writer in central Ohio. She is online at SnoringScholar.com.



In those faces and in the questions they'll ask if we listen, I find the gift of the next generation. They remind me that I don't know it all, but the answers are findable.

The answers, however, are not always in words.

As we drove to the funeral of an 18-year-old that night in February, I asked my daughter if she wanted to pray a Divine Mercy Chaplet.

I didn't ask because I'm holy. I asked because I didn't know what else to say. I knew it was going to be hard. And I knew that she needed to be there.

And above all, I knew she needed the reminder of mercy. She needed the foundation of her faith to hold the rocking sobs that later would shake her.

When you are facing grief that's bigger than you are, it's easy to be overcome. It's easy to want to give up. It's easy to fall and stay down.

There is an ancient saying: *Stat crux, dum volvitur orbis*. It translates, "When all else in the world is

shaken and passes, the Cross stands firm."

In his book *Overcoming Spiritual Discouragement*, Father Timothy Gallagher references this and writes, "The Cross of Christ is the solid ground on which we can stand in time of suffering."

Father Gallagher continues with this advice: "Place a crucifix where you can see it. Frequently, and especially in times of suffering, fix your gaze of faith on the crucifix. There you will see every kind of bodily pain – head, face, back, feet, hands – and every kind of emotional pain – isolation, abandonment, betrayal, unjust condemnation, ingratitude. Where you are, he has been. He understands. He shares your pain with you."

He shares your pain with you. And that truly is what we seek. When we gathered to celebrate the young life, gone too soon and in such a tragic way, we were together. And when the friends found themselves in a basement watching a game together, grieving and sharing presence, I reflected on the quote the pastor shared in his opening reflection about presence.

In a time of plenty, when few of us will ever be truly hungry, so many are starving for attention. Think of how often the works of mercy demand your time: visiting, instructing, counseling, admonishing, bearing, forgiving, comforting, praying.

How often in a day – the few hours a day I'm around my children – do I hear, "Hey, Mom, look!"? And how often do I actually stop to *look*, to *be* with them?

The busy isn't going anywhere. Neither is Jesus.

Local news and events

Program will look at *Evangelium Vitae* 25 years later

A panel of speakers will discuss the effects of Pope St. John Paul II's encyclical *Evangelium Vitae* in a program at Gahanna St. Matthew Church on the Solemnity of the Assumption, Wednesday, March 25, the 25th anniversary of the date when the document was issued. The theme of the program, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. will be "The Fruits of the Gospel of Life."

Topics will include: "Walking with Mothers," with Monica Flynn of Mommies Matter; "Post-Abortion Reconciliation and Healing," with Becky D'Alesio of Catholic Social Services; "Project Rachel; Bioethics and End-of-Life Issues," with Father Bob Penhallurick, chaplain of the central Ohio chapter of the Catholic Medical Association; and "The Death Penalty," with Jim Tobin of the Catholic Conference of Ohio. The evening also will include a video message from Bishop Robert Brennan.

The teachings of *Evangelium Vitae* on the value and inviolability of every human life have inspired Catholics around the world for the past 25 years. The encyclical has produced

many fruits in the work of building a culture of life and continues to address the challenges of our day.

The program is being co-sponsored by St. Matthew Church and the diocesan Office for Social Concerns. For more details, call (614) 241-2540 or send an email message to socmail-box@columbuscatholic.org.

Council of Catholic Women to sponsor workshop, retreat

The Diocesan Council of Catholic Women is sponsoring an estate planning workshop in March and a silent retreat in May.

The workshop will be from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, March 21 at Grove City Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, 3730 Broadway. The cost is \$30, including lunch and materials. Registration forms are due by Friday, March 13 and are available on the website of the Diocese of Columbus website, or you can call the DCCW office at (614) 228-8601.

The retreat will be from Friday to Sunday, May 1 to 3 at St. Therese's

Retreat Center, 5277 E. Broad St., Columbus. The cost is \$150, which includes two nights' lodging, meals and materials. Father Peter Totleben, OP, from the Pontifical College Josephinum will lead the retreat.

The DCCW will be celebrating its 75th anniversary on Saturday, Oct. 24 at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church. Jean Kelly, president of The National Council of Catholic Women, will be the guest speaker.

Josephinum dean to discuss Theology of the Body

Dr. Perry Cahall, academic dean and director of intellectual formation at the Pontifical College Josephinum, will discuss Pope St. John Paul II's Theology of the Body at the next gathering of The Agora: A Catholic Marketplace of Ideas, on Sunday, March 15 at Columbus Our Lady of Peace Church, 20 E. Dominion Blvd.

The program will begin with Eucharistic Adoration in the church from 6 to 6:40 p.m., followed by Cahall's presentation, which will look at

how Pope John Paul II's words teach about the true meaning of the human body and what it means to be made in God's image and likeness.

A question-and-answer session from 7:30 to 8 p.m. will be followed by a light reception. The talk, discussion and reception all will be in the former parish rectory.

Bereavement ministry to meet at Immaculate Conception

The next session of the Seasons of Hope bereavement ministry sponsored by the North High Deanery will begin Sunday, March 15 in Marian Hall of Columbus Immaculate Conception Church, 414 E. North Broadway.

The deanery offers the six-week ministry four times a year for anyone affected by the loss of a loved one. The program is a Catholic, Christ-centered support group that includes Scripture, prayer, reflection, and sharing. Its spring session will meet each Sunday

Praying for coronavirus victims and for an end to this deadly scourge

The world is still struggling with the coronavirus. No one wants to deal with a virus and the resulting illnesses like this one. We pray for all those who have lost their lives around the world and for those who are currently very sick. We hope this is under control and eradicated soon. For all the wonderful advances we have in medicine, nature continues to throw things at us that baffle and confound. Thankfully, we have confidence in our medical researchers and physicians. Without them, the misery and deaths would be so much worse.

The word “corona” has many different meanings. Under certain sky conditions and depending on the time of day, have you ever noticed the fiery glow around the sun? Sometimes there is more color, and sometimes it just looks amazingly brilliant and flashy. And every so often, when there is a solar eclipse, as the shadow seems to completely block the sun, you still can see the glow and rays extending outward in a circle. It is quite a sight. Not nearly the same, but similar, is a lunar eclipse when the edge of the moon shines

EVERYDAY CATHOLIC

Rick Jeric



its reflective light. No fiery glow, but still something very different and intriguing. Those fiery glows are called coronas. And we have a full moon this Monday. Also, remember to set your clocks ahead one hour as Daylight Savings Time begins.

Various uses of “corona” make sense. The word means “crown.” The logo of the Corona Cerveza company that produces a popular beer (*cerveza* is the Spanish word for beer) has a crown on it. The coronavirus was named for the crown-like spikes on its surface when magnified. And the glowing of the gaseous ma-

terial around the sun can resemble a crown. Even Our Lady of Fatima used the sun in a miraculous way as a sign, identifying herself as Our Blessed Mother and Our Lady of the Rosary. And we all know that kings and queens throughout history have worn crowns as a sign of their royalty and power. We often see Jesus Christ with a crown as the king of the universe.

We are a little more than one week into our Lenten journey. The goals we have committed to, the pleasures we have given up (*cerveza*), and the positive actions we are doing can be crowning achievements. Whatever our personal challenges are, we strive to come through these 40 days with a “crown” on our head. Yes, we can celebrate God’s goodness, mercy and forgiveness by sharing that joy with everyone. Our family, friends, co-workers, and even strangers should see that corona glow on our faces, hear it in our words, and feel it from our hearts. Let us keep praying in earnest, fasting as much as possible, and giving alms as meaningful donations. Wear the glowing crown of Jesus Christ with humility and great love.

Doing the dirty work for God and His people in prison

By Michele Williams

In 2010, I transferred from the Ohio Reformatory for Women (ORW) in Marysville to the Franklin Medical Center (FMC) in southwest Columbus to be a cadre worker (an inmate who is part of the prison staff). I had prayed for guidance, needed a change and wanted to be closer to my family. I believe God approved because He made it happen, and what a great move it was.

FMC is the only hospital in Ohio’s prison system and houses about 250 inmates. From its tiny yard, I could look beyond the double fences and razor wire to see Columbus’ skyline. It shone like the Emerald City in the distance. It became a beacon toward home and gave me so much hope. I did a lot of praying in that yard while I walked its miniature track.

The wing of the hospital I lived on housed 50 cadre workers and 50 pregnant inmates. We shared 10-person rooms with five bunk beds: non-pregnant cadres on top bunks, pregnant women on bottom bunks. They were some pretty tough chicks, although sometimes the anxiety of having a baby while incarcerated overrode the tough-girl attitude and the facade would crack. All of us did our best to look out for each other, pregnant or not.

The opposite wing was the nursing home for very old and infirm male inmates. Whoever they were in their former life and whatever crime they committed had long been forgotten.

Their families and friends were gone and they almost never had a visitor. They were just old men waiting for their appointment with St. Peter at the Pearly Gates registration desk.

The top floor was for male and female inmate patients from every prison around the state. It was almost like a real hospital, except for the very strong security measures and procedures. Lots of correction officers, lots of locked doors, but at its essence, lots of hurting, unwell people.

Jobs for cadres ranged from the kitchen to housekeeping to laundry, etc. Since I’d been looking for a change, I figured “Why not go all out and ask for a job in maintenance?” God must have laughed out loud, but He also approved again, and I was assigned to that department after my tour of duty in the kitchen was over.

I was just a sheltered girl from the suburbs and clueless about fixing stuff. Repairing anything meant leaving it for Dad or my brothers. I will admit with some embarrassment that I didn’t know a wrench from a ratchet, or a 7/16 inch doodad from a 3/4 inch doohickey. But I was willing and ready to learn everything I possibly could.

God blessed me with a great boss. This guy was all about teaching and working hard and, as a bonus, applying the 12 Steps in everyday life. He was extremely patient and kind and gave me every opportunity for serious hands-on training. Our base of operations was the powerhouse boiler room. It was hot, noisy, and dirty, and it became my proving ground.

In Luke 16:10, Jesus says, “Whoever can be trusted with very little can be trusted with much.” I worked hard from my first day in maintenance to show I was trustworthy and, over time, my responsibilities grew. I became the only female boiler operator and licensed HVAC technician in FMC history. I helped build a hot water boiler and install two industrial chillers and condensers for the air conditioning system. Let me tell you, I was equal parts excited and terrified the first time I lit an acetylene torch to braise pipes (it’s like welding on a smaller scale). All I could do was pray “Lord, don’t let me blow up anything!” He guided my shaking hands around the first pipe, then, during the next six months, around nearly 300 more.

Eventually, I was the go-to girl. I could leave my officer escort at the powerhouse door and reset the entire system by myself after hours or when the power went out. I felt very blessed and lucky to have earned that reputation.

This was not all about me, though. The patients and permanent residents, the old men and pregnant women defined my purpose for this bizarre line of work I’d embraced. It is summed up easily in Matthew 25:40: “Whatever you did for the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.” I made it my mission to ensure a quality-of-life standard. As far as I was able, I would not allow anyone to suffer any more than they already were. I knew every person in that hospital had committed a crime, and I didn’t care. I’d committed one, too, so

who was I to judge? I wanted to help them and perhaps atone for my sins by doing something good.

Air quality and room temperatures became my priority, and both took considerable effort to regulate. If a patient’s room was uncomfortable, I’d fix it. Sometimes that meant climbing up into the ceiling to adjust fan blower speeds, or going down to the boiler room to fire up the boiler or chiller, or heading out on the roof to access the air handlers.

There were days when I’d return to my room looking like a chimney sweep as a result of army-crawling through the air ducts to clean them. By the way, they’re just like the movies, only yuckier and more claustrophobic. It was worth the effort for the patients’ well-being and comfort. I could hear God saying “Well done, good and faithful servant. Get some rest and we’ll do it again tomorrow.” And we did.

I hated to leave FMC, but in 2017, my parole was denied and I was transferred back to ORW. I didn’t understand, but I knew God was still with me. There are no more females at FMC today, except for a few patients, because of a change in policy.

I hope whoever took my place as HVAC tech cares as much as I did. I still pray for those old guys waiting to meet St. Peter and the patients waiting for healing. Perhaps this Lent you can offer up a prayer, too, and know you did so for the least of these.

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

Are relics 'macabre'?; Divorce after years of verbal abuse?

QI am a Catholic convert and support all the dogmas of the church. But there is one practice that I must admit gives me pause – the use of relics, preserving the body parts of deceased saints. I could see honoring robes or rings, but teeth or fingers seems a bit too much, bordering on the macabre. We never covered this in our RCIA program, and I'm hoping that you can explain. (New Middletown, Indiana)

AThe veneration of the relics of saintly individuals has a long history, dating back to pre-Christian times. The bones of the Old Testament prophet Elisha once brought a dead man to life (2 Kings 13:20-21).

When St. Polycarp was martyred in the middle of the second century, a contemporary account stated, "We took up his bones, which are more valuable than precious stones and finer than refined gold, and laid them in a suitable place, where the Lord will permit us to gather ourselves together as we are able, in gladness and joy, and to celebrate the birthday of his martyrdom."

In venerating relics, the church is not ascribing to them any magical powers, although they may sometimes serve as occasions of God's miracles. More often, they simply dispose those who view them to strive to live the virtues of that particular saint.

QUESTION & ANSWER

Father Kenneth Doyle
Catholic News Service

Questions may be sent to Father Kenneth Doyle at askfatherdoyle@gmail.com and 30 Columbia Circle Drive, Albany NY 12203.



Perhaps St. Jerome, who lived in the late fourth and early fifth centuries, gave the clearest explanation of relics when he wrote in *Ad Riparium*: "We do not worship (relics), we do not adore (them), for fear that we should bow down to the creature rather than to the Creator. But we venerate the relics of the martyrs in order to better adore him whose martyrs they are."

QWhat would you say to a married woman who has endured verbal abuse in every way possible for more than a dozen years? It is affecting me mentally, spiritually and physically, and I cannot take it any longer. (It is also affecting my young daughter, who receives the same sort of treatment from her father.)

I was married by a priest in the Catholic Church and have sought to live up to the church's teachings. Would it be wrong in the eyes of the church to seek a divorce for the sake of my own health and that of my daughter? (City of origin withheld)

AThe Catholic Church believes that marriage is meant to be a permanent union and that Jesus intended it to be so (Matthew 19:3-6). But it is also true that divorce may not always be sinful. In fact, the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* says, "If civil divorce remains the only possible way of ensuring certain legal rights, the care of the children or the protection of inheritance, it can be tolerated and does not constitute a moral offense" (No. 2383).

So it could be that the ongoing emotional violence that you and your daughter have been forced to undergo might justify a separation and divorce. But the wounds from a divorce are wide, and you would want to take every prudent step before it comes to that.

Have you sought out a marriage counselor and encouraged your husband to do the same? My bias, I confess, is for counseling offered by church agencies, since they would share my views of the sanctity of marriage. And have you sought to bring God into the equation by frequent prayer? And please know that you have the promise of my own prayers as well.

The clerisy of the concrete-and-glass box freaks out

Several years back, the estimable Father Paul Scalia observed of some cultural idiocy or other, "Who knew the end of civilization would be so amusing?"

I detected a subtle theological point within that mordant comment: a point worth reflecting upon during Lent. Christians are the people who know how history is going to turn out – God is finally going to get what God intended from the beginning, which is the Wedding Feast of the Lamb in the New Jerusalem. (The trailer, so to speak, is in Revelation 21.) So Christians can afford to relax a bit about the vicissitudes and traumas of history. To be sure, faith that God's purposes in creation and redemption will ultimately be vindicated ought not lead to insouciance about here and now; we have responsibilities within history and we should take them seriously. But faith in the triumph of the Kingdom for which we pray daily should invite us to "chill" (as the kids used to say).

That's what I did during a recent skirmish in the American culture wars, which erupted a few weeks back over a leaked memo suggesting that President Trump would issue an executive order creating a preference that federal courthouses and other federal buildings be designed in a classical style. There isn't much to laugh at along the Potomac these days. But the freak-out from the high priests and priestesses of the concrete-and-glass box – the modernist architectural establishment and its acolytes in the mainstream media – was (as I think the kids still say, at least in text messages) "LOL."

The ever-more-ludicrous *New York Times*, in high editorial dudgeon, asked why the republic should be festooned with more "fake Roman temples" – as if the Capitol, the Lincoln Memorial, the Jefferson Memorial, the West Building of the National Gal-

THE CATHOLIC DIFFERENCE

George Weigel

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



lery of Art, and similar architectural masterpieces were a blight on the national aesthetic. Does the high priesthood of architectural modernism really want to defend such grotesqueries as the Robert H. Weaver Federal Building (headquarters of the Department of Housing and Urban Development), aptly described by a government worker as "10 floors of basement"? Or the J. Edgar Hoover FBI Building, another concrete-and-glass eyesore that (as my friend Andrew Ferguson wrote) "is even more obnoxious than its namesake"? Or the Hirshhorn Museum, a concrete Bundt cake squatting on the National Mall?

Alas, these horrors are precisely what the modernist architectural establishment wants to defend and continues to defend with some success: most recently, in ramming through the Frank Gehry design of the Eisenhower Memorial in the nation's capital, a gargantuan nonsense better suited to the Berlin imagined by Albert Speer after the triumph of the Third Reich.

The idea of Donald Trump as a promoter of architectural classicism is not without its ironies, of course, given the designs of his own buildings. But as the good folks south of the Mason-Dixon Line

have been known to observe, "Even a blind squirrel finds an acorn every now and then." And in the current madhouse of American national politics, one takes with gratitude any signs of sanity one can get.

Modernist architectural fanaticism is not about aesthetics only. As critics like Tom Wolfe (*From Bauhaus to Our House*) and John Silber (*Architecture of the Absurd*) have demonstrated, the International Style, Brutalism, and the rest of the modernist canon embody a world view and an anthropology – an idea of the human person. The world view is resolutely secular and lacks any sense of transcendence. The anthropology is similar: human beings are cogs in various machines, economic or political, and cogs need neither beauty nor uplift nor charm, only surroundings defined by the ultimate value of efficiency. (That a lot of modernist buildings don't work, rapidly decay, and require enormous sums to maintain compounds the problem even while underscoring the point: dumbing down the human has its costs, including its financial costs.)

The modernist curse afflicted Catholic church architecture in the U.S. for a while, but that unhappy period is now passing. Marcel Breuer's Brutalist-inspired abbey church at St. John's in Minnesota was often considered the most important U.S. Catholic building of the mid-20th century. Compare it to Duncan Stroik's chapel at Thomas Aquinas College in California, which I'd suggest is the most important U.S. Catholic building yet erected in the 21st century. Stroik, not Breuer, is the future, because the TAC chapel's classicism and decorative beauty call us out of ourselves and into the Kingdom; the Breuer church depresses the spirit.

Back to the future, then, in both civic and ecclesiastical architecture.

LOCAL NEWS, continued from Page 4

from March 15 to April 26, with the exception of Easter Sunday, April 12.

Registration each week will be from 1:30 to 1:55 p.m., followed by a group sharing session from 2 to 4 p.m. Questions may be directed to Michael Julian at (614) 282-7156 or mjulian@columbus.rr.com.

Social concerns office offers Lenten suggestions

The diocesan Office for Social Concerns is offering several suggestions for families interested in bringing a deeper meaning to their observance of Lent.

The 25th anniversary of Pope St. John Paul II's encyclical *Evangelium Vitae* provides an opportunity to assess, expand, and communicate resources to pregnant mothers and families in need. Parishes, through the support of their bishop and pastor, are invited to join a nationwide effort from Wednesday, March 25 to the same date in March 2021 titled: "Walking with Moms in Need: A Year of Service."

More resources continue to be added to the Walking with Moms website of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, which may be found at <https://www.walkingwithmoms.com>. In addition, the USCCB's March action guide provides helpful ideas to build a culture of life. It is at <https://www.respectlife.org>.

The diocesan offices for Social Con-

cerns and Marriage and Family Life have teamed up to provide a Lenten journey for families, focusing on three ways to grow together – prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. More details may be found at <https://columbus-catholic.org/family-ministry-enrichment> or by calling (614) 241-2540.

Greater Columbus Right to Life is conducting its twice-yearly 40 Days for Life prayer vigil from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily through Sunday, April 5 in front of the Founder's Women's Health Center, 1243 E. Broad St., Columbus. Faithful believers are praying that this effort will mark the beginning of the end of abortion in the United States. Participants are asked to volunteer for one-hour shifts and sign a statement of peace.

For details and to sign up, visit Greater Columbus Right to Life's website at www.gcrtl.org/40-days-for-life.html or call (614) 445-8508.

March is Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month and April is Autism Awareness Month. All persons with disabilities or with autism have gifts to contribute to the whole church. For resources available to individuals, families, and parishes to work toward the goal of full participation by those with disabilities or autism, visit www.columbuscatholic.org/persons-with-disabilities.

Again this year, the social concerns

office will sponsor the annual Good Friday Walking Stations of the Cross in downtown Columbus. The walk begins with opening prayer at St. Joseph Cathedral, 212 E. Broad St., at 8 a.m., Friday, April 10.

Hundreds of participants from across the diocese will walk to 14 downtown locations to recognize Jesus's suffering and crucifixion and to reflect on current areas of social concern. Open to all ages. For more information, contact the social concerns office at (614) 241-2540 or the diocesan Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry at (614) 241-2565.

Renewal retreat to focus on charisms of the Spirit

"Charisms of the Holy Spirit" will be the subject of a retreat sponsored by the Columbus Catholic Renewal from 6 p.m. Friday, March 20 to 8 p.m. Saturday, March 21 at St. Therese's Retreat Center, 5227 E. Broad St., Columbus.

Participants will journey through Scripture and church teachings to uncover and learn the Holy Spirit's mission to bring fullness of life, pouring out spiritual gifts known as "charisms" to help people be holy and fulfill the mission of bringing Christ to others.

The retreat will be led by Renee Marazon, who is a member of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal National Service Committee and is president of the Charismatic Renewal Commission of the Diocese of Venice, Florida. She has given retreats, workshops and parish missions throughout the United States and Trinidad.

The Columbus Catholic Renewal is under the authority of Bishop Robert Brennan through his appointed liaison, Father Dean Mathewson. For more information, email info@ccrcolumbus.org or call (614) 980-3021.

Registration is \$115 for overnight participants and \$75 for commuters. The fee includes meals and a handbook titled *Charisms of the Holy Spirit: Tools for the New Evangelization*. Register online at www.crcolumbus.org

Program looks at journey from violence to healing

A presentation featuring the families of murder victims talking about their experiences and the healing power of forgiveness will take place at 7 p.m. Monday, March 9 in Columbus St. Francis DeSales High School,

4212 Karl Road.

The program, titled "From Violence to Healing," will be sponsored by Journey of Hope, an organization formed by murder victims' families to address alternatives to the death penalty. It is designed to show Catholics how they can advance the Catholic Church's teaching on the issue and become advocates against capital punishment. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops has long opposed use of the death penalty in this country.

Journey of Hope speakers visited Columbus Bishop Hartley High School in October and presented programs in early March at DeSales and Columbus Bishop Watterson, Bishop Ready and St. Charles Preparatory high schools.

Diocesan schools Superintendent Adam Dufault heard the Hartley presentation and asked that the speakers visit the other schools.

"It was a deeply moving, thought-provoking experience that had a tremendous impact on our students," he said. "They came to a much fuller and deeper understanding of our Catholic teaching opposing capital punishment and had profound discussions in their classes that led to a more complete understanding of our faith."

Pontifical College Josephinum to host live-in weekend

The Pontifical College Josephinum, 7625 N. High St., Columbus, will host a spring live-in weekend from 4 p.m. Thursday, March 26, to noon Saturday, March 28, for young men of high-school and college age, along with men who have earned undergraduate degrees and are discerning a vocation to the priesthood.

The weekend is designed for participants to discuss and experience various aspects of seminary life – including prayer and spirituality, academic classes, liturgies and communal life – and to speak with faculty members, seminarians and staff. Discussions on human, spiritual and pastoral dimensions of seminary formation will be part of the live-in experience. There is no cost for the weekend, but registration is required.

For more information, contact Father Michael Lumpe, Josephinum vice rector, at mlumpe@pcj.edu or Armin-da Crawford at acrawford@pcj.edu. Both also may be reached by calling the Josephinum at (614) 885-5585.

CCL Day of Service



A total of 215 students from the five members of the Central Catholic League – Columbus Bishop Hartley, Bishop Ready, Bishop Watterson, St. Francis DeSales, and St. Charles Preparatory high schools – took part in the eighth annual CCL Day of Service on Monday, Feb. 17. St. Charles, with 50 participants (pictured), had the largest number of volunteers. The day was created to promote friendship and service among students at the five schools. Volunteers partnered with the LifeCare Alliance Meals on Wheels program to deliver meals to more than 500 people, make 200 meals and assist in a meal program for pets. Each participant gave four hours of community service, said the coordinator for the day, Karen Eramo, who has personal or family ties to all five schools.

Photo courtesy Karen Eramo

Newark St. Francis de Sales family center dedicated

Bishop Robert Brennan dedicated the new faith and family center at Newark St. Francis de Sales Church on Wednesday, Feb. 5. The 6,503-square-foot building includes additional meeting rooms, offices, and an auxiliary worship and conference room with a warming kitchen.

The evening began with refreshments and tours of the building, followed by the dedication. Participants then moved to the church sanctuary for Eucharistic Adoration, led by the bishop, with the theme of faith and family. The program ended with parishioners praying over Bishop Brennan and asking for a strengthening of his ministry in the Diocese of Colum-

bus. The vision and funding for the center were provided by the Patricia R. and Herbert J. Murphy Foundation to honor more than six generations of Murphy families who, since the early days of the parish, have actively engaged in the life of the church and school. The foundation's desire is to provide a place in which the St. Francis de Sales faith community can continue to thrive, bringing more people to a life-changing encounter with Christ.

St. Francis de Sales Church has carried out its mission of making disciples and disciple makers for 178 years and has a membership of more than 1,400 families.



Father David Sizemore, pastor, speaks at the dedication of the new faith and family center at Newark St. Francis de Sales Church on Wednesday, Feb. 5. Bishop Robert Brennan is seated behind him. The center includes meeting rooms, offices and a worship and conference room.
Photo/St. Francis de Sales Church

Our Lady of Victory Catholic Church

1559 Roxbury Road, Marble Cliff (Parish Life Center)

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Fridays, 2/28 - 4/3, 4:30 - 7 p.m.

Fresh Ocean Perch (fried)
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February 28 - April 3

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CLERGY, continued from Page 2

of Cincinnati until Oct. 21, 1944, when the area where they are located was transferred to the Diocese of Columbus.

Other than the directory listings, the diocese has no other record of any service by Father Massarella within the diocese and, as indicated, no reports of abuse during his time in the diocese.

The spelling of his name was taken from the Glenmary website. The Cincinnati archdiocese lists it as Massarella.

VIRUS, continued from Page 2

(ordinary and extraordinary) are asked to take proper measures to practice good hygiene, including the washing of hands and the use of hand-sanitizing solutions or wipes. All staff and volunteers should take similar measures.

Bishop Robert Brennan expresses his appreciation to all those who have been taking these measures into account in parishes, schools and diocesan facilities throughout the influenza season. The diocese will continue to

The Diocese of Columbus encourages anyone who may have claims of abuse by clergy or others associated with the Church to notify law enforcement immediately and also the Diocesan Victim's Assistance Coordinator at (614) 224-2251, (866) 448-0217, or helpisavailable@columbuscatholic.org.

Forms for reporting abuse are available in Catholic parish and school offices and can be accessed from the diocesan website, www.columbuscatholic.org.

work with local health agencies and update protocols as necessary. Information and resource links will be posted on the diocesan website and in *The Catholic Times*.

"Most importantly, we pray," Bishop Brennan said. "Recognizing that there are people suffering far more than we the effects of this virus directly and indirectly, we pray for them, for all charged with public health and all caregivers."



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- French Fries
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- Macaroni & Cheese
- Applesauce

Includes roll & butter, free
Homemade Dessert & Free
Coffee.

Serrans hear about Sacred Heart enthronement



Chuck and Jo Ann Wilson of Sacred Heart Columbus spoke to the Downtown Columbus Serra Club about their lay apostolate's mission to enthrone the Sacred Heart of Jesus in homes, workplaces, schools and churches, recognizing him as king and savior. The club's mission is to foster and support vocations to the priesthood and consecrated religious life through prayer, programs and activities. The Wilsons are shown with club members who have enthroned the Sacred Heart in their homes. Pictured are (from left): first row, club president Virginia Hardy, Mary Girard, Jeanne Swisher, Ruth Beckman and JoAnn Wilson; second row, Chester Hardy, John Swisher, Chuck Wilson and Carl Faehnle.

Photo courtesy Downtown Columbus Serra Club

Bishop Brennan visits Bremen



Bishop Robert Brennan visited Bremen St. Mary Church on Sunday, Feb. 2, Candlemas Day, the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord. The bishop blessed candles, celebrated Mass and attended a reception in the parish hall.

Photo courtesy HB Photography



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St. Dominic spiritual rosary



The women of Columbus St. Dominic Church opened their year with their annual spiritual rosary prayer service. Each year, the rosary is prayed in thanksgiving for the previous year, with blessings and praise for the coming year. A potluck lunch followed the service, which is an outgrowth of the parish's Sunday rosary group.

Photo courtesy St. Dominic Church

Shower benefits Heartbeats



Thousands of items were collected for the Heartbeats organization at the annual "Baby Shower for Jesus" sponsored by Zanesville St. Thomas Aquinas Church. Parishioners were asked to donate any type of item that could be used by a baby for Heartbeats, which offers emotional, physical and spiritual support to women who find themselves in the midst of an unexpected pregnancy. Items donated included 7,896 baby wipes; 4,693 diapers; 387 articles of clothing; 339 miscellaneous items; \$607 in cash; and a gift card.

Pictured are (left to right) Sherri Dalton of Heartbeats, Michael Morris of the parish, Tess Davis of Heartbeats, and Christopher Urbiel and Becky Howard of the parish.

Photo courtesy St. Thomas Aquinas Church

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RITE, continued from Page 3



Catechumens sign the Book of the Elect during the diocesan Rite of Election on Saturday, Feb. 29 at Grove City Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church as members of the Knights of St. John stand at attention. *CT photo by Ken Snow*

attitude of a technician just wanting to put things in the best light,” Snow said. “In my Presbyterian background, we had communion only two or three times a year, with the bread and wine presented as symbols of Christ’s sacrifice, not as his actual body and blood.

“I kept wondering why Catholics had communion at every Mass, and in time, the light came on, and I understood the doctrine of the Eucharist and could say, ‘I get it. This is what Catholicism is all about,’” he said.

Snow’s involvement with the locally televised Mass continued until production of the program ended in 2006. Today, Masses from other parts of the nation can be seen twice on Sundays on WWHO-TV, Channel 53 in Columbus, and throughout the week on cable television.

Snow continued to work for the diocese in the Chancery until 2009. He now operates his own photography business and does photojournalism and portrait work in addition to his *Times* assignments.

He said that even after he came to an intellectual understanding of Catholic doctrine, it took him several years to join the Church. “I was still a respectful technician,” he said.

His involvement began deepening after former *Times* editor Dave Garick asked him in 2015 to be the photographer for the annual investiture weekend of the North Central region of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem, which

took place in Columbus that year. Garick is a knight of the order, which is a Catholic organization dedicated for more than 900 years to supporting Christians in the Holy Land.

Snow accepted the assignment and has been the photographer for subsequent investitures in Chicago, Indianapolis, Milwaukee and Dearborn, Michigan. He will perform the same role this year in Cincinnati.

“During the investitures, I came to know Dr. Ken Weise, a knight of the order who is an RCIA team member at Resurrection,” Snow said. “During the last Mass of the 2019 investiture in Dearborn, we sat together. At communion time, I received a blessing from the bishop celebrating the Mass, since I was not Catholic. Afterward, Ken invited me to come to RCIA classes at Resurrection and discern if I would like to enter into full communion with the Catholic Church. I felt ready to look deeper into Catholicism, so I accepted his invitation.”

Weise will serve as godfather for Snow’s baptism and sponsor for his confirmation.

“I think attending the first few classes awakened the inner desire I’ve had for a long time to be a Catholic,” Snow said. “I didn’t realize there was so much meaning even in as simple a thing as the sign of the cross. Through Father (Denis) Kigozi’s homilies at Masses which precede RCIA classes, I’ve come to have a much deeper respect and knowledge of the Eucharist and recognize



Britanie Powers of Coshocton (left) and sponsor Roxann McCann *Photo/Tim Puet*



Seth Camick of the New Albany Church of the Resurrection *CT photo by Tim Puet*



Andy Biller of Reynoldsburg St. Pius X Church *CT photo by Tim Puet*

that it is truly the body and blood of Christ. Now when I attend Mass, I no longer consider myself a technician but definitely a participant.”

Rediscovering faith

Britanie Powers, who teaches first and second grades at the Coshocton parochial school, said she had a Methodist background, but stopped attending church about 15 years ago after her parents divorced. “I didn’t feel like I belonged anywhere,” she said. “I had forgotten the importance of a faith life.

“I was hired to teach at Sacred Heart about three years ago, and the staff and parents acted as though they’d always known me. They gave me that sense of belonging I was missing. I felt like part of the parish family before I had much interest in becoming a Catholic. As a teacher, I attended weekly school Masses, and, slowly, I gained more and more interest in learning more about the Church,” she said.



Logan Stradley of Grove City (right) and sponsor Warren Black *CT photo/Ken Snow*

“The more I participated in Masses, the more I felt the Holy Spirit at work in me. I could feel God’s presence in the Eucharist, and in time I knew I wanted and personally needed to take RCIA classes,” Powers said. “I’m very interested in history, so realizing that the Catholic Church has its origins with Jesus and learning of what it has done through 2,000 years had a big impact. Also, learning the importance of all the sacraments and recognizing their Scriptural basis is something I’d never realized.”

Powers won’t be the first Catholic in her family. She and her husband, Cole, have a daughter who is nearly 1 year old and recently was baptized Catholic. “She attends Mass with me every week,” Powers said. “Cole comes to Mass with us often and has been very supportive. I’m very grateful to have been led to becoming a teacher here, because following the

RITE, *continued from Page 10*

Bishop Robert Brennan delivers the homily at the Rite of Election ceremony in Grove City, telling the congregation that he never had attended a fish fry until the previous day. A similar ceremony also took place on March 1 at Westerville St. Paul Church.

examples of my co-workers and experiencing the full gift of God's love led me to RCIA. I'm looking forward to growing stronger and learning more once I enter the Church."

Becoming Catholic unexpected

Joining Snow in attending RCIA classes at Resurrection is 17-year-old Seth Camick, who said his desire to become a Catholic was the unexpected result of his intention to get someone to leave the Church.

"I grew up as a Seventh-day Adventist and was told all sorts of terrible things about Catholics – that the pope was the Antichrist, that sort of thing," he said. "When I was a sophomore in high school, I wanted to share my faith with a Catholic friend because I wanted him to be part of it. I thought I'd learn more about what Catholics believed so I could convince him he was wrong.

"I saw a video by Father Mike Schmitz (youth ministry director of the Diocese of Duluth, Minnesota) on the question of whether Catholics worship saints. What he said made a lot of sense, so I thought, 'Well, I can't nail him on that topic. Here's one on why priests are called Father. I'll get him on that.' Again, he made sense," Camick said.

"So I began looking at the Catholic Answers website and books about the Catholic Church. The more I studied, the more I came to realize the soundness of the Catholic viewpoint and how wrong I was. This upset my

family and the elders of my church, but when I questioned them about the differences between their beliefs and Catholic teaching, no one had a good response.

"I believe God is calling me to either join the Catholic Church or go against what he wants, and I want to do his will," Camick said. "It's been about a year since I told my parents and others of my decision, and I've been going to daily Mass and attending RCIA classes regularly since then.

"Some people who knew me stopped talking to me, but things have become much better in my family. My mom even gave me a rosary a while ago, so I think that while my parents may not understand what I'm doing, they accept it. My own life has significantly improved because of God's grace," he said.

Discovering via videos

Logan Stradley of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church is another 17-year-old who was led to Catholicism through videos. He is writing a novel set in the early days of Christianity, and, in his research, he came across a series of videos on the Mass by Archbishop Mark Coleridge of Brisbane, Australia.

"I was almost immediately enamored of the religion that had persisted for 2,000 years and I knew nothing about," he said. At first he thought of what he saw in the videos as inspiration for his novel, "yet as I learned



Bishop Brennan bows before the Book of the Elect, signed during the Rite of Election by people who never have been baptized and who will receive the three Sacraments of Initiation at the Easter Vigil service in their parishes.

CT photos by Ken Snow

more about the Church, I began to espouse its teachings. Through the Holy Spirit, the beautiful devotions and the sound doctrines that I had misconstrued were unveiled to me."

He knew he had to go to Mass to understand Catholicism more, so he attended his first Mass at the Grove City parish in February 2019. It was a special event featuring Latin chant from the Gregorian Schola of the Diocese of Columbus. "When at last I witnessed heaven touching down to earth upon the altar, I possessed no doubt that this was the Church the Lord Jesus Christ himself started," he said.

As he learns more about the Church through the RCIA process, he says he's contemplating the possibility of becoming a priest. "Each time I watch as the faithful go to the priest to receive the Lord's body and blood, I not only desire to be among them, but also to be like the man who himself has the luxury of such a divine service," he said.

As in Camick's case, Stradley had to deal with parental concerns about his decision, particularly because his mother, Krista, is a staff member at a Nazarene church. "I wasn't surprised, but I'll admit I had some reservations," Krista said. "But anyone who knows me knows my kids are everything to me, and I will always do what I can to support them."

She said that through conversations with many people, including her church's pastor, plus research,

"I have discovered that my worries (about Logan's decision) were based on misinformation." She began attending RCIA classes to support Logan and "have found that I, too, feel my heart being drawn toward the Catholic faith, and the same can be said for Lee," her husband, Krista Stradley said.

"I am not sure what the future holds, but I do know that we are so proud of Logan and of how certain he is about what lies ahead for him," she added.

Finding the evidence

Joining the church during the Easter Vigil at Reynoldsburg St. Pius X Church will be Andy Biller, a lawyer who came to central Ohio 15 years ago when his wife, Beth, a pathologist, moved to Columbus for a medical residency at Ohio State University.

Beth, who will be the already baptized Biller's confirmation sponsor, is a Catholic, but her husband had no interest in religion for years. "As a kid, I was a Lutheran, but like so many people, I decided around my teen years that I didn't need this religion stuff and wasn't sure there was a God at all," Andy Biller said. "If there was a God, I needed more proof than a beautiful sunset or a set of circumstances that could be coincidental. I needed the voice of God or a burning bush. As a lawyer, I needed

RITE, continued from Page 11

solid evidence.

“A couple of years ago, I got the evidence I needed,” Biller said. He declined to give specifics of what persuaded him of God’s existence. “I haven’t even told my wife,” he said. “It almost doesn’t matter, because it wouldn’t be compelling for anyone but me. But it was enough that when presented with the evidence, I knew I had only one choice.”

He began to examine Catholic beliefs, using the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* as a guide. “When I started, I thought this whole concept of God was something based merely on blind faith,” he said. “I found that’s not true at all. Having gone through so much of my life as a nonbeliever, I feel so foolish seeing what I see now. I have a lifetime to make up for.”

“The great strength of the Catholic Church to me is its internal consistency,” he said, “It presents an instructional manual for life. In so many ways, people in today’s culture are dissatisfied, yet what the Church



Ken Snow of the New Albany Church of the Resurrection (left) and Dr. Ken Weise, who will be his baptismal godfather and Confirmation sponsor when Snow joins the Catholic Church at the Easter Vigil service on Saturday, April 11.

CT photo by Tim Puet

teaches is what makes people happy. This faith has so much to offer, so much history. It just makes sense.”

Performing the rite

The Rite of Election takes place each year on the First Sunday of Lent. Catechumens indicate their desire to join the Church by signing

the Book of the Elect, giving them the title “members of the elect.” Candidates participate in the Call to Continuing Conversion that is part of the ceremony.

The word “election” in this case has nothing to do with politics; rather, it is a discernment that God is present in the life of the catechumens

and candidates and is inviting them into a fuller life of the sacraments.

The celebration of the rite has two parts: a sending and a receiving. First, catechumens are sent by the parish. This is a public pronouncement that they are ready to enter a covenant relationship through participation in the sacramental life of the Church. In the United States, this pronouncement is done through their presentation to a bishop in a ceremony conducted at one or more parishes in a diocese. This is the first of many sendings they will receive in their faith journey.

Those who are sent can then be received. The bishop or auxiliary bishop of a diocese attends the Rite of Election, accepts the parish community’s judgment, receives the catechumens and invites them to enter their names in the Book of the Elect. The announcement of the church’s decision to call candidates to receive the Sacraments of Initiation at the Easter Vigil also falls to him.

Delaware St. Mary Church Family Night



Delaware St. Mary Church hosted a Family Night program in the parish school, with families from the school and the Parish School of Religion program for public school students coming together for food, fun, games and a talk by Anna Mitchell of the “Son Rise Morning Show,” heard on St. Gabriel Catholic Radio in central Ohio and the EWTN radio network.

Photo courtesy St. Mary Church

St. Pius X Beta Club wins multiple awards



CSI: St. Michael



Worthington St. Michael School fourth graders have been enjoying mystery novels and putting critical thinking skills and sleuthing abilities to the test. Discussing suspects’ statements and test results, students were able to solve the mystery.

Photo courtesy St. Michael School

Seventh- and eighth-grade members of the Reynoldsburg St. Pius X School Junior Beta Club received 18 first-place, six second-place and four third-place awards at the state convention of junior Beta clubs. All St. Pius X participants placed as a top finisher in at least one event. The national Beta Club is the largest independent nonprofit educational youth organization in America, with more than 500,000 members in more than 8,750 clubs.

Photo courtesy St. Pius X School

Sacred Heart School picture



Students of Coshocton Sacred Heart School gathered for a group picture by forming a cross, the symbol of their Catholic identity. *Photo courtesy Sacred Heart School*

Interschool spelling bee finalists



Columbus St. Mary Magdalene School hosted an annual interschool spelling bee involving students of the host school and Columbus St. Cecilia, Trinity Elementary and St. Mary and Grove City Our Lady of Perpetual Help schools. The schools rotate as host each year. This year's winner was Stephanie Yadaicela, an eighth-grader from St. Mary Magdalene. Finalists for the event were (from left): first row, Avery Pierre, Louis Homsey, Kieran Kelley (runner-up) and Gracie Gersbach; second row, Conlan Dent, Angeliz Rivera-Martinez, Stephanie Yadaicela, Stevie Sheets and Kyra Tibbs. Finalist Christopher Cade is not pictured. *Photo courtesy St. Mary Magdalene School*

Black History Month celebration



Young people of Columbus St. Dominic Church portray African and African American saints such as Sts. Perpetua, Felicity and Augustine at the parish's annual Black History Month celebration. The event, which focused on Black Catholic education, included a Mass celebrated by Bishop Robert Brennan, a luncheon, and student reflections on their Catholic education. Parishioner Bernadine Neal received the Deacon Robert Neely Award for outstanding faith and service. *Photo courtesy St. Dominic Church*

Lancaster St. Mary MSL champions



Lancaster St. Mary School's seventh- and eighth-grade girls basketball teams won the Mid-State League tournaments for their respective grades. Members of both teams are pictured, with the seventh-graders in white and the eighth-graders in green. They are (from left): first row, Maria Pillar, Ava Albert; second row, Abby Krooner, Mallory Stanton, Lauren Kersell, Bree Jones; third row, seventh-grade coach Jack Gillum, Vanessa Funk, Nora Saffell, Charli Gillum, Ellie Bruce, Kyndra Nagle, Voni Bethel, Sydney Ellis, Kaitlyn Watson, eighth-grade coach Troy Saffell. *Photo courtesy St. Mary School*

Students float toward Lent



Fourth-graders at Columbus St. Andrew School learned about pre-Lenten traditions, creating Mardi Gras floats from household items and displaying their creations in a parade through the school grounds. Pictured are (from left) Isabelle Poulouse, Olivia LaSusa and Kyndra Raidiger, *Photo courtesy St. Andrew School*

St. Charles football players sign letters



Four Columbus St. Charles Preparatory School seniors signed letters of intent to continue their football careers in college. They are (from left): Thomas Berry, who will be going to Denison University; Adyn Snyder, Otterbein; Roland Rowe, Notre Dame College; and Connor Carretta, Bucknell. Also pictured is the school's head football coach, Deke Hocker. *Photo courtesy St. Charles Preparatory School*

Second Sunday of Lent, Year A

Lord, have mercy on us
as we put our trust in you

Genesis 12:1-4a
Psalm 33:4-5,
18-19,20,22
2 Timothy 1:8b-10
Matthew 17:1-9

Father Timothy Hayes

Father Timothy M. Hayes is pastor
of Columbus St. Timothy Church.



Glory is our destiny. God takes us where we are, but He does not leave us there. He wants to share with us His intentions for us, and He wants us to accept His offer of glory freely. We must be willing to pay the price and to cooperate with Him in the unfolding of His plans.

First, we must *see* it. Since it is God's vision for us, it has to be understood somehow in human terms. We must allow God to stretch our minds beyond their usual earthly limitations.

To do this, there needs to be an emptying out of our own plans and machinations. We may think we know where we are headed and where we want to go, but we really don't. It is more than we can hope for without God's revelation to us.

God says to each of us, "*Go forth from the land of your kinsfolk and from your father's house to a land that I will show you.*" Abram shows us that one small act done in faith, with trust in God's vision for us, can become the hope of nations.

St. Paul reminds Timothy, "*He saved us and called us to a holy life, not according to our works but according to His own design and the grace bestowed on us in Christ Jesus before time began, but now made manifest through the appearance of our Savior Christ Jesus, who destroyed death and brought life and immortality to light through the Gospel.*"

Next, we must enter into it, as Jesus did, through intense personal prayer that opens us to our own history and the history of the world around us.

Who has prepared the way for you? Who are your personal Moses and Elijah? For Jesus and for His companions on the mountain, they are the reminder that Jesus is the fulfillment of all that is written in the law and the prophets.

Finally, we have to see that it means *moving on from where we are*. In spite of Peter's offer, there are no tents to set up a camp. After the experience of prayer, there is required a return to the world as it is, going down the mountain to get on with the journey. The journey is the paschal mystery – through suffering, to death, but ultimately to resurrection and glory.

Will we go as we are directed? God's Spirit is active in us, transforming us from glory into glory. We are called to set our sights on Jesus in His glory, with the awareness that we too are being transformed. The Transfiguration calls us to change and renewal in our whole humanity, body, mind and spirit.

Through the power of the Spirit, it is the reverse of the Incarnation; we are moved by grace along the path to life in God. The Eastern Church reminds us that "divinization" is at work in us. In Jesus, we see God's grace at work transforming our human nature, freeing us to share glory.

The cross is ahead of us. We don't understand God's ways. But we believe in God and trust in Him. The power of His Spirit will see us through. We taste glory and it gives us strength for the journey. The Transfiguration reveals God's presence, God's constancy and God's strength to assist us in trials.

There is a hint of glory available to us. We see it in our own personal prayer, when we are truly intimate with the Lord. We notice it in others where we see grace at work in the face of hardship.

May we open our eyes to see the glimpse of glory right in front of us. May we be strengthened for the journey that will lead to the fulfillment of God's plans for us and for the whole world. "*Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in You.*"

THE WEEKDAY BIBLE READINGS

MONDAY
Daniel 9:4b-10
Psalm 79:8-9,11,13
Luke 6:36-38

WEDNESDAY
Jeremiah 18:18-20
Psalm 31:5-6,14-16
Matthew 20:17-28

FRIDAY
Genesis 37:3-4,
12-13a,17b-28a
Psalm 105:16-21
Matthew 21:33-43,45-46

TUESDAY
Isaiah 1:10,16-20
Psalm 50:8-9,16bc-17,21,23
Matthew 23:1-12

THURSDAY
Jeremiah 17:5-10
Psalm 1:1-4,6
Luke 16:19-31

SATURDAY
Micah 7:14-15,18-20
Psalm 103:1-4,9-12
Luke 15:1-3,11-32

DIOCESAN WEEKLY RADIO AND TELEVISION
MASS SCHEDULE: WEEK OF MARCH 8, 2020

SUNDAY MASS

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

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.

Videos of Masses are available at any time on the internet at these parish websites: Mattingly Settlement St. Mary (www.stannstmary.org); Columbus St. Patrick (www.sipatrickcolumbus.org); Delaware St. Mary (www.delawarestmary.org); and Sunbury St. John Neumann (www.saintjohnsunbury.org).

We pray Week II, Seasonal Proper, Liturgy of the Hours.

German Village St. Mary School Saint Day



Columbus St. Mary School in the German Village neighborhood invited students to dress as saints for a day. Pictured are (from left): first-grade students Josephine Winstead (portraying the school's patron, St. Mary, Mother of God), London Hairston (St. Gianna Molla) and Elinore Duren (St. Elizabeth Seton) and teacher Karen Bouchard (St. Mary).

St. Michael School is filled with saints



Worthington St. Michael School's Confirmation students invited family and friends to attend a Saint Fair, where they showcased their chosen Confirmation saint by dressing up and sharing information on the saint.

Photo courtesy St. Michael School

Preparations begin for Black Catholic Congress

By Pamela Harris
Director, Catholic Ethnic Ministries

This year marks the midpoint between the 12th National Black Catholic Congress, which gathered in Orlando, Florida, in 2017, and the 13th Congress, which will take place in 2022 at a time and place to be determined.

The theme of the Congress, “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me: Act justly, love goodness, and walk humbly with your God,” means we are led by Christ as we accompany one another on our spiritual journey. It was and continues to be the intention of delegates to the event that each diocese, parish and community use the plan it adopted as a guide for the five years between congresses.

The African American ministry board of the Columbus diocesan Catholic Ethnic Ministries office will host three days of reflection this year. The dates and times are: Saturday, March

28, Gahanna St. Matthew Church, 807 Havens Corners Road; Saturday, Aug. 1, Columbus St. Dominic Church, 453 N. 20th St.; Saturday, Nov. 7, location to be determined.

Participants will review the Congress’ pastoral plan, discuss how the faithful of the diocese have implemented the plan’s pastoral strategies and initiatives, and examine ways of continuing to work together. The Ethnic Ministries office will report findings from the three sessions to the Congress, including feedback from the diocese’s delegates to the 12th Congress.

In addition, the diocesan delegation for the 13th Congress will be discerned during the days of reflection.

All Catholics in the diocese are encouraged to attend one of the days of reflection. Father Augustus Tolton, who attended the first Black Catholic Congress in 1889 and is one of six American candidates of African descent on the road to sainthood, said,

“God is all over us all and he has many blessings for people of every race.”

St. Katharine Drexel was committed to the evangelization of African American and Native American Catholics. She used her personal funds to establish schools and parishes where communities of African Americans were formed to actively participate in the faith and receive the sacraments. Her ministry empowered people to build bridges, strengthen relationships and advocate for the needs of African Americans and Native Americans.

The Ethnic Ministries office welcomes collaboration with diocesan ministries, parishes and schools in fulfilling the mission of sharing the Good News. As St. Paul reminds us, the unity of the faithful is an expression of the catholicity of the Church: “I urge you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree in what you say, and there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and in the

same purpose” (1 Corinthians 1:10).

The national Black and Indian Missions office was founded by the Catholic bishops of the United States “to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ and respond to real and pressing needs on the ground.” Its mission is one of evangelization and collaboration. The Diocese of Columbus has received a grant from the missions office to subsidize the cost of initiatives of the diocesan Ethnic Ministries office, in part through proceeds from the Black and Indian Missions collection on the first weekend in March. If you would like additional information about the missions, please visit their website, www.blackandindianmission.org.

You can stay connected with the Ethnic Ministries office by signing up to receive electronic communications. Text CEM to 22828 or email ethnic-ministries@columbuscatholic.org. Visit the office’s website at www.columbuscatholic.org/cem for upcoming events and programs.

Retrouvaille provides lifeline for troubled marriages

By Michael and Margaret Shipka

Our marriage began with such high hopes and dreams. We were in love and felt like we could overcome any struggles together, with God’s help. A company bankruptcy three years into our marriage led us to relocate from Illinois to Ohio. While we had our struggles adapting to a new state, making new friends and building our life together in an unfamiliar environment, we still found time to connect.

When the economic collapse of 2008 claimed one of our jobs, our marriage also began to suffer. We became depressed and hopeless, and struggled with anger against our circumstances. At about this same time, we also found out we were unable to have children. Our life together was beginning to fall apart and we began to drift away from one another.

Two years later, we were both employed again, but our jobs required such different working hours we were hardly able to spend time together. When we did, it was brief and often full of heated arguments. All of this misery culminated in one spouse feeling lonely enough to find comfort

in the arms of another.

Before the affair, we had been in marriage counseling for nearly a year. When the counselor initially told us about Retrouvaille, we didn’t think our marriage was that far gone. Retrouvaille (French for reawakening) is for couples in deeply troubled marriages, often on the verge of divorce. It is designed to help them work through disillusionment, learn to communicate more clearly, heal their hurt and pain, and rediscover the love they had for each other.

During the week when the adulterous spouse confessed infidelity, the counselor again recommended attending Retrouvaille. This time, we were ready. We took stock of all we’d been through and how it impacted us. We recognized that our marriage was full of misery and distrust, and we were desperate to hear that it was possible to heal and rebuild. We needed a lifeline.

Through Retrouvaille, we discovered not only that we were not alone in our misery, but also that we could choose to love, trust, forgive and hope again. The tools we learned during our weekend and follow-up sessions have enabled us to connect

more deeply and consistently. We have no more fantasies that our marriage will fit the perfect expectations of the world. Rather, we rediscovered who we are individually and as a couple. We drew closer to each other and to God.

The Retrouvaille program is offered in the Columbus area on three weekends every year, with follow-up sessions, and a chance to continue benefiting through monthly gatherings with other couples who have gone through the program. One of those weekends is coming up from Friday, April 24 to Sunday, April 26. If you can’t make plans for this event on such short notice, consider registering for the Oct. 16 to 18 weekend.

For more information, go to www.helpourmarriage.org or call (1-800) 470-2230 to receive information about Retrouvaille of Columbus.

If your marriage is miserable, attend a Retrouvaille weekend. Let us tell you our story and show you how a reawakening is possible.

Michael and Margaret Shipka are the registration and finance couple for Retrouvaille of Columbus.

CCL announces all-league teams for girls basketball

Columbus Bishop Watterson placed three players on the 2019-20 All-Central Catholic League first team after winning the regular-season championship in girls basketball.

Kilyn McGuff, Paige Woodford and Danielle Grim of Watterson were joined on the first team by Kami Kortokrax and Milayna Williams of Columbus Bishop Hartley, Erin Burns of Columbus St. Francis DeSales and Bre Hejduk of Columbus Bishop Ready.

Named to the second team were Grace Cantwell and Kiley Graham of Watterson, Sa’Haia Clark-Lee and Ella Brandewie of Hartley, Katie Schuler and Gracie Sabo of DeSales, and Dani Brown of Ready.

Watterson finished undefeated in the CCL and advanced to the Division I district final.

Hartley took second in the league and advanced to the Division I district semifinals.

DeSales wound up third in the league standings.

Watterson’s junior varsity team posted the best overall JV record.

PRAY FOR OUR DEAD



BETLEY, Army Col. (Ret.) Walter P., 98, Feb. 21
St. Agatha Church, Columbus

CUSACK, Josephine (Bolognone), 97, Feb. 22
Holy Family Church, Columbus

DENSMORE, Harriett (Weiner), 94, Feb. 20
Church of the Atonement, Crooksville

DULEY, Rose "Ann" (Hines), 78, Feb. 23
St. Bernadette Church, Lancaster

GALLAGHER, Regina F (Murphy), 89, Feb. 24
St. Bernadette Church, Lancaster

GILLILAN, James E., 85, Feb. 25
Holy Spirit Church, Columbus

GRASSI, Robert J., 86, Feb. 20
St. Paul Church, Westerville

HARLOR, Rachel (Miller), Feb. 9
Our Mother of Sorrows Chapel, Columbus

HARTMAN, Grace K. (Goodburn), 86, Feb. 22
St. Agatha Church, Columbus

HILLIARD, Thomas M. "Mike," 71, Feb. 29
St. Brigid of Kildare Church, Dublin

MICHELS, Jill M. (Watson), 46, Feb. 20
St. Brigid of Kildare Church, Dublin

MOLLICA, Loreta (Beniusial), 65, Feb. 23
St. Andrew Church, Columbus

MURPHY, James W. 73, Feb. 27
St. Mary Church, Lancaster

NEWELL, Paul J., 82, Feb. 28
St. Brigid of Kildare Church, Dublin

PACE, Margaret (D'Alesio), 105, Feb. 28
St. Joseph Church, Dover

PERLICK, Robert J., 88, Feb. 18
St. Ladislav Church, Newark

PISHITELLI, Joseph, 92, Feb. 23
St. John the Baptist Church, Columbus

RICHARDS, Joseph E., 85, Feb. 26
St. Mary Church, Lancaster

RILEY, David M., 75, Feb. 25
St. Francis de Sales Church, Newark

SANFILLIPO, Elizabeth (Langley), 86, Feb. 27
St. Mary Church, Groveport

SCHMALZ, Rita, 95, Feb. 23
Our Lady of Victory Church, Columbus

SEKINGER, Theodore, 81, Feb. 27
St. Leo Church, Columbus

TORTORA, Walter G., 97, Feb. 26
St. Michael Church, Worthington

WHITTEMORE, Virginia H., 97, Feb. 25
St. Mary Church, Groveport

WILSON, George W., 76, Feb. 16
Church of the Atonement, Crooksville

William D. Diehl

Funeral Mass for William D. Diehl, 87, who died Thursday, Feb. 27, was celebrated Wednesday, March 4. Burial was at St. Joseph Cemetery, Columbus.

He was a graduate of Columbus Holy Rosary High School, Ohio State University and the Capital University law school and a veteran of the U.S. Army, and was a retired attorney for the law firm of Kagay, Albert, Diehl, Acklin & Groeber.

He was selected by the Catholic Men's Luncheon Club as diocesan Catholic Man of the Year for 1982. He was a member of St. Catherine Church for 59 years, volunteering with bingo

and the RCIA program and serving as a lector, extraordinary minister of the Eucharist and altar server. He also was a member of Marian Council 3864 of the Knights of Columbus, the American Bar Association and the Columbus Maennerchor.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Harry and Virginia, and a son, William. Survivors include his wife of 64 years, Margaret "Peggy" (Devine); two sons, Tom (Monika) and Jerry (Janis); three daughters, Anny, Peggy (David) Hemmer and Mary (Jim) Deitz; a sister, Sister Mary Diehl, OSF; and 17 grandchildren.

PRAYER TO THE VIRGIN

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

CLASSIFIED

St. Christopher Church LENTEN PASTA DINNER

1420 Grandview Avenue / Trinity School Cafeteria
Fridays – February 28-April 3
5PM to 7PM

\$8 for adults / \$5 for kids / \$30 per family
Meatless sauce provided by local area
restaurants
March 6 – TAT Ristorante
March 13 – Z cucina di Spirito

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS FISH FRY

St. Joan of Arc - Powell
FRIDAYS, FEBRUARY 28-APRIL 3
4:30-7:30 PM

All you can eat meal includes Baked & Fried Fish, Pizza, Baked Potato, French Fries, Mac & Cheese, Green Beans, Cole Slaw, Rolls, Soft Drinks
Adults: \$11, Seniors: \$10, Children: \$6,
Carryout: \$10
CASH, CHECK OR VENMO ONLY
www.bestfishfry.com

OUR LADY OF VICTORY CATHOLIC CHURCH

1559 Roxbury Road, Marble Cliff
(Parish Life Center)

FISH FRY DINNERS

FRIDAYS, 2/28-4/3, 4:30-7 PM

Fresh Ocean Perch (fried), Baked Potatoes, French Fries or Rice Salad or Slaw, Beverages,
Dessert included

\$10 Adults, \$5 Kids - Carryouts available

ST. PIUS X FISH FRY

1051 S. Waggoner Road, Reynoldsburg
(New parish center)

Fridays, 3/6, 3/20, 4/3, 5-7:30 pm
Baked or fried fish, shrimp, fries, cheese pizza,
apple sauce, hush puppies, coleslaw, beverage.

Optional dessert table.
\$11 adults, \$9 seniors,
\$6 children 8 and younger.
\$35 maximum for families.
\$11 carryout



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HAPPENINGS

CLASSIFIED

ST. MARGARET OF CORTONA CHURCH

1600 N. Hague Ave, Columbus 614-279-1690

22nd Annual "Best Fish Dinner in Town!"
Fridays during Lent

February 28-April 3, 4:30-7:30 pm

Fried Ocean Perch or Baked Cod, with choice of two sides: French Fries, Baked Potato, Baked Sweet Potato, Macaroni & Cheese, Cole Slaw, Applesauce. Includes Roll & Butter, Homemade Desserts and Free coffee.

Adults - \$11; Seniors - \$10.50;

Children age 10 & under - \$5. Free under 3
Xtra Large Fish Platter - \$16. Special family pricing.

Pop, Beer, Seconds & Carryouts available.

ST CATHARINE'S K OF C FISH FRY

500 S. Gould Rd, Columbus

FISH FRY DINNERS

Friday, February 28
& March 6, 20, 27

4:30-7:30 pm

Dine-in, Carryout & Drive-thru

Adults \$12; Seniors (65+) \$9

Children (under 12) \$6; Under 5 Free

Fried Ocean Perch, Baked Cod, Fries, Mac&cheese, Coleslaw, Applesauce, Rolls, Dessert & Beverage.
Beer and wine available for purchase.

MARCH

5-6, THURSDAY-FRIDAY

33 Hours of Adoration at Resurrection

From end of 9 a.m. Thursday Mass to 6:30 a.m. Friday, Resurrection chapel, Church of the Resurrection, 6300 E. Dublin-Granville Road, New Albany. 33 hours of Eucharistic Adoration in honor of Jesus' 33 years on Earth. Also on March 12-13.

5-7, THURSDAY-SATURDAY

Three Bags Full Consignment Sale

10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Thursday, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 7 to 9 p.m. Friday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday (selected items half-price Friday night and Saturday), Grove Community Christian Church, 3420 Blacklick Eastern Road N.W., Baltimore. Three Bags Full consignment sale of children's items. Unsold and unclaimed items are donated to Catholic and pro-life charities. **614-561-5300**

6, FRIDAY

St. Cecilia Adoration of Blessed Sacrament St. Cecilia Church, 434 Norton Road, Columbus. Begins after 8:15 a.m. Mass; continues to 5 p.m. Saturday.

Eucharistic Adoration at Columbus St. Peter

9 a.m. to 8 p.m., St. Peter Church, 6899 Smoky Row Road, Columbus. First Friday Eucharistic Adoration in day chapel.

First Friday Masses at Holy Family

9 a.m., 12:15 and 7 p.m., Holy Family Church, 584 W. Broad St., Columbus. First Friday

Masses in honor of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

614-221-4323

Monthly Adoration of Blessed Sacrament

Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal Church, 5225 Refugee Road, Columbus. Begins after 9 a.m. Mass; continues through 6 p.m. Holy Hour.

Catholic Men's Luncheon Club

12:15 p.m., St. Patrick Church, 280 N. Grant Ave., Columbus. Catholic Men's Luncheon Club meeting. First of four talks on "Rebuilding a Christian Culture" with Father Stash Dailey, pastor of Columbus Holy Family Church and diocesan vicar for religious. \$10 donation requested.

Eucharistic Vigil at Holy Cross

Holy Cross Church, 205 S. 5th St., Columbus. 7:30 p.m. Mass, followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament with various prayers, ending with Benediction around 11.

7, SATURDAY

Fatima Devotions at Columbus St. Patrick

7 a.m., St. Patrick Church, 280 N. Grant Ave., Columbus. Mass, followed by devotions to Our Lady of Fatima, preceded by confessions at 6:30. **614-240-5910**

First Saturday Devotion at St. Joan of Arc

8:30 a.m., St. Joan of Arc Church, 10700 Liberty Road, Powell. Mass, followed by rosary in reparation to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, concluding with Fatima prayers.

Mary's Little Children Prayer Group

Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal Church, 5225 Refugee Road, Columbus. 8:30 a.m., confessions, 9 a.m., Mass, followed by Fatima prayers and Rosary (Shepherds of Christ format); 10 a.m., meeting. **614-861-4888**

Life and Mercy Mass in Plain City

9 a.m. Mass, St. Joseph Church, 140 West Ave., Plain City. Saturday Life and Mercy Mass, followed by rosary and confession.

First Saturday Mass at Holy Family

9 a.m., Holy Family Church, 584 W. Broad St., Columbus. First Saturday Mass for world peace and in reparation for blasphemies against the Virgin Mary. **614-221-4323, extension 329**

Maple Syrup Tour at Shepherd's Corner

10 a.m. to noon, Shepherd's Corner Ecology Center, 987 N. Waggoner Road, Blacklick. Tour and tasting showing how maple syrup is made. \$6 per participant; registration required.

Sung Latin Mass at Columbus St. Patrick

11 a.m., St. Patrick Church, 280 N. Grant Ave., Columbus. Sung Latin Mass in the Dominican rite for the Feast of St. Thomas Aquinas, followed by reception. **614-224-9522**

Bosco Bash at Bishop Hartley

2 to 8 p.m., Bishop Hartley High School, 1285 Zettler Road, Columbus. Bosco Bash youth conference for sixth- to eighth-graders, sponsored by diocesan Office of Youth & Young Adult Ministry, with speaker Noelle Garcia, music, skits, service activities, prayer, small-group time, dinner, and Mass celebrated by Bishop Robert Brennan. **Catholic Social Services Spirit of Hope Gala** 6 to 10 p.m., Walter Commons, St. Charles Preparatory School, 2010 E. Broad St., Columbus. Spirit of Hope gala celebrating Catholic Social Services' 75th anniversary. Includes plated dinner, entertainment, and auction opportunities.

8, SUNDAY

Diocesan Catholic Youth Conference

10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Bishop Hartley High School, 1285 Zettler Road, Columbus. Annual diocesan youth conference for ninth- to 12th-graders,

sponsored by diocesan Office of Youth & Young Adult Ministry, with speaker Noelle Garcia, music, skits, service activities, prayer, small-group time, lunch, and Mass celebrated by Bishop Robert Brennan. Cost \$30; adults \$40. **614-241-2565**

St. Christopher Adult Religious Education

10 to 11:20 a.m., Library, Trinity Catholic School, 1440 Grandview Ave., Columbus. Second of five studies of *No Greater Love*, a book and video series by Edward Sri filmed in the Holy Land and examining the last hours of Jesus' life.

Frassati Society Attends Mass

10:30 a.m., St. Patrick Church, 280 N. Grant Ave., Columbus. Parish's Frassati Society for young adults attends Mass, followed by Mass at Flatiron Tavern, 129 E, Nationwide Blvd. **614-224-9522**

Lay Fraternities of St. Dominic Meeting

1:30 p.m., St. Patrick Church, 280 N. Grant Ave., Columbus. Meeting of St. Catherine of Siena chapter, Lay Fraternities of St. Dominic.

Concert at Martin de Porres Center

4 p.m., Martin de Porres Center, 2330 Airport Drive, Columbus. Concert with ensemble from the Columbus International Children's Choir.

Prayer Group Meeting at Christ the King

5 to 7 p.m., Christ the King Church, 2777 E. Livingston Ave., Columbus (enter at daily Mass entrance). Weekly parish prayer group meets.

for praise, worship, ministry, and teaching. **614-886-8266**

Catholic Conversations Series

6 to 8 p.m., Olie's Tavern and Grill, 5344 Center St., Hilliard. Angel Fox, stage-4 esophageal cancer survivor, tells her story, titled "Meet a Miracle," as part of monthly Catholic Conversations series for anyone 21 and older, sponsored by Columbus St. Margaret of Cortona Church. Contact Julie Naporano at julienaporano1@gmail.com.

Catechesis at the Cathedral

6:45 p.m., St. Joseph Cathedral, 212 E. Broad St., Columbus. Father Adam Streltenberger's series of talks on the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* continues. Topic: "What Is Anointing of the Sick?" **614-224-1295**

8-10, SUNDAY-TUESDAY

Parish Mission at Marion St. Mary

6:30 p.m., St. Mary Church, 251 N. Main St., Marion. Parish mission led by Father Joseph Tuscan, OFM Cap. Theme: "Repent and Believe." Mass precedes Tuesday talk. **740-382-2118**

9, MONDAY

Divine Mercy Chaplet, Rosary at St. Pius X

6 p.m., St. Pius X Church, 1051 S. Waggoner Road, Reynoldsburg. Recital of Chaplet of Divine Mercy, followed by Rosary for the sick of the parish and all who are ill. **614-866-2859**

Bethesda Post-Abortion Healing Ministry

6:30 p.m., support group meeting, 2744 Dover Road, Columbus (Christ the King convent, first building west of church). **614-718-0227, 614-309-2651, 614-309-0157**

Our Lady of Peace Men's Bible Study

7 p.m., Our Lady of Peace Church, 20 E. Dominion Blvd., Columbus. Bible study of Sunday's readings.

Journey of Hope Program at DeSales

7 p.m., St. Francis DeSales High School, 4212 Karl Road, Columbus. "From Violence to Healing" program sponsored by Journey of Hope, a group led by murder victims' families which seeks abolition of the death penalty.

9-11, MONDAY-WEDNESDAY

Parish Mission at Our Lady of Victory

10 a.m. and 7 p.m. (identical programs), Our Lady of Victory Church, 1559 Roxbury Road, Columbus. Parish mission led by Father Thomas Blau, OP. Joseph Tuscan, OFM Cap. Theme: "Virtue, Vice and Grace." **614-488-2428**

10, TUESDAY

Eucharistic Adoration at Bethesda

11 a.m. to 1 p.m., Bethesda Healing Ministry, 2744 Dover Road, Columbus. Monthly Eucharistic Adoration in chapel.

Calix Society Meeting

6 p.m., Panera restaurant, 4519 N. High St., Columbus. Monthly meeting of the Calix Society, an association of Catholic alcoholics. Preceded by 5:30 p.m. Mass at Our Lady of Peace Church, across street from meeting site.

Frassati Society Bowling Night

6 p.m., Ten Pin Alley, 5499 Ten Pin Alley, Hilliard. Columbus St. Patrick Church Frassati Society for young adults goes bowling. Cost \$5; shoes \$3.

Rosary for Life at St. Joan of Arc

Following 6 p.m. Mass, St. Joan of Arc Church, 10700 Liberty Road, Powell. Recital of Rosary for Life, sponsored by church's respect life committee.

Holy Hour at Columbus St. Francis of Assisi

St. Francis of Assisi Church, 386 Buttles Ave., Columbus. Monthly Holy Hour after 6 p.m. Mass. **614-299-5781**

EnCourage Ministry Monthly Meeting

6:30 p.m., EnCourage, an approved diocesan ministry for families and friends of persons who experience same-sex attraction. Confidentiality is maintained. Call for site. **614-296-7404**

Abortion Recovery Network Group

7 p.m., Pregnancy Decision Health Center, 665 E. Dublin-Granville Road, Columbus. Abortion recovery network group meeting for anyone interested in recovering from abortion or who has been through a recovery program, and wants to stay connected. **614-721-2100**

11, WEDNESDAY

Center for Dominican Studies Series

Noon to 12:30 p.m., St. Catharine of Siena Room, Erskine Hall, 1216 Sunbury Road, Columbus. Lecture by Sister Mary Ann Fatula, OP, on "The Joy-Filled Truth of Lent." Seventh talk in Center for Dominican Studies monthly series. Lunch provided; call for seating. **614-251-4722**

Notre Dame Handbell Choir at Resurrection

7:30 p.m., Church of the Resurrection, 6300 E. Dublin-Granville Road, New Albany. Concert by University of Notre Dame handbell choir and musicians from the university and the parish.

12, THURSDAY

Maple Syrup Tour at Shepherd's Corner

1 to 3 p.m., Shepherd's Corner Ecology Center, 987 N. Waggoner Road, Blacklick. Tour and tasting showing how maple syrup is made. \$6 per participant; registration required. **614-866-4302**

Cenacle at Holy Name

6 p.m., Holy Name Church, 154 E. Patterson Ave., Columbus. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, with prayers in the Cenacle format of the Marian Movement of Priests.

Theology on Tap Meeting

7 p.m., El Vaquero restaurant, 3230 Olentangy River Road, Columbus. Theology on Tap discussion and social group for young Catholics, with Bill Cunningham speaking on "Are You Listening to Your Gospel Call?" Wine available, snacks, other drinks provided.



Capt. Skip Shiver of Apalachicola River Cruises takes Aaron through the bay marshes.

Photos by Beth Ervin Leventhal

By Aaron Leventhal

I am an Ohio “snowbird,” determined to escape winter’s bleak and chilly days

for bright, warm sunshine and sandy seashores. For the past three years, my wife Beth and I have vacationed along South Carolina’s Atlantic Seaboard. This year we were ready for a new adventure.

After checking out several destinations, we traveled in January to North Florida’s Panhandle along the Gulf of Mexico with Lily, our Labrador Retriever. The 50-mile stretch of coastline is promoted as “Florida’s Forgotten Coast,” a term adopted when, in the early 1990s, the state omitted the region on its maps.

The Forgotten Coast is anchored by the historic town of Apalachicola, a Native American word meaning “land of the friendly people,” and extends eastward to the barrier islands of St. George, Eastpoint, Carrabelle and Alligator Point.

A two-day drive of 850 miles south landed us on St George Island in a vacation rental with a view of the gulf (www.buckysbeachaus.com).

With bright, sunny skies and temperatures in the 70s throughout our stay, we spent mornings strolling and shelling along the island’s 27-miles of soft, sandy beach and sparkling, blue waters. We were delighted that Lily taught herself to “body surf” in the Gulf’s gentle waves.

Most afternoons we drove to a variety of state and federal parks and forests, hiking along well-marked trails lined with palms and Spanish moss-draped live oak and cypress or rummaged through locally owned and managed craft shacks, art galleries and thrift shops. We dined at home on fresh fish and seafood purchased at small seafood markets and enjoyed a variety of laid-back restaurants and cafes that enthusiastically welcomed Lily either inside or on the outdoor patios.

According to John Solomon, executive director of the Apalachicola Bay Chamber, “Our ‘Forgotten Coast’ is one of the last places to experience ‘Old Florida.’ There are no big-box stores here and no malls. Legislation limits buildings to three stories. Our businesses are owned

Catholic Travel

EXPLORING FLORIDA'S Forgotten Coast

and managed by locals.

“In reality, we are no longer Florida’s ‘Forgotten Coast.’ Visitors come here from across America and abroad and stay for a few weeks or months. Many return and ultimately decide to move here. They appreciate our authentic friendliness and our laid-back lifestyle.”

Fishing, Boating and Tours

Visitors can fish off piers in the bay and on sandy beaches, and there are numerous boat rental outfits and dozens of skilled captains docked at marinas who conduct fishing charters and sightseeing cruises.

Beth and I had the pleasure of taking a four-hour tour with Capt. Skip Shiver of Apalachicola River Tours (shiverskip@yahoo.com, 850-370-6001). We cruised through river marshes as Capt. Shiver, a fifth generation native, shared stories and history of the Forgotten Coast. He explained how the shoreline remains essentially undeveloped thanks to state and federal government stewardship. “Thankfully they own and manage most of the 50-mile stretch. This assures us we can preserve our history and cultural heritage,” he said. Capt. Skip can customize trips to include the barrier islands, eco tours, sunset cruises and fishing charters.



Commercial fishing boats provide fresh-caught fish and seafood.



There are more than 50 miles of soft, white, sandy beaches along Florida’s Forbidden Coast.

What to Do

Explore Apalachicola's 1830s original town plan and three dozen historic sites on the self-guided Apalachicola Historic Walking Tour. St. George Island State Park offers nine miles of undeveloped beach consistently named among America's "Top 10 Beaches," majestic dunes and salt marshes. At Cape St. George Lighthouse, climb 92 wooden stairs for a spectacular view of the Gulf. Apalachicola National Forest offers hiking, birding, boating fishing, hunting and camping on 564,000 acres. The 18-hole course at St. James Bay Golf Resort is cited as an Audubon Signature Sanctuary and is open to the public with its excellent Crooked River Grill.

Set aside a day to travel to Wakulla Springs, home of one of the largest and deepest freshwater springs in the world. A 45-minute narrated river cruise meanders through the ancient cypress swamp (which provided the backdrop for the early Tarzan movies and *The Creature from the Black Lagoon*) offers views of its diverse inhabitants, including alligators, manatees and exotic birds. For lunch or dinner, the Edward Ball Dining Room in The Lodge provides an unforgettable experience with classic Southern fare in its 1937 Art Deco dining room.

Dining

The main attraction is, of course, locally caught fish and seafood. Grouper, snapper, trout, shrimp, oysters and crabs are prepared grilled, broiled, fried, steamed or blackened with sides of homemade coleslaw,

hush puppies and black beans and rice. The region takes great pride in its reputation as "America's Oyster Capital," with local mollusks noted for a pure, mellow, briny bay flavor. Ninety percent of Florida's crop and 10 percent of the nation's output is harvested on 7,000 acres of oyster beds.

Our favorite restaurants include the Apalachicola Sea Grill, touting the world's largest fried fish sandwich; Harry A's Sports Bar and Diner, with live music and karaoke daily; Blue Parrot Outside Café, with a large selection of po' boys, tiki bar and water-



Pam Kelley's eclectic Beach Trader features works by local and regional artists



Apalachicola is the world's Oyster Capital

front deck; and Red Pirate Bar & Grill, with live music and mini-golf.

Shopping

Shopping is an adventure with dozens of small, eclectic shops, galleries and boutiques specializing in local handmade items, paintings, photography, sculpture, jewelry and nautical antiques and collectibles. Of note are the Grady Market, Tin Shed, Apalachicola Sponge Company and Pam Kelley's Beach Trader on Highway 98 in Carrabelle.

Where to Stay

There are dozens of bed and breakfasts and small inns, as well as hundreds of vacation home rentals, RV resorts and parks. It's best to avoid the crowds and prices of the high season of March through September. January and February are ideal for warm, bright days, tranquility and discounted prices.

For More Information:

Apalachicola Bay Chamber
850-653-9419
www.FloridasForgottenCoast.com

Columbus writer Aaron Leventhal has organized a 10-day, small group tour to Alaska in September 2020. Check it out at LeventhalTravel.com.

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and through us your
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thanksgiving to God. "**

- 2 Corinthians 9: 11-12

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