

The Catholic **TIMES**

The Diocese of Columbus' Information Source

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DIOCESE LAUNCHES REAL PRESENCE, REAL FUTURE INITIATIVE

Chancery staff member welcomes opportunity to evangelize

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

By Tim Puet
Catholic Times Reporter

As executive assistant in the diocesan Chancery, Yvette Reategui never knows when she might be called on to perform the work of a missionary disciple.

"Every day when I come to work, I ask for God's help and protection for when I take phone calls or deal with visitors to the Chancery," said Reategui, who has been employed there for seven years. "Bishop (Emeritus James) Griffin told me that, in my position, I am the voice and face of the diocese. I've always kept that in mind.

"Most calls I take involve everyday activities, such as parishes asking for help on different things or requests for information in diocesan files. Once in a while, a caller will ask for guidance in a certain faith-related situation. I usually refer this type of caller to a particular priest or a diocesan office, but sometimes I'm able to help.

"Once, a woman called and said she was the only Catholic in her family and was always fighting with relatives about things like the role of Mary, the Eucharist or the authority of the pope," Reategui said.

"We began talking about Mary, and I told her Mary is very important, but she needed to talk to a priest about Mary's role. I also sent her the book 33 Days to Morning Glory by Father (Michael) Gaitley, which talks about consecration to Mary. The woman called me later to thank me for the book. She said reading it made her be more in love with Mary.

"Another person had a friend who was dying and planned on being cre-



Yvette Reategui, an executive assistant in the Diocese of Columbus Chancery office, discusses her work and faith life.
Photo courtesy Andy Mackey

mated. The caller asked if the Catholic Church permitted that person's ashes to be scattered on the beach. I told the caller the Church permitted cremation but wants remains to be kept in a sacred place like a church cemetery and not scattered or kept in an urn at home.

"You get all sorts of little things like this, little opportunities to evangelize," said Reategui, 51, who came to the United States from Peru 19 years ago. "I'm still shy about speaking English, but I've gotten better at it with practice and with God's help."

Reategui is a member of Columbus St. Stephen the Martyr Church. She and her husband, Marco, have three daughters: Naomi Minotti, 26, who is married and lives in Cleveland; and Frances, 23, and Megumi, 17, both of whom live with their parents. Megumi

is a student at Cristo Rey Columbus High School.

"Megumi means 'Blessed' in Japanese," said Reategui, who is of Japanese descent. She said her grandparents immigrated to Peru in the 1930s. They were among about 30,000 Japanese who came to Peru from the beginning of the 20th century until World War II because Peru was the first South American nation to establish diplomatic relations with Japan.

"I grew up Catholic and went to Catholic schools where the teachers were German nuns," she said. "Most people in Peru label themselves as Catholics, but they're really 'Catholics lite,' like my parents. They went to church on Christmas and Easter, but that was about it. Most of the time, I went to Mass by myself and learned the basics of the faith there and in

school.

"Starting when I was young, whenever I've had a difficult time in life, I have always turned to prayer. It makes me feel good, like God is carrying me to Him. It's a great gift He has given."

Reategui said her spiritual life has grown significantly since the arrival of the sisters of the Missionary Servants of the Word from Mexico in 2009 to serve the large Latino population of St. Stephen Church. "Thanks to the sisters, I've really gotten to know Jesus," she said.

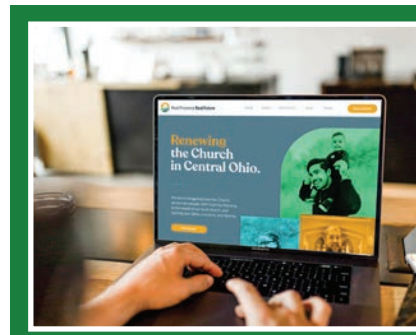
"I was one of the first lay missionaries who went with them from house to house in the parish, visiting the people, praying the rosary and doing Bible studies. The parish has grown steadily thanks to their efforts."

The sisters' presence also has resulted in a growing devotion to the Eucharist within the parish. Eucharistic Adoration takes place there on Wednesdays from 6 to 6:30 p.m., and Thursdays from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. each week. Adoration also is scheduled from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. on the first Friday of the month, and from 7:30 p.m. Saturday to 7 a.m. Sunday on the first Sunday.

"Many times I go into Adoration, and at the beginning, I'm in a rush," Reategui said. "My mind is everywhere. But after a while, I get calmer. I would encourage people at Adoration to take your time and relax. It's a practice you get used to. If you really want to feel God's presence, you'll feel it and sense that God is talking to you. He will give you answers you feel in your heart."

Her weekday duties at the Chancery keep her busy, but Reategui says that on Fridays, she enjoys going to Mass somewhere or to Adoration in the morning at Columbus Holy Family Church. On Saturdays, she and her husband attend the 8:30 a.m. Mass at Columbus Holy Name Church, and on Sundays, the couple and their two younger daughters are at Mass at St.

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Front Page photo:

**REAL PRESENCE,
REAL FUTURE**
The diocese has announced a strategic planning initiative to increase the presence of Christ throughout its 23 counties over the next several years. Photo courtesy CLI

Catholic TIMES

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Diocese announces Real Presence, Real Future strategic initiative to plot future

The Diocese of Columbus has announced Real Presence, Real Future, a strategic planning initiative aimed at increasing the presence of Christ throughout its 23 counties over the next three years and upholding the Faith for future generations.

The Most Reverend Robert J. Brennan, Bishop of Columbus, launched the initiative to priests on December 1, 2020 and to parishes and schools on February 27-28, as a method of discerning the Diocese's future and to usher in a new wave of evangelization initiatives to foster a greater sense of missionary discipleship.

"This really is our plan – all of us together," Bishop Brennan said. "Our goal is to identify the needs of our Diocese for the 21st Century and how we meet those needs, and to expand Catholic presence to all our people, which is going to take some creativity. That's at the heart of it. We want to make the presence of the Lord, the experience of the Sacraments, the encounter with Christ – we want to make that more available to people."



Real Presence Real Future

This initiative aims to reimagine how the Church serves her people through a process of listening to their needs, ideas, concerns, and desires. This planning and consultation phase will be held throughout 2021 and the findings will be implemented over the next few years. The full scope of the Real Presence, Real Future initiative will prepare the Diocese to increase its Catholic presence over the next 10 to 20 years. It is intended to meet the many needs of the Diocese of Columbus' diverse areas and ethnicities, while emphasizing the utilization of active diocesan priests and deacons, mission-oriented parishes and schools, and all other available resources.

The initiative is focused on three main priorities:

1. Engaging all Catholics to reflect upon the real presence of Jesus Christ in their lives and how they can share that presence with others.

2. Articulating a plan for a comprehensive Catholic presence for each county/deanery by integrating missionary outreach, parish and school footprints, and leadership requirements for the next five years.

3. Defining and developing the necessary Diocesan resource structures to support priests, deacons, and lay leaders in parishes and schools.

Much of the initiative's work will be driven by six evangelization subcommittees specifically structured to support this effort. These subcommittees have been tasked with forming parish missionary disciples, increasing the Catholic presence and outreach to university and higher educational learning centers, using digital and social communications for evangelization, deploying lay missionaries in parishes and schools, forming Catholic school faculty and staff in missionary discipleship, and creating a soft-entry center focused on outreach

to the religiously non-affiliated.

Father Adam Streitenberger, Bishop's Coordinator for Evangelization, said, "Evangelization is the most important means by which the Catholic presence will continue. For this work of evangelization to truly increase our Catholic presence, all of the baptized must respond to the call and be formed as missionary disciples, and to be equipped to bring Christ to their families and communities."

"Each of the evangelization subcommittees will develop a plan to address the needs and initiatives for evangelization and missionary discipleship formation identified by Bishop Brennan," he added.

Real Presence, Real Future will engage clergy and laity throughout the Diocese, as well as all parishes and Catholic schools.

Preparatory work for this initiative has been underway for months, including establishing and structuring the evangelization subcommittees; further planning and implementation steps will continue in the coming year.

Real Presence, Real Future: Church in 21st century

By Doug Bean
Catholic Times Editor

As the Diocese of Columbus launches its Real Presence, Real Future initiative this week, Bishop Robert Brennan emphasized the importance for the faithful to pray and become informed.

"Let's ask the Lord to be with us to send the Holy Spirit upon us and to work through us as we listen deeply to each other," the bishop told Father Adam Streitenberger, diocesan coordinator for evangelization, during a taping of his "Conversations on Discipleship" program for St. Gabriel Radio.

Real Presence, Real Future, which was unveiled at all parishes Feb. 27-28, entails a strategic planning process spanning the next two years to help support the future needs of the diocese.

"Real Presence, Real Future brings our hearts and minds to the presence of Jesus in the Eucharist," Bishop Brennan said. "It's very important for us, the current generation, to take a look at the needs of the Church in the 21st century but also the world and certainly our society here in Ohio."

The bishop stressed that it's important to adapt to changing times because the world needs the Church.

"Real Presence, Real Future is about our desire to have the Catholic presence – strong, vibrant, joyful, faithful – proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ and living it boldly and creatively so that we can share the Joy of the Gospel and the Splendor of Truth with the world, but also so that even in our own living out of the faith it can help us to get into a deeper relationship with the Lord," he said.

"We're looking ahead with



Bishop Robert Brennan

CT file photo by Ken Snow

great hope and great confidence because we know the promise of the Lord in Matthew 28: I am with you always, even until the end of time. But looking ahead is really about knowing that we're walking with Jesus."

When the Columbus Diocese was founded in the 1860s, downtown churches were built within walking distance. Since then, the demographics of the

100 percent participation requested in Disciple Maker Index Survey

Parishes will be participating in the diocesan-wide Disciple Maker Index (DMI) Survey between now and March 22. This nationally-recognized survey has been administered at parishes around the United States and Canada since 2013. All parishes, as part of the Diocese of Columbus' Real Presence Real Future planning process, will participate in this survey during Lent. The results from our parish survey will not only be used for information and planning for each parish in the diocese, but will also be included in national results that track trends, growth and Church-related opportunities nationwide. You can take the survey online at <https://www.catholicleaders.org/columbusdmi> or via a paper copy available at parishes through March 22. This is an exciting opportunity for each parish, and the diocese hopes everyone will participate.

The DMI survey was developed by the Catholic Leadership Institute in conjunction with advising U.S. bishops and Catholic lay leaders in 2013. The DMI Survey was created as a tool to help more Catholics to grow along their faith journey with Christ and to become more engaged in the community life of the parish. The DMI Survey seeks to provide parishioners an opportunity to reflect on their spiritual growth as well as provide parish leadership with invaluable insights regarding a parish's strengths and opportunities.

By participating in this survey, the results will provide meaningful input about parishes as the diocese begins our own planning process as part of Real Presence Real Future. The information from the DMI Survey will provide insight into the diocese's priorities and into the allocation and realignment of resources over the next few years as parishes strive to more effectively help parishioners along their personal journey of faith.

After Capitol riot, cathedral protest, what would Jesus do?

Most of us looked forward to the end of 2020. After almost nine months of the coronavirus pandemic and the restrictions, closures, sequestrations, unemployment, food insecurity and economic fallout that came with it, a turn of the calendar page seemed to offer hopeful change.

The year 2020 did offer bright spots, however, particularly in the way the Church and its social service and material aid providers, with donors' help, creatively met the needs of a stressed population.

Yet 2021 has begun by questioning things that we hold most dear. The pandemic has not gone away, and new challenges have piled onto existing ones.

On Jan. 6, a mob of people broke into the U.S. Capitol, some intending to harm elected representatives of a government that is the envy of many worldwide on the grounds that those representatives were traitors to the ideals of the nation.

On Jan. 22, in the middle of a Catholic Mass devoted to the worship of God and prayer for the protection of human life, a handful of protesters stormed into Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral chanting, "Two, four, six, eight, this church teaches hate," on the grounds that pro-life advocacy is a hateful message.

These are just two examples from this new year that seem to demonstrate a sense of irony in which those who are attacking civil and religious institu-

FAITH IN ACTION

Mark Huddy

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



tions seemingly are guilty of the charges they raise against their targets.

I am reminded of a passage from the book of Isaiah: "Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil, who change darkness into light and light into darkness, who change bitter into sweet and sweet into bitter" (Is 5:20-21). Even the verses reference this year.

Most important for us, as we begin the Lenten season, is the question: What are we called to do?

First, we should follow Jesus' injunction to pray for our persecutors. We must show everyone that we practice what we preach. When we speak of respect for the sacredness and dignity of every human life, we must demonstrate it in our actions – even to those who persecute us.

Second, we must continue to speak the truth. We must speak the truth about God, who loves what He has made and who is calling every person to Himself. God, who offers forgiveness and a path to

change. God, who alone is the author of life and death and who knows the number of hairs on every head.

We must speak the truth about the human person, made in God's image and likeness and destined to enjoy a transcendent future with Him. We must speak the truth about what is evil and what is good. We must watch over the vulnerable, comfort the suffering, admonish (warn or caution gently) the wayward.

In a civil society, we must work to ensure the protection and safety of public servants, of churchgoers who worship God and are fed at His table and of every human life.

That requires holding those who blatantly disregard civil laws that protect people and property accountable for their actions. Where current laws are insufficient to provide that protection, we should advocate for better laws.

So this Lent, let us banish the confusion and fear that events such as the riot at the Capitol and the disturbance at the Respect Life Mass can provoke in us. Like the first Christians in Acts, let us devote ourselves "to the teaching of the Apostles, and to the communal life, to the breaking of the bread and to the prayers" (Acts 2:42). Then we will be ready to share the Easter joy as missionary disciples.

Bible figures' sins, strengths offer life lessons to children

I love literature. Austen, Alcott, Bronte and Shakespeare quotes are the underpinnings of much of my parenting – much to the eye rolling and chagrin of my children.

When school is done, chores all finished and dinner being made, it is quite common to have "Pride and Prejudice" playing on the TV as background noise (as if we needed more) in my home. A nice fire, a comfy blanket and a cup of tea, and I am in my happy place. Someone always gets sucked into watching it, and discussion always follows.

In our family, we use the characters as backdrops for many of the life lessons we attempt to teach. My husband sits at our table when questioned by our daughters as to why he has made a certain decision. They try to persuade him, and I smile as he gently folds his hands in front of him as replies. And yet I am unmoved (a reference to the father of Elizabeth Bennet in "Pride and Prejudice").

ALL THAT WE HAVE

MaryBeth Eberhard

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



They groan, sigh and realize the discussion is over. From charity to prudence, I am always looking for opportunities to connect my children to virtue.

Recently however, my family has been using the "Bible in a Year" podcast by Father Mike Schmitz as well as the "Storybook" companion for our younger kids as a way to grow our faith as a family. You can find it on iTunes and at Ascension Press. We have listened separately and at times gathered to talk.

Though many of us have read these Bible stories before, it is amazing the richness of encountering them in our different stages of life. The stories of strength, courage, brokenness, mercy and redemption remind me of my roots. I feel my humanity resonate within the walls of these stories.

As I encounter these friends again, the teacher (and parent) in me cannot lose the opportunity to know these people more intimately and use their stories to help my children grow in virtue and faith. I am trying to emphasize that these stories are more their own than they realize. Truly I have become quite zealous in knowing these stories. They are our roots, and from this brokenness and multiple attempts to return to the Lord, do we come.

The strength of Deborah, Hannah's depth of prayer, Esther's patience, Abraham's trust and Joseph's mercy and love all have such value and worth. These stories matter, and the connections we can make for our children with them can forge holy understanding and relationships with those who have gone before.

As our children mature, they will face temptations. They will falter. They will sin. The stories of Judah and Tamar, Joseph's brothers, King David and Bathsheba all give witness to this. But their importance cannot be denied.

Our children need witnesses who can speak to their struggles and their joys. They need to know that they can be redeemed like Paul and they can praise with abandon like David entering the city. What a beautiful feeling to be unashamed and full of trust knowing from where you come!

I've always made it a goal to know my children's friends. In scripture, we find true examples of those whom we can be confident will help lead them to the Father's love.

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February 2021

Exodus, Lent and becoming a true nation

Ten years ago, I began a most extraordinary Lent by walking up the Aventine Hill to the Basilica of Santa Sabina on the first day of the Roman station church pilgrimage – an eight-week journey that led to the book *Roman Pilgrimage: The Station Churches*, co-authored with my friend Elizabeth Lev and my son, Stephen. Liz Lev is the premier Anglophone art-and-architecture guide in the Eternal City, and her masterful descriptions of the Roman station churches confirm the truth suggested by Stephen's evocative photographs (best appreciated in the e-book edition of *Roman Pilgrimage*): beauty opens windows into the deep truths of Catholic faith. My contributions to the book – reflections on the liturgical readings of each day from Ash Wednesday through the Octave of Easter – helped make that Lent a particularly rewarding one, as writing those meditations made me dig deeper into the readings from Mass and the Divine Office.

Every Lent, the Church reads the first 20 chapters of the Book of Exodus in its daily prayer, the Liturgy of the Hours. Familiarity, alas, can mute the power of that inspired book, the linchpin of the Old Testament. During Lent 2011, I found new meaning in Exodus through a closer reading of the commentaries by the Fathers of the Church that accompany the story of Moses and the nascent people of Israel in the breviary. The first millennium Fathers drew spiritual nourishment from Exodus because they treated the second book of the Torah as a source of wisdom, not as an artifact to be dissected. This year, my Lenten journey through the Book of Exodus will be further complemented by the commentary of a contempo-

Mediocre is such an odd word. It's Latin root is 'medius,' meaning middle, and 'ocris,' which means rugged mountain. So mediocre is being about halfway up the mountain. I don't think any of us want to be mediocre in any area of our lives, but "mediocre" is a good word for us to consider during this season of Lent in which we are called to go all in with spiritual practices for 40 days.

Spiritual mediocrity can mean something different for each of us. I think we can agree that we want to keep climbing the mountain, the entire 40 days of Lent, and not be stuck halfway up with habits of prayer, fasting and almsgiving that fizzle, become ho-hum or are cast aside altogether.

We are all called to greatness. Each. And. Every. One. Of. Us. How we get there is very individual, between each of us and God. It is not something we can do on our own and it often doesn't feel like the world is helping us much.

Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI said, "The world offers you comfort. But you were not made for comfort. You were made for greatness."

The secular world doesn't encourage the sacrifice and selflessness that we seek during Lent. It is, however, the giving more of ourselves that helps us lean into Jesus and his love more deeply, richly and purely.

I want Lent to be meaningful for you and for me. I want to pray more, be faithful to holy and healthy habits that will help me grow closer to Jesus and

THE CATHOLIC DIFFERENCE George Weigel

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



rary man of wisdom, Leon R. Kass.

Despite its many confusions, our era has somehow contrived to produce the ideal teacher in Leon Kass: learned humanist, medical doctor, bioethicist of distinction, gentleman and wise counselor – a Jewish scholar who once helped Catholics at the Pontifical Gregorian University read the Scriptures as they'd never done before. Kass's new book, *Founding God's Nation: Reading Exodus* (Yale University Press), complements his previous epic, *The Beginning of Wisdom: Reading Genesis* (Free Press); both books grew out of many years of an intense, searching exploration of those biblical texts with students. And out of that open-minded reading of Exodus, a familiar story takes on fresh meaning: now, through Kass's commentary, Exodus offers us a profound reflection on what it means to be a true people, not merely an aggregate of individuals or a network of families.

What makes a people a nation? According to Exodus, a nation needs a shared story. In the case of the people of Israel, that was and remains the story of their deliverance from slavery in Egypt, where bondage prevented them from being truly a people.

Our call to greatness

HOLY AND HEALTHY Lori Crock

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



grow in holiness. Of course, our desire needs to be paired with solid actions that we discern and implement to see real, sustainable changes in our attitudes and actions, to avoid mediocrity.

Journaling is something I have added to my prayer life this Lent, so I can reflect on the Gospel, a saint or my love (or lack of love) of neighbor. I haven't journaled for a while, but so far it is revealing a lot about my motivations, where I am weak or strong, and I think this practice will bear good fruit over time.

As we seek to implement Lenten actions that help us rise above mediocrity, the word "courageous"

also needs a founding event, in which the people consent to a common way of life. In Exodus, that constituting event is the free acceptance (as Kass winsomely puts it), of "a yoke that becomes a tree of life" – the Sinai covenant, the Ten Commandments, and the Mosaic Law. And a true people need a worthy response to the human aspiration to be in touch with something greater than ourselves. So Exodus instructs its readers to reject false worship (the golden calf) for the sake of true worship – the worship of the One who alone is worthy of worship; the One who enters history to liberate his people and asks them to follow his path into the future.

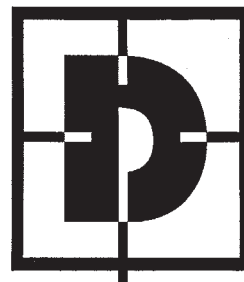
The Book of Exodus thus raises important questions about our contemporary American situation. Can we be the self-constituting nation of the Constitution's preamble – "We the People of the United States" – if future generations are taught a false story of America by *The New York Times'* mendacious "1619 Project," now being imposed on schools around the country? Can we be truly a people if, instead of the preamble's purposeful, covenantal commitment to form a "more perfect Union" that will "secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity," our relationships as citizens are merely transactional – you get something, I get something? Can we be a true nation if we worship the false god of wealth, bow to the false messiahs of identity politics, and indulge the false ethic of "I did it my way"?

There is much to think and pray about this Lent. The Book of Exodus is a good companion on the journey, and Leon Kass is an admirable guide to the truths found in that great book.

Feeling called to a new spiritual or physical practice this Lent? Do it. Go for it. Be courageous and give your yes to God!

I'll close with these encouraging words from St. Pope John Paul II: "It is Jesus who stirs in you the desire to do something great with your lives, the will to follow an ideal, the refusal to allow yourselves to be grounded down by mediocrity, the courage to commit yourselves humbly and patiently to improving yourselves and society, making the world more human and more fraternal."

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The 'quality of life' error

During “serious illness conversations,” some doctors will ply their patients with this question: “What is your minimally acceptable quality of life?”

Behind the question can be the implication that if patients are experiencing a low quality of life, their medical treatments can be discontinued because their life has become “no longer worth living.”

This can even become a shorthand to justify actions like physician-assisted suicide or euthanasia. Making quality of life assessments about ourselves or others can lead us to devalue the gift of human life by insisting it must have a certain amount of “quality” before it can be deemed “meaningful” or “worthwhile.”

The clearest rebuttal of the “quality of life” error I’ve come across was from a 64-year-old retired Boeing computer programmer named John Peyton (1945-2009). He lived in Kent, Washington, and had an unusually aggressive form of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, or ALS, commonly known as Lou Gehrig’s disease. The disease made him totally dependent on Patricia, his wife of 40 years. She dressed him, fed him and regularly shifted his body position in the living room recliner where he spent his declining months.

As Peyton’s once-strong voice gradually began to fade away, he continued to use it publicly to oppose and lobby against Initiative 1000, the assisted suicide initiative in Washington.

When he was interviewed by Laura Ingraham of Fox News, he said, “I’m one of those people who is somewhat of a target of the initiative and I don’t know how we as a society could really consider making doctors into killers.”

Ingraham countered, “John, I think a lot of people who are for this type of assisted suicide would say, ‘Look, what about the quality of life?’ ‘Look,

MAKING SENSE OF BIOETHICS

Father Tad Pacholczyk



Father Tadeusz Pacholczyk, PhD, earned his doctorate in neuroscience from Yale and did postdoctoral work at Harvard. He is a priest of the Diocese of Fall River, Massachusetts, and serves as director of education at The National Catholic Bioethics Center in Philadelphia. See www.ncbcenter.org.

you know, people suffering like you — what kind of quality of life do you really have?’ What do you say to those people?”

His reply was as brilliant as it was simple:

“I have a marvelous quality of life. Right now, I am totally dependent. I can do nothing for myself. I’m effectively paralyzed. But I have a family. I have friends. I have my church community. I have loving support all around me. I don’t understand how anyone could deny that I have a very high quality of life, and it gets me to understand and be compassionate toward those without the support that I have. Rather than giving them the temptation to kill themselves, we should be trying to figure out how to help them to have the quality of life I enjoy.”

Peyton’s answer cuts to the heart of the matter: If anyone who is sick or dying is facing a low quality of life, we should take steps to raise and improve it. His story also reminds us how the one-sided category of “quality of life” can easily tempt us in the wrong direction when it comes to basic moral duties owed to our loved ones in compromised states like a coma, ALS, stroke, Alzheimers or dementia.

Instead of making quality of life judgments about people, we should be making “quality of treatment” judgments for those who are ailing and vulnerable, and perhaps “quality of help” judgments against

ourselves.

As such, our focus should be on the benefits and burdens of a proposed medical intervention rather than on trying to impose our own conclusion that certain individuals no longer have enough value or meaning in their lives to merit receiving a particular treatment. Their humanity is violated if they are treated according to their functionality or quality of life, rather than according to their personal dignity.

Of course, everyone has a certain natural fear or hesitation when it comes to living in a disabled or compromised state. We may also be afraid of “being a burden to others.” When we acknowledge that the gift of life has “absolute value,” that doesn’t mean we must do absolutely everything scientifically available to maintain it, but it does mean that we should exercise good stewardship over it, making use of ordinary means of treatment and receiving supportive care, even in the face of imminent decline.

It also means the decision to refuse or stop a particular medical treatment should be based on the judgment that the treatment itself is extraordinary, that is to say, it offers minimal benefit or is unduly burdensome. It should not be because we conclude that someone’s life itself lacks value and needs to end.

Individuals struggling with grave ailments, even though they may be very compromised and unable to act as their own decision makers, remain persons of great moral worth. They contribute to the common good simply by being, rather than by doing or choosing. Moreover, they continually call each of us to a higher and more beautiful standard of full acceptance, loving support and authentic care, even and especially in the midst of very challenging medical circumstances. They raise the bar for us and we should respond by elevating their quality of life.

A contemplative Lent

While Lent is sometimes thought of as a season to give up something, this Lent comes after a year of pandemic and unrest that has many feeling like they’ve already given up a lot. For some it has meant no in-person visits with family or friends for close to a year. Some have lost jobs. Some suffered from serious cases of COVID-19 while others lost loved ones to the virus. Life has changed for just about everyone. The sense of loss is real.

While Zooming with a group of friends shortly before Ash Wednesday, one said she thought she’d have a “passive” Lent. Further conversation revealed she didn’t mean she would do nothing, but that she wasn’t going to pile on extra activities or give up anything particular. She simply was going to try to be open to receive grace offered in her ordinary routines.

That requires paying attention. “I know I’ve missed God’s Presence with me in the past,” she said, and thought she might make a list or keep a journal, reflecting on places and times in her life, recognizing God’s presence while looking back.

“Contemplative” might be a more accurate word to describe her approach to the season.

In his book *The Dark Night of the Soul: A Psychiatrist Explores the Connection Between Darkness and Spiritual Growth*, Gerald May wondered if John of the Cross’s much quoted sentence *Contemplacion pura consite en recibir* (often translated

GRACE IN THE MOMENT

Mary Van Balen



“Pure contemplation consists of receiving” – which sounds pretty passive) might be better understood if translated with what May considered a more accurate rendering of *recibir* – “Pure contemplation consists of welcoming with open arms!” (p 78).

I remember my Grandma Van Balen, who waited at the top of the steps, arms outstretched, when we arrived at her home for a visit. We scrambled up the staircase, wanting to be the first one she gathered up in her embrace and pulled onto her welcoming lap.

When someone showed up at my parents’ house, they stopped whatever they were doing and welcomed the visitor. After offering tea, coffee, or something to eat, they’d sit and visit, enjoying their company and listening to their stories.

Mr. Rogers was said to have been good at that. When he engaged with someone, he was so attentive that they felt as if they were the only person in the world. That’s deep listening. That’s receptivity. That’s openness at its best.

Practicing such deep listening to the Holy Presence in our lives could be a fruitful way to observe Lent. We could ask ourselves “What gets in the

way?” The tendency to multi-task through the day? Worry about the future? Regrets over the past? A hectic schedule? Pressing family responsibilities?

Sometimes much of what fills the day is beyond our control. Welcoming God “with arms open wide” might mean focusing on the person or task in front of us and trusting, with a lift in the heart, that God is in us and around us as we work as well as when we take some quiet, reflective time.

We can also remember that such openness to receive isn’t a one-way street. God is always welcoming us to share in Divine Life. But we forget. Then something – a moment, words, a song, a sight or sound or feeling reminds us that we indeed exist in God’s embrace.

Poet George Herbert (1593-1633) provides an image of this Divine hospitality in his poem, “Love (III).” In the first two stanzas the speaker, aware of his sin, draws back from the space into which Love invites him. He lists what makes him unworthy to be Love’s guest, but Love persists, wanting only to welcome and to serve. The poem ends: *You must sit down, says Love, and taste my meat:/So I did sit and eat.*

This Lent, instead of “giving up” or “adding on,” how about doing whatever it takes to open our heart-arms wide? Sit down at Love’s table and enjoy what is offered every moment of every day.



A rendering shows the front of a new chapel to be built for the Order of the Most Holy Savior of St. Bridget, known as the Bridgettine sisters, that will be connected to their convent near Columbus Holy Family Church just west of downtown.



The inside of the 8,000-square-foot, 150-seat future chapel for the Bridgettine sisters in Columbus will be modeled after the order's motherhouse chapel in Rome.

Photos courtesy Meyers + Associates Architecture

Bridgettines to expand location with chapel, guesthouse

By Doug Bean
Catholic Times Editor

The Order of the Most Holy Savior of St. Bridget, better known as the Bridgettines, has quickly established its presence as a spiritual force in the Diocese of Columbus and is ready to expand its hospitality and prayer ministry here.

Nearly three years after arriving in the diocese at the invitation of then-Bishop Frederick Campbell, the sisters have launched a capital campaign to raise funds to build a new chapel and guesthouse as part of an expansion project at the sisters' convent at 40 N. Grubb St., which is adjacent to Holy Family Church in the Franklinton area just west of downtown.

The phases will include renovation of the existing structure, which has already begun, followed by construction of an 8,000-square foot, 150-seat chapel modeled after the sisters' motherhouse chapel in Rome and then a guesthouse with up to 30 rooms.

Meyers + Associates Architecture of Columbus is in charge of the design. Chris Meyers, the principal architect and founding owner of the firm, is working with the sisters and expects the chapel project to take approximately 10 to 12 months to complete.

Meyers, a parishioner at Worthington St. Michael Church, has assisted on projects at Damascus Catholic Youth Summer Camp in Knox County and for several parishes, including Columbus St. Timothy and St. Aloysius, Newark Blessed Sacrament and

St. Michael, where his company designed the parish center and adoration chapel.

Father Stash Dailey, vicar for religious in the diocese and the pastor at Holy Family Church, said the start date for construction of the chapel is still to be determined. The Franklinton Area Commission has approved the plans, and a general contractor has been selected, but the next steps include fundraising and obtaining building permits.

The Catholic Foundation has established the Bridgettine Sisters Donor Advised Fund for financial assistance. The website is <https://catholic-foundation.org/BridgettineSisters>.

"It's the prayer and the hope of everyone that phase two begins this year," Father Dailey said.

The Bridgettines, who wear a distinctive habit and veil that includes a crown with five red jewels representing the wounds of Christ, have just one other house in the United States, located in Darien, Connecticut, on Long Island Sound, that is utilized mostly for retreats. Their charisms focus on Christian unity and hospitality.

The order is based in Rome, and Bishop Robert Brennan and Father Dailey have stayed in the sisters' facility during visits to the Eternal City.

"Their guesthouse in Rome is a very beautiful place with simple rooms, where they provide meals and help pilgrims to make their visit in a very spiritual way — different than just any hotel," Bishop Brennan has said. "There is a chapel on site. It is a place of prayer."

In Columbus, the sisters hope to

welcome travelers and visitors but especially those accompanying loved ones on extended hospital visits. Father Dailey sees the downtown location as providential because the guesthouse will be accessible from the Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center, Nationwide Children's Hospital and OhioHealth Grant Medical Center.

"When the sisters first came here, we were (wondering) whether this is the best location for them," Father Dailey recalled. "But they're needed right here."

"Right now, the guesthouse is planned for three stories. The third story would be rented out to women who need a place of residence, whether they're professional women, single or older women. There are just so many different possibilities."

Not only do the sisters welcome guests and travelers, but they also reach out and touch souls. Father Dailey has seen firsthand the impact the Bridgettines have made in a short time here on Catholics and individuals who are lukewarm to religion or have lost their faith.

"Their whole spiritual thrust is Christian unity, and they have yet to meet someone they haven't converted," Father Dailey said. "The conversions are really amazing."

The sisters dig into souls, Father Dailey said. He cited one instance where their witness prompted a woman to return to the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time in more than 40 years.

"And, literally, it looked like she was 15 years younger after making

that confession," Father Dailey said.

"They take these people who are interested in the Catholic Church literally by the hand, walk with them, speak with them, pray for them, give the book on (St. Mother Maria Elizabeth Hesselblad, who in the 1900s revived the order started by St. Bridget of Sweden in the Middle Ages) or a saint, and they're toast. They really are. And it's not through coercion or intellectual conversion."

"They just take them in, they love them. They don't overlook their faults. They help them realize that if you take that fault to the Lord, and you pray and you do penance, then that fault becomes a great gift, like a treasure you offer Jesus."

"You can preach, you can teach, in RCIA you can make all the arguments you want, but some of the toughest nuts to crack I just send them over here. The sisters melt them like butter. I should just put a big sign on the front door at Holy Family that says, 'Interested in the Church? Don't like Catholics? Go next door.'

"Their phrase is, 'My love is crucified,' and every single person they meet, their whole goal is to bring that person to their beloved, Jesus on the cross."

The first phase of the Columbus project involves renovation of the space where four sisters currently live, including additional rooms to eventually house more nuns. That's due in part to a sudden rise in vocations the order is receiving here.

In the 60 years the Bridgettines

BRIDGETTINES, *continued from Page 7*

have served in North America, the order had only one vocation until the sisters arrived in Columbus. But now, because of their devotion and witness, three women are joining the order to begin formation, and Father Dailey anticipates four to five aspirants entering next year.

“They don’t look at you like you’re a project that ‘I need to help this poor girl get to Jesus,’” Father Dailey explained in describing the reason women are attracted to the sisters. “They just embrace you as a family member. It’s just a totally different approach. It’s like you can’t help but fall in love with them.”

In addition to rooms for the sisters, the convent currently houses their chapel, which is open for Eucharistic Adoration to outsiders but only on a limited basis because of COVID-19 restrictions. Once the new chapel is built and the pandemic eases, adoration will take place there, and the sisters’ living area will become cloistered except for an area to entertain visitors or family members.

Father Dailey pointed out that no churches in the surrounding area have an adoration chapel. “So, as far as people who live downtown or even west or south, if you want to make an hour of adoration, this is it,” he said.



The Bridgettine sisters’ ministry focuses on hospitality and seeing Christ in everyone they encounter.

Situated at the north end of the existing convent is a large room that is open to the public and can accommodate meetings, small gatherings and speakers. Some events have already taken place there, and inquiries about the space can be directed to the sisters at info@bridgettines.com.

Bridgettine sisters now assigned to



Sisters and adorers pray before the Blessed Sacrament in the Bridgettines’ chapel, which is located in their convent at 40 N. Grubb St., Columbus, until a new chapel is built next to their residence. Photos courtesy Order of the Most Holy Savior of St. Bridget of Sweden

Columbus hail from India and Mexico. Mother Eunice, who was appointed to a leadership role here by the order, is a native of India.

“I really do know that the Lord is blessing everything going on here with the sisters,” Father Dailey said. “It’s such a beacon of light.”

For more information about the Bridgettines in Columbus, visit bridgettines.com or contact the sisters at info@bridgettines.com. To learn more about the Bridgettine order and St. Mother Elizabeth Hesselblad, who was canonized in 2016, go to bridgettines-usa.org.

Part Time Staff Accountant

The Pontifical College Josephinum, a Roman Catholic Seminary located in Columbus, Ohio, is in need of a Part Time Accountant to replace a retiring employee. The Accountant is primarily responsible for processing accounts payable invoices, credit card charges and updating accounting schedules of certain general ledger accounts. This is a part-time position that requires 10-15 hours per week. Flexible work hours are available along with the possibility of working remotely.

The successful candidate must be able to support the mission of the Josephinum and should have three or more years of related experience working in an accounting department, an undergraduate degree and proficiency in working with Microsoft Office products. Please respond with a resume and letter of interest by March 5, 2021 to:

The Pontifical College Josephinum, 7625 N. High Street, Columbus, Ohio 43235, Attention: Treasurer. Alternatively, you can email the information to: jerwin@pcj.edu

The Pontifical College Josephinum is an EEO Employer.

DISCIPLESHIP

, *continued from Page 2*

Stephen Church.

She said Father Thomas Buffer, now pastor of Marion St. Mary Church and formerly St. Stephen’s pastor, played a significant role in enabling her children to attend Catholic schools and in her coming to work for the diocese.

“I always wanted my children to attend Catholic schools to learn about the faith and because Catholic schools have more of a family-type environment than other schools,” she said. “But I didn’t think I could afford it. Father Buffer said, ‘Don’t worry. We will find a way,’ and he helped the girls get scholarships.

“Now I tell parents they have to put their children through Catholic schools because when they graduate, you can see there’s a difference in a good way between them and most other young people.

“Working at the Chancery is a true vocation,” Reategui continued. “I had been volunteering at St. Stephen’s as a secretary and was going through a difficult period when I learned through an email that there was an opening at

the Chancery.

“Father Buffer said I should apply for the job. I asked, ‘Can I do it?’ and he said, ‘Yes, you can,’ so I started praying for God’s guidance in this matter and got the job at a time I badly needed it. It’s an example of how God opens all doors.

“I pray every time I can,” she said. “You can pray anywhere. I pray while driving or when doing things at home. I’d rather pray than listen to music or TV. One thing that’s been especially helpful for me is Magnificat.tv, a Spanish-language app which includes Mass, prayers, news, music – everything from a Catholic perspective.” The app is not affiliated with the Magnificat monthly prayer magazine.

“I’ve grown so much in my faith every day in the last few years, with the help of the sisters,” Reategui said. “I would say to anyone, ‘Don’t be afraid to grow. You have to grow every day because your faith is like a flower. It has to be watered to grow into full bloom.’”

Since 1900, Franciscan sisters have tended to sick in Zanesville

By Tim Puet
Catholic Times Reporter

Around the turn of the 20th century, doctors at the Margaret Blue Sanitarium in Zanesville found that they needed staff members. A story that can't be verified, but has been passed down for 120 years, says that when they asked where nurses could be found, they were told, "Do you want some nurses? Then get yourself some nuns."

Dr. Thomas Sutton, director of the institution, turned to Father Anthony Leininger, pastor of Zanesville St. Nicholas Church, and Father Leininger told him to see the Franciscan Sisters of Christian Charity who were teaching at St. Nicholas School. The Franciscans responded by sending five sisters from the congregation's motherhouse at Manitowoc, Wisconsin, to work at the sanitarium in 1900. Members of the congregation have been part of health care in Zanesville ever since.

The sanitarium quickly outgrew its original home and was renamed Good Samaritan Hospital when it moved to a mansion in 1902. By 1905, it had outgrown that space, and a new hospital was built. Through the years, buildings were added until, in 1997, Good Samaritan affiliated with Bethesda, the city's other hospital, and both were given the name Genesis HealthCare System. Genesis consolidated the two hospitals into one enlarged campus on the Bethesda site in 2015, and the former Good Samaritan Hospital building was razed one year later.

During the 1940s and '50s, more than 40 Franciscan sisters were on the staff of Good Samaritan Hospital and its former nursing school. Today, three sisters remain at Genesis Hospital, where Bishop Robert Brennan celebrated Mass with them on Thursday, Feb. 11, the World Day of the Sick and the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes.

The three are Sister Maureen Anne Shepard, OSF, director of mission for the Genesis system, who has been in Zanesville since 2007; Sister Bernadette Selinsky, OSF, a chaplain who has served the system since 1996; and Sister Kay Warning, OSF, a hospital volunteer who came to Zanesville in August 2020.

Their congregation was founded in 1869 in Manitowoc and has been involved in health care and education ever since. It has about 190 members who serve in six states. Its core principles are

ANSWERING GOD'S CALL

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

joyful acceptance of poverty, love for the Church, simplicity and selfless dedication to the service of others.

"The Genesis system is a sponsored ministry of the Franciscan Sisters of Christian Charity. As mission director, my main responsibility has been ensuring that the mission, vision and values of the congregation, Catholic health care and Genesis are lived out daily through formation, outreach, social activities and community benefit programs," Sister Maureen Anne said.

"The Genesis leadership model is *servant leadership*. The term 'servant leadership' is a familiar one and relates to a philosophy of leadership. *Servant leadership* puts that philosophy into practice. It engages everyone as a leader, no matter what their role, because everyone can serve as an example of leadership in some way."

Sister Maureen Anne grew up in Cambridge and was taught by sisters of her order, who remain involved with Christ Our Light Parish and St. Benedict Elementary School in that city. She has been a Franciscan sister for 46 years. Before coming to the hospital in 2007, she was a teacher at Zanesville Rosecrans High School from 1978-83. She also has served as a sister in Michigan and Wisconsin. She was a faculty member and administrator at her congregation's Holy Family College in Manitowoc for 20 years and was its president from 1999-2003. The college was permanently closed late last year because of the combination of declining enrollment and the COVID-19 pandemic.

Before becoming a sister, she graduated from Holy Family College but not because she was interested in religious life. "The college was known for teacher education, and the price was right," she said. She then taught for four years at Roncalli High School in Manitowoc.

"At the end of my third year there, I was driving home to Ohio in the summer, and I remember I was passing a clump of trees on Interstate 65 when the thought suddenly came to me, 'Why not become a sister?' It came in an instant, but it changed my life," Sister Maureen Anne said. "I held onto that thought, and when I came back to Manitowoc in the fall, I ap-



Members of the Franciscan Sisters of Christian Charity have been on the staff of the Genesis HealthCare System in Zanesville and its predecessors for 121 years. Serving at the hospital today are (from left): Sister Maureen Anne Shepard, OSF; Sister Bernadette Selinsky, OSF; and Sister Kay Warning, OSF. Photo courtesy Franciscan Sisters of Christian Charity

plied for admission to the Franciscan Sisters of Christian Charity. My formation in religious life began a year later."

Sister Bernadette and Sister Kay both have been members of the congregation for 54 years. Sister Bernadette served at the former Good Samaritan Hospital in Zanesville 1991 and 1992 as a chaplain, returned in 1996 and has been there ever since. She's a native of Green Bay, Wisconsin, and a proud Green Bay Packers fan.

"I grew up in Green Bay around the time when (coach) Vince Lombardi's team was winning all those championships," Sister Bernadette said. Becoming a sister "seemed like sort of the natural thing to do for me because of the family I'm from," she added. Two of her older sisters also joined the Manitowoc Franciscans, with one of them later helping to establish A New Genesis, an association of the faithful, with vowed and non-vowed members, in 1983.

Sister Bernadette was a music teacher for 19 years in Wisconsin, Illinois, California and Arizona and then spent three years in transition before becoming a chaplain.

"What I do as a chaplain hasn't changed that much over the years, but health-care delivery has changed immensely," she said. "It has become more complex. At the same time, patients and their families have become more knowledgeable, with higher expectations for their care."

Sister Kay was a teacher of mathematics and other subjects at grade schools and high schools in Wisconsin, California, Nebraska and Michigan for 23 years and then served as

assistant registrar and administrative assistant for nearly 20 years at Holy Family College, followed by six years at the motherhouse. Her first position in health care was as a representative at a long-term, skilled-care facility in Nebraska, where she spent two years before coming to Zanesville.

"I grew up in Appleton, Wisconsin, where our congregation had a strong presence," she said. "Being a sister was something I always thought about. There wasn't a big moment where I suddenly realized God was calling me to the religious life. I just kept feeling drawn to it and realized in time that this was a life in which I felt comfortable."

"I always wanted to serve others, and this is the essence of what a sister does," Sister Kay said. "A sister is someone who has thought of working with others in the context of a relationship with God. She works wherever she's needed, knowing God with his strength is behind her."

Genesis is the largest health-care system in a six-county region of southeast Ohio, including Muskingum, Coshoc-ton and Perry counties in the Diocese of Columbus. "People in this region always have shown a deep respect for our congregation, whatever their religion or if they have no religion," Sister Maureen Anne said. "Some people have told me that when they come to the hospital and see one of us, it makes their day because it makes them feel they're in good hands."

"When people see us, they know we're sisters, and you can tell the good feeling they have for us," Sister Bernadette said. "That leads to a lot of good one-on-one conversations, which break down barriers that may exist."

All three sisters said that although they wonder about the long-term future of religious life because of the decline in the number of vocations, their main focus is toward fulfilling the role they feel God has given them.

"What will happen to religious congregations in the future concerns me on one hand, but then it doesn't on the other," Sister Bernadette said. "Ultimately, it's up to how God helps us shape the future. If we're meant to grow, that's fine, but if not – well, there's a time and place for everything. We don't know the future."

"Especially these days, things are so in flux that it's more important to live from one day to the next doing the work God has entrusted to us and keeping open to God's vibrant Spirit speaking to everyone."

Parents grateful as little girl thrives despite diagnosis

By Doug Bean
Catholic Times Editor

The gift of life comes in many sizes, shapes and forms. Phil and Laura Frank received a special delivery nearly two years ago with the birth of their first child – a bundle of indescribable joy who so far has beaten the odds.

Thea Margaret Frank was born on April 28, 2019 at Dublin Methodist Hospital. After the baby was delivered, Phil and Laura knew something was not normal, but they did not immediately understand the extent of their daughter's condition. A few days later, Thea was transferred to Nationwide Children's Hospital.

Medical specialists determined that Thea had a rare condition known as Trisomy 18, or Edwards syndrome. Most babies with Trisomy 18, which is caused by an error in cell division and results in an extra chromosome 18 that affects the developing child, die before birth or within a few hours after delivery.

On May 3, Laura's father, Dennis Morrison, made an urgent call to his brother, Deacon Anthony Bonacci, summoning him to Nationwide Children's to baptize the baby. "I will remember his tearful call, telling us that Thea was not expected to make it," recalled the deacon, who serves at Plain City St. Joseph Church.

At 7:15 that evening, Thea received the sacrament administered in what Deacon Bonacci called a "very special Baptism ceremony there in the neonatal intensive-care unit."

The newborn survived those first few hours with assistance from doctors and nurses. Hours then turned into days. Thea kept progressing and was able to go home with her parents after 30 days in the hospital. Days have now turned into weeks and months.

According to the Support Organization for Trisomy 18, 13 and Related Disorders (SOFT), one in 7,000 live births in the United States are randomly affected with the condition. Five to eight percent survive past one year without extraordinary measures, and that rate increases with medical intervention.

Thea Frank is now just two months away from her second birthday.

"Thea continues to amaze us and is a daily reminder of how sacred the gift of life is," her father, Phil, said. "This is especially true since we left the hospital thinking we only had weeks to months to share with her."



Thea Frank, born with a genetic condition known as Trisomy 18, is nearing her second birthday. Photos courtesy Frank family

An extra chromosome causes both Trisomy 18 and Down syndrome, but Trisomy 18 presents more potentially life-threatening medical complications in the first months of life in addition to developmental delays.

Optional prenatal testing can detect the extra 18th chromosome and, sadly, U.S. statistics indicate that 75 percent of babies are terminated if a Trisomy 18 diagnosis is made before 24 weeks. But the Franks had no indication that anything was wrong.

"It was a complete surprise," Phil said. "Laura's pregnancy was very normal. At the last OB appointment, the doctor actually said, 'Well, this has been a boring, regular pregnancy.'" Even if the condition had been spotted, "there's nothing you can do anyway," Phil explained.

Labor and delivery weren't complicated, and Thea's birth weight was normal. A cleft lip and palate, often a sign of Trisomy 18, had gone unnoticed on ultrasound images because Thea's hands were covering her face in the womb, but was evident after the delivery.

"The cleft lip and palate definitely jumped out to me as a sign," Phil said. "And then she had a couple small, little genetic defects that we picked up on."

One of those was a sixth digit with no bone next to the pinky finger on



Thea, pictured wearing an Archangel Raphael medal, has shown resiliency despite facing medical challenges.

both hands.

Thea has undergone two surgeries so far, including one involving her spinal cord, and likely faces more surgical procedures.

She is afflicted with a host of medical complications that require frequent doctor visits. Her vision is limited, she received nutrition through a tube in her stomach, and her motor skills are delayed. But Thea can stand with her parents' support and might be able to walk one day.

"The biggest thing we're dealing with now is apnea spells, which didn't really come until she was about a year old," Phil said. "It's not quite like sleep apnea. These happen during the day, and she'll stop breathing. We have to try to stimulate her by rubbing on her sternum, giving her some pats on the back and trying to wake her up, (and using) deep suctioning down the nose."

Phil and Laura write down everything that happens during the course of a day and have documented more than 100 similar episodes. Central apnea commonly occurs when the brain fails to send a message to breathe.

"Whatever we do always works, and she finally comes out of it," Phil said. "She's a little tired but bounces right back. Nobody knows what's causing that."

Every parent knows that night

sleeping can be an issue with young children, but Thea does relatively well, her parents said. "She's learning her environment a little bit more and knows when we're not around, so in the middle of the night she wakes up, (and) she just wants to know that we're there," Phil said.

The Franks must stay highly organized to track myriad doctor and therapy appointments, which have included up to 10 in one week. They try to schedule medical visits around Phil's schedule. He's an athletic trainer who works with students at Central Crossing High School.

"I'm very good at just making sure we're journaling everything," Laura said, "just to have a good record of being able to look back on things because we want to be able to remember all of it for appointments."

Phil, who moved to Columbus from the Buffalo, New York, area to attend graduate school at Ohio State University, and Laura, a central Ohio native, were married in 2017 at Columbus Our Lady of Victory Church by Deacon Bonacci. Two years later, their lives were forever changed when Thea came along.

"I think we're in a good rhythm now," Laura said. "When we first came home, we came home with hospice care, which I'm really thankful for. We can have a nurse come out every day if we want to check her vitals, keep track of her. The support has been amazing."

The couple's parents have provided support as well. Phil's parents come to visit and assist once a month from the Buffalo area. Morrison, Laura's father and a Columbus attorney who attends Hilliard St. Brendan Church, wrote a heartfelt reflection on his granddaughter that is published in this edition of *The Catholic Times*.

Thea will soon be a palliative-care patient, which means less attention from medical personnel on a day-to-day basis than someone under hospice care. "She won't be at the top of their worry list anymore," Phil said.

"If we look to the statistics of those children who live past 1 year of age, we know there are cognitive development delays and impairments. Unfortunately, I do not have a medical intervention to right this," said Dr. Lisa Humphrey, director of hospice and palliative medicine at Nationwide Children's who has worked with the Franks since the early stages af-

Granddaughter's health challenges make birthdays special

By Dennis J. Morrison

"Birthdays are for children!" My mom's words still ring in my ears. Perhaps what she meant is that, as we age, we greet our birthdays with less enthusiasm. For me, I began to feel a bit uneasy once I became Social Security eligible. At first, I was amused. Then, in what seemed like a blink of an eye, I found myself applying for Medicare! Thankfully, concerns over my advancing age ended in spring 2019.

During the early evening of my 65th birthday, our phone rang. It was my son-in-law. "You have a new granddaughter. Her name is Thea. Laura is fine, but Thea has some medical issues." My wife and I raced to the hospital. As we arrived, Thea was being wheeled down the corridor to the neonatal unit with her dad at her side. She opened her beautiful blue eyes widely and greeted us. Minutes later, we visited our daughter, who reminded me that Thea and I now shared a birthday. We were "birthday buddies." What a gift!

Several days later, Thea was transported to Nationwide Children's Hospital. After a series of tests, she was diagnosed with an extremely rare genetic disorder known as Trisomy 18. While Thea's condition was labeled "partial" Trisomy 18, it was no less serious. We learned that it was terminal. We were devastated. My mind raced to the beautifully decorated nursery that awaited Thea and the thought that she would never see it.

We immediately made arrangements for Thea to be baptized. My brother, Deacon Tony Bonacci, performed the baptism in Thea's hospital room, and our younger daughter, a mother of three, proudly became Thea's godmother.

Thea would spend the next three weeks at Nationwide Children's. The medical care and emotional support Thea and her parents received from the doctors and nurses were exceptional. Unfortunately, Thea's diagnosis was confirmed. Her medical team assured her parents that Thea could remain in the hospital for as long as they wanted.

"Is there anything more you can do for Thea?" my daughter asked. "Unfortunately not," was the response. "Then we want to take our daughter home," my daughter said. Several days later, Thea was released and sent home on hospice care with her parents serving as her primary caregivers. Possible fu-



Deacon Anthony Bonacci (left) baptized Thea Frank on May 3, 2019 at Nationwide Children's Hospital with mother Laura holding the baby and husband Phil at her side.

Photo courtesy Frank family

ture surgeries would be dependent upon Thea.

Surprisingly, months passed, and Thea was thriving at home in the comfort of her nursery under the watchful eyes of her parents. Monitors checked her oxygen saturation levels and heart rate. Portable and free-standing oxygen tanks were utilized, allowing her parents to freely move her throughout the house.

While her prognosis had not changed, it was apparent that Thea was enjoying her life at home. Although guarded, her doctors were amazed at her toughness and determination to survive. From my naive, non-medical perspective, they started to believe in her.

In January 2020, Thea was readmitted to Nationwide Children's for multiple surgeries. The goal was to improve her airway, insert a feeding tube into her stomach, repair her cleft lip and, quite possibly, address a critical spinal cord issue. After nearly five hours of surgery, Thea emerged, but continued breathing difficulties required her to remain intubated for seven agonizing days.

Thea would spend one full month at Nationwide

Children's during which time her lip healed magnificently (thank you, Dr. Khansa), and slowly her feeding tube became functional. During surgery, it was decided that her spinal cord issues would have to wait. Sadly, while improved, her breathing difficulties continued.

Nevertheless, Thea once again defied the odds and returned home. Her mom and dad were educated on using her feeding tube, including reinserting it should it become disconnected from Thea's tiny abdomen. Unfortunately, Thea's breathing issues worsened, in the form of apnea. She would stop breathing, sometimes for several minutes, causing her parents to spring into action to revive her using deep suctioning techniques and conventional CPR. Thea's medical team decided it was time for further intervention.

Several days before her 18th-month birthday, Thea returned to Nationwide Children's for an MRI of her brain and spine. Soon thereafter, she was scheduled for surgery on Dec. 17, 2020. The purpose of this surgery was to further investigate her breathing difficulties, a hearing impairment and, if possible, to detach her tethered spinal cord. If left uncorrected, her tethered spinal cord would eventually cause paralysis.

After nearly three hours of surgery, we were informed that Thea's spinal cord had been successfully "released," meaning that paralysis had been averted. In addition, we learned that the medical team had new ideas for addressing Thea's breathing and hearing difficulties. She was discharged from the hospital two days later. What a wonderful Christmas gift!

The devotion and emotional strength exhibited by our daughter and son-in-law during the past 20 months has been truly remarkable. They have inspired us with their unwavering optimism and a unique confidence in Thea. Despite daily challenges, they are succeeding in furnishing Thea with the best life she can live. In return, Thea is providing her parents, family and all of her "prayer warriors" who have joined in her journey invaluable lessons in love, perseverance and, most of all, faith.

As for my thoughts on future birthdays, I am looking forward to celebrating as many of them with my "birthday buddy" as the good Lord will allow.

Dennis J. Morrison is a parishioner at Hilliard St. Brendan Church.

LITTLE GIRL, continued from Page 10

ter Thea's birth to align a health plan that meets the parents' values, hopes, faith and goals. "However, I am a firm believer that a loving and stimulating home environment that provides the type of scaffolding to allow any child with developmental disabilities to optimize their potential is a must. Thea's parents are models in providing this type of environment, and Thea is becoming her best self and it has been a joy to witness."

Dr. Humphrey prefers not to talk about life-expectancy rates for children born with Trisomy 18 but focus instead of how the medical communi-

ty and the family can work together to develop a beneficial health-care intervention.

"Among the many reasons I love my job is because I believe in miracles, love to bear witness to them, and my job is bountiful in both regards," she said. "I, like all people, have a hope for miracles such as the curing of a cancer. However, that is not always possible, as in a genetic disorder like Trisomy 18 at this time.

"I also know, though, that miracles come in all types and it is not necessarily up to me to define what equals a miracle. Rather, it is my job to look

for them and honor their presence. A child who is not suffering because I find a medication to mitigate the pain is a miracle. Similarly, to witness Thea's smile and its unabashed joy is a miracle."

For Thea to have "lived as long as she has and as well as she has is a miracle for me to behold," Dr. Humphrey continued. "Her parents' capacity to have identified her life, however long or short it may be, as a miracle, and to have followed their hearts so closely, advocated so well, and also trusted and partnered so well with her medical team is the type of miracle I am

honored to bear witness to and learn from."

In spite of the difficulties the Franks have faced, Phil and Laura feel blessed to have Thea in their lives. While they don't know what the future holds, they are committed to providing their daughter the best life possible. Children with Trisomy 18 have lived into their 20s and 30s.

"Our advice to a couple in a similar situation would be to have hope, to never underestimate how strong these children can be, and, finally, to advocate for them so they can receive the care they need to thrive," Phil said.

Jesus brings order, bishop tells catechumens, candidates

By Tim Puet
Catholic Times Reporter

Bishop Robert Brennan told people who are planning to receive the Sacraments of Initiation at the Easter Vigil that uniting with Jesus through joining the Catholic Church will help bring order and meaning to the chaos of their lives.

“Jesus will go and find us where we are and accompany us through everything,” he said in his homily at the diocesan Rite of Election ceremony on Sunday, Feb. 21 at Columbus St. Catharine Church. “He wants to be intimate with us and be deeply a part of our lives.

“Life is messy. Your life is messy. Let me tell you, my life is messy. But in spite of that, Jesus wants to be with us. Because of that, he brings joy into the desert with us,” Bishop Brennan said in a reference to Sunday’s reading from St. Mark’s Gospel, which told of Jesus’ temptation by Satan in the desert.

“He helps us see what we might not be able to see so God’s plan for us can unfold. Maybe we might find our lives have a deeper meaning. Maybe we might find ourselves being light for others, or someone else might be healed” through our becoming closer to Jesus,” he said.

“Your journey of life has led you to encounter Jesus Christ in his Church. ... God went into the desert of your lives to lead you to the waters of baptism, and all of us find ourselves renewed and inspired by your decision,” Bishop Brennan said to 92 people from 28 parishes who have stated they intend to be baptized and confirmed and receive the Eucharist for the first time at the Easter Vigil.

These individuals, known as catechumens, have been taking part for several months in the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA), a program of weekly classes explaining Catholic beliefs and practices.

Also participating in RCIA classes are candidates – people who have been baptized as Catholics or in another Christian denomination but who have not been confirmed or received the Eucharist. They will come into full communion with the Church when they are confirmed and receive their first Communion at the Easter Vigil.

Until this year, catechumens and candidates were recognized during separate portions of the Rite of Election. Because of restrictions related to



Bishop Robert Brennan signs the Book of the Elect during the diocesan Rite of Election on Sunday, Feb. 21 at Columbus St. Catharine Church. Standing next to him is Deacon Christopher Reis.
CT photos by Ken Snow

the COVID-19 pandemic, this year’s ceremony was limited to catechumens. At previous ceremonies, they signed the diocese’s Book of the Elect, which declared their intention to join the Church. This year, catechumens’ names were read by the religious education directors of the parishes where they are taking RCIA classes, and then placed in the book.

Many parishes did not conduct RCIA classes this year because of COVID-19. Last year’s Rite of Elec-

tion, which took place just before the pandemic forced the temporary closing of churches, recognized 143 catechumens and 378 candidates.

Catechumens for 2021 include Elaine Morris, who said the example set by Catholic schoolchildren ultimately led to a decision by her and her husband, Kenny Morris Jr., to become Catholics.

“Kenny used to sit at Starbucks and was impressed by students dressed in the uniform for (Dublin) St. Brigid (of

Kildare) School, who would come in and be the kindest young people. They would hold doors for the elderly, let people go ahead of them in line and say ‘please’ and ‘thank you.’ Other children their age didn’t do that,” she said.

“He really respected this. Kenny and I didn’t come from religious backgrounds growing up, but we had a friend whose children had gone to St. Brigid’s. Kenny said we had to figure out what it was about these kids that made them so different, so we started looking at what the Catholic Church teaches.” She said it has been about six years since the couple first decided to examine Catholic belief.

Elaine Morris said her father was raised Catholic and was inactive in the Church while she was growing up but has resumed practicing the faith. “Mom and Dad raised us to be open-minded about religion,” she said. “But when Dad found out I was going to become a Catholic, he told me, ‘That’s exactly what I wanted, but I knew you had to find things on your own.’”

Morris, 48; her 11-year-old daughter, Ella; and her 7-year-old son, Kenny III, will be baptized together during the Easter Vigil service at St. Brigid of Kildare Church. Both children attend St. Brigid School and are receiving instruction on Catholic beliefs as part of the school’s curriculum.

The children’s father, Kenny Jr., 52, delayed entering RCIA classes for a year. Elaine said that was because the couple runs two businesses, they decided she would take religious instruction first and that he would follow so that one of them could concentrate on workplace activities.

“There’s so much depth in Catholic teaching,” she said. “You hear people all the time giving the wrong ideas about what Catholics believe on subjects like abortion, homosexuality and capital punishment. Now that I understand the reasons behind Catholic teachings, they make sense. Another thing that surprised me is the emphasis the Church puts on marriage preparation. It’s awesome how involved it gets in helping engaged couples understand the real meaning of marriage.

“I feel I’m just now dipping my foot into something lovely, enlightening and beautiful that I’ll be learning more about all my life,” Morris said. “Getting ready to join the Catholic



Candidate Shelley Ralstin-Tackett of the Scioto Catholic Consortium



Catechumen Caroline Edwards of Columbus St. Patrick Church

RITE OF ELECTION, *continued from Page 12*

Catechumen Elaine Morris (left), her son, Kenny III and her daughter, Ella, will be baptized together at Dublin St. Brigid of Kildare Church at the Easter Vigil.



The Stevens family (from left) — mother Beth and daughters Gracie and Gabby — will join the Catholic Church as a group at Columbus Immaculate Conception Church's Easter Vigil Mass.
CT photos by Ken Snow

Church has changed the way I think of everything. It's tapped into a part of my soul and brain that I didn't know I had and made me think beyond myself and more about other people."

Also joining the Church as a group at the Easter Vigil will be Beth Stevens and her daughters, Gabby and Gracie. Beth, 42, baptized in the Methodist Church, is a candidate. Gabby, 12, a seventh-grader at Columbus Immaculate Conception School, and Grace, 7, in second grade there, are catechumens.

Beth said her husband, Matt, is not a Catholic but supports their decision to enter the Church. "I have a lot of friends who decided to send their children to Immaculate Conception," she said. "We decided to join them because we wanted the children to be in a private school and have a religious-based education, given the way the world is at this time. But we left it up to our daughters as to when or whether they would be baptized."

Gabby attended Catholic Youth Summer Camp (CYSC) in Knox County in 2020 and said that throughout her week there, she heard Jesus calling her and saying He wanted her to join Him. She felt especially drawn to Jesus during Eucharistic Adoration as He was carried around the camp lodge in the form of the Eucharist dis-

played in a monstrance. At that point, she decided to become a Catholic.

"I shared my experience with my parents and sister, and we decided as a family to begin this life-changing journey together," Gabby said. "God spoke to me during Adoration and asked me to follow Him, and I have never looked back. I love helping my mom in her faith journey and answering her questions. RCIA has guided me on this journey."

"The faith community at CYSC and in the parish has brought our family closer together and strengthened the bonds we have," Beth said. "It's also been an interesting role reversal, because, in this case, my kids are teaching me what they already know."

Caroline Edwards of Westerville, a catechumen who is 21 and studying veterinary science at Columbus State Community College, had what she described as "a two-part conversion" — first to Christianity in general, and then to Catholic teaching.

"All through middle school and Westerville North High School, I had problems with depression and eating disorders. I was a very self-deprecating person," she said. "In high school, I became involved with a small Christian group which gave me lots of support in helping me struggle with my problems. The group was connected

with Heritage Christian Church in Westerville, and I began attending services there.

"I went there for about three years, then last year, for the first time, I heard about this thing called Lent, which I understood was a 40-day period of spiritual growth. The church I attended didn't have this, and it was something that appealed to me because I wanted to be a more spiritual person.

"As I learned more about Lent, I came to realize that it was primarily a Catholic tradition," she said. "I had an aversion to the Catholic Church because I was put off by some things, such as confession and the role of the pope, but I felt something nudging me to observe the Lenten practices and to be devotional and thoughtful while keeping an open mind about the things that concerned me.

"Most people fast during Lent, but for me, the problem was different because of my body issues. What I needed to do was to eat when I should. I brought the problem before God and decided one way to observe Lent would be through better eating habits."

Edwards said her continued investigation of Catholic teaching deepened her understanding of the church and answered her questions. She attended Masses at several diocesan parishes

and said she was particularly moved by Eucharistic Adoration at Columbus St. Patrick Church, where she started RCIA classes in September.

"At that point, I felt ready to take a leap of faith and be formally educated on what it means to be a Catholic," she said. "I just needed some fellowship with others to get to the finish line.

"One thing I didn't realize is how central the sacraments are to the Church, especially the importance of the Eucharist," she said. "Its meaning as the Real Presence of Christ, the center of everything, is something I couldn't have imagined.

"It was hard to get used to the idea that the Mass is the same every time in its essence, but I realize now how important this is. I also thought some of the Church's social teachings were antiquated, but now I realize the wisdom in its position on abortion and same-sex marriage."

Shelley Ralstin-Tackett, a candidate, was baptized at a Methodist church and said her father was a non-practicing Catholic. She will receive her first Communion and the Sacrament of Confirmation during the Easter Vigil service at Portsmouth St. Mary Church.

While growing up, she was part

RITE OF ELECTION, *continued from Page 13*

of a congregation affiliated with the Church of Christ in Christian Union but also attended Masses at Otway Our Lady of Lourdes Church at Christmas, Easter and other Catholic feast days. As part of a consolidation of Catholic churches in Scioto County, the Otway church no longer is a worship site, and its parishioners mainly attend Pond Creek Holy Trinity Church.

“An aunt lived next door to Our Lady of Lourdes, so I spent many an afternoon there,” said Ralstin-Tackett, 60. “When she passed away several years ago, I went to the funeral, and Father David (E. Young, pastor there at the time) said that in her heart, if there’s one thing Betty (Tackett’s aunt) would wish, it would be for a member of her family to become a Catholic. I think he was referring to me.”

Ralstin-Tackett said she frequently attended Our Lady of Lourdes after that and decided to go to RCIA classes at the invitation of a friend. The class-

es for what is now the Scioto Catholic Consortium have taken place for the past several months at Portsmouth St. Mary, with Ralstin-Tackett among those attending in person and others taking part via Zoom videoconferencing.

Ralstin-Tackett is married, with two sons and a daughter. She and one son raise cattle on a 400-acre farm near Otway whose principal crop is hay. Her husband works for GE Aviation in Waverly. She was a teacher in Scioto County’s Northwest Local School District for 31 years and continues teaching there as a substitute.

“My biggest surprise in learning about the Catholic Church is the one-on-one experience with God it’s brought me,” she said. “I feel I can take anything to him in prayer. I’ve learned so much about how the church survived centuries, about all the saints.

“I’m so excited with each RCIA ses-



Catechumen John Cooper kneels while intercessions are read. His godfather, Jose Banaag, is standing next to him.
CT photo by Ken Snow

sion and amazed at what I’ve learned. It humbles you to hear the stories of the martyrs and the persecutions the

Church has gone through. I may think it’s hard to give up something for Lent, but the martyrs gave up their lives.”

Christ Child Society board members



The Christ Child Society of Columbus has selected its 2021 board of directors. Since 1981, the nonprofit organization has been dedicated to serving area children in need. Board members are (from left): Julie Smerdel, Molly Wood, Kay Gibbons, Barb Groner, president; Michele Bianconi, Debbie Luffy and Millie Watkins. Missing from the picture are Catherine O’Connell, Lisa Davies, Diane Giffin and Jeannette Oxender.

Photo courtesy Christ Child Society

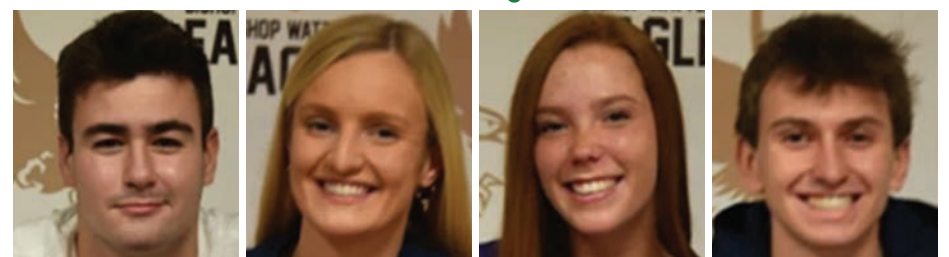
Marysville Knights build beds



Members of Knights of Columbus Council 5534 in Marysville spent a day building bunk beds for children and families in need of them with material provided by Sleep in Heavenly Peace, an Iowa-based charity. Volunteers assemble and deliver the beds to families in their community. “No kid sleeps on the floor” is the charity’s motto. Council member Brad Kitzler suggested the activity. Dave Schlemmer, the council’s deputy grand knight, said this will become a regular program for the council.

Photo courtesy K of C Council 5534

Watterson students sign letters of intent



Four Columbus Bishop Watterson High School athletes signed letters of intent to continue playing in college. The students and their college choices are (from left): Marshall Musuraca, soccer, Ashland; Annie McGraw, soccer, Tennessee-Martin; Rachel Reuter, softball, Ashland; and Will Garey, cross country and track, Xavier.

Photos courtesy Bishop Watterson High School

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YEAR

Women's Morning of Prayer and Reflection focuses on Sacred Heart

By Elizabeth Pardi

On Saturday, Feb. 20, Westerville St. Paul the Apostle Church hosted a Women's Morning of Prayer and Reflection, which featured musical performances and talks by sisters of the Daughters of Holy Mary of the Heart of Jesus from Steubenville.

Emily Jaminet, Columbus-based author and speaker, and Stephanie Rapp, director of the diocese's Marriage and Family Life Office, also spoke. All of the talks centered on the importance of enthroning homes and organizations to the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

The morning opened with Mass celebrated by Father Jonathan Wilson, pastor of St. Paul and Jaminet's brother. In his homily, Father Wilson told the women to "allow this to be a day of encounter with the Lord in your heart."

He said that to help others experience Christ's mercy, love and healing, the women must first make themselves vulnerable to Him.

After Mass, Sister Maria Ecclesiae, H.SMCJ, spoke about forming a relationship with Jesus. She focused on Matthew 11:28, in which Jesus says, "Come unto me and I will give you rest."

Sister Maria Ecclesiae emphasized the importance of establishing "a vital relationship with the Lord," which she said is necessary to practice true Christian charity.

"It's not a one-time encounter," she said. "It's an everyday encounter."

She also challenged the women to trust in Jesus and expect nothing oth-



A Women's Morning of Prayer and Reflection on Saturday, Feb. 20 at Westerville St. Paul Church included Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. Photo courtesy Emily Jaminet

er than a relationship with Him. "(We should not say,) 'I trust in you, but I expect this of you,' but simply, 'I expect only you.'"

After Sister Maria Ecclesiae's talk, she joined one of her fellow sisters who played guitar while they both sang two songs, *I Will Be with You and Christ, Now That I Am Yours*.

Sister Ingrid de Maria, H.SMCJ, took the pulpit next to give a talk titled "Making Jesus King." Her message contained the repeated exhortation to the women to "choose life" for themselves and their families, instead of allowing sin to creep in and destroy.

"We are here to help you walk out of this church feeling empowered with the Sacred Heart of Jesus," she said. She urged her listeners to be aware of the things in their homes through which Satan enters, such as social media and TV.

Sister Ingrid de Maria's talk, as well as the rest of the event, was an appeal to those in attendance to perform the

Sacred Heart enthronement in their homes, inviting Jesus in to bring life to them and their families.

Although Ohio's branch of the Daughters of Holy Mary of the Heart of Jesus is based in Steubenville, the sisters regularly travel to Columbus to run a program called DOYMAR, which offers prayer and spiritual education for children as young as first grade.

More information, and opportunities to donate to their order, can be found on the sisters' website, hsmcj.org.

Jaminet spoke next, centering her talk on the notion that the faithful require Christ to renew them daily or else they become depleted.

"We need to awaken our hearts so that we feel and we see with our hearts, so that we can love in a way that is renewed every single day," she said.

She said that, as a mother of seven, "(I) can wake up all happy (think-

ing), 'Jesus loves me. Life is great,' and then at the end of the day, I'm (cranky) and back on my knees (praying), 'Jesus, please renew me. Renew all things with your perfect love.'

"My vessel runs empty without Jesus, and that's the same for you. That's the purpose of this day ... to be restored and renewed."

Jaminet, who is the executive director of the Sacred Heart Enthronement Network, also encouraged the women to enthrone their homes.

"It's really about you and your family seeking these graces," she said. "Of course, it's wonderful to invite family and friends and a priest over to witness the enthronement, but the truth is, we are in a pandemic, and we need the grace now, and we don't want to wait until life gets quiet again."

"This is the time. We're in the storm. We need these graces tremendously."

After her talk, Jaminet introduced Rapp, who said, "Our diocese actually was consecrated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. It actually was in 1873 by our very first bishop ... and then Bishop (Frederick) Campbell, our last bishop before Bishop (Robert) Brennan, reconsecrated it in 2015."

She acknowledged that having an entire diocese consecrated to the Sacred Heart is "a big deal."

The event concluded with exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, giving the women the opportunity to ponder and pray about all they had learned and whatever was on their hearts.

Elizabeth Pardi blogs at www.lovealwaysliz.com. Follow her on Instagram @lovealwaysliz

Mass for sick includes anointing

The Columbus Region of the Order of Malta sponsored its annual Anointing of the Sick Mass on Sunday, Feb. 14 at Columbus Holy Rosary-St. John Church.

The Mass is held each year on a Sunday near the feast day of Our Lady of Lourdes and the World Day of the Sick, both observed on Feb. 11.

Father Ramon Oweru, Holy Rosary-St. John's pastor, and Father Michael Hartge, vice chancellor of the Diocese of Columbus, concelebrated the Mass and performed the Sacrament of Anointing. About 50 parishioners, members of the Order and friends participated.

The Columbus Region of the Order

of Malta is a part of the Federal Association (headquartered in Washington, D.C.) of the Sovereign Order of Malta, which is one of the oldest institutions of Western and Christian civilization. A lay religious Order of the Catholic Church since 1113 and a subject of international law, the Order has relations with more than 100 states and the United Nations. It is active in more than 120 countries caring for people in need through its medical, social and humanitarian work.

In Columbus, the Order established the Order of Malta Center for Care at Holy Rosary-St. John and the Catholic Medical Association and friends assist with its operation.



Father Ramon Oweru (center), assisted by John Reiner (left) from the Order of Malta, anoints a parishioner during an Anointing of the Sick Mass at Columbus Holy Rosary-St. John Church on Sunday, Feb. 14. Photo courtesy Order of Malta



ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT



My Dear Friends in Christ,

Fiscal 2020 and the first half of Fiscal 2021 have been so hard on so many. The pandemic has taken lives, shuttered businesses, caused us to shift from in-person to live streamed celebration of Mass, and made us all live life in a way we never could have imagined. But through it all, we have persevered and been able to depend on the love of the risen Christ to bring hope in the midst of our struggles. Know that I pray for you each and every day.

As Bishop, I have a responsibility to provide all Catholics in the Diocese of Columbus with an annual view of our financial position and activity. I am pleased to present to you the financial reports of the Diocese of Columbus for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020. Our independent accounting firm has completed their procedures on our reports and have issued unmodified opinions thereon.

Our financial results for the year were solid, especially given the impact of the pandemic. We were greatly benefited by the receipt of funds from the Paycheck Protection Program, which allowed us to keep our employees on payroll and benefits throughout the early stages of the pandemic. In addition, we were able to continue our work in our parishes and schools through your great generosity and support during Fiscal 2020 and into Fiscal 2021.

Although my travels have been limited by the pandemic, it has been an ongoing pleasure for me to visit our parishes, schools and many Apostolates as I could. Each trip confirms that the Diocese of Columbus is richly blessed.

As we look to the future, we see a brighter day ahead, when we can all, once again, gather to celebrate together and meet freely as family and friends. I continue to be grateful for the generosity of all those who support the work of the Church, and I greatly appreciate the many volunteers and committee members, both at the parish and diocesan levels, who assist in this work.

With every best wish, I remain,

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Robert J. Brennan
Bishop of Columbus

DIOCESAN ORGANIZATION FINANCIAL REVIEW FOR FYE JUNE 30, 2019 & 2020

The financial statements titled Catholic Diocese of Columbus – Diocesan Organization, represent the combined financial position and activity for the Chancery, the Catholic Cemeteries, the Diocesan Offices and funds managed at a diocesan level (i.e. Parish Aid, Self Insurance and Varia Trust Funds). The information presented was extracted from audited financial statements. These statements do not include the financial position or activity of our parishes or schools, or agencies that are governed by their own boards, as each reports their financial information separately to their communities.

The financial statements for the Diocesan Organization are audited by the independent CPA firm of Schneider Downs & Co., Inc. The audit was conducted according to auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. For the fiscal years ended June 30, 2020 and June 30, 2019, the auditors provided an unmodified opinion.

For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2020, Net Assets decreased from the previous fiscal year. Our financial position and results were primarily impacted by several factors.

First, our liability for pension benefits and liability for priest post-retirement benefits increased. In accordance with current accounting principles, we are required to measure these liabilities using current economic factors although these liabilities will be funded and paid well into the future (over the next 40 years or more). The overall negative movement in the discount rate at

year-end, increased the value of our liabilities. This was partially offset by positive investment returns on our retirement investments. The impact of these changes has been recognized as a decrease in net assets in the Statement of Activity. It should be noted that although for financial reporting purposes we reflect an overall liability for pension benefits, our actuaries have confirmed that our pension fund is sound.

The second impact on Net Assets was due to a move of investment funds to cash to assure that we had sufficient funds to support parishes and schools who might experience a severe financial impact from the pandemic. Thankfully, these funds were not required due to the receipt of Paycheck Protection Program funding received by many parishes and schools.

The third impact was from moving the Bishop's Annual Appeal from May to July due to COVID. This significantly reduced our 2020 income from the BAA and also reduced our pledges receivable. This decrease has been overcome in fiscal 2021 by the success of the Appeal.

The fourth impact was from receipt of a Paycheck Protection Loan from the Small Business Administration. This provided funds to allow us to keep all employees on payroll and benefits during the final quarter of fiscal 2020, in compliance with the intent of the program.

The final impact was from reserving funds under the Self Insurance Reserve for a legal settlement that occurred in August 2020.

Catholic Diocese of Columbus Diocesan Organization

Combined Statements of Financial Position

ASSETS	As of 6/30/2020	As of 6/30/2019
Cash & cash equivalents	\$ 18,208,946	\$ 15,684,989
Accounts receivable, net	4,395,184	4,293,940
Notes receivable for sale of land	499,020	999,020
Pledges receivable, net	20,588	1,593,695
Inventory	2,237,503	1,536,867
Prepaid expenses	340,284	247,891
Investments	107,114,115	109,925,470
Loans and advances receivable, net	30,096,534	27,312,409
Land under sale contract	4,844,550	6,459,400
Property and equipment, net	15,252,385	15,501,512
Beneficial interest in perpetual trusts	34,947,575	38,505,320
Total Assets	\$ 217,956,684	\$ 222,060,513
LIABILITIES		
Accounts payable	\$ 1,422,493	\$ 973,289
Agency funds	374,146	315,165
Deposits payable	75,648,286	80,223,411
Accrued expenses	1,858,962	1,756,096
Deferred revenue	597,465	207,242
Self-insurance reserve	3,037,100	1,964,000
Priest post-retirement benefits	16,294,970	14,110,175
Liability for pension benefits - lay	73,711,713	61,702,938
Liability for pension benefits - priests	6,653,598	6,021,100
Total Liabilities	179,598,733	167,273,416
NET ASSETS	38,357,951	54,787,097
Total Liabilities & Net Assets	\$ 217,956,684	\$ 222,060,513

Combined Statements of Activities

REVENUES:	Year Ended 6/30/2020	Year Ended 6/30/2019
Bishop's annual appeal, net	\$ 1,041,400	\$ 5,977,333
Investment income, net	2,592,779	2,634,800
Realized/unrealized (loss) gain on investments	4,011,252	4,966,488
Change in fmv of beneficial interests in perpetual trusts	(1,702,045)	91,574
Operating revenue, net	4,873,209	5,884,045
Diocesan assessment	4,452,817	4,668,628
Gain(loss) on sale of property and equipment	1,960,334	1,406,065
PPP loan forgiveness	1,705,700	-
Other	197,139	47,084
Contributions & other additions	757,717	693,118
Total Revenues, Gifts, & Grants	19,890,302	26,369,135
EXPENSES:		
Program expenses	20,007,580	20,317,309
Management and general	2,447,860	2,400,465
Fundraising	859,429	867,713
Total Expenses	23,314,869	23,585,487
Change in net assets prior to pension-related changes other than net periodic pension cost	(3,424,567)	2,783,648
Pension-related changes other than net periodic pension cost	(13,004,579)	(11,785,341)
Changes In Net Assets	(16,429,146)	(9,001,693)
NET ASSETS		
Beginning of year	54,787,097	63,788,790
End of year	\$ 38,357,951	\$ 54,787,097

Statement of Functional Expenses

	Year Ended 6/30/2020			
	Programs	Mgmt & General	Fundraising	Total
Compensation and benefits	\$ 7,981,456	\$ 870,132	\$ 624,301	\$ 9,475,889
Direct expenses	7,282,718	376,331	57,872	7,716,921
Interest	1,577,155	-	-	1,577,155
Other	157,533	483,895	-	641,428
Occupancy	608,455	27,257	-	635,712
Cost of goods sold	753,003	-	-	753,003
Professional services	769,873	(16,522)	40,000	793,351
Depreciation	116,241	405,752	-	521,993
Office expenses	273,043	3,031	125,031	401,105
Information technology	6,436	295,332	2,271	304,039
Contract services	195,988	-	-	195,988
Publicity	157,524	-	4,528	162,052
Travel	77,785	1,113	5,185	84,083
Seminars and meetings	50,370	1,539	241	52,150
Total Expenses	\$ 20,007,580	\$ 2,447,860	\$ 859,429	\$ 23,314,869

	Year Ended 6/30/2019			
	Programs	Mgmt & General	Fundraising	Total
Compensation and benefits	\$ 7,829,541	\$ 708,610	\$ 634,816	\$ 9,172,967
Direct expenses	7,691,517	617,669	46,221	8,355,407
Interest	1,477,595	-	-	1,477,595
Other	480,291	457,094	-	937,385
Occupancy	729,624	24,010	-	753,634
Cost of goods sold	702,290	-	-	702,290
Professional services	493,432	-	3,375	496,807
Depreciation	122,325	355,862	-	478,187
Office expenses	268,832	2,786	165,513	437,131
Information technology	6,199	230,328	1,430	237,957
Contract services	196,350	-	-	196,350
Publicity	160,156	-	9,110	169,266
Travel	104,659	2,656	5,368	112,683
Seminars and meetings	54,498	1,450	1,880	57,828
Total Expenses	\$ 20,317,309	\$ 2,400,465	\$ 867,713	\$ 23,585,487

DIOCESAN HIGH SCHOOLS FINANCIAL REVIEW FYE JUNE 30, 2020 & 2019

The financial statements titled Catholic Diocese of Columbus – High Schools, represent the combined financial position and activity for the Diocesan High Schools. The 2019 results were restated due to decomposing Cristo Rey Columbus High School, as allowed under Generally Accepted Accounting Principles.

The financial statements for the High Schools are reviewed by the

independent CPA firm of Schneider Downs & Co., Inc. The review was conducted according to Statements on Standards for Accounting and Review Services issued by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants.

For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2020, enrollment increased slightly over the prior year (approximately 0.11%). Overall tuition income

increased by 1.1% over the prior year. In several of our schools, we continued to see the need to balance a necessary increase in tuition against what is reasonable given local economic conditions.

During the fourth quarter of fiscal 2020, the High Schools received, and used, \$5.7 million of funds from the Paycheck Protection Program, which allowed us to keep employees

on payroll and benefits during the pandemic.

Contributions and grants decreased \$11.2 million, primarily as a result of the end of several capital campaigns in late fiscal 2019.

From a functional expense standpoint, the most significant change was in Extracurricular Activities due to many Spring activities being cancelled due to the pandemic.

Catholic Diocese of Columbus High Schools

Combined Statement of Financial Position

	As of 6/30/2020	As of 6/30/2019 (as Restated)
ASSETS		
Cash & cash equivalents	\$ 26,370,146	\$ 24,126,176
Accounts receivable, net	1,332,061	959,135
Pledges receivable, net	8,169,427	8,863,782
Prepaid expenses	46,260	30,672
Buildings, leasehold improvements & equipment, net	43,389,400	40,844,024
Beneficial interest in perpetual trust	33,583,317	33,696,772
Total Assets	\$ 112,890,611	\$ 108,520,561
LIABILITIES		
Accounts payable	\$ 1,960,024	\$ 1,675,523
Accrued liabilities - operations	2,546,734	2,672,401
Deferred revenue	227,760	231,273
Prepaid tuition & fees	4,102,326	5,268,651
Notes payable - related party	2,378,318	2,498,342
Total Liabilities	11,215,162	12,346,190
NET ASSETS		
Total Net Assets	101,675,449	96,174,371
Total Liabilities & Net Assets	\$ 112,890,611	\$ 108,520,561

Combined Statement of Activities

	Year Ended 6/30/2020	Year Ended 6/30/2019 (as Restated)
REVENUES AND SUPPORT:		
Tuition	\$ 32,450,352	\$ 32,083,965
Extracurricular activities and cafeteria	7,419,199	8,251,775
Contributions & grants	3,767,880	14,949,068
State of Ohio administration cost reimbursement	1,591,165	1,753,421
Net realized and unrealized gains	(444,507)	550,002
Parish support	1,144,821	1,165,860
Other school income	541,257	716,453
Fundraising events, net	1,032,742	1,179,918
Gift and grants - Diocese	519,053	508,175
PPP loan forgiveness	5,745,415	-
Investment income, net	466,731	502,798
Interest income	281,377	313,863
Total Revenues and Support	54,515,485	61,975,298
EXPENSES:		
High School	47,721,118	48,401,292
Fundraising support services	1,293,289	1,324,333
Total Expenses	49,014,407	49,725,625
Net revenues in excess of expenses	5,501,078	12,249,673
NET ASSETS		
Beginning of year	96,174,371	83,924,698
End of year	\$ 101,675,449	\$ 96,174,371

Statement of Functional Expenses

	Year Ended 6/30/2020		
	Programs	Fundraising	Total
Salaries and benefits	\$ 30,191,432	\$ 1,040,682	\$ 31,232,114
Professional fees	-	42,000	42,000
Extracurricular activities and cafeteria	8,163,806	-	8,163,806
Depreciation and amortization	3,883,323	-	3,883,323
Building, grounds and utilities	2,758,558	-	2,758,558
Technology	693,416	-	693,416
Other	331,772	-	331,772
Departmental costs	617,228	-	617,228
Office supplies	541,190	210,607	751,797
Interest	91,512	-	91,512
Bad debt expense	334,177	-	334,177
Central administrative fees	114,704	-	114,704
Total Expenses	\$ 47,721,118	\$ 1,293,289	\$ 49,014,407

	Year Ended 6/30/2019		
	Programs	Fundraising	Total
Salaries and benefits	\$ 30,389,062	\$ 995,469	\$ 31,384,531
Professional fees	-	111,548	111,548
Extracurricular activities and cafeteria	8,814,430	-	8,814,430
Depreciation and amortization	3,520,398	-	3,520,398
Building, grounds and utilities	3,073,888	-	3,073,888
Technology	834,691	-	834,691
Other	152,529	-	152,529
Departmental costs	588,773	-	588,773
Office supplies	570,422	217,316	787,738
Interest	121,132	-	121,132
Bad debt expense	219,910	-	219,910
Central administrative fees	116,057	-	116,057
Total Expenses	\$ 48,401,292	\$ 1,324,333	\$ 49,725,625

DIOCESAN PARISHES FINANCIAL REVIEW FYE JUNE 30, 2020 & 2019

The financial statement titled Catholic Diocese of Columbus – Parishes, represents the consolidation of the receipts and disbursements for the parishes and associated elementary schools of the Catholic Diocese of Columbus. This statement was compiled from the unaudited financial reports submitted by those organizations.

For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2020, Total Parish Receipts increased 0.40%. Offertory declined 1.60% compared to the prior year. The decrease in Offertory was a result of the pandemic in the final quarter of fiscal 2020. Fund Drive receipts decreased 23.2% due to several significant capital campaigns ending in late 2019 or early 2020. School Income declined 1.60%, while school costs declined 0.04%. The school income decline was primarily due to the impact from COVID on programs like pre-school and after-care.

Total Parish Disbursements increased 0.20% year to year mainly due to increases in depreciation (30%) and Parish Salary and Benefits (2.5%), offset by decreases in interest payments (17%), and Religious Education costs (7%).

Overall, Excess Receipts over Disbursements decreased by 3.73%.

Many of our Parishes received funds from the Paycheck Protection Loan program that allowed them to keep employees on payroll and benefits during the final quarter of fiscal 2020, even with the overall decline in receipts over disbursements.

It should be noted that during 2020, funds raised during past Capital Campaigns were spent to conduct major building repairs and to construct new facilities.

For those interested in the financial results for a particular parish, please contact that parish directly.

Catholic Diocese of Columbus Parishes Combined statements of activities

	Year Ended 6/30/2020	Year Ended 6/30/2019
RECEIPTS:		
Offertory	\$ 56,740,806	\$ 57,662,222
Fund Drives	11,868,310	15,456,692
Gifts & Bequests	5,656,092	3,413,214
Diocesan Support	3,273,554	2,904,959
Other Parish Income	10,027,208	7,549,423
Religious Education Income	1,641,636	1,880,379
School Income	48,198,909	48,980,181
Total Receipts	137,406,515	137,847,070
DISBURSEMENTS:		
Parish Salary & Benefits	26,198,183	25,561,188
Parish Operating Expenses	20,395,422	21,492,401
Diocesan Assessment	4,454,042	4,651,292
Depreciation	6,410,372	4,917,072
Debt Interest Payments	494,034	592,089
Religious Education Salary & Benefits	4,642,947	4,666,328
Other Religious Education Costs	1,616,305	2,067,941
School Salary & Benefits	48,689,166	48,233,690
Other School Costs	6,894,387	7,370,124
Total Disbursements	119,794,858	119,552,125
Excess Receipts over Disbursements	\$ 17,611,657	\$ 18,294,945
New Loan Funds	\$ 8,175,546	\$ 3,686,000
Payments on Loans	\$ 5,204,391	\$ 4,226,104
Major Capital Expenditures	\$ 25,548,791	\$ 18,660,377

BISHOP, continued from Page 3

23-county diocese have changed dramatically as transportation and communication evolved.

"I often say that we live in a diocese that was founded on an 1868 model, built for the needs of 1868," Bishop Brennan said. "We have to be able to use and harness some of the new resources ... in a way that helps us to meet the needs to proclaim the Gospel."

The planning process for Real Presence, Real Future began more than a year ago. Preliminary work included evaluation of statistics and projections on church attendance, school enrollment, evangelization efforts, vocations, priest staffing and diocesan and parish personnel.

"Now we're at a point where we need to have this conversation about who we are, what are our core values, what are our hopes, what are the needs, identify the needs of the Church in the 21st century," Bishop Brennan said.

The Catholic Leadership Institute, a nonprofit strategic planning group, is facilitating the diocese's efforts to advance its mission to evangelize and use its resources effectively, including sustaining a growing Hispanic outreach.

"Our pastors have been meeting over the course of the last year, and we're forming different layers of a leadership team," Bishop Brennan said. "We're looking at diocesan offices, what are the structures that we need and what works, what needs to change, not because of any judgment on people but what structures do we need in this new millennium, how do we best serve the needs of the parishes in the proclamation of the faith."

"The same is true in terms of how do we deploy priest personnel. We try to do the best that we can to meet needs as they arise. But we know that we will have fewer priests just by the numbers and by the numbers of men in formation. I'm hoping to see all that grow, but we can make some realistic predictions."

"Our Church, we're not museums. Our Church is a living reality. Our Church is a living organism," he said. "How do we structure ourselves so that we can have strong, vibrant communities and worship together and make Masses available for people at times that are convenient by working together rather than everybody duplicating what the parish next door is doing. So it's going to take a little bit of creativity on all of our parts."

Bishop Brennan, who arrived in Columbus in March 2019 after serving as an auxiliary bishop in Rockville Centre, New York, envisions a Church "on mission," that's "on the move," "reaching out to people seeking those who are lost, seeking those who are in need, sharing the Joy of the Gospel and the Splendor of Truth."

"Before you can be on mission, you need to be a disciple," he said. "That's

one of our key personal goals for each of us is to grow in discipleship, to sit at the feet of the Lord, to know Him well ... be so on fire with that encounter with Jesus that we're sharing His joy everywhere."

In the coming months as Real Presence, Real Future begins to unfold, regional and parish leaders will gather to discuss avenues to share resources. Individuals also can contribute to the conversation.

"There's a leadership team that I need to rely on – people who can do a lot of the heavy lifting work, because it is a lot of work," Bishop Brennan said. "We then have a commission of about 40 people representing many different regions and representatives of different populations within the diocese in each parish."

"We're asking for about five parish leaders to keep this work going and to help us when we get to the point of having regional meetings and parish meetings. This is going to take time, so I have to ask patience. We need to identify who we are and what we believe and how we want to live out our Catholic faith."

The bishop stressed that Real Presence, Real Future is "not about coming up with something and saying, 'Here it is.' It's more about facilitating these discussions. There's going to be a lot of talking and a lot of listening. And I appreciate that people are so good here in the diocese and generous in sharing their hopes and their dreams."

Especially during Lent, Bishop Brennan encourages participation in the diocese's 40 Days of Adoration at one of more than 50 participating parishes to pray for the success of Real Presence, Real Future. A prayer for the initiative will be made available.

"I'm asking you: Would you please make (the prayer) your own?" he said. "Let's pray for the Church and ask the Lord to lead us and to reveal His will for us in the way that we can be missionary disciples on a practical level."

To learn more about Real Presence, Real Future and to sign up for updates, visit the [realpresencerealfuture.org](https://www.realpresencerealfuture.org) website.

The Bishop also requests that all Catholics participate in a Disciple Maker Index survey, which is accessible until March 22 at <https://www.catholicleaders.org/columbusdmi>. To date, there has been an overwhelming response from the faithful.

"The questions help us to reflect on where am I in my relationship with the Lord, in my practice of the faith, in my relationship with the Church," Bishop Brennan said. "Out of that, we'll be able to form something of a portrait of who we are as a Church (and), as I mentioned before, knowing the needs of the Church in the 21st century."

Architect designs with church's 'evolving' needs in mind

By Tim Puet
Catholic Times Reporter

CATHOLIC BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

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

Architect Peter Krajnak says that when he designs a new church or works on renovating an existing one, he's thinking beyond the immediate needs of the church's current members.

"No congregation is static," he said. "A church always is evolving. It has a past that goes back generations and sometimes centuries. It also has a future. When my architectural firm designs a new church or transforms an old one, we talk to the pastor and members of the congregation so that we can find out where they've been and who they are now, and who they may be becoming.

"We learn something from every congregation. By understanding the history of the congregation and its members, we can integrate elements from their past into the design of their future spaces. This challenges them to think forward, while comforting them with reminders of their past."

Krajnak and fellow architect Darryl Rogers are the principals of Rogers Krajnak Architects, Inc., which they founded in 2001. Krajnak said the two were neighbors in Bexley for some time before realizing they both are architects. Their firm has seven employees and has been located since 2005 in a former muffler shop that they renovated at 264 S. 3rd St. in downtown Columbus. Krajnak previously had been with Feinknopf Macioce Schappa Architects in Columbus for 20 years and spent a year on the design staff at Walt Disney World.

He has been involved with the design or renovation of about 80 churches of various Christian denominations, as well as with synagogues and seminaries, including the Pontifical College Josephinum, the Methodist Theological School-Ohio in Delaware and Trinity Lutheran Seminary in Columbus. He also has completed projects for mission-based clients, including the Mid-Ohio Food Collective in Grove City and Lifeline of Ohio's building in Columbus.

Krajnak, 60, the son of Gene and Donna Krajnak of Worthington, grew up as a member of Worthington St. Michael Church. His father died last March, just when the effects of the coronavirus pandemic were starting to be felt. The family hopes to have a celebration of life for him in the summer.

Peter Krajnak is a graduate of Columbus Bishop Watterson High School, where he said he first realized

his calling was architecture. "The subjects I enjoyed most were math, science and art," he said. "Architecture is a creative balancing of technical, scientific and artistic skills. It just seemed a natural for me. The University of Cincinnati's architectural school had the most opportunities for internships of any college in Ohio, so I went to UC to take advantage of its co-op program."

One of those internships was at Feinknopf Macioce Schappa, which was founded in 1928 and remains one of Columbus' most prominent architectural firms. "Andy Macioce was my mentor," Krajnak said. "I owe a lot of my design skills to Andy by listening to how he led conversations in meetings and on phone calls and how he did his architectural sketches."

Much of his early knowledge of liturgical architecture came from working with Macioce on a variety of church projects. His first such project was an interior renovation of St. Mary, Mother of God Church in Columbus' German Village neighborhood in the early 1980s with the late Msgr. Ralph Huntzinger, the parish's pastor at the time. The church has been remodeled several times in its 153-year history and had a nearly complete makeover in 2016 and 2017 after a lightning strike in August 2016.

Other Columbus diocesan churches where Krajnak's designs have been incorporated include Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral, St. Andrew, St. Catharine and St. Francis of Assisi; Dublin St. Brigid of Kildare; Worthington St. Michael; Danville St. Luke; and Marysville Our Lady of Lourdes.

Area non-Catholic churches for which he has provided architectural services include Trinity Episcopal, Broad Street Presbyterian and Broad Street United Methodist in Columbus and the United Methodist Church of the Messiah in Westerville.

"One of my most memorable commissions was the design of St. Andrew Church," Krajnak said. "The parish was founded in 1955, and the congregation had been worshipping in a 'temporary' location for 40 years. Msgr. Frank Lane was the pastor there, and I knew him as a longtime friend of our family.

"He told me that St. Andrew needed to build a church, and he wanted me to be the architect. When I asked him



Architect Peter Krajnak has designed or renovated about 80 churches.

about the process for submitting a design in competition with other architects, he said, 'No, I specifically want you to design the church.'

"He said the bishop had instructed him to build a large church which could seat 1,000 people but where everyone still would feel a personal connection to the Mass. Through the course of his studies in Europe, Msgr. Lane had visited several large churches that were successful in accommodating both corporate and individual connection to the liturgy. He suggested that we study them, so off we went to Germany, Austria and France, where we spent 10 days touring 66 churches.

"I took the best ideas from those churches and designed a church with many unique elements which reflected Msgr. Lane's vision," Krajnak said.

"Some of those elements include a slightly sloped floor and slightly angled pews to provide great sightlines and make the worship space feel more intimate, even for people sitting in the back pews; bringing significant daylight into the nave (the east facade features 3,000 feet of stained glass); grounding the sanctuary with a strong visual and acoustical backdrop by creating a stone wall that incorporates the tabernacle and frames the church's crucifix above; and warming the building up with a wood ceiling and arched beams overhead."

Krajnak's design to transform a former mattress factory into the Mid-Ohio Foodbank, now known as the

Mid-Ohio Food Collective, was focused on showcasing the organization's mission.

"Our goal in designing that building was to understand the culture of the food bank and create the right kind of environment for that culture to thrive," Krajnak said. "The design also has a built-in expandability, which was needed as the collective increased its annual food distribution from 28 million pounds in 2009 to almost 70 million pounds today. The building is evolving as the organization evolves. It is distributing a lot more fresh produce, and the building has been able to adapt to that."

The Lifeline of Ohio building, on Kinnear Road near Ohio State University, also showcases the mission of the agency that occupies it. Lifeline promotes and coordinates the donation of human organs and tissue for transplants.

"One of the most impactful parts of that project is a memorial to organ and tissue donors which includes a permanent display of the names of donors who have given the gift of life," Krajnak said. "It's a very inspiring, spiritual space located in front of the building, visible by drivers on State Route 315, passers-by, organ recipients, donor families and Lifeline's staff. It's very important that the memorial is there, especially for the staff, because it reminds them that their day-to-day tasks, while stressful, are saving lives."

Krajnak and his wife, Ann, attend St. Catharine Church, have been married for 30 years and have three sons in their mid-20s. He is the chairman of his parish's art and environment committee, and in his spare time, he has an architectural sort of hobby – building creative birdhouses and giving them away. His most recent birdhouse will hang above his father's grave and features a cross made of model railroad tracks, honoring Gene Krajnak's love of model railroading and his lifelong faith.

Peter Krajnak has been part of the diocesan Catholic Men's Ministry for six years, beginning his involvement with the organization when St. Catharine was the host parish for the diocesan Catholic Men's Conference at the state fairgrounds.

He is the director of this year's conference, which will take place Saturday, Feb. 27 and will be unlike any of the 23 conferences that preceded it because it will be occurring virtually, as a result of the coronavirus pandemic.

Local news and events

Father Cromly to visit Columbus

Father Nathan Cromly, CSJ, the founder and president of Eagle Eye Ministries in Denver, will be in Columbus in March to speak at three events, each with a different focus.

He will be at Columbus St. Catharine Church, 500 S. Gould Road, for a Date



Father Nathan Cromly

Night presentation for couples from 6:45 to 9:30 p.m. Saturday, March 13, then will present a talk for young adults ages 16 to 35 from 2:30 to 4 p.m. on Sunday,

March 14 at Columbus Holy Family Church, 584 W. Broad St. He will return to St. Catharine Church for a men's Irish breakfast, featuring a talk on fatherhood, from 6:30 to 8 a.m. Tuesday, March 16.

Father Cromly, a Toledo native, has been a priest of the Brothers of St. John for 13 years and has spoken in Columbus in several occasions, including at the 2016 diocesan Catholic Women's Conference. His spiritual direction, teaching and dynamic witness have touched the lives of thousands of children, teens, married couples, business professionals and families.

The March 13 presentation will include an appetizer, dinner, dessert and wine at a cost of \$75 per couple. The March 16 breakfast is free. To register for either or both events, go to www.stcatharine.com/father-nathan.

Registration is required for the March 14 program, which also is free, because of limited space. To register, go to <https://eagleeyeministries.brushfire.com/saint-john-leadership-network/495606>. If you have questions, contact Stephanie Donley at Stephaniedonley6@gmail.com or (614) 306-6851.

Catholic Man of the Year nominees sought

The Catholic Men's Luncheon Club is accepting nominations for its 2021 diocesan Catholic Man of the Year award. The honor is presented to a layman who, through his daily actions, words and prayers, exemplifies the "good and faithful servant."

For details, nomination instructions and the required online nomination form, go to www.catholicmensministry.com/cmlc. Nominations will be

accepted through Wednesday, March 31. Bishop Robert J. Brennan will announce the 2021 Catholic Man of the Year on Friday, May 7.

Msgr. Lane to conduct St. Margaret mission

Msgr. Frank Lane will conduct a parish mission at Columbus St. Margaret of Cortona Church, 1600 N. Hague Ave., at 7 p.m. Monday through Wednesday, March 8 to 10. He also will preach at the parish's weekend Masses at 4 p.m. Saturday, March 6 and 8:30 and 10:30 a.m. Sunday, March 7.

Msgr. Lane was pastor at St. Margaret of Cortona from 2001 until his retirement in 2009. He has been a priest for 54 years and also was pastor of several other churches in the Diocese of Columbus. In addition, he was vice rector and a teacher at the Pontifical College Josephinum, taught and was spiritual director at the Athenaeum of Ohio in Cincinnati and has been a military chaplain, a college chaplain, a writer and a translator.

He lives in retirement in Cincinnati, where he is an adjunct faculty member of Mount St. Mary Seminary of the West.

Mattingly Settlement parish to host mission

Father Stephen Dominic Hayes, OP, will preach a Lenten mission at Mattingly Settlement St. Mary Church, 6280 St. Mary Road, off Creamery Road near Nashport, at 7 p.m. Monday to Wednesday, March 22 to 24.

The mission's theme will be "Up to a New Jerusalem: A Lenten Journey in the Company of Christ."

Father Hayes, is an itinerant preacher assigned to Columbus St. Patrick Priory.

St. Charles presents 'Elephant's Graveyard'

The Columbus St. Charles Preparatory School drama department will present *Elephant's Graveyard* on Friday and Saturday, Feb. 26 and 27 at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, Feb. 28 at 3 p.m. at the Valley Dale Ballroom, 1590 Sunbury Road, Columbus. All tickets are \$10 each. Reservations may be placed by visiting the school's home page at www.scprep.org and pressing the "Buy Tickets" button. Tickets will not be sold at the door. The play is about the only known execution of an elephant, which took place in Tennessee in 1916.

ARCHITECT, continued from Page 20

ic. More than 30 parishes in the diocese will serve as viewing sites for the event, with additional viewing sites at parishes in other Ohio dioceses. Participants also can watch at home.

"We won't have 3,000 people at one place for the conference, but I'm excited about having viewers registered from beyond our diocese – from 17 states including Texas, Virginia, Pennsylvania, Indiana, Michigan and California, and even from Ontario and Ireland. We anticipate having more men participating in the conference than ever before," Krajnak said.

"Word is spreading about the quality of the conference video, a pre-recorded format which will allow people to have access to the messages from the conference at any time, well after it concludes."

Last year's conference took place just before the pandemic halted large gatherings. "When we started planning this year's event, we realized how uncertain the future was going to be and knew we didn't want to be making plans for two possible conferences – one which would be an in-person event while the other would be online," Krajnak said. "We went

ahead with what we thought would be the safest plan, to make it all online. That proved to be the wisest choice.

"It took a lot of coordination to put together a video which could be distributed throughout the diocese and be available across the nation by Feb. 27. The conference video includes talks from Chris Stefanick, Devin Schadt, Father Donald Calloway and Bishop Robert Brennan, each of whom recorded their talks in different places; several segments from endorsing ministries; plus some fabulous music from The Neumann Project of Sunbury St. John Neumann Church to weave all these messages together.

"With the efforts of a great conference planning team, everything worked out, and we are looking forward to the chance for the men of the diocese to see how the conference will reflect its theme, 'Called to Be Saints.'"

To contact Krajnak, send an email message to pkrajnak@rogerskrajnak.com. Registration is still available for the men's conference. The registration fee is \$10. Go to www.catholicmensministry.com to register or for more information about the event.

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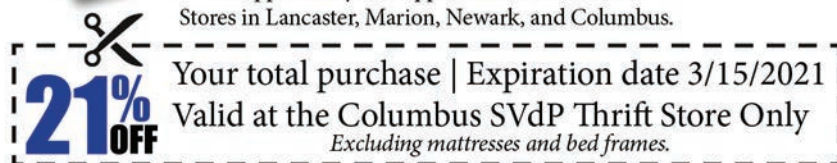
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Second Sunday of Lent Year B

Transfiguration offers humanity hope for eternal glory

Genesis 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18
Psalm 116:10, 15, 16-17, 18-19
Romans 8:31b-34
Mark 9:2-10

The Second Sunday of Lent brings us to the Transfiguration of Jesus, which shows that God's glory can be seen in our flesh. This offers us hope, revealing the ultimate outcome of the struggles we face. God's gift to the human race is a share in His glory.

God's vision for humanity is seen in the glowing body of Jesus. We may not have seen what the disciples saw on Mount Tabor, but the vision is readily available for us to see. Can you remember glowing faces you have seen on human beings? Nowadays, you need to look beyond the pandemic mask. But you can call to mind moments where glory has shown through.

Picture the delight of a mother or father at the birth and baptism of their newborn child. What about a child who has just received a sacrament? Think of the First Communion class or the newly confirmed.

Consider the neophytes – those received into the Church at the Easter Vigil – or one who has returned to confession and active practice of the Catholic faith after a long time away. Remember a bride and her groom on their wedding day, a newly professed religious sister or brother or a newly ordained deacon or priest.

What are some other moments of glowing that you have seen? Think of someone you know who has brightened up before your eyes. Now, allow that to influence how you see yourself.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Father Timothy Hayes

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



You glow with the light of Christ. You are destined to possess a glorified human nature for all eternity. Allow this awareness to influence how you see yourself and others. See everyone in a new light.

C.S. Lewis speaks of “the weight of glory” – the fact that we are eternal beings awaiting an encounter with our creator, seeking His favor and praise, weighs heavily on us. How we relate to one another should be influenced by the fact of eternity more than time itself.

Abraham had to give up his hold on his future through the binding of his son Isaac for sacrifice. After this moment, we see Abraham walking more in faith. He began to trust in God's power to accomplish His purposes.

Abraham is called to live as a witness of God in a society that does not understand. He is obedient, and he is rewarded with the promise of a blessing and descendants who accomplish what they set out to do and share the blessing with all the nations. We are Abraham's children in faith. We are among the nations who receive the blessing. Paul writes to the Romans – a community of Christians he has not yet met but among whom he will experience his own martyrdom – of his confidence in the blessing that is ours

See **TRANSFIGURATION**, Page 23

Third Sunday of Lent Year B

Exodus 20:1-17
Psalm 19:8, 9, 10, 11
1 Corinthians 1:22-25
John 2:13-25

“The law of the Lord is perfect, refreshing the soul; the decree of the Lord is trustworthy, giving wisdom to the simple.”

In the Scriptures, “the law of the Lord” is a collective term for all the “words” of God given in the Book of the Law, the Torah, the first five books of the Bible. In particular, “Ten Words,”

that is, “the Ten Commandments,” are held out as summarizing the full reality of God's command. When a heart is ready to respond to the call of living the law of the Lord, zeal for God's house is the result.

In our time, we tend not to see the law as freeing us but rather as a constriction on our freedom. However, when we rebel against the “words of God,” we miss the wisdom that is written into them. We miss the promise of life that endures: “Lord, you have the words of everlasting life.” The Ten Command-

THE WEEKDAY BIBLE READINGS

3/1-3/6

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

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

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

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

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

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

3/8-3/13

MONDAY
 2 Kings 5:1-15b
 Psalm 42:2-3; 43:3-4
 Luke 4:24-30

TUESDAY
 Deuteronomy 3:25, 34-43
 Psalm 25:4-5b, 6, 7bc, 8-9
 Matthew 18:21-35

WEDNESDAY
 Deuteronomy 4:1, 5-9
 Psalm 147:12-13,
 15-16, 19-20,
 Matthew 5:17-19

THURSDAY
 Jeremiah 7:23-28
 Psalm 95:1-2, 6-9
 Luke 11:14-23

FRIDAY
 Hosea 14:2-10
 Psalm 81:6c-11b, 14, 17
 Mark 12:28-34

SATURDAY
 Hosea 6:1-6
 Psalm 51:3-4, 18-21b
 Luke 18:9-14

DIOCESAN WEEKLY RADIO AND TELEVISION

MASS SCHEDULE: WEEKS OF FEB. 28 & MARCH 7, 2021

SUNDAY MASS

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

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

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

Mass from Our Lady of the Angels Monastery, Birmingham, Ala., at 8 a.m. on EWTN (Spectrum Channel 385, Insight Channel 382, or WOW Channel 378). (Encores at noon, 7 p.m.,

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

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

DAILY MASS

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

12:05 p.m. weekdays,
 8 a.m. Saturdays, Mass

from Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral on St. Gabriel Radio (AM 820), Columbus, and at www.stgabrielradio.com and diocesan website, www.columbuscatholic.org. (Saturdays on radio only),

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

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

Following God's laws draws us closer to Him

ments and all that they imply are God's invitation to a real relationship.

Jesus Christ knows human nature. He did not need anyone to testify about it. He understood it well. Although He did not trust Himself to any particular individuals, as the Gospel tells us, He did entrust Himself to us all together as the Church.

The Catholic Church is often held up for ridicule. How easy it is to let this point be missed in all that is being said. Mention any particular teaching of the Church that is at odds with the current

culture, and you will get a laugh. Many Church teachings are dismissed as not worthy of our attention.

Here is the simple truth: What the Catholic Church has to say about the law of God is true. We ignore these words to our own peril, both in time and in eternity. God alone has the words of everlasting life.

Jesus cleanses the temple. His disciples remember Scripture: “Zeal for your house will consume me.” Jesus

See **GOD'S LAWS**, Page 23

LENT

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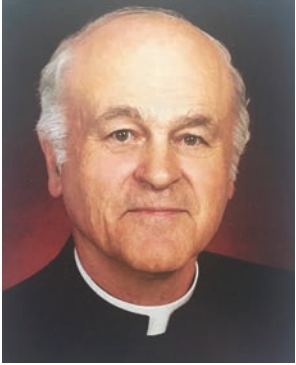
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|-------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| ABSTINENCE | FORTY DAYS | ROSE |
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In loving memory of Monsignor Romano Ciotola
 It has been 2 years since you went to Heaven on Feb. 17, 2019. You are always in our hearts.
 Love, The Ciotola Family

TRANSFIGURATION, continued from Page 22

in Christ. God is for us. Peter, James and John get a glimpse of the glory that is in the very humanity of Jesus. They do not understand, but they see it as fulfillment of the blessings promised.

Moses and Elijah, bearers of the promise, come to see its fulfillment as they remind Jesus that His journey is the journey of His people. Their witness sustains Jesus and His disciples through the scandal of the cross.

The Father looks at Jesus in His human nature and says, "This is my beloved Son. Listen to him." The Transfiguration anticipates the journey He will take through the Paschal mystery.

That journey is our journey. God is for us! It is good that we are here!

Now we are in the midst of our journey through Lent, heading toward Easter. The journey is not an easy one, especially with the pandemic. But God is faithful. He has a plan for us. We are called to follow.

This journey includes the cross. This is the sign that we are on the right path. It is worth the effort. The Resurrection and eternal glory await us. The promise of glory will sustain us in the years ahead. Through the grace of God, let us "walk before the Lord in the land of the living."

GOD'S LAWS, continued from Page 22

delivers a promise: "Destroy this temple and in three days I will raise it up." He was speaking of the temple of His Body. The Church teaches us that we are the body of Christ.

As members of Christ, we are called to follow the teachings of Scripture. We are to listen with an open heart and mind to the teachings of the Church. Through the Church, we hear the voice of Christ, Who is consumed with zeal for His Father's house.

It is true that our Church and our lives as His disciples need purification. That is the meaning of this Lenten season. We acknowledge our sin and admit our need for ongoing conversion. Jesus' cleansing of the temple is a reminder of the need to purify our hearts to be free to be in a real relationship with God and one another.

We can make excuses for anything we do. But God has revealed to us clearly that He wants us to take Him

as He is. The change of mind and heart that is necessary will not come about if we dispense ourselves from following the law of God.

Rather, we must love the words of God that reveal His design in our persons and in our world. And we must choose to stand with the Church, with Christ and with His Father, because from them alone we hear the words of everlasting life.

God wants to find room in us, but we are not open because we do not have zeal for His house the way Jesus does. We are capable of so much more. God has something for each of us to do. His commandments are the instructions that tell us how we can accomplish a living relationship with Him.

What do you have zeal for? What is truly your passion? What do you long for? If we draw close to Jesus, He will share with us His zeal that we become a clean house where He can enter and feel at home.

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PRAY FOR OUR DEAD

BRAMMER, Bradley K., 62, Feb. 8
St. John Neumann Church, Sunbury

CARNES, Ann M. (Linerode), 68, Feb. 10
St. Elizabeth Seton Parish, Pickerington

CARRELL, William, 93, Feb. 17
St. Thomas Aquinas Church, Zanesville

COAKWELL, Richard S., 84, Feb. 10
St. Thomas Aquinas Church, Zanesville

CONNOR, Lois J. (Madigan), 77, Jan. 30
St. Thomas More Newman Center,
Columbus

CONNOR, Patrick J., 78, Jan. 29
St. Thomas More Newman Center,
Columbus

DINE, Shirley J. (Hegemier), 71, Feb. 11
St. Brendan Church, Hilliard

ELLIOTT, Joyce C., 59, Feb. 4
St. Mary, Mother of God Church, Columbus

FEDERER, Mark A., 65, Jan. 29
Holy Cross Church, Columbus

HEMPLEMAN, Brady M., 12, Feb. 4
St. Francis de Sales Church, Newark

JEFFERS, Joan F. (Merryman), 86, Feb. 16
St. Francis de Sales Church, Newark

LESTER, Mary J. (Noone), 87, Feb. 6
St. Andrew Church, Columbus

MARIETTI, Clorinda B. (Corrado), 84,
Dec. 10
St. Michael Church, Worthington

OBERLIESEN, Thomas J., 86, Feb. 11
Our Lady of Peace Church, Columbus

O'BRIEN, Thaddeus J., 89, Feb. 12
Christ the King Church, Columbus

OWENS, Dorothy (Zacavish), 89, Feb. 13
Sacred Heart Church, Coshocton

PARKER, David, 58, Feb. 5
St. Timothy Church, Columbus

PARKHILL, Barbara J. (Wieber), 73,
Feb. 8
St. Francis de Sales Church, Newark

RAINER, Lynette C., 75, Feb. 9
Holy Rosary-St. John Church, Columbus

RUMORA, Velma T. (Jovanovich), 93,
Jan. 29
St. Anthony Church, Columbus

RYBSKI, Mary C., 93, Feb. 13
Church of the Resurrection, New Albany

SCHEIDER, Maxine, 77, Feb. 16
Immaculate Conception Church, Columbus

SCHOLL, Ruth (Mahley), 93, Feb. 16
Corpus Christi Church, Columbus

SMITH, Dana R. (Skinner), 63, Jan. 28
St. Brigid of Kildare Church, Dublin

VAN DE WEGHE, Raymond F., 86, Feb. 15
St. Andrew Church, Columbus

YOUNG, Philip R., 72, Feb. 4
St. Francis De Sales Church, Newark

Mark J. Zimmer

A private family service, followed by a memorial service at a later date, will be conducted for Mark J. Zimmer, 59, of Delaware, who died Tuesday, Feb. 16. He had been diagnosed with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) in 2018.

He was born on July 21, 1961 in Columbus to Harold and Yancey Ann (Roberts) Zimmer and graduated from Columbus St. Francis DeSales High School in 1979, the year he became Ohio's first four-time high school state wrestling champion.

He was a two-time NCAA All-American at the universities of Wisconsin and Oklahoma, finishing eighth in the 1980 NCAA championships as a freshman at Wisconsin and seventh in 1984 at Oklahoma. Injuries limited him for much of his college career.

He received a Bachelor's degree in political science at Oklahoma in 1985 and remained there for several years as an assistant wrestling coach before re-

turning to Columbus, where he volunteered as a wrestling coach at DeSales and worked for Continental Office Inc. as director of sales in flooring.

He was a member of Columbus St. John the Baptist Church and The Abruzzi Club of Columbus.

Following his ALS diagnosis, he told *The Catholic Times* in a 2019 interview, "If (God) wants me to be an example of strength, that's great. If he wants me to be an example of humility, that's great. If he wants me to be an example of sincerity, that's great. If he wants me to be an example of courage, that's great."

"Faith, hope and love, that's what I have. Nobody can take that away. Without Him, you're nothing. These bodies are going to fail us all."

He is survived by his wife, Brenda (Cole); a daughter, Lauren; three brothers, Patrick (Kimberly), Michael (Meta) and John; and one sister, Christine (Patrick) McCarthy.

Sister Maria DeMonte, OP

Funeral Mass for Sister Maria DeMonte, OP, 91, who died Monday, Feb. 8 at the Mohun Health Care Center in Columbus, was celebrated Saturday, Feb. 20 at the Motherhouse of the Dominican sisters of Peace. Burial was at St. Joseph Cemetery, Columbus.

She was born Stella DeMonte on Sept. 28, 1929 in Martins Creek, Pennsylvania, to Antonio and Giovanna (Coccia) DeMonte.

She received a Bachelor of Arts degree in religious education in 1972 from the College of St. Rose in Albany, New York; a Master of Arts degree in pastoral counseling in 1980 from St. Joseph's College in Hartford, Connecticut; and a Master of Divinity degree in 1993 from Immaculate Conception Seminary in South Orange, New Jersey. She also

received a certificate in religious education leadership from Siena College in Loudonville, New York.

She joined the congregation of the Dominican Sisters of St. Catherine de' Ricci (now part of the Dominican Sisters of Peace) in 1951 and professed her vows on Feb. 13, 1954.

She served for 65 years as a religious educator, retreat house staff member and spiritual director in Pennsylvania, New York and Michigan before entering a ministry of prayer and presence at the Mohun center in 2019.

She was preceded in death by her parents; a brother, Natale; and sisters, Ilda DiFelice, Wilamina, Lena, Mary, and Dura Lushis. She is survived by nieces and nephews.

Mary E. Rockwell

Funeral Mass for Mary E. Rockwell, 93, who died Friday, Feb. 5, was celebrated Wednesday, Feb. 10 at the Columbus St. Thomas More Newman Center.

She was born Feb. 23, 1927 in Cincinnati to Frank W. Bland and Hildegard Ronnebaum and grew up in Millbrae, California, earning an Associate's degree from San Mateo Junior College in 1947.

She was a teacher for several years at Worthington St. Michael School and was a member of the Ohio State University Women's Club and the OSU

Medical Service Board. With the Newman Center, she visited hospitals as an extraordinary minister of the Eucharist and worked with the Food for the Homeless ministry.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Thomas; daughter, Ann Marie; and brothers, John Bland and Frank Bland. Survivors include sons, Matthew, Thomas (Jacqueline), Paul (Kendra), Christopher (Sharon), and Daniel (Mary); daughter, Patricia (Charles); 13 grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren.



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Amid pandemic, Catholic Social Services aids isolated seniors

During the pandemic, many people are experiencing loneliness and isolation, especially senior citizens, who are highly vulnerable to COVID-19.

With many senior centers closed and organized outings cancelled, seniors can be left without their friends, family or each other. It seems as if their usual social supports vanished overnight, and what remains is a sense of being alone.

While social distancing is protecting seniors from catching the COVID-19 virus, it's difficult to protect them from isolation and loneliness. Isolation threatens their physical, mental and emotional well-being. It's dramatically impacting their quality of life, and its dangerous effects – which can easily snowball – should not be underestimated.

Heartbreaking effects of COVID

As longtime experts in senior care and living, Catholic Social Services (CSS) offers Senior Services – a suite of seven programs – designed to help seniors stay as independent as possible, for as long as possible, so that they might age with grace and comfort. CSS services range from money management to companionship to transportation assistance. Together, the programs provide seniors with connection to critical resources and to others.

But the usual CSS work with seniors has been disrupted and made more difficult because of the pandemic. Every day, CSS is seeing the heartbreaking effects of COVID on seniors. With so many local seniors unable to participate in normal activities and lacking in necessary support and socialization, their struggles can take many forms:

- It's June, an elderly woman who has always taken public transportation but now is scared to take the bus, fearing she might catch COVID. Consequently, she skips picking up her needed prescription.

- It's Tom, an elderly gentleman who became so despondent that he

discontinued his dialysis and died shortly thereafter.

- It's Rhonda, who shares that most days she no longer bothers to get her mail, to get out of her pajamas, or even bathe. "What's the point?" she asks as she spends a 10th consecutive day in bed.

- It's Robert, whose depression is leading to increasing cognitive decline overall as he struggles to remember things as simple as his granddaughter's name or what he ate for dinner last night.

- It's Sandy, who had just been prescribed a new medication by her doctor when the pandemic broke out, and the new medication – a diuretic – was having an immediate effect on her. She'd run out of toilet paper, and when she was got to the store, there was none left. She didn't feel well. She was scared to be in a public place where she could be exposed to the virus, and she didn't have the stamina to visit multiple stores. She hurried home, forced to make do for days with what she could consider "toilet paper."

These situations are what CSS staff members are routinely seeing as the pandemic's impact continues to play out. Most of the impoverished seniors CSS serves already live a life in delicate balance, but the pandemic has forced many of these vulnerable individuals into situations that compromise their health, finances, wellness and quality of life.

What is always challenging in normal circumstances becomes a dire situation in our COVID reality, with the profound effects of severe isolation becoming detrimental on many levels. But there is hope.

Seniors not forgotten

CSS remains committed to easing the stress of COVID and the accompanying pain of isolation for its senior clients. CSS exhausts every resource available to help seniors endure this unprecedented time with programs such as:

- Foster Grandparent
- Money Management
- Payee Program
- Senior Companion
- Services Coordination
- Supportive Services
- Transportation Services

These programs have long provided a local safety net for low-income seniors, but the current moment calls for CSS to go above and beyond in assisting these clients who are suffering.

Throughout the pandemic, CSS has adapted its processes and protocols to ensure the safest interactions and delivery of service. CSS has formalized COVID-specific safety procedures and published them on its website to reassure clients and their families that their safety is top of mind.

Every day, CSS social workers are calling senior clients, providing conversation while checking on overall health and spirits. They are making additional boxed food and medicine deliveries. They are meeting seniors in their driveways to provide socially-distanced visits that offer human interaction, care and compassion.

In addition, CSS is starting a new partnership with local schools,

through which senior students in high school will be teaching CSS senior clients about technology – seniors helping seniors! In this time of increased reliance on interactive platforms such as Facebook and Zoom, the CSS program can ensure that age does not prohibit anyone from experiencing the connective benefits of technology.

Through these efforts, CSS' senior clients know they can rely on visits from CSS staff and volunteers to help them cope with isolation. They don't just have a safety net; they have a friend in CSS.

Today, with COVID vaccines beginning to be administered, in time social gatherings will return. Bingo games, outings to the mall, visits from family and more wait on the horizon. Usual activities might soon resume and the social structure that helps keep us healthy and content late into life will return.

Until then, CSS staff members want vulnerable seniors to know they are in their hearts and on their minds. They want to confirm – in ways both tangible and spiritual – to each of the vulnerable seniors that CSS serves: You are not forgotten, abandoned or alone.

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



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The Dominican Sisters of Peace are vowed Catholic sisters who strive to live a life of peacemaking. They share this commitment with Dominican associates who are laywomen and -men dedicated to a Dominican way of life, which is predicated on prayer, community, ministry and study.

Together, the Dominican sisters and associates follow the Gospel and the traditions of the Church to build a more peaceful world through their ministries, prayer and way of life.

Helping those discerning God's call to the religious life is one of the most important ministries for the sisters. They established a House of Welcome in 2013 in New Haven, Connecticut to host women who have begun the discernment process with the Dominican Sisters of Peace and have been invited to spend a week or two living with the sisters to experience their daily life in community, prayer and ministries.

These experiences have proved invaluable to discerners because they offer a view of the sisters' life from the inside. In 2018, after noticing that more women were expressing interest in religious life, the sisters opened a second House of Welcome in the Columbus area.

Nashville, Tennessee native Annie Killian is a canonical novice. She received her bachelor's and doctoral degrees at Yale University and her master's at the University of Oxford before becoming a candidate for the sisterhood in June.

"Living in the House of Welcome has been a formative experience for me as I begin the adventure of religious life," Killian said. "Our intercultural community witnesses to the unity of the human family. God desires that we may all be one in Christ. Our human family is a global reality. We are called to foster these global connections as we seek to preach the Gospel for our world today."

As with most businesses, organi-

zations and ministries, the Dominican sisters have faced challenges because of the pandemic. Their priority has been staying connected with the women who are in discernment. To help them achieve that goal, the Catholic Foundation provided the Dominican Sisters of Peace with a grant to purchase technology, including a video camera, television, microphone and tripod.

Sister Bea Tiboldi, OP, a vocations minister, said, "Just one example of how we were able to use the grant was for what we call an Immersion Week, which is a concentrated time to focus on the questions women have about becoming a Dominican and includes time for service and prayer.

"It's usually a hands-on opportunity to see what the sisters do. We can't do that in person because of COVID. However, because of the equipment we were able to purchase from the grant, we were able to do that virtually and 'Zoomed' with women from all over, including women from Nigeria, Kansas, Kentucky and Arizona."

The sisters have also used the equipment for virtual prayer meetings. "Prayer is at the heart of our life," said Sister Pat Dual, OP, director of formation. "Personal prayer is where a woman hears the Holy Spirit talking to her. God needs to be the center of our lives, and the deepening of prayer is so important. No matter what path a woman chooses, whether married, religious or single, prayer is still at the heart of it."

Sister Patricia Twohill, OP and prioress, said, "In every age, God raises up individuals who are called to serve the Church, and one very vibrant way to do that is as a religious sister. There are any number of individuals who are seriously considering that call, and our Church will benefit from that.

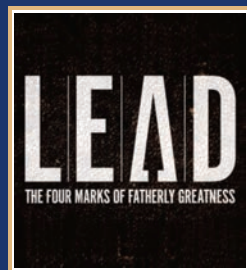
"We are very grateful for the support of The Catholic Foundation as it takes a village, it takes all people in our Catholic community, to support those called to religious life."

To support the Dominican Sisters of Peace, visit their website – opeace.org – or contact Scott Hartman at (614) 443-8893 or shartman@catholic-foundation.org.

CATHOLIC MEN'S MINISTRY

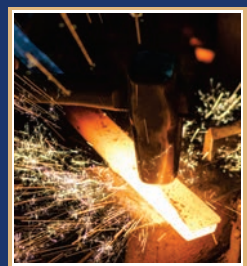
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Diocesan parishes list Eucharistic Adoration times during Lent

The following is an updated list of parishes in the diocese where Eucharistic Adoration is taking place, as supplied to *The Catholic Times*.

Bremen St. Mary – First Thursdays, 9 to 10 a.m.

Bridgettine Sisters (Order of the Most Holy Savior of St. Bridget of Sweden) convent, 40 N. Grubb St., Columbus – Tuesdays, 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Buckeye Lake Our Lady of Mount Carmel – Sundays of Lent, 9:15 to 10:15 a.m., concluding with Benediction.

Columbus Holy Family – 1 p.m. Thursdays to noon Fridays; First Fridays, 8 p.m. Fridays to 8:45 a.m. Saturdays.

Columbus Holy Name – 4:30 p.m. Monday to 8 a.m. Saturday every week.

Columbus Our Lady of Victory – Weekly Holy Hour days and times vary. Schedule is available in the parish bulletin at <https://ourladyofvictory.cc>.

Columbus St. Agatha – Wednesdays, end of 9 a.m. Mass to 11 a.m.; Thursdays, 4 to 8 p.m., ending with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

Columbus St. Catharine – Thursdays, 7 to 8 p.m.

Columbus St. Cecilia – First Fridays, 10:30 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Lenten Wednesdays, 5:45 to 6:45 p.m.; 40 Hours of Devotion, 8 p.m. Thursday, March 18 to 4:30 p.m. Saturday, March 20.

Columbus St. Christopher – Mondays through Fridays, 3 to 4 p.m.,

with confession available and Divine Mercy Chaplet.

Columbus St. Elizabeth – Tuesdays, 5 to 6 p.m.

Columbus St. James the Less – First Wednesdays, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. (English); second Tuesdays, 7 to 8 p.m. (Spanish).

Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral – Wednesdays, 5:45 to 6:45 p.m.

Columbus St. Margaret of Cortona – Thursdays, 9 a.m. to noon; church open until 8 p.m. No daytime adoration on Holy Thursday. April 1, but church will be open for adoration from end of 7 p.m. Mass to 11 p.m.

Columbus St. Patrick – Fridays, 12:15 to 1:15 p.m.; third and fourth Fridays, 8 p.m. Friday to 7 a.m. Saturday (church locked; call church office at (614) 224-9522 for access information).

Columbus St. Peter – Tuesdays, 6 to 7 p.m.; First Saturdays, following 9 a.m. Mass for one hour, both in church; Mondays through Fridays, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. in Adoration Chapel.

Delaware St. Mary – Thursdays, after 5:30 p.m. Mass to 8 p.m.; Fridays, after 9 a.m. Mass to noon.

Gahanna St. Matthew – Mondays and Wednesdays, 3 to 9 p.m. in main church. Adoration chapel remains closed.

Heath St. Leonard – First Fridays, after 9 a.m. Communion service to Benediction at 2:30 p.m.

Kenton Immaculate Conception –

Wednesdays, from end of 9 a.m. Mass to Benediction at 1 p.m.; First Saturdays, from end of 9 a.m. Mass to Benediction at 10:30 a.m.

Lancaster St. Bernadette – Wednesdays, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.; 7 p.m. Thursdays to 8 a.m. Fridays.

Lancaster St. Mark – Mondays, 8:30 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Tuesdays, 8:30 a.m. to 11 p.m.

Lancaster St. Mary – Thursdays, March 25 and April 29, from end of 9 a.m. Mass to Benediction at 1:45 p.m. St. Mary School students will be present for Benediction.

London St. Patrick – Thursdays, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.; First Fridays, 3 to 5:15 p.m., ending with Benediction.

Mattingly Settlement St. Mary – First Fridays, 6 to 7 p.m.

New Albany Church of the Resurrection – Sundays, March 21, April 11, May 23, June 20, July 18, Aug. 15, Sept. 19, Oct. 17, Nov. 21, Dec. 19, following the 11 a.m. Mass until Benediction at 3:45 p.m.; fourth Fridays, 7:30 to 8:30 p.m.

New Lexington St. Rose – Wednesdays, 5:15 to 6:15 p.m., concluding with Benediction.

New Philadelphia Sacred Heart – Tuesdays, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Holy Hour with Eucharistic Adoration and

the Sacrament of Reconciliation, concluding with Benediction.

Newark Blessed Sacrament – Mondays, noon to 8 p.m.; Tuesdays, 5 to 6 p.m.; Wednesdays, 9 a.m. to 11 p.m.

Powell St. Joan of Arc – 9 a.m. Mondays to 8 a.m. Saturdays in chapel. For information on accessibility when chapel is not open, call or email Anne at (319) 321-3966 or adoration@stjoanofarcpowell.org. Sign up at stjoanofarc.weadorehim.com.

Reynoldsburg St. Pius X – Wednesdays, 7:30 a.m. to 7 p.m., with Holy Hour from noon to 1 p.m.

Sugar Grove St. Joseph – Thursdays, after noon Mass to 1:30 p.m.

Sunbury St. John Neumann – 1 p.m. Tuesdays to 4 p.m. Fridays in chapel, which is locked from 9 p.m. to 9 a.m. daily. To visit during those hours, contact Amy Davis at amym-davis@hotmail.com.

Zanesville St. Thomas Aquinas – Wednesdays, 11 a.m. to 8 p.m., with Blessed Sacrament in a repository in Father Jan Sullivan's office window, allowing adorers to park or stand in front of the building. Church is undergoing repair.

Zoar Holy Trinity – Wednesdays, 7 to 8 p.m.



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