

The Catholic **TIMES**

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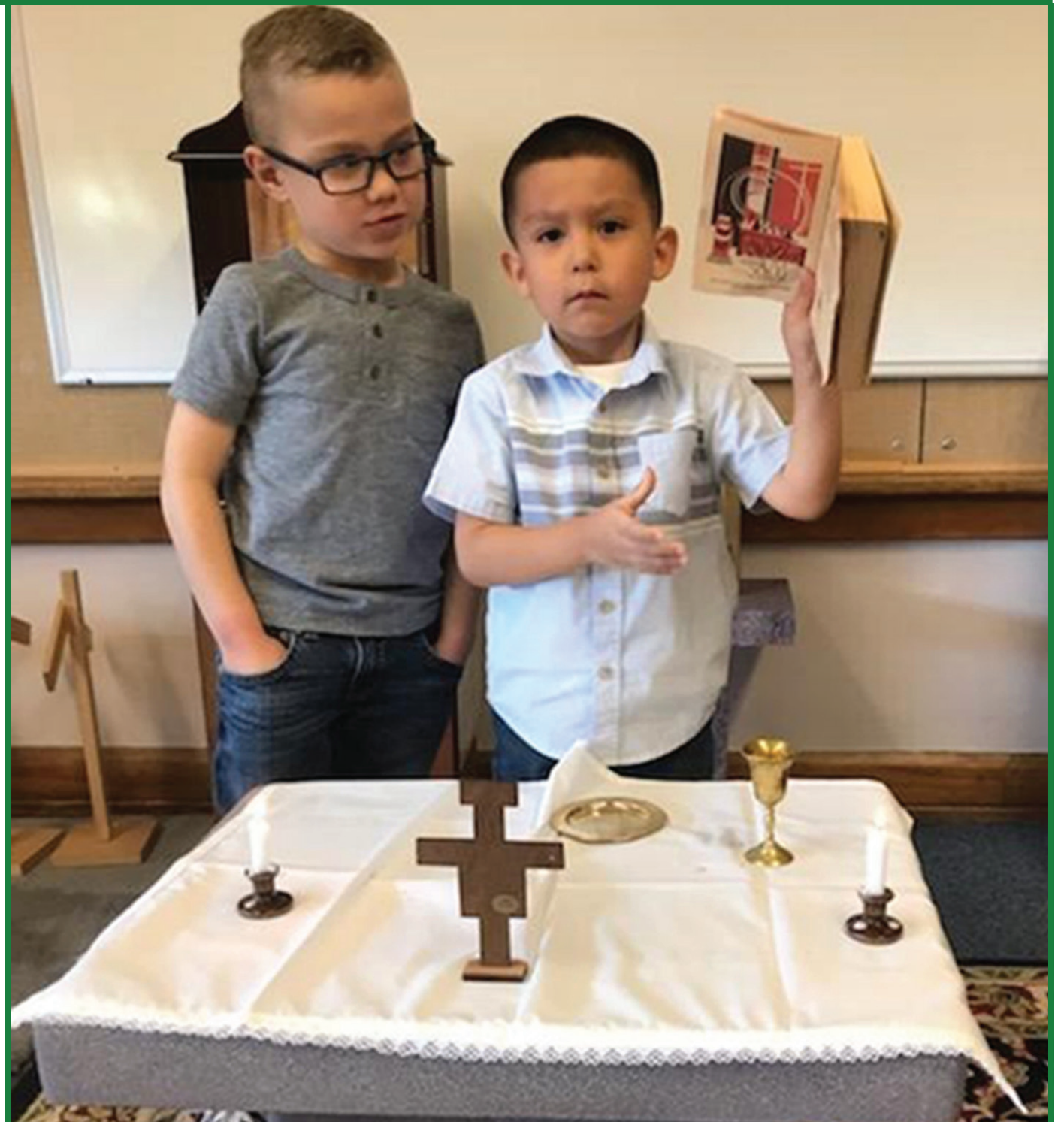
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Cardinal to college students: Reject 'modernism' in today's Church

Do not believe for a minute that the time-honored truths of faith no longer apply in today's world and that the Catholic Church should abandon its principles because the cultural landscape has changed rather dramatically over the past half century.

Cardinal Gerhard Muller, the former Prefect for the Congregation of the Doctrine of the Faith, warned more than 8,000 Catholics at a leadership summit for college students last week in Phoenix to resist the "relativism" and "modernism" seeping into the Church.

As Cardinal Muller delivered his powerful homily to the assembled young people, Bishop Robert Brennan was one of the concelebrants on Jan. 1 at the Mass for the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God that was part of the five-day Fellowship of Catholic University Students conference.

Father Adam Streitenberger, appointed the Columbus Diocese's coordinator for evangelization last year, joined Bishop Brennan at the conference. (Read about the diocesan delegation's experience and efforts to bring FOCUS missionaries to Ohio State University on Page 3 of this week's edition).

All too often these days Catholics are characterized as being stuck in the past. It's easy for critics to take shots at the Church by pointing to clergy scandals and dwindling attendance at Mass. But we must all listen to Cardinal Muller's wisdom. What follows are excerpts from his homily:

"Today ... many Christians are anxious and concerned: Looking at the state of traditionally Christian societies in the West, and at the scandals in the Church, does Christianity still fit into our time? Does the faith have a future?"

"The crisis in the Church is man-

made and has arisen because we have cozily adapted ourselves to the spirit of a life without God. This is why in our hearts so many things still are unredeemed and, consequently, long for substitute gratification. Consumerism really is a virus that attacks the life of faith, as Pope Francis recently said, and there are other such viruses.

"But the one who believes needs no ideology. The one who hopes will not reach for drugs. The one who loves is not after the lust of this world, which will pass away – along with the world. The one who loves God and neighbor finds happiness in the sacrifice of self-giving. We will be happy and free when, in the spirit of love, we embrace the form of life to which God has called each one of us personally: in the sacrament of marriage, in celibate priesthood, or in religious life according to the three evangelical counsels of poverty, obedience and chastity for the sake of the kingdom of heaven.

"I would like to evoke a Christmas homily which Pope St. Leo the Great preached over 1,500 years ago. In the midst of migration of peoples and dissolution of order, as the Roman Empire was falling apart, Leo speaks to the personal faith of each Catholic. With his words, I would like to address every Catholic today who has become unsettled in the present crisis of the Church:

"Christian, acknowledge your dignity, and becoming a partner in the divine nature, refuse to return to the old baseness by degenerate conduct. Remember the Head and the Body of which you are a member. Recollect that you were rescued from the power of darkness and brought out into God's light and kingdom. By the mystery of Baptism you were made the temple of the Holy Spirit: Do not put such a great guest to flight from you by base acts."

"We cannot escape the deadly poison of the rattlesnake or other

serpents if we strike friendship with it, but only if we prudently keep our distance and have the antidote ready at hand. The poison paralyzing the Church is the opinion that we should adapt to the *zeitgeist*, the spirit of the age, and not the Spirit of God; that we should relativize God's commandments and reinterpret the doctrine of faith. Instead, as St. Paul says, 'The Church of the living God' is 'the pillar and foundation of truth' (1 Timothy 3:15).

"Yet some people today would like to reconstruct the Church as a convenient civil religion and make her more worldly, more secular. Many voices and opinion makers in the post-Christian society approve of such self-secularization. But that in no way means they accept the faith in Jesus Christ, never mind that even a few Church leaders are confused about this. People trying to instrumentalize the faith and the Church for their political agendas are not coming closer to the faith, a faith which they are, in fact, abusing. We can get closer to the faith in Christ only if, together with Peter, we are looking to Jesus and confess: 'You are the Christ, the Son of the living God' (Matthew 16:18).

"The antidote against worldliness and secularization of the Church is the 'truth of the Gospel' (Galatians 2:14), and starts with living 'by faith in the Son of God who has loved me and given himself up for me' (Galatians 2:20). This is the basis for any real evangelization and for restoring the Church.

"Today, however, many believe what the Church needs is 'modernization'; conversely, anyone opposing modernization is fought like an enemy and called 'traditionalist.' Let me give you an example of how this works: Protecting human life from conception to natural death is discredited as a 'conservative, right-wing' political position – while at the

same time killing innocent unborn children is declared a 'human right,' and therefore deemed 'progressive.'

"In politics and media, it is all about power over human minds and over the money in people's pockets. For this purpose, people are being conditioned by using campaign slogans like 'conservative' or 'modern.' But faith in God is concerned with the contrast between true and false, and about the distinction between good and evil. What matters most deeply is that the faith is true, because Christ is the Truth. Only truth gives life, even and especially when it is challenging.

"For some, however, the Church is lagging behind by 200 years, compared to where the world is today. Is there any truth to this accusation, an accusation opinionated atheists gleefully repeat in their *schadenfreude*? And, allegedly progressive Catholics, on their part, play the model students of the Enlightenment, promising they will quickly catch up to the lessons of atheistic criticism of religion.

"Should the Church adapt the revelation of God in Jesus Christ to 'where people are today?' Can the Church be faithful to her foundation, and to her founder, if she mutates into a religion of humanity? The allegedly peaceful agnostics of today generously allow the simple people to keep their religion, but only because they are eager to use the potential of meaning the Church possesses for their own purposes. They do not hold revealed faith to be true, but they would like to use it for building the new religion of world unity.

"In order to be admitted to this metareligion, the only price the Church would have to pay is giving up her truth claim. No big deal, it seems, as the relativism dominant in our world anyway rejects the idea that we could actually know the truth, and presents

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Front Page photo:

LEARNING ABOUT THE MASS

Students in the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd program at Columbus St. Ladislav Church set up a child-size representation of an altar with liturgical items. (Photo/St. Ladislav Catechesis of the Good Shepherd)

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Bishop, evangelization coordinator attend 'You Were Made for Mission' event in Phoenix

By Tim Puet
Catholic Times Reporter

Many central Ohio residents went to Phoenix after Christmas to see the Ohio State University football team play in the Fiesta Bowl, but Bishop Robert Brennan and Father Adam Streitenberger had a different purpose for traveling to the Arizona city during the holiday season.

They were among more than 8,000 Catholics, including 300 to 400 priests and about a dozen bishops, who took part in the biennial Student Leadership Summit sponsored by the Fellowship of Catholic University Students (FOCUS).

From Monday, Dec. 30 (two days after the bowl game) to Friday, Jan. 3, they heard from nationally known speakers and took part in panel and small-group discussions focused on showing them how to become better missionaries to their communities.

"The emphasis throughout the conference was on missionary discipleship," said Father Streitenberger, who was appointed by Bishop Brennan last year as the first evangelization coordinator for the Diocese of Columbus and is in residence at Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral. "Many of the speakers talked about the importance of evangelizing people where they are and of forming Bible study groups of five or six people among family members, friends or relatives.

"This small-group model is something the bishop and I want to emphasize in the coming year because it's something anyone can do. You don't have to be a Scripture scholar to be an evangelist and to grow the faith in others and yourself. You just have to be willing to try."

Father Streitenberger said FOCUS missionary John Zimmer describes such efforts as "incarnational evangelization."



Bishop Robert Brennan of Columbus (right) was one of about a dozen bishops attending the biennial Student Leadership Summit sponsored by the Fellowship of Catholic University Students (FOCUS) in Phoenix from Monday, Dec. 30 to Friday, Jan. 3. Also in attendance was Father Adam Streitenberger, diocesan coordinator for evangelization. Four FOCUS missionaries will be coming to Columbus this fall. *Photos courtesy FOCUS*

"Nobody is going to coach you on how to share a good movie with your friends. It comes naturally, and what we have in the Gospel message is far better than any movie," Zimmer said. "Every single one of you knows what it takes to be a friend. That's what it takes to share the Gospel."

FOCUS is an outreach group whose mission is to bring the Gospel to college and university students, inspiring and equipping them for a lifetime in which they lead others to do the same.

It was founded in 1998 at Benedictine College in Kansas by Curtis Martin, who is now the organization's chief executive officer and has spoken at the Columbus Diocesan Catholic Men's Conference. It began with Martin and two students and today has 730 missionaries serving 172 sites, according to its website, www.focus.org.

Ohio State soon will be added to that list of locations. Father Streitenberger said he and the bishop came to the conference not only to take part in its activities, but also to complete arrangements with FOCUS to bring four missionaries to the university, beginning this fall. They will live at the St. Thomas More Newman Center adjacent to the OSU campus and

will work with the Paulist Fathers who have served the university at the center and its predecessors since 1946.

The center's director, Father Ed Nowak, CSP, also was at the Phoenix conference. Father Streitenberger said Father Nowak has been attending such events for the past 10 years.

The Damascus Catholic Mission Campus in Knox County, which hosts the annual Catholic Youth Summer Camp and conducts programs year-round for Catholics of all ages, had a booth in the conference's display area and was represented by Damascus board chairman Matt Schlater and his wife, Jenny.

Father Streitenberger said the conference gave him a chance to renew friendships with former classmates at the Pontifical College Josephinum and Mount St. Mary's Seminary in Emmitsburg, Maryland, and with Sister Maria Giovanni Paolo Orsini, SOLT (originally known as Karen Orsini), a sister of the Society of Our Lady of the Most Holy Trinity who serves in the Phoenix area.

FOCUS had invited Bishop Brennan to Phoenix because



Bishop Thomas Olmsted of the Diocese of Phoenix (holding crosier), a former rector/president of the Pontifical College Josephinum, celebrates Mass on Tuesday, Dec. 31 at the biennial Student Leadership Summit sponsored by the Fellowship of Catholic University Students (FOCUS) at the Phoenix Convention Center. Bishop Robert Brennan of Columbus is behind him at left.

Another very 'Mary' New Year

A new year, a new decade.

(Or if you're being technical, the end of a decade, since the new decade actually starts in 2021.)

There's all sorts of possibility ahead of us. There's opportunity everywhere, with exclamation marks and wide swaths of bright color.

But the cynic in me can't help but respond that there's also disappointment looming. There will be heartache and sorrow and fear. We're sure to find a dead end at least once and to find ourselves crushed in some way.

I know it's not just me. It happens every year.

Call me an old hand at this. It tends to look something like this:

Dec. 31: Goodbye, Old Year! Begone! See ya!

Jan. 1: Hello, New Year! I love you! We're going to do so many wonderful things together!

Jan. 5: Reality sets in. Laundry. Deadlines. Dishes. Routine.

Jan. 8: Someone gets sick.

Jan. 10: I'll make a resolution! It will make everything better!

Jan. 15: Nothing is better. It's still me on the other side of the mirror.

And yet, in her wisdom, the Church has set me up not for failure, but for success. Dec. 25, that day of much anticipation and planning, comes and heralds

FINDING FAITH IN EVERYDAY LIFE

Sarah Reinhard

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a season with it. We celebrate and plop back on the couch for multi-nap days.

Time slows a bit for two weeks as the year winds to a close and the chaos of the preceding six weeks wafts away.

A mere week later, we're ushering in a new year and – glory, glory – a holy day of obligation. My kids roll their eyes (but know better than to protest) and we head off to Mass before we celebrate with dropping balls and confetti and junk food galore.

That Jan. 1 holy day is in honor of Mary, Mother of God. It's one that I've always loved, and one that has become notable for me in the last 15 years.

Fifteen years ago, I gave birth to my oldest child on Jan. 1.

Suddenly, motherhood was upon me, no longer a squirming mass beneath my heart, an idea that was contained within my body. And – no joke – it was sudden. Being delightfully clueless (despite being so well-read) and stubborn (despite the admonitions), we didn't get to the hospital for delivery until she was nearly out.

Holding that child in my arms – the one who would make Mary so much more than a remote statue in church – I faced a new year and a new life of sorts.

Nothing would ever be the same.

In the mess of childbirth and in the mess of motherhood, I find Mary a compatriot of the most understanding sort.

She's not looking down her perfectly shaped nose at me, but walking beside me and laughing with me at the things I find in the dryer. She's not rolling her eyes from the other end of having given birth to the perfect son, but commiserating with my struggles to instill virtue and concern and hygiene in these souls entrusted to my care.

I kick off the new year without resolutions these days, but I do turn to Mary every year. Whether I want to or not. Something about having a kid born on her feast day makes it inevitable.

And I wouldn't have it any other way.

The foxes and the henhouse

Probably the biggest bioethics story of 2019 involved Dr. Jankui He (known to his associates as "JK"), a Chinese scientist who employed a new technology known as CRISPR/Cas9 to produce the world's first gene-edited babies. JK made genetic changes to two little girls, Lulu and Nana, when they were early-stage embryos, attempting to modify a receptor for HIV to confer resistance to a possible future infection from the virus. He publicly announced the birth of the girls at an international scientific conference near the end of 2018, and as the news rapidly spread, many scientists and commentators expressed shock and dismay over his "designer baby" experiments.

Chinese provincial authorities quickly became aware of his activities, and he was placed under house arrest upon his return from the conference. In the closing days of 2019, he was sentenced at a secret trial to three years in prison for producing the CRISPR babies. The trial proceedings concluded that JK had "rashly applied gene editing technology to human assisted reproductive medicine."

The verdict reached by the Chinese court raises complex questions that must be confronted: What does it mean to "rashly apply" a new technology like human gene editing? Who should determine if a particular use is "rash" or "reasonable"?

Dr. Rita Vassena, a member of the executive committee of the European Society of Human Reproduction and Embryology, framed the ethical concerns around JK's case this way: "As the current scientific consensus indicates, the use of CRISPR/

MAKING SENSE OUT 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.



Cas9 in human embryos destined to give rise to a pregnancy is, at this stage, unjustified."

She couches her ethical analysis, as many scientists do, in terms of the "current scientific consensus." But such "consensus" is an extremely malleable concept. It also conveniently implies that scientists themselves can set up their own ethical rules and provide regulatory oversight for scientific research, so that they, in effect, become the foxes guarding the henhouse. The saga that has unfolded during the last year surrounding the gene-editing experiments of JK has demonstrated, if nothing else, how self-serving and ineffective a community of scientists can be as they try to exercise the role of lawyer, judge and jury of their own ethical standards.

Even though we should be justifiably alarmed

at Chinese courts meting out jail time in secret to scientific researchers, the fact remains that it was a government-controlled court that finally put some teeth into ethical regulations. In the West, to have governments, courts or major institutions take any action whatsoever in a case such as JK's seems at present inconceivable.

Instead, in American and European universities and industrial settings, we often encounter feeble, meandering discussions about research ethics, along with a proliferation of rubber-stamping "ethics review panels." These often consist of hand-picked members devoid of strong ethical or religious training and viewpoints. Such panels give increasingly systematic cover for an ever-expanding range of unethical research practices.

Whether it's giving a green light to the use of stem cells derived from human embryos or tissues from intentionally aborted fetuses for research, or to the employment of cloning technology to produce new human life, or to manufacturing three parent embryos, many biomedical researchers have come to rely so much on ethical rubber stamps that they venture ahead, confident that they won't be "fenced in" by ethical considerations.

JK's gene-editing experiments and China's strong reaction have at least managed to bring the ethical concerns momentarily back into the spotlight. "I think a jail sentence is the proper punishment for him," said Wang Yuedan, a professor of immunology

Why images of crucifixion?; Mass card for non-Catholic ceremony?

Most of my family is Protestant, but I became an adult convert four years ago and was baptized and confirmed in the Catholic faith. Members of my family often ask me questions about Catholic beliefs, and usually I can answer them, but recently my mother asked me one that I need your help with.

She said, "Since Jesus is now resurrected and sits at the right hand of God the Father, why do Catholics keep him crucified on the cross in your statues, religious jewelry, pictures, etc.?" (Chillicothe)

The image of the tortured body of Jesus on the cross has been used by Christians as a devotional symbol since the early centuries of Christianity. The purpose, of course, is to illustrate the immense love that Christ had for us and the sacrifices he endured to redeem us. The crucifix serves, too, to remind us that we are called to make our own sacrifices on behalf of others.

In one of his sermons, St. Augustine (354-430) gave the underlying rationale for the use of the crucifix.

He wrote, "The death of the Lord our God should not be a cause of shame for us; rather, it should be our greatest hope, our greatest glory. In taking upon himself the death that he found in us, he has most faithfully promised to give us life in him, such as we cannot have of ourselves."

This depiction of Christ on the cross takes its inspiration from St. Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians, where St. Paul writes, "We proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to gentiles" (1 Corinthians 1:23). What you might want to say to your mother is that the Catholic Church honors her perception that Jesus now shares in glory — so much so that some Catholic churches today choose to portray the image of Christ on the

QUESTION & ANSWER

Father Kenneth Doyle

Catholic News Service

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



cross dressed in the white robes of his resurrected glory.

Most crosses that adorn Catholic church steeples and bell towers display only the cross, not the body of Jesus; likewise, Catholics are not averse to using such religious symbols as the Jerusalem cross or the Celtic cross. So Christians of all denominations, though their devotional symbols may sometimes differ, clearly reverence both the passion of Christ and his resurrection.

Is treatment for erectile dysfunction against Catholic teaching? (City of origin withheld)

Within the context of marriage, the medical use of such products as Viagra is permitted by Catholic moral teaching.

Father Tad Pacholczyk, director of education for the National Catholic Bioethics Center in Philadelphia, has written this: "In the case of erectile dysfunction, a normal biological process may have become impaired due to age or injury, and through the use of Viagra, this impairment can sometimes be remedied. Viagra does not aim to disrupt normal function, but rather to restore it. Within marriage,

the medical use of Viagra for such restorative functions does not generally raise moral problems."

I am assuming, of course, that your question does refer to married men. If not, of course, that would change the moral calculus. The Catholic Church has always taught that sexual intercourse "must take place exclusively within marriage. Outside of marriage it always constitutes a grave sin and excludes one from sacramental Communion," as stated in the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* (No. 2390).

My nephew and his bride were married recently in a non-Catholic ceremony. He was raised a Catholic (baptized and confirmed), but I'm not sure what his wife's religious upbringing might have been. Like many young couples, they have lived together for some time, and to the best of my knowledge have not been practicing any religion.

I do not condone their lifestyle of living together before marriage — due to my Catholic upbringing — but I am not their judge. I thought about sending them a Mass card as a congratulatory message on their marriage, but part of me thinks that would be hypocritical. (My mom always taught us, though, that a person can never have "too many" Masses said for them.) Your thoughts? (Cleveland)

I agree with your mom: How could a Mass possibly hurt? But rather than make your note a "congratulatory message," what if you said something like this? "Thinking of you on the day of your marriage. I pray that God will bless you in your life together, and I will keep you in my prayers in the years ahead. I can think of no greater gift to give you than the gift of the Eucharist; this is where I have always found my greatest strength."

The holiday season brings a sense of rebirth

I often wonder about the melancholy that plays havoc with my mind at this time of year. Perhaps I feel this way because I have not been able to spend as much time as I would like with my family or because of the recent loss of my dear brother, Michael, who no longer will be with us physically.

These things leave an emptiness in my heart that is not easily dismissed. People say it takes time to begin healing from any injury, but the injuries we may not see often are the ones that seem to bother us the most.

From time to time, it is necessary to examine your situation. What do you believe and how strong is your conscience? Memories can be happy or sad, good or bad, but they persevere, and eventually all things change, even in the most hardened of hearts. I admit to having my share of Scrooge-like moments, which I have regretted later. I am definitely not a saint — yet!

As we approached Christmas, I recalled things we did together as a family and the joy we had in each other's company. When these things occurred,

LIGHTING THE WAY

Joseph Thomas

Joseph Thomas, a member of Gahanna St. Matthew Church, is a Third Order Franciscan and freelance writer who is active in many diocesan and church activities.



I sometimes thought of them as a burden, but later I recalled them with fondness. I hold on to them now as an anchor when things seem most out of control. I rely on them to carry me through both hard and happy times. I think it must have been like this in Jesus' time, too.

As Christmas approached, we awaited the coming of something extraordinary and so beautiful that we were transported to a place in time separate from reality. All of us at some point come to a place in our lives where we feel this sense of rebirth and a newly founded sense of peace.

I am a writer and love everything about my craft. It seems funny, but there are times while writing when I feel as if I am looking down on myself, not really knowing what I am writing until the words jump off the page.

This time of year traditionally is left to our Creator, who I think invites all of us to an awesome journey through time, to be connected to each other in a way we cannot possibly imagine.

Georges Rodenbach once wrote in *The Bells of Bruges* that "the act of writing itself is like an act of love. There is contact. There is exchange, too. We no longer know whether the words come out of the ink onto the page, or whether they emerge from the page itself where they were sleeping, the ink merely giving them color."

I would like to think of Christmas as the beginning of a miracle, not the ending of one.

May the wind be forever at your back, may the warmth of the season encourage us to care more for our fellow person, and may His peace be with us always. Have a very blessed new year.

Our spiritual lives begin at Baptism through God's grace

This Sunday marks the end of the Christmas season, and we begin Ordinary Time as we celebrate the Baptism of the Lord. It is only 6 ½ weeks until Ash Wednesday. It seems as though Christmas was so long ago, and we are just ending that celebration liturgically.

The Baptism of Jesus by John the Baptist is so important for us as Catholic Christians. It firmly established the absolute importance and necessity of that sacrament of initiation for us. It sets the table for the other sacraments and begins our lifelong journey to get to heaven. The Nativity of Jesus and His Baptism were the start of our redemption. Jesus modeled for us the human need for baptism. He not only showed us how we are loved infinitely and individually by God as His children, but He also showed us the importance of our spiritual lives.

We cannot limp through life on our own. We need God. As John baptized Jesus, God's voice came from the heavens: "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased." Again, how important our spiritual lives are! Jesus is God and He is man. He understood the need to pray. He prayed constantly, even going to the desert for 40 days. Our personal opportunity to do the same comes in a few weeks with Lent. Jesus shows us that we need to pray, and He shows us absolute and unchangeable respect for human life at all levels, and

EVERYDAY CATHOLIC

Rick Jeric



the need for a healthy spiritual life. Of course, life begins at the moment of conception through the grace of God. In a way, our spiritual lives begin at baptism, again through the grace of God.

As we look around us each day, our lives are filled with many examples of life; that is, life begun, life lived and life lost. Some are local or nationwide or worldwide. All of us are affected by some of these. Then there are the more intimate and personal events that are unique to us and our families. Our physical lives are impacted by these events, and then our spiritual lives take over and sustain us through thick and thin, good and bad. For example, I was having breakfast recently at a restaurant, and the song *Happy Joyous Hanukkah* came on the sound system. It reminded me that Jesus and the Holy Family were good, practicing Jews. They respected their faith and loved God. How much more and better could I practice my own

Catholic faith? The other morning, I was angry at being inconvenienced coming to work because Interstate 670 was shut down by an accident. I found out later that a pedestrian had been struck and killed. It made me think – just another unfortunate incident caused by someone doing something stupid, or another precious life lost? Am I more important than him or her? Did God love him or her any more or less than me? Someone close to me recently had a new cancer diagnosis after years of remission. How many of us are impacted by cancer ending a life, but also by the long road of treatment and witnessing the human deterioration? Where is God in all this? Fortunately, He is right there with us every step of the way. The opioid epidemic and other drug overdoses are so alarming. No matter what the circumstances, no matter how awful the life in human terms, everyone is a child of God, made in His image and likeness. Each loss of life is a horrible tragedy. If Jesus was here today (as He is in each of us), would He be hanging out at Buckeye games, Blue Jackets or Crew games, the Short North, the latest brewery or restaurant or favorite club? I am sure He would enjoy some of those opportunities. But He definitely would spend most of His time with the druggies, alcoholics, prostitutes, homeless, criminals, and so many other sinners like me. Our spiritual life and respect for all life begins at baptism.

The Martini Curve revisited

Pope Francis concluded his pre-Christmas address to the Roman Curia by invoking the memory of Cardinal Carlo Maria Martini, SJ, who died in September 2012. The Holy Father recalled that "in his last interview, a few days before his death, (Cardinal Martini) said something that should make us think: 'The Church is 200 years behind the times. Why is she not shaken up? Are we afraid? Fear, instead of courage. Yet faith is the Church's foundation. Faith, confidence, courage. ... Only love conquers weariness.'"

The Martini Curve should indeed make us think. I thought about it at the time and ended up with questions, rather than answers. What, precisely, was the Church 200 years behind? A western culture unglued from the deep truths of the human condition? A culture that celebrates the imperial autonomous Self? A culture that detaches sex from love and responsibility? A culture that breeds a politics of immediate gratification and intergenerational irresponsibility? Why on earth would the Church want to catch up with that?

Call me a dullard, but try as I might to adjust my thinking, I'm afraid that's what I still think about the allegation that Catholicism's contemporary failures result from being stuck in a rut behind the curve of history. Since Cardinal Martini's death seven years ago, certain empirical facts have become unmistakable: local Churches that have tried hardest to catch up with "history" and "the times" are collapsing.

The premier example is Catholicism in the German-speaking world. Weekly Mass attendance percentages have fallen into single digits in German cities and aren't much better in Austria and the German-speaking parts of Switzerland. Has this im-

THE CATHOLIC DIFFERENCE

George Weigel

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plosion of the sacramental community compelled a rethinking of the strategy of cultural accommodation? On the contrary. With a bullheadedness once caricatured as typically Prussian, the great majority of German bishops support a national "synodal process" that seems determined to put the pedal to the metal of surrendering to "the times," even if – particularly if – this means jettisoning the truths that, according to both revelation and reason, make for happiness and beatitude.

Is there a single example of a local Church where a frantic effort to catch up with 21st-century secularism and its worship of the new trinity (Me, Myself and I) has led to a wave of conversions to Christ? Is there a single circumstance in which Catholicism's uncritical embrace of "the times" has led to a rebirth of decency and nobility in culture? Or to a less-polarized politics? If so, it's a remarkably well-hidden accomplishment.

There is, however, evidence that the offer of friendship with the Lord Jesus Christ as the pathway to a more humane future gets traction.

Shortly after last October's great Pachamama flap, I got a bracing email from a missionary priest in West Africa. After expressing condolences for my "recent Roman penance" at the Amazonian synod (which had featured a lot of politically correct chatter about the ecological sensitivity of indigenous religions), my friend related an instructive story: "You'll be happy to know that last year, when one of our villages invited me to come and help them destroy their idols and baptize their chief, we did not, before doing so, engage in any 'dialogue with the spirits,' as was so highly praised in the (synod's working document). There was no Tiber to throw (the idols) in, so a sledgehammer and a fire had to suffice. Somehow the village managed to survive without such a dialogue, and in fact they have invited me back ... to celebrate the one-year anniversary of the great event, and to bless a cross that will be set up in the village as a permanent reminder of their decision."

Three weeks ago, the local archbishop wrote those same villagers, telling them of his "immense joy" that, the year before, they had "turned away from idols in order to turn resolutely to the Living and True God. ... You have recognized in Jesus Christ the Way, the Truth, and the Life. Open wide your hearts to him ... and always conquer evil with good."

There's no Martini Curve in that part of the global vineyard, it seems. Rather, there is, to borrow from the late cardinal's last interview, "faith, courage, confidence ... (and the) 'love that conquers weariness.'" That is surely something to think about in the Vatican – and throughout a world Church in which everyone is called to missionary discipleship.

Local news and events

Scout's Eagle project to help soup kitchen

Isaak Giddens of Columbus Holy Family Church, a member of Scout Troop 90 in Plain City, wants to help his parish grow more fresh produce for its soup kitchen.

With the help of volunteers, he is working on an Eagle Scout project to build garden beds and a composting area in a grassy plot next to the kitchen. He also would like to plant sunflower seeds and place a statue of St. Isidore, the patron of farmers, in the area where the produce will be grown.

He estimates that the project will cost \$2,100 and is asking for donations of cash or of materials such as stones, dirt, lumber and a St. Isidore statue so he can complete his project. He also needs volunteer help to prepare the garden beds, which he hopes to do in March or April.

Donations may be sent to Giddens at 4152 Warrensburg Road, Delaware OH 43015. Credit card donations may be made via PayPal to LilShopOfOils@aol.com, using the "Friends & Family" option and marking "Soup Kitchen" in the memo line. If there is money left over from the project, it will be donated to the soup kitchen.

Polish Mass moving to Holy Family in January

The Sunday Mass that has been celebrated in Polish at Columbus Holy Family Church on the third Sunday of each month is moving to Columbus Sacred Heart Church, 893 Hamlet St., effective Sunday, Jan. 19. The time for the Mass will be 1 p.m., one hour earlier than at Holy Family.

There has been a monthly Polish Mass in Columbus since 2004, when it began at St. Mary, Mother of God Church. The site was moved in 2016 after a lightning strike caused St. Mary to be closed for more than two years for restoration.

Worldwide Marriage Encounter to sponsor local dance

Central Ohio Worldwide Marriage Encounter will host its annual World Marriage Day Dance from 6:30 to 10:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 8 at American Legion Post 171, 393 E. College Ave., Westerville.

This event has taken place for more than 30 years to celebrate World Mar-

riage Day, which is sponsored by Worldwide Marriage Encounter on the second Sunday of February. All couples are invited to attend. A sit-down dinner will be included. Water, coffee, tea and iced tea will be provided, and couples also may bring their own beverage. A DJ will provide music and dancing following dinner.

For registration or more information, contact Fred and Joy Kerner at (614) 761-9048, or email them at joc93@yahoo.com. The registration deadline is Wednesday, Jan. 22.

'Following Christ' program starts this month at St. Timothy

Columbus St. Timothy Church, 1088 Thomas Lane, will sponsor a seven-week evangelizing course titled "Following Christ" that is designed to serve as an open door to new believers and a rekindling fire for longtime Catholics. The course begins Sunday, Jan. 26. Sessions will be from 6 to 8 p.m.

Each session will include a meal hosted by one of the parish's ministries, a brief time of song, a video presentation, and small-group discussion. The course includes a half-day retreat, during which participants will be able to make a personal commitment to Jesus Christ and be renewed in the Holy Spirit.

Everyone age 18 and older, especially those who might not have any affiliation with religion or the Catholic Church, is invited to attend. There is no cost to participate.

To register, go to sttimothychurch.org and click on "Following Christ."

Father Blau to speak to YCP

Father Thomas Blau, OP, of Columbus St. Patrick Priory will be the featured speaker at the monthly executive speaker program of the Young Catholic Professionals (YCP) organization from 7 to 9 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 15 at Westerville St. Paul Church, 313 N. State St.

His talk will be about angels, demons, exorcisms and the afterlife. Father Blau is assigned as an itinerant preacher for the Diocese of Columbus and was appointed by Pope Francis as a papal missionary of mercy as part of the Jubilee Year of Mercy in 2016.

YCP brings together young adults in their 20s and 30s from throughout central Ohio for speaker events, panel discussions and networking to foster Catholic identity, encourage community and inspire a call to action. More about the organization is available at www.ycpcolumbus.org or on social media. If you are interested in donating to or volunteering with YCP, send an email to info@ycpcolumbus.org.

Record society to meet Feb. 9

J. Michael Finn, president of the Catholic Record Society, will speak at the group's winter meeting on the Catholic response to a 1930 Ohio Penitentiary fire that killed 322 prisoners.

The society will meet at 1 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 9 at St. Therese's Retreat Center, 5277 E. Broad St., Columbus. Lunch will be available at noon at a cost of \$10.

The fire at the penitentiary, located in downtown Columbus on the site where Nationwide Arena now stands, occurred on Easter Monday, April 21. The penitentiary chaplain, Father James Albert O'Brien, OP, risked his life during the blaze, administering the last sacraments to the dead and the dying. On the scene with him were 13 priests of the Diocese of Columbus, as well as doctors from Catholic hospitals and nursing sisters from various religious orders.

Reservations for the lunch should be made by Friday, Jan. 31, with checks payable to the Diocese of Columbus and mailed to the record society at 197 E. Gay St., Columbus OH 43215. For more information, contact Finn at (614) 268-4166 or FCoolavin@aol.com.

St. Charles Prep offers scholarship test at school

Columbus St. Charles Preparatory School will offer its annual academic scholarship test to prospective students at 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 25 in the Robert C. Walter Student Commons at the school, 2010 E. Broad St.

The test is open to any eighth-grade boy, regardless of his high-school enrollment status. Its results determine which students will receive merit-based academic awards from

the school for the 2020-2021 school year. More than \$400,000 in academic scholarships and grants were offered to students for the 2019-2020 year.

St. Charles is an Ed Choice participating school and is committed to providing financial aid to qualified families. Anyone interested in taking the scholarship test may register by calling (614) 252-6714 from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday to Friday or online at <https://www.stcharlesprep.org/8th-grade-scholarship-test>.

'Cardinal Madness' at St. Charles

All young men in fifth to eighth grades are invited to Columbus St. Charles Preparatory School, 2010 E. Broad St., for a night of "Cardinal Madness" on Monday, January 20.

The program will begin at 6 p.m. with a buffet of wings, sliders and refreshments in the campus theater's Cavello Center, followed by the varsity basketball team's game against Chillicothe at 7.

Parents also are welcome and will be able to tour the school, meet families of current students and learn more about the St. Charles experience. The program is free, but those interested in attending are asked to register at nkeys@scprep.org.

JP II early childhood center receives Foundation grant

The Catholic Foundation has awarded the Little Servant Sisters of the Immaculate Conception a \$4,500 responsive grant for the Pope St. John Paul II Early Childhood Education Center in Columbus.

The sisters opened the Step Up to Quality-certified center in January 2019 at 957 E. Broad St. They are accepting enrollment in preschool and pre-kindergarten programs for children ages three to five. Their program offers a Christ-centered, secure environment, a quality early education, including the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, and a flexible schedule.

For more information or to enroll, visit the center's website, <http://st-johnpaul2preschool.com>, or call (856) 874-6096. To learn more about how

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd actively engages students with religious education related to hands-on Montessori

By Tim Puet
Catholic Times Reporter

Children learning about the Catholic faith have received most of their religious education over the years in a relatively passive way – sitting in classrooms and hearing talks or reading books about what Catholics believe and why they believe it.

But there is another method of Catholic religious education that engages the senses in a much more active manner. It's known as the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (CGS) and is being offered at 22 locations in the Diocese of Columbus, said Jennifer Berryhill of the diocesan Office of Religious Education and Catechesis.

Columbus St. Ladislus Church was a pioneer in offering CGS locally and this year is celebrating the program's 20th anniversary in the parish. The occasion was marked with a celebration following the parish's 11 a.m. Mass this past Sunday, Jan. 5.

The event included a blessing of classrooms in the former parish school, followed by an open house and an international potluck.

The program is based on the Montessori method of education, which provides a more hands-on style of learning than traditional classrooms, with children learning at their own pace using a variety of materials.

"Following the Montessori principle of multi-age classes allows children to learn from each other and to revisit the different works over multiple years, growing in insight into the life of Christ, his call for discipleship and the liturgical life of the Church," Berryhill said.

"The hands-on approach to learning is especially helpful for those with special needs and is an excellent way to provide more opportunities for inclusion for all children to learn the Catholic faith."

"Catechesis of the Good Shepherd is one of the great blessings in faith formation in the Diocese of Columbus," she said. "During my five-plus years of working with the program, both professionally and as a volunteer catechist at my parish, I have seen how the light of faith is sparked



A St. Cecilia Catechesis of the Good Shepherd student places markers for major cities on a map of the Holy Land. Photos courtesy St. Cecilia Catechesis of the Good Shepherd



A Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (CGS) student at Columbus St. Cecilia Church prepares a child-size version of an altar with items used at Mass.

in the youngest of children and heard firsthand deep responses of faith from children about God's love for them."

CGS adult formation in the diocese is led by Pattie Jones and Cathy Johanni, who have been involved with the program since the late 1990s.

Jones is coordinator of CGS activities and sacramental preparation at St. Ladislus and is a catechist at Columbus St. Andrew and Grove City Our Lady of Perpetual Help churches. Jo-



CGS illustrates the parable of the Good Shepherd with a circular sheepfold featuring figures of sheep and a shepherd.

hanni is a catechist and teacher at Columbus St. Joseph Montessori School.

Jones said that at St. Ladislus, the CSG program includes 87 children from 43 families attending the parish and Columbus Corpus Christi and St. Mary, Mother of God churches, all of which are part of a parish cluster. It is conducted on Sunday mornings and includes students from age 3 to high school.

"Our priests have embraced CSG consistently because they understand

how it contributes to the religious formation of children, encourages them to remain in the faith and promotes family unity," she said.

"It's something that works especially well in a parish like ours that's very diverse. We have a large number of Latino families, plus others from Vietnam and west Africa. The CGS method of learning the faith through active, hands-on work helps unite all those groups.

"It's very generational, with children catechizing their parents and encouraging Mass attendance, and the families then moving into parish life."

Four or five family activities at the parish have been based on CGS in the last few months. The most recent were a workshop on making Advent wreaths in December and a family prayer activity for the Feast of the Epiphany.

The CSG program has been part of the religious education curriculum since the early 1990s at St. Andrew Church, the first diocesan parish to adopt it. The parish offers it to kindergarten students and first- and second-grade Parish School of Religion classes, and it is a supplement to religious education classes in kindergarten through fourth grade of the parish's elementary school. It also is available at the St. Andrew preschool.

Jones discovered the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd while attending a Bible study at St. Andrew. "The first time I walked into the atrium (a prepared environment which serves as the CSG classroom) at St. Andrew's, I was blown away," she said.

"I have special-needs children and knew it would work for them and for the children of my parish, so we built the program at St. Lad's."

Many of the early CGS participants at St. Ladislus have become lectors, altar servers or extraordinary ministers of the Eucharist, with some now serving as catechists for the program.

Maricela Wiltron, Jones' administrative assistant at the parish, was a CGS student in the early 2000s as a third- and fourth-grader and now has children ages 10 and 4 enrolled in the

CATECHESIS, *continued from Page 8*

program. Parish evangelization coordinator Erica Gamino and Latino coordinator Edith Monroy have children in the program and youth group leader Mariela Wiltron is a CGS graduate, as are many other St. Ladislus adult leaders and youth group members.

The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd is based on the liturgy and the Scriptures and is aligned with the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* and the graded course of study used by diocesan parochial schools.

It began in 1954 in Rome with Scripture scholar Sofia Cavalletti and her Montessori collaborator, Gianna Gobbi.

A mother asked Cavalletti to give her son some religious instruction, and Cavalletti decided to talk to him about God in a way that she felt would be understandable to a 7-year-old. She and Gobbi learned from his responses and began developing a course that involved more than reading Bible stories or memorizing questions and answers.

“The child will be our teacher if we know how to observe,” Cavalletti said.

In 65 years, CGS has spread into about 65 nations. It is taught in about 1,250 places throughout the United States. It’s mainly used in Catholic, Episcopal and Orthodox churches, but has been adapted for other denominations.

The program is divided into three levels, each building on the preceding level. Jones said Level I, for 3- to 6-year-olds, introduces basic concepts of the faith through materials such as placing wood figures of sheep in a sheepfold of the Good Shepherd, setting sculpted apostles around a Last Supper table, or preparing a small altar with items used for the Eucharist.

Level II, for 6- to 9-year-olds, is more involved with moral formation, and Level III, for 9- to 12-year-olds, places its focus on service to others. Its extensions at the junior high and high school levels also are based on service learning.

Jones said St. Ladislus CGS students show the spirit of service through assisting the Promise on Parsons, which provides meals to the homeless every Friday at the John Maloney Health Center on Parsons Avenue.

The students prepare silverware and packages for the meals on one Friday



Sofia Morales of Columbus St. Ladislus Church carries a figure of the infant Jesus brought into the church for its Christmas Vigil Mass.

each month and provide hats, socks and gloves for people needing them.

The room where CGS activities take place is known as an atrium because that was the name of the place where catechumens were prepared for baptism in the early Church.

Each week, those activities have a Scriptural theme, usually based on the Sunday liturgy, proclaimed by a catechist who reads and talks about the appropriate passages from the Bible.

Jones said everything is done in a spirit of reverence, so that when children work with CGS materials, “they don’t play, but they work and they pray. They’re doing what’s natural for a child, but maintaining respect for God and each other.”

St. Ladislus has educated hundreds of catechists from several states since becoming a CGS training site in 2000. Recognizing the rapid growth of the program and to encourage greater collaboration between parish and school CGS programs, Bishop Emeritus Frederick Campbell, the diocese’s spiritual shepherd at the time, supported efforts in recent years by the diocesan Office of Religious Education and Catechesis and formation leaders to coordinate CGS training around the diocese.

Training sessions also have taken place in Columbus at St. Andrew and St. Cecilia schools and the St. Thomas More Newman Center. Since 2015,



Erica Gamino, evangelization coordinator at St. Ladislus Church, makes an Advent wreath at a family workshop based on the parish’s Catechesis of the Good Shepherd program.

Photos courtesy St. Ladislus Catechesis of the Good Shepherd

there have been seven sessions in the diocese at all three levels, with approximately 150 people attending cumulatively.

Level I requires a minimum of 90 hours of training, Level II a minimum of 96 hours, and Level III approximately 120 hours.

Catechists must have the previous level of training and must have worked with students at that level before taking the next level.

Training sessions can be broken up into two parts taken over consecutive summers, or can take place year-round. St. Cecilia Church will host the first week of a Level I session on Monday, June 22 to Saturday, June 27 from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. daily. The session will conclude in the summer of 2021.

Week two of a session which began last year will take place at St. Cecilia at the same times from Monday, July 13 to Saturday, July 18.

Year-round Level II training will take place at St. Ladislus Church on 15 weekend and holiday dates from August 2020 to June 2021. Sessions will be from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Jones and Johanni are the formation leaders for both levels.

The next Level III training program in the diocese is planned for 2021 at St. Andrew Church.

Level II registration is available now and Level I registration will be



Members of The Way, the St. Ladislus parish youth group, all are Catechesis of the Good Shepherd graduates.

available by mid-January at <https://columbuscatholic.org/catechesis-of-the-good-shepherd>. Additional information about CGS in the diocese and nationally also may be found there.

In addition to the training sessions, a diocesan enrichment program took place in 2018 to allow trained catechists to learn of updates in the program and share ideas. Berryhill said more such events are anticipated in the future.

LOCAL NEWS, continued from Page 7

you can help the center through The Catholic Foundation, contact Scott Hartman at shartman@catholic-foundation.org or (614) 443-8893.

Catholic Social Services gala to celebrate 75th anniversary

Catholic Social Services is celebrating its 75th anniversary this year and will mark the milestone at its annual Spirit of Hope gala on Saturday, March 7 from 6 to 10 p.m. in the Walter Commons of Columbus St. Charles Preparatory School, 2010 E. Broad St.

The event will include a plated dinner, cocktails, live entertainment, and unique auction opportunities.

Tickets are \$275 apiece. Several levels of sponsorship opportunities also are available. Support of the event will benefit 34,000 low-income families and seniors who are assisted each year by CSS programs.

For more details, contact Julie Naporano at (614) 857-1236 or jnaporano@colscs.org.

Denison professor to speak at ODU's Aquinas convocation

Dr. Andrew J. Lisska, a philosophy professor at Denison University in Granville, will be the speaker at the annual Aquinas convocation hosted by Ohio Dominican University's Center for Dominican Studies.

His talk at 11 a.m. Thursday, Jan. 23 in the Matesich Theater at ODU's

Erskine Hall will be on "Mindfulness and St. Thomas: Reason and the Good Life." The talk will be followed by a Mass at 12:15 p.m. in the Christ the King Chapel of Sansbury Hall.

Lisska joined the Denison faculty in 1969 and has served the university in many roles, including dean of the college, chair of the philosophy department and founding director of the honors program. He has written several books and nearly 60 philosophical articles, essays and book reviews.

Lay Dominican makes final profession at St. Patrick

Tricia Barber, a member of the St. Catherine of Siena Chapter of the Lay Fraternities of St. Dominic, made her final life profession as a Lay Dominican during a Mass at Columbus St. Patrick Church.

Members of the Fraternities of St. Dominic are lay men and women who are fully incorporated members of the Order of Preachers, familiarly known as the Dominicans, and live out their Dominican vocation in the world.

Their Dominican charism emphasizes prayer, especially the Divine Office and the Rosary; study, especially following the theology of St. Thomas Aquinas; community, including monthly chapter meetings; and apostolate, with an emphasis on spreading the word of God.

The Lay Fraternities of St. Dominic is open to all Catholic men and wom-

en. Life profession is the completion of a long-term process of formation as a postulant, novice, and temporary professed member.

In the past, the Lay Fraternities of St. Dominic was known as the Third Order of St. Dominic and Lay Dominicans were known as Dominican tertiaries. The Dominican Third Order has existed almost as long as the Dominican order itself, being founded in 1285, and was officially recognized by the Church in 1286.

More information may be found at laydominicans.org. To contact the St. Catherine of Siena chapter, send an email to dominicanthirdordercolumbus@gmail.com.

Foundation announces scholarship opportunities

The Catholic Foundation's online scholarship application period will open Friday, Jan. 31. To streamline the process, the foundation has made it easier than ever to apply, with a complete listing of available scholarships, qualifications, and applications on its website. The application deadline is Monday, March 2, and recipients will be notified in May.

Scholarship recipients are selected based on the criteria established by donors who created the funds to support gifted and deserving students by assisting them with the costs of their education. Donors often establish scholarship funds to honor or memo-

rialize friends, teachers, family members or other loved ones.

Since 2007, the foundation has awarded more than \$825,000 in scholarships, empowering more than 150 young people to continue academic and vocational studies. Through continued generosity of donors who share this dedication to education, the foundation will continue to support students as they answer God's call.

For information and the full list of scholarships, visit <https://grants.catholic-foundation.org/scholarships>. If you have questions about the process, contact Dan Kurth at (614) 443-8893 or dkurth@catholic-foundation.org.

Columbus State, CCAD students invited for Mass, refreshments

Columbus St. Patrick Church, 280 N. Grant Ave., is inviting students from nearby Columbus State Community College and the Columbus College of Art and Design to come to Mass and enjoy coffee and doughnuts in the coming weeks.

The parish's regular weekday Masses at 7 and 11:45 a.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 22; Tuesday, Jan. 28; and Wednesday, Feb. 5 will be followed by social time from 7:30 to 9 a.m. and 12:15 to 1 p.m. The coffee-and-doughnuts gatherings are for students only, providing a chance to socialize and talk about possible additional student events at the parish, including a one-day retreat.

Tribunal Auditor position available

Under the direction of the judge, the Auditor collects proof for marriage annulment cases and assists the judge in processing the various cases according to canon law. The Auditor is expected to use sound canonical and personal judgment in carrying out the duties of his/her office and other routine duties and responsibilities of the Tribunal.

Essential Job Responsibilities:

1. Management of formal and documentary annulment cases from filing to definitive sentence.
2. Excellent oral and written communication skills
3. Various clerical duties including mail distribution, filing, answering telephones and sitting for depositions as a notary.
4. Excellent data entry, computer skills, and knowledge of Microsoft software applications.
5. Ability to disseminate canonical and case information clearly and patiently and to work with diverse populations.
6. Familiarity with Catholic teaching on Marriage
7. Scheduling and preparation for oral depositions.
8. Spanish language skill and/or a working knowledge of Latin helpful.

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

Qualified candidates should send cover letter, resume, and three references to Dominic Prunte, HR Director at dprunte@columbuscatholic.org.



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St. Agatha Geography Bee finalists



Finalists in the Columbus St. Agatha School geography bee for students in fifth to eighth grades were (from left) Everest Veliu, tournament winner Jack Miller and Jackson Soder, pictured with teacher Nicholas Moore. *Photo courtesy St. Agatha School*

PACHOLCZYK, continued from Page 4

gy at Peking University, in comments he shared with *The New York Times*. “It makes clear our stance on the gene editing of humans – that we are opposed to it ... signaling that there is a bottom line that cannot be broken.”

Yet this is precisely the difficulty in biomedicine today: namely, that there are few, if any, “bottom lines” when it comes to research ethics. The lines have become exceedingly flexible if the price is right or if a particular political administration is amenable to redrawing them.

While there isn’t any perfect solution to ensure that scientists never engage in unethical research – and the involvement of communist secret courts is certainly far from ideal – we clearly need to promote, fund and regulate modern

CARDINAL, continued from Page 2

itself as guarantor of peace between all worldviews. And, in fact, a Catholicism without dogmas, without sacraments, without sacred tradition, and without doctrine is the *Fata Morgana* for which even a number of people in the Church are longing.

“But there is no such metareligion because there is no religion which is somehow ‘higher’ than the Church’s faith in Jesus Christ. ... Jesus cannot be surpassed by the changing of times because God’s eternity encompasses all eras of history and the biography of each person. ... God ‘wills everyone to be saved and to come to knowledge of the truth. For there is one God. There is also one mediator between God and the human race, Christ Jesus, himself human’ (1 Timothy 2:4). In the concrete human being Jesus of Nazareth, God’s universal truth is concretely present here and now – in historical time and space. Jesus Christ is not the representation of some supratemporal truth: He is ‘the way, the truth and the life’ in person (John 14:56).

biomedical research in a way that prioritizes ethics over expediency.

This means establishing significant sanctions and funding restrictions when ethical violations by researchers occur. It also means including alternative viewpoints on ethics review panels, especially those informed by longstanding religious and philosophical traditions, like that of the Catholic Church, which offer the important perspective that certain ethical lines are not able to be moved or redrawn. This kind of input can contribute much to the kinds of discussions that need to occur, and can afford an important counterbalance to any foxes who desire to keep guard over the ethical henhouse.

“The Church walks with the times in their societal changes, similar to how she walks with us as we get older and celebrate our birthdays one after the other. And theology, in dialogue with modern, scientific and technological worldviews, illustrates how faith and reason are compatible. Faith is knowledge of God’s truth. In the light of faith, we understand ourselves and the world in its innermost origin and purpose. This knowledge, however, we owe to the Word of God who ‘became flesh and dwelt among us’ (John 1:14).

“By inner-worldly reasoning, the truth of revealed faith can neither be proven nor disproven. The Church knows that we are lost without the Gospel of Christ. The Blessed Virgin Mary conceives in her womb, and gives birth to, the ‘one Lord Jesus Christ,’ the ‘Light from Light,’ the one Savior of the whole world. He alone can and does save the world; and, frankly, I also would not want to be saved by anyone but him, true God and true man.”

DeSales vice principal visits St. Anthony



Columbus St. Francis DeSales High School vice principal Nicole Swisher visited Columbus St. Anthony School to participate in its Read with a Stallion program, in which DeSales students and staff read to St. Anthony second- and third-graders. DeSales basketball coach Pat Murphy was another recent participant in the program.

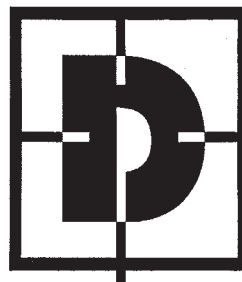
Photo courtesy St. Anthony School

Christmas pageant at St. Michael Preschool



Worthington St. Michael Preschool’s sixth annual Christmas pageant took place on Dec. 13. The 4- and 5-year-old pre-kindergarten students sang songs that told the Nativity story and are from the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd program, which they attend weekly. Also in attendance were their teachers; parents and relatives of the children; Sister John Paul, OP, principal of St. Michael School; Father Anthony Dinovo, St. Michael Church pastor; and Father Thomas Herge, parochial vicar. *Photo courtesy St. Michael School*

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PRAY FOR OUR DEAD

ARNOLD, William, 89, Jan. 2
St. Thomas Aquinas Church, Zanesville

BARRICK, Kathryn R. (Babcock), 87, Dec. 31
Sacred Heart Church, Coshocton

BEHRE, Patricia M. (Culotti), 88, Dec. 26
St. Elizabeth Church, Columbus

CAMPANA, Thomas, 64, Jan. 4
St. Paul Church, Westerville

CAPRIOTTI, William C., 93, Dec. 31
St. Elizabeth Seton Parish, Pickerington

CARROLL, Patricia A. (Posey), 82, Dec. 28
St. Timothy Church, Columbus

CARTER, Terron A., 52, Dec. 21
Holy Rosary-St. John Church, Columbus

CASELLA, Rita, 79, Dec. 22
St. Joseph Church, Dover

CLIFFORD, Rita (Jerome), 95, Dec. 25
St. Joseph Church, Dover

COSTA, Marian (Pagliasotti), 92, Dec. 31
St. Paul Church, Westerville

DUNN, Mary E. (Simpson), 96, Dec. 19
St. Mary Church, Marion

FALKENBACH, George J., 92, Dec. 26
St. Agatha Church, Columbus

FRASIER, Mary (Madigan), Dec. 27
St. Brigid of Kildare Church, Dublin

HUFF, Thomas, 81, Dec. 26
Immaculate Conception Church, Dennison

KEETHLER, Janis (Takavitz), 62, Dec. 28
St. Peter Church, Columbus

KENNEDY, Mary D., 87, Dec. 31
St. Francis de Sales Church, Newark

LEASURE, William, 70, Jan. 2
St. Thomas Aquinas Church, Zanesville

LEFFLER, Randy, 51, Dec. 23
St. Peter Church, Columbus

LOMBARDI, Army Lt. Col. (Ret.) Philip J., 97, Jan. 3
St. Andrew Church, Columbus

LUCAS, Beatrice K. (Holtz), 76, Dec. 27
Sts. Peter and Paul Church, Wellston

MANCINI, Nunzio, 74, Dec. 26
Our Lady of Victory Church, Columbus

NOSKOWIAK, Louise, 89, Dec. 29
St. Matthew Church, Gahanna

QUINLAN, Nancy J. (Koehli), 84, Dec. 28
St. Timothy Church, Columbus

STALEY, Katie (Bucchicchio), 100, Jan. 5
Our Mother of Sorrows Chapel, Columbus

THOMAS, Rose L., 91, Dec. 27
St. Elizabeth Church, Columbus

VIOLA, Joseph C., 89, Dec. 29
St. Matthias Church, Columbus

WAGNER, Harold J., 96, Dec. 30
St. James the Less Church, Columbus

WASHINGTON, Malachi L., 15, Jan. 1
Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, Grove City

WOLF, Richard E., 97, Jan. 1
Our Lady of Peace Church, Columbus

Sister M. Amata Dawson, OP

Funeral Mass for Sister M. Amata Dawson, OP, 96, who died Monday, Dec. 16 at the Mohun Health Care Center, was celebrated Thursday, Dec. 19 at the Motherhouse of the Dominican Sisters of Peace. Burial was at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery, Cheltenham, Pennsylvania.

She was born Marie Dawson on June 18, 1923 in Philadelphia to Henry and Caroline (Reid) Dawson.

She earned degrees from Marywood College, majoring in home economics, and Temple University, majoring in theology; a master's degree in religious education from Providence College and a certificate in spiritual direction from the Shalem Institute in

Washington.

She entered the congregation of the Dominican Sisters of St. Catherine de' Ricci (now the Dominican Sisters of Peace) in 1948 and pronounced her vows on Feb. 13, 1951.

She was president of her congregation for two terms totaling 10 years (1972-1978 and 1986-1990). She also ministered as a formation director and did retreat and campus ministry and performed various other roles in New Mexico, Pennsylvania, Virginia and Washington, D.C. She entered the Mohun center in 2012.

She was preceded in death by her parents and a brother, Edward.

Sister Marie Shields, SNDdeN

Funeral Mass for Sister Marie Shields, SNDdeN, 81, who died Dec. 31, 2019 at the Mount Notre Dame Health Center in Cincinnati, was celebrated Wednesday, Jan. 8 at the center's chapel. Burial was at the sisters' cemetery.

She was born Mary Louise Shields on Feb. 7, 1938 in Chicago to Joseph and Bernice (Laramie) Shields, graduated from Chicago Notre Dame High School in 1955 and received a bachelor of science degree in education from Our Lady of Cincinnati College and a master of arts degree in religious studies from Mundelein College in Chicago.

She entered the congregation of the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur on Sept. 8, 1955 and made her first profession of vows on March 12, 1958 and her final profession on Aug. 13, 1963.

She served as pastoral associate at Columbus St. Matthias Church from

1991 until her retirement in 2019, and in a similar role at Columbus St. Christopher Church from 1972 to 1983 and at Columbus Immaculate Conception Church from 1983 to 1991. Sister Marie, the late Father James Smith and the late Father Richard Huelsman, SJ were a pastoral team at those parishes from 1972 until Father Huelsman's retirement in 1999 and Father Smith's death in 2013.

She also was a teacher at Columbus St. Agnes School in the 1959-60 school year, had a dual assignment as a teacher at St. Christopher School and religious education director for elementary and high school students at Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral from 1968 to 1972, and taught at schools in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati.

She was preceded in death by her parents and two brothers, Brother Martin Shields, CSSR, and Bernard. She is survived by nieces and nephews.

Sister Joan Marie Hill, OP

Funeral Mass for Sister Joan Marie Hill, OP, who died Saturday, Dec. 21 at Ohio State University East Hospital, was celebrated Saturday, Dec. 28 at the Motherhouse of the Dominican Sisters of Peace. Burial was at St. Joseph Cemetery, Columbus.

She was born on Dec. 21, 1931 in Dorchester, Massachusetts to Douglas and Marie (Furlotte) Hill and received a degree in practical nursing in 1970 from the Appalachian School of Practical Nursing in Lexington, Kentucky.

She joined the Dominican Sisters of St. Catherine, Kentucky (now the Do-

minican Sisters of Peace) in 1951 and professed her vows on Feb. 2, 1954, taking the name Sister James Michael. She served as a teacher, nurse and volunteer to the elderly in Illinois, Louisiana, Kentucky and Massachusetts from then until 2013. She moved to the Motherhouse in 2017 and became a resident of the Mohun Health Care Center in Columbus in 2019.

She was preceded in death by her parents; brothers, James, Fred, Douglas and Raymond; sister, Veronica Hamel; and stepbrother, James DeWolfe.

Sister Margaret Walsh, OP

Funeral Mass for Sister Margaret Walsh, OP, 96, who died Sunday, Dec. 15 at the Mohun Health Care Center, was celebrated Saturday, Dec. 21 at the Motherhouse of the Dominican Sisters of Peace. Burial was at St. Joseph Cemetery, Columbus.

She was born on Nov. 30, 1923 in Peekskill, New York to Patrick and Mary (Butler) Walsh.

She earned a bachelor of arts degree in business in 1970 from Ohio Dominican College (now Ohio Dominican University), and a master of business administration degree in 1980 from Xavier University.

She entered the congregation of the Dominican Sisters of St. Mary of the Springs (now the Dominican Sisters of Peace) in 1963 and pronounced her vows on March 15, 1966, taking the name Sister Justina.

She served as development director of the College of St. Mary of the Springs (now Ohio Dominican University) (1966-1969) and was a financial and building consultant for the Diocese of Columbus (1971-1975), treasurer and business manager for Albertus Magnus College in New Haven, Connecticut (1975-1982), development director and treasurer of the St. Mary of the Springs congregation (1983-1990), and physical plant and purchasing director at Ohio Dominican (1990-2015). She entered the Mohun center in 2015.

She was preceded in death by her parents; brothers, Patrick, Thomas, Martin, William, John and James; and sister, Mary Jane Wietsma. Survivors include a sister, Helen, and several nieces and nephews.

H A P P E N I N G S

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JANUARY

11, SATURDAY

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

Labyrinth Walk at Shepherd's Corner
10 to 11:30 a.m., Shepherd's Corner Ecology Center, 987 N. Waggoner Road, Blacklick. Labyrinth walk with theme "Comfort, Community and Centering." 614-866-4302

Filipino Mass at Christ the King
7:30 p.m., Christ the King Church, 2777 E. Livingston Ave., Columbus (note change in date and site). Mass in the Tagalog language for members of the Filipino Catholic community.

12, SUNDAY

St. Christopher Adult Religious Education
10 to 11:20 a.m., Library, Trinity Catholic School, 1440 Grandview Ave., Columbus. Conclusion of two-part series on sacred relics with certified catechist Barbara Fink.

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

St. Brigid of Kildare School Open House
3 to 5 p.m., St. Brigid of Kildare School, 7175 Avery Road, Dublin. Open house for prospective students and their parents. 614-718-5825

Prayer Group Meeting at Christ the King
5 to 7 p.m., Christ the King Church, 2777 E. Livingston Ave., Columbus (enter at daily Mass entrance). Weekly parish prayer group meets. For praise, worship, ministry, and teaching. 614-886-8266

Catholic Conversations Series
6 to 8 p.m., Otie's Tavern and Grill, 5344 Center St., Hilliard. Msgr. Frank Lane speaks on "What Am I Supposed to Do With My Disappointment With the Church?" as part of monthly Catholic Conversations series for anyone 21 and older, sponsored by Columbus St. Margaret of Cortona Church. Contact Julie Naporano at julienaporano1@gmail.com.

Speaker Series at Our Lady of Peace
6 p.m., Our Lady of Peace Church, 20 E. Dominion Blvd., Columbus. Talk by Dr. Perry Cahall, academic dean at the Pontifical College Josephinum, on the sanctity of human life. Begins with Eucharistic Adoration, followed by talk, question-answer session and reception. Second talk in series titled "The Agora: A Catholic Marketplace of Ideas." 614-263-8824

Catechesis at the Cathedral
6:45 p.m., St. Joseph Cathedral, 212 E. Broad St., Columbus. Father Adam Streitenberger's series on the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* resumes. Topic: "Why Do We Worship?" 614-224-1295

13, MONDAY

St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Store Grand Opening
9 a.m., St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Store, 5969 E. Main St., Columbus. Bishop Robert Brennan blesses diocesan St. Vincent de Paul Society thrift store featuring new and used clothing, furniture and other household items as part of its grand opening. Refreshments begin at 8. 614-377-1065

Rosary at St. Pius X
6:30 p.m., St. Pius X Church, 1051 S. Waggoner Road, Reynoldsburg. Recital of Rosary for the sick of the parish and all who are ill. 614-866-2859

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

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

14, TUESDAY

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

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

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

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

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

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

15, WEDNESDAY

Abortion Recovery Network Group
9:30 a.m., Westerville Area Resource Ministry, 150 Heatherdown Drive, Westerville. Abortion recovery network group meeting for anyone interested in recovering from abortion or who has been through a recovery program, and wants to stay connected. 614-721-2100

Center for Dominican Studies Series
Noon to 12:30 p.m., St. Catharine of Siena Room, Erskine Hall, 1216 Sunbury Road, Columbus. Lecture by Sister Joye Gros, OP, on "Community: Honoring Inclusion." Fourth talk in Center for Dominican Studies monthly series on "Truth." Lunch provided; call for seating. 614-251-4722

Divine Mercy Chaplet at St. Pius X
6 p.m., St. Pius X Church, 1051 S. Waggoner Road, Reynoldsburg. Recital of Chaplet of Divine Mercy. 614-866-2859

'Surviving Divorce' Program at Powell
7 p.m., St. Joan of Arc Church, 10700 Liberty Road, Powell. First session of 12-week "Surviving Divorce" program sponsored by Non Solum Columbus ministry for separated and divorced Catholics. Includes video presentation and small-group discussion. \$10 workbook charge. Advance registration requested. 614-778-0736

Young Catholic Professionals Speaker Series

7 to 9 p.m., St. Paul Church, 313 N. State St., Westerville. Father Thomas Blau of Columbus St. Patrick Priory speaks on angels, demons, exorcisms and the afterlife at Young Catholic Professionals executive speaker series. Information at www.yccolumbus.org.

16, THURSDAY

Program for Faith Formation Leaders
9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Our Lady of Victory Church, 1559 Roxbury Road, Columbus. Program for parish faith formation leaders on the role of prayer and its power to deepen lives in Christ and strengthen commitment to ministry, with Becky Eldredge, author of *Busy Lives & Restless Souls*. Sponsored by diocesan Association of Faith Formation Leaders in cooperation with diocesan offices of Youth & Young Adult Ministry and Religious Education & Catechesis. Free; lunch provided. 614-221-4633

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

Lancaster Theology on Tap
7 p.m., Bob's Backyard BBQ, 157 W. Main St., Lancaster. Monthly meeting of Theology on Tap discussion group for anyone ages 18 to 39. Contact Cindy Goss at cynthia.goss@outlook.com.

Holy Hour at Holy Family
7 to 8 p.m., Holy Family Church, 584 W. Broad St., Columbus. Holy Hour of Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, followed by meeting of parish Holy Name and Junior Holy Name societies, with refreshments. 614-221-4323

17, FRIDAY

Millennial Church Conference at St. Matthew
9 a.m. to 4 p.m., St. Matthew Church, 807 Havens Corners Road, Gahanna. Conference on how the Church can reach out to the millennial generation (people born between 1980 and 1996). Begins with Mass at 8:30; includes talks by four speakers from youth ministries throughout the nation, light breakfast, and lunch. Sponsored by diocesan evangelization office. Free; register at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/mcc-columbus-tickets-80113241863?aff=ebdssbdestsearch>.

Catholic Singles On Fire for Christ
6 p.m., Chapel, Church of the Resurrection, 6300 E. Dublin-Granville Road, New Albany. Monthly meeting of Catholic Singles On Fire for Christ, for anyone older than 35 who is single in the eyes of the Catholic Church and seeks to grow in faith, bring hope to others and share the love of Christ. Begins with prayer and Adoration, followed by dinner at a restaurant. 614-855-1400

18, SATURDAY

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

19, SUNDAY

St. Christopher Adult Religious Education
10 to 11:20 a.m., Library, Trinity Catholic School, 1440 Grandview Ave., Columbus. Presentation on the meaning of mysticism and ways to nurture the gift of experiencing God, with *Catholic Times* columnist Mary van Balen.

Blessing of St. Gerard Majella at Holy Family
After 11 a.m. Mass, Holy Family Church, 584 W. Broad St., Columbus. Blessing of St. Gerard Majella, patron of expectant mothers, for all women who are pregnant or wish to become pregnant. 614-221-1890

Angelic Warfare Confraternity at St. Patrick
Following noon Mass, St. Patrick Church, 280 N. Grant Ave., Columbus. Monthly meeting of

Angelic Warfare Confraternity, with talk on chastity-related issues followed by Holy Hour. 614-224-9522

Kateri Prayer Circle at St. Mark
1 p.m., Aranda Center, St. Mark Church, 324 Gay St., Lancaster. Kateri Prayer Circle meeting to honor St. Kateri Tekakwitha and promote Native Catholic spirituality.

Polish Mass at Sacred Heart
1 p.m., Sacred Heart Church, 893 Hamlet St., Columbus (New time and place). Monthly Mass in Polish. 614-221-4323

St. Catherine of Bologna Secular Franciscans
2 to 4:30 p.m., St. Francis of Assisi Church, 386 Buttles Ave., Columbus. Prayer followed by ongoing formation, general meeting and fellowship. Visitors welcome. 614-895-7792

Seasons of Hope Bereavement Ministry
2 to 4 p.m., Our Lady of Peace Church, 20 E. Dominion Blvd., Columbus. First meeting of six-week Seasons of Hope bereavement ministry support group for those who have lost a loved one, sponsored by North High Deanery. 614-565-0795

Taize Evening Prayer at Corpus Christi
4 to 5 p.m., Corpus Christi Center of Peace, 1111 E. Stewart Ave., Columbus. Evening Prayer in the style and spirit of the Taize monastic community, with song, silence and reflection. 614-512-3731

Prayer Group Meeting at Christ the King
5 to 7 p.m., Christ the King Church, 2777 E. Livingston Ave., Columbus (enter at daily Mass entrance). Weekly parish prayer group meets. For praise, worship, ministry, and teaching. 614-886-8266

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

St. Pius X Holy Hour
7 to 8 p.m., St. Pius X Church, 1051 S. Waggoner Road, Reynoldsburg. Quarterly Holy Hour of Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and prayer for the parish, the diocese and the Church in the nation and the world. 614-866-2859

20, MONDAY

'Cardinal Madness' at St. Charles
6 p.m., Cavello Center, St. Charles Preparatory School, 2010 E. Broad St., Columbus. "Cardinal Madness" night for fifth- to eighth-grade boys. Includes a program about the school, building tours, buffet of wings and sliders, and a basketball game against Chillicothe. Free; registration required at nkeyes@scprep.org.

Rosary at St. Pius X
6:30 p.m., St. Pius X Church, 1051 S. Waggoner Road, Reynoldsburg. Recital of Rosary for the sick of the parish and all who are ill. 614-866-2859

21, TUESDAY

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

Fasting Program at Shepherd's Corner
6:30 to 8 p.m., Shepherd's Corner Ecology Center, 987 N. Waggoner Road, Blacklick. Program with theme "Rediscover Fasting." Suggested donation \$5. 614-866-4302

22, WEDNESDAY

St. Patrick Mass, Refreshments for Students
7 and 11:45 a.m., St. Patrick Church, 280 N. Grant Ave., Columbus. Mass, followed by coffee and doughnuts at 7:30 and 12:15 for students at Columbus State Community College and the Columbus College of Art and Design. 614-224-9522

Solemnity of the Baptism of the Lord Year A

Living the sacramental life starts with the graces from our baptism

Isaiah 42:1-4,6-7
Psalm 29:1-4,3,9-10
Acts 10:34-38
Matthew 3:13-17

Father Timothy Hayes



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

The Solemnity of the Baptism of the Lord invites us to reflect more deeply on the sacramental life we share.

The sacramental life is what being Catholic is all about. It is not simply “being happy.” Nor is it simply “being a good person.” The fact that we are created by God says that we are good persons from the start.

The fact that God created us and that He invites us into the kingdom indicate that happiness is offered and will surely come if we accept His offer. It is not about the passing splendor and pleasures that earth offers which fade away, but rather about eternal happiness.

Baptism begins the process of growth in the life of grace. As we enter into the experience of Baptism, whether as adults or as infants, we are invited to realize that it creates a new relationship. We become members of the Body of Christ. We are an extension of the Incarnation. Some call it “christening.” That is a lovely word that captures what the sacrament does. In Baptism, we are “Christified” – that is, made into Christ.

The Baptism of Jesus opens His public ministry. He is identified by the action of the Spirit and the Father’s own words as God’s Beloved. This is an event that serves as a capstone to the structure being built: “This is My Beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.” Jesus is touched by the Spirit. The voice of the Father is heard. The message proclaimed is for the bystanders and for us who hear it still in the liturgy. All of us are given a new identity in the experience of Baptism.

Jesus fulfills all righteousness. In His own person, He establishes the first fully equal relationship between God and humanity. Not since Adam has a man stood before God with the perfection that can establish salvation by a simple act of acceptance. In this moment, we stand at the birth of Jesus in our world, renewing all humanity and all of creation.

Genesis tells us that when God finishes each part of creation, He sees that “it is good.” The Baptism of the Lord reveals that in His new creation, God sees His own beloved son. We are called to live this relationship.

Baptism establishes us in relationship with the living God. Confirmation gives us the strength to keep it going when the going gets tough and gives us the presence of the Spirit to witness in circles beyond our comfort zone. Eucharist feeds us and gives us the nourishment for growth.

When we fall, Confession clears out the pipes. Anointing of the Sick helps the whole system stay in sync – body, mind and spirit. Matrimony is meant to supply you with the partner who helps you stand true on the journey to the kingdom. Holy Orders gives the grace for leading in the way Christ maps out on this journey.

Not all respond to the graces offered. But these graces are available to us by virtue of our baptism. We stand before the Father, who calls us His beloved children, claiming us as His own and affirming us in the life of grace. It is up to us to make the choice to respond to the relationship.

The Solemnity of the Baptism of the Lord serves as the octave to the Feast of the Epiphany, which highlights the manifestation of God through our human nature, and as the official close to the Christmas season. It is also counted as the First Sunday in Ordinary Time. This implies that the reality of the mystery celebrated in the Christmas season continues to flow into the rest of the year.

As we enter into Ordinary Time, we are plunged into the practical activity of living as participants in the kingdom of God. As the New Year unfolds, may God open our eyes to see clearly the power of the sacramental life we share. May He form us in Christ to bring about the fullness of peace.

THE WEEKDAY BIBLE READINGS

MONDAY

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

WEDNESDAY

1 Samuel 3:1-10, 19-20
 Psalm 40:2, 5, 7-10
 Mark 1:29-39

FRIDAY

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

TUESDAY

1 Samuel 1:9-20
 1 Samuel 2:1, 4-8 (Ps)
 Mark 1:21-28

THURSDAY

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

SATURDAY

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

DIOCESAN WEEKLY RADIO AND TELEVISION MASS SCHEDULE: WEEK OF JAN. 12, 2020

SUNDAY MASS

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

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

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

378). (Encores at noon, 7 p.m., and midnight).

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

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

DAILY MASS

8 a.m., Our Lady of the Angels Monastery in Birmingham, Ala. (Encores at noon, 7 p.m. and midnight). See EWTN above; and on I-Lifetv (Channel 113, Ada, Logan, Millersburg, Murray City,

Washington C.H.; Channel 125, Marion, Newark, Newcomerstown and New Philadelphia; Channel 207, Zanesville).

8 p.m., St. Gabriel Radio (AM 820), Columbus, and at www.stgabrielradio.com.

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

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



START YOUR DAY A BETTER WAY!

AM 820 CATHOLIC RADIO

FOCUS, continued from Page 3

he had been in contact with the organization since August about having a presence at OSU. While he was auxiliary bishop of the Diocese of Rockville Centre, New York, the bishop had been instrumental in having FOCUS send missionaries to the State University of New York at Stony Brook, located in that diocese.

Featured speakers at the conference, which had the theme “You Were Made for Mission,” included Cardinal Gerhard Muller, former prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, and Archbishop Charles Chaput of Philadelphia.

“The crisis in the church is man-made and has arisen because we have cozily adapted ourselves to the spirit of a life without God,” Cardinal Muller said in his homily

at a Mass for the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God on Jan. 1. “The poison paralyzing the Church is the opinion that we should adapt to the *zeitgeist*, the spirit of the age, and not the spirit of God, that we should relativize God’s commandments and reinterpret the doctrine of the revealed faith.”

Cardinal Muller stressed that God cannot be changed by the whims of society. “In the concrete human being Jesus of Nazareth, God’s universal truth is concretely present here and now – in historical time and space,” he said. Father Streitenberger described the cardinal’s message as “a really powerful, beautiful homily, focusing on the unchanging Christ amid all the crisis of today.”

FOCUS is based in Denver, where Archbishop Chaput was

serving as archbishop at the time Martin was expanding the ministry there. Father Streitenberger said that in his homily at a Jan. 2 Mass, the archbishop spoke of the early days of FOCUS as a father might speak to his grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

“Together in FOCUS, students discover the Lord ... and without that interaction, without that sense of brotherhood and sisterhood that’s such an essential part of the FOCUS ministry, the grace that the Lord offers us through FOCUS doesn’t really take place,” Archbishop Chaput said. FOCUS sponsors two major events in alternate years. The Student Leadership Summit is the smaller of the two. The larger, known as SEEK, will be in 2021 in St. Louis.

Father Streitenberger said he

hopes to bring one or more busloads of people from the Columbus Diocese to SEEK. “This was my first FOCUS event, and it was like a World Youth Day or a March for Life in the way it brought people together and reminded me of the expansiveness of the church,” he said.

“The bishop and I both would like to encourage as many priests as possible to come to SEEK 2021, especially those priests who deal with higher education in some way. If my experience this year is an indication, this conference will be a great tool in helping reach university students, especially those in leadership roles.”

Information from Catholic News Agency and The Catholic Sun, newspaper of the Diocese of Phoenix, was used in this story.

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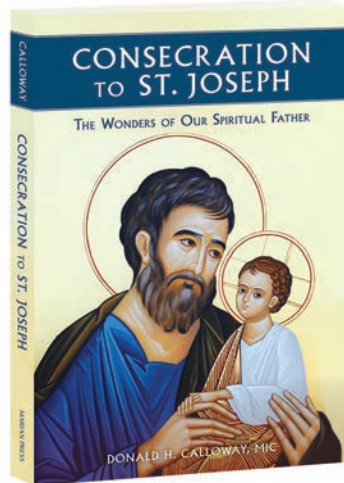
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Turning to St. Joseph in a special way

Consecration to St. Joseph: The Wonders of Our Spiritual Father
By Father Donald H. Calloway, MIC
Marian Press, 2020
\$14.95



“Now is the time of St. Joseph,” Father Donald Calloway, MIC, writes in the introduction to *Consecration to St. Joseph*, and while he acknowledges that it’s a bold claim, he remains unapologetic. “I truly believe that in our day the Lord wants to direct our hearts, families, parishes, dioceses, and Church to St. Joseph in a major way. This action of the Holy Spirit in the life of the Church has been gaining momentum for a very long time.”

As someone who has embraced all the consecrations to Mary, I was torn: Do I jump right into this? I love St. Joseph as much as the next all-in Catholic gal. I’ve named a kid after him and devoted myself to him, and this seems a logical next step.

Or ... is this something that needs consideration? I mean, consecration is special, right? It’s reserved for ... who?

I realized that despite having spent my first decade as a Catholic pester-

ing a holy priest with questions on nearly every day of my employment by him, I didn’t know the answer to this.

According to dictionary.com (found via Google; you know you were going to do the same thing), consecration is “the action of making or declaring something, typically a church, sacred.”

Any hesitation I had was swept away, because there’s no doubt in my ever-lovin’ Catholic mind that St. Joseph is the epitome of holiness. Any

guy who could not only take on a pregnant teenage wife but also agree to foster-father the Savior of the world is my kind of crazy.

Father Calloway explains consecration to St. Joseph this way: “(I)t basically means that you acknowledge that (St. Joseph) is your spiritual father, and you want to be like him. To show it, you entrust yourself entirely to his paternal care so that he can lovingly help you acquire his virtues and become holy. ... The person who consecrates himself to St. Joseph wants to be as close to their spiritual father as possible, to the point of resembling him in virtue and holiness.”

It’s no small thing. And yet this book – all 320 pages of it – makes it accessible and doable.

Father Calloway has pulled together a book that is brilliant in two ways: First, it serves as a handbook for a 33-day consecration to St. Joseph. You can go through it with all your readings and prayers, alone or in a group, and all you need is this one book. Second, it serves as a resource for all things St. Joseph. Father Calloway is no stranger to exhaustive research and

compiling, and he has put together a book that can be read independently of consecration.

“To combat and overcome Satan’s deceptions, the Church needs St. Joseph,” Father Calloway writes. “His example and protection are the only way out of the confusing mess we are in. Who else can we turn to who can help us understand what marriage and family are all about if not to the Head of the Holy Family and the Terror of Demons?”

It’s a journey that promises to change your life. “To be close to St. Joseph is a special grace from God,” and Father Calloway has pulled together a beautiful path to our spiritual father’s arms.

– Sarah Reinhard



Father Donald Calloway




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