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Many parishes in the diocese have chosen to forgo their annual fish fries this year because of the ongoing pandemic, but some are still offering drive-thru and carryout service, Page 10



CELEBRATING THE GREAT BLESSING OF MARRIAGE AND FAMILY LIFE

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Bishop Robert J. Brennan

Statement on President's actions on Title X family planning, Mexico City Policy

I join my brother bishops of the United States in speaking out against the Biden Administration's actions rescinding regulations designed to protect the life of the unborn. Through executive order, the President overturned the Mexico City and the Promoting Life in Global Health policy, which prohibited U.S. taxpayer dollars from funding abortions overseas. The Administration has also opened the Title X family planning program to the provision and promotion of

abortion and has begun to consider codifying the Roe v. Wade decision.

The right to life is the preeminent human right, the first among all other human rights. If the right to life is not protected, no human being and no other human right is secure.

While the Catholic Church actively supports domestic and global humanitarian assistance programs designed to assist families and further authentic human development, it is a moral imperative that these programs protect

human life and dignity from the moment of conception to natural death. Abortion is at odds with genuine love and concern for our neighbors in need. We pray that the President has a change of heart and acts to protect all human life.

What is needed is a faithful and living witness to the wonder and beauty of human life at every stage and in every condition; a witness that upholds life itself, and everything necessary to live a fully human life with digni-

ty. Despite our ongoing need to advocate for pro-life policies and laws, the ultimate victory for life will not be accomplished in the White House, the halls of Congress, the many Statehouses, or even the Supreme Court of this great country. It is only when this fundamental human right becomes sacrosanct in the hearts of the people, that it will be fully protected and endure. May all our efforts aim to build a culture of life.

Catholic Men's Conference to take place virtually on Feb. 27

This year's diocesan Catholic Men's Conference will be different from the 23 conferences that have preceded it, but it will continue the traditions of dynamic speaking and Christian fellowship among participants that have made the event one of the largest gatherings of its type in the nation for men of faith.

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the conference has been moved from its longtime location on the state fairgrounds and will take place online from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, Feb. 27, through a link on the diocesan Catholic Men's Ministry's website, www.catholicmensministry.com, or via Facebook or YouTube.

Participants will be able to view the conference at home or at one of at least 30 locations throughout the Diocese of Columbus. Admission is \$10 per person, with clergy admitted at no charge. Registration is available at the men's ministry website.

The theme for the event will be "Called to Be Saints." Music from the Neumann Project of Sunbury St. John Neumann Church will begin at 9 a.m., with talks starting at 9:15. Featured speakers will be Devin Schadt, Chris Stefanick, Father Donald Calloway, MIC and Bishop Robert Brennan.

Schadt will give two presentations, titled "Who Are You? – Your Identity" and "Where Are You? – Your Mission," in which he will share the

glory, necessity and power of fatherhood and the strong conviction that fathers will shape the destiny of the world. He is the founder of the Fathers of St.

Joseph, an apostolate that works for the renewal of authentic fatherhood and is part of a family of ministries known jointly as Stewardship: A Mission of Faith.

He is the author of several books, including *Show Us the Father: 7 Secrets to Be a Father on Earth Like the Father in Heaven*; *Joseph's Way: The Fathers of St. Joseph Manual*; *The Path: The Fathers of St. Joseph Rule of Life*; and the daily devotional *LEAD: The Four Marks of Fatherly Greatness*.

Stefanick will open the conference with a talk titled "Fully Alive." He is an internationally known Catholic author, speaker and television show host who is described by Philadelphia Archbishop Charles Chaput as "one of the most engaging defenders of the Christian faith on the scene today." He was awarded the Benemerenti medal for exceptional service to the Church by Pope Francis in 2019.

As the founder and president of Real Life Catholic, his live seminars, real-



Devin Schadt



Chris Stefanick

ity television shows, videos and radio spots reach millions of people every year. He is the author or co-author of seven books, including *Living Joy: 9 Rules to Help You Rediscover*

and Live Joy Every Day; *The Search*; *Joy to the World*; and *Raising Pure Teens*.

Father Calloway will speak on "St. Joseph, The Terror of Demons." He resides in Steubenville but is rarely there because his ministry has him traveling almost constantly. He experienced a miraculous conversion after years of crime, drug addiction and promiscuity and was ordained as a priest in 2003. He is a member of the Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception, who are widely known for promotion of the Divine Mercy devotion and praying for the souls in purgatory.

His books include *Consecration*

to St. Joseph: The Wonders of Our Spiritual Father; *Champions of the Rosary*; *No Turning Back: A Witness to Mercy*; and *Under the Mantle: Marian Thoughts from a 21st Century Priest*.

Bishop Brennan will deliver closing remarks and give a blessing.

Churches where the conference will be shown include Christ the King, Immaculate Conception, Our Lady of Peace, Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal, St. Agatha, St. Catharine, St. Cecilia, St. Leo, St. Margaret of Cortona, St. Peter and St. Timothy, all in Columbus; Ada Our Lady of Lourdes; Danville St. Luke; Dublin St. Bridgid of Kildare; Gahanna St. Matthew; Grove City Our Lady of Perpetual Help; Hilliard St. Brendan; Johnstown Church of the Ascension; Kenton Immaculate Conception; Lancaster St. Mark; Lancaster St. Mary; Newark St. Francis de Sales; New Albany Church of the Resurrection; New Lexington St. Rose; Pickerington St. Elizabeth Seton; Powell St. Joan of Arc; Reynoldsburg St. Pius X; Sugar Grove St. Joseph; Sunbury St. John Neumann; and Westerville St. Paul.

CORRECTION

A story in the Jan. 31 Catholic Times on a Mass for the Anointing of the Sick being sponsored by the Columbus Region of the Order of Malta contained incorrect information. The Mass will be at 9 a.m. Sunday, Feb. 14 at Columbus Holy Rosary-St. John Church. Father Michael Hartge will be the celebrant, and there will be no gathering after Mass because of COVID-19 restrictions.



Front Page photo:

CELEBRATING THE GIFT OF MARRIAGE
As the Church recognizes marriage in a special way this week, pictured is a recently married couple at Gahanna St. Matthew Church. Courtesy Beth Escudero Photography

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Toltonites: Bringing the faith to teens, millennials

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

By Tim Puet

Catholic Times Reporter

Many people believe, perhaps based on the results of national surveys, that most young people are indifferent at best toward the Catholic Church and religion in general.

An informal faith-sharing group known as the Toltonites is attempting to change that perception. The Toltonites, named for Venerable Father Augustus Tolton, the first African-American diocesan priest in the United States, say it's not that teens and young adults don't care about spiritual matters; rather, it's that, particularly in the case of minority groups, they need to be engaged in a way that is relatable to them.

Members of the group, which includes Catholics and non-Catholics, have been reaching out to Columbus



Adora Namigadde (left), a reporter for WOSU radio, and Ciara Clarke, a nurse at Ohio State University's Wexner Medical Center, are members of the Toltonites faith-sharing group. Photo courtesy Andy Mackey

Bishop Hartley High School students and to members of the millennial generation – people in their early 20s to mid-30s – and attempting to place Christ in their midst through casual get-togethers and more formal activities.

“Young people today are having per-

sonal struggles involving things such as technology and politics – so many things that seem to offer hope, all of which come short of God's love,” said Anh Nguyen, one of the Toltonites' first members. “We as Christians need to engage with them, to find what they are struggling with so we can show

that a robust faith life is a solution to what's missing in their lives. The case needs to be made to millennials that faith is as vital as bread and water.”

“You need to grow with people and show them how great the faith is,” said Toltonite Gabriel Okeke. “You set an example by how you live your own life and hope it will strengthen the faith of others.”

“To offer a solution to people's personal problems is not the way to go,” Nguyen said. “As Jesus touched the wounds of broken people, we need to first understand people's pain and struggle and to touch their wounds. That's how you introduce God's love to them. Otherwise it's very artificial.”

Sal Reedus, a founder of the Toltonites, said that when inviting people to learn more about religious faith, “You have to create space where you know both of you can learn. When you invite someone to share that space, you begin to engage in hospitality. You share in each other's conversion and growth, but there's usually no growth without being uncomfortable in some way. You have to grow comfortable

See DISCIPLESHIP, Page 8

Adoration opportunities during Lent build missionary discipleship

By Father Adam Streitenberger

Diocesan Coordinator
for Evangelization

During the 40 days of Lent, parishes throughout the diocese are hosting exposition of the Blessed Sacrament for prayer and adoration. Bishop Robert Brennan invites everyone in the diocese to visit one, more or all of these churches as a special Lenten discipline of prayer.

The official announcement of the 40 Days of Adoration campaign mentions two reasons for this diocesan time of prayer. The first is to pray for the diocesan Church as we plan for our presence and needs. The second reason is to celebrate and rejoice in the gift of Jesus Christ in the Eucharist as society emerges slowly from the COVID pandemic.

And I propose a third reason for the 40 Days of Adoration that is also at the heart of Bishop Brennan's vision for the Church of Columbus. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is a crucial step in promoting a culture of missionary discipleship in our parishes. What does adoration have to do with evangelization or identifying as a

disciple? While one could name thousands of ways, here are two:

First, in adoration before the Blessed Sacrament, we encounter the Lord. On June 12, 1993, while on a pastoral visit to Seville, Spain, Pope John Paul II preached, “Adoration of the Eucharist is the contemplation and recognition of the Real Presence of Christ in the Sacred Species, outside the celebration of Mass. ... It is a true encounter of dialogue, thanks to which we open ourselves to the experience of God.”

The first step in being a disciple and witnessing to Christ is first encountering Him. An encounter occurs when Christ mysteriously and sometimes unexpectedly breaks into one's life. Whether at the Mass or in prayer before the exposed Blessed Sacrament, the Eucharist is the privileged point of encounter with Christ. While He breaks into the lives of His disciples in many ways and at different times, it is in the Eucharist that we most fully encounter Christ. The risen Christ, body, blood, soul and divinity, breaks anew into the lives and hearts of those gathered before Him in worship. Through this appearance of the risen

Christ, we become His witnesses, like Mary Magdalene, Peter and Thomas.

The witness of missionary disciples is not a witness to a story from 2,000 years ago or a list of statements of belief. The witness that each of the baptized is called to give is a witness to the appearance of the risen Christ into their lives. The time given to Christ in adoration this Lent becomes the opportunity to renew an encounter with Him, which leads to a sharing of the experience of His coming. These personal encounters with Christ in the Eucharist are the essential foundation upon which a culture and life of discipleship is built.

Another important reason for the 40 Days of Adoration that further fosters a culture of evangelization is the importance of Eucharistic adoration for growth in discipleship.

On June 13, 2004, at his Angelus address, Pope John Paul II said, “By contemplating with greater perseverance the Face of the Incarnate Word, truly present in the Sacrament, they will train themselves in the art of prayer and undertake that high standard of Christian living, an indispensable condition for effectively developing the new evangelization.”

While the journey of discipleship begins with encounter, it continues with formation. The apostles spent three years with the Lord after their initial encounters. They were taught and formed as His disciples. Daily prayer is an essential part of the disciple's life. Learning how to pray is a basic first step in discipleship.

This time for prayer during Lent is time spent with the Master, listening to His voice and being formed by His loving gaze. The time devoted to adoration is an opportunity to learn about prayer through spiritual reading and to practice meditation and contemplation. In addition to the encounter, the 40 Days of Adoration also provides the formation in prayer essential for building a discipleship culture in the diocese.

As we embark as a local church on this great adventure of prayer during the 40 Days of Adoration in Lent, may each of us encounter Jesus Christ in the Eucharist in a new and beautiful way, and may we advance together in the life of prayer as disciples. And may this Lent be the great beginning to a renewed culture of evangelization and missionary discipleship in the Diocese of Columbus.

FOCUS conference seen virtually worldwide

By Elizabeth Pardi

FOCUS, a Catholic, international college campus outreach program, hosted the SEEK21 Catholic College Student Conference Feb. 4-7. The conference, with speakers including Auxiliary Bishop Robert Barron of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles and Father Mike Schmitz, was the first of its kind.

Past FOCUS events have been held solely in person, but SEEK21 offered the option to attend virtually. More than 27,000 participants from 20 countries and six continents registered for the event. About 12,000 of those were college students, indicating FOCUS' ability to attract a variety of age groups.

Registrants could attend at their local campus or parish because the FOCUS events team was dispersed throughout multiple locations. In Columbus, team members were set up at St. John the Baptist Church, where about 40 Ohio State University stu-

dents gathered and Bishop Robert Brennan celebrated Mass on Feb. 6.

On Feb. 4, the conference opened with Mass celebrated by Bishop Jorge Rodríguez of the Archdiocese of Denver. The Mass, like the entire conference, was live-streamed to all locations so participants could come together in spiritual communion.

Hosting sites, which included households, small groups, parishes and campuses, tailored their schedules to fit their preferences. In Ohio, for example, students from the University of Cincinnati gathered with those from Miami, Xavier and Wright State universities at a Cincinnati brewery and bowling alley to experience SEEK21.

Christian vocalists made appearances, including Matt Maher from his home in Nashville, Tennessee, where he performed "Lord, I Need You" with his daughter Rowan. Most speakers gave talks from their homes, but a few, including well-known theologian and author Edward Sri, sur-

prised certain locations by showing up unannounced to speak.

Topics ranged from promoting evangelization to pursuing a personal relationship with Christ. Father Mike Schmitz, a priest in the Diocese of Duluth, Minnesota, known for outreach to young people through YouTube and podcasting, presented a talk, "The Ultimate Invitation," that was live-streamed Feb. 6. He discussed his relationship with his own dad, which, he admitted tearfully, he took for granted as a child.

He said his father was a loving man who delighted in his children and since he always wanted to spend time with them, frequently asked them to accompany him to work or on hunting or fishing excursions. But, Father Mike admitted, "that was so annoying because I didn't like any of the things my dad liked. ... We were so different."

He said that, despite his dad's attempts to learn about his son's interests and what was in his heart, Father

Mike didn't want to open up for fear he would disappoint his father. The result is what Father Mike called a "self-imposed fatherlessness."

He tied his own experience to the parable of the prodigal son, saying that Catholics often treat their faith like a checklist of things to do and believe. Meanwhile, they miss what's most important: "The Father loves you so stinking much, and we don't even believe it."

He said many Catholics believe that God merely tolerates them.

Impact session speakers included Immaculée Ilibagiza, a Catholic author and speaker who survived the Rwandan genocide; Jen Fulwiler, a speaker, author, SiriusXM talk show host and standup comedian; Scott Hahn, a Catholic convert, author, speaker and theologian; and Lila Rose, a pro-life activist and founder and president of Live Action. After each talk, participants were able to

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From Christendom times to apostolic times

Thirty years ago, on January 22, 1991, Pope John Paul II's eighth encyclical, *Redemptoris Missio* (The Mission of the Redeemer), was published. In a pontificate so rich in ideas that its teaching has only begun to be digested, *Redemptoris Missio* stands out as a blueprint for the Catholic future. The vibrant parts of the world Church are living the vision of missionary discipleship to which the encyclical calls us. The dying parts of the world Church have yet to get the message, or, misunderstanding it, have rejected it — which is why they're dying.

Redemptoris Missio posed a forthright and formidable challenge to comfortable Catholics: look around you and recognize that ours are apostolic times, not Christendom times. Christendom, as Fulton Sheen said in 1974, is over.

"Christendom" connotes a situation in which society's cultural codes and the manner of life they endorse help transmit "the faith once delivered to the saints" (Jude 1:3). Places like that existed within living memory; I grew up in the last, fleeting moments of one, in the urban Catholic culture of 1950s Baltimore. That form of "Christendom" is now long gone. Throughout the western world today, the cultural air we breathe neither transmits the faith nor is neutral about the faith; the culture air is hostile to the faith. And when that hostility captures the commanding heights of politics, it aggressively seeks to marginalize the faith. (That, for example, is what happens when governments seek to impose LGBTQ and gender ideology on society by penalizing those who, for reasons of conviction, will not kowtow to the harmful notion of humanity's infinite plasticity — the biblical and Christian idea of the human person

THE CATHOLIC DIFFERENCE

George Weigel

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is criminalized. Those who imagine "it can't happen here" should read the Executive Order on "gender identity" signed by President Biden a few hours after his inauguration.)

"Apostolic times" call us to relive the experience of the early Church, vividly described in the Acts of the Apostles. There we find the friends of the Risen Lord Jesus aflame with a passion for mission. The "good news" that Jesus proclaimed before his death had been confirmed beyond question by his resurrection from the dead and his appearances to his friends in his transformed, glorified humanity. This was not good news for a select few; this was good news that demanded to be shared with everyone.

So a ragtag bunch of nobodies from the margins of what imagined itself to be the civilized world set out to convert that world to faith in Jesus Christ as Lord. They faced ridicule; some thought them drunks, "filled with new wine" (Acts 2:13). Others dismissed them as babblers, as St. Paul discovered on the Areopagus of Athens (in Acts 17:18). Still others thought them crazy, as when the Roman governor Festus exclaimed to Paul, "your great learning is turning you mad" (Acts 26:24). But they persevered. They manifested a nobler, more compassionate way

of life. Some died as martyrs. And by 300 A.D. they had converted to Christ a considerable part of the Roman imperium.

In Christendom times, a "missionary" is someone who leaves a cultural comfort zone and goes to proclaim the Gospel where it has not been heard before. In apostolic times, *Redemptoris Missio* teaches, every Catholic is a missionary who has been given the mandate to "go, make disciples of all nations" (Matthew 28:19). In apostolic times, "mission territory" is not an exotic travel destination; it's everywhere. Mission territory is the kitchen table, the neighborhood, and the workplace; the mission extends into our lives as consumers and citizens. Lay Catholics, John Paul wrote, have a particular obligation to be missionaries to culture, business, and politics, for lay witness in those venues carries special credibility.

In being a Church of missionary disciples, we are to use the method of freedom. As John Paul II wrote in *Redemptoris Missio*, italicizing his words for emphasis, "The Church proposes; she imposes nothing." But we must propose, we must invite, we must bear witness to the great gift we've been given — friendship with the Lord Jesus Christ and incorporation into his body, the Church. As the Lord himself said in Matthew 10:8, because we have freely received, freely we must give.

The Catholic Church of the 21st century is being called from maintenance to mission, which means the transformation of our institutions into launch pads for evangelization. The quality of our discipleship will be measured by how well we answer that call to share the gift with which we've been blessed.

Finding joy with Our Blessed Mother

The word joy brings the smell of the swamp to my nose, reminds me of summer bugs, and prompts me to hum an assortment of catchy group tunes. In that word is my childhood.

I'm transported back to a time full of cafeteria food and camp songs. It's a rowdy group of kids, led by a song leader, singing about joy down in their hearts. The air's full of summertime: a week of swimming, crafts, canoeing, exploring, singing.

I grew up the daughter of a camp manager. For me, camp wasn't a weeklong event but an entire summer of adventure. I did spend a week away from home during most summers -- one of Dad's benefits -- but there was excitement packed into the daily routine of behind-the-scenes life. There were frogs in the pool and dogs in the cabins. There were emergency phone calls to make and supplies to refill. There was a shortage of counselors and an open 30 minutes to fill with song.

There were parts of my young life filled with pain, of course, but when I think back to it, it's the joy of camp life and life in the country that comes to mind first. I remember the many cats we always seemed to have, the fallen tree that became my hidden refuge, the maze of dikes that never failed to provide an escape.

In my young adult years, I don't think I ever considered joy. Joy was for kids. I was after happiness; wasn't joy just another word for happiness?

I'm a few years removed from those tumultuous years, and when I think of joy now, I immediately think of my growing children and the joy they experience and that they bring to our lives.

But joy isn't just for kids.

Or maybe it is. Maybe it's for the kid deep within each of us. Maybe it's for the child curled up, protecting herself from the pain of the world. Maybe it's for the cynical teenager whose voice has never really gone away from our mental dialogue.

When I see Mary's statue, pristine and immov-

FINDING FAITH IN EVERYDAY LIFE

Sarah Reinhard

Sarah Reinhard is a Catholic wife, mother, and writer in central Ohio. Get her Catholic take at SnoringScholar.com.



able at the front of our church, I immediately notice how different we are. What does she know of my life? She could be light years away from me. Her joy seems different than mine, less earthy and applicable to my messy life.

Yet we honor her as Cause of Our Joy precisely because she isn't distant or remote. She's right here beside us.

The title Cause of Our Joy began in antiquity. Perhaps it is one of the oldest of Mary's titles. Its purpose, then as now, is to remind us of her role in each of our lives as a result of her Yes.

She said Yes to God and by doing that, she said Yes for each of us. She brought us the Savior in an intimate way, through her womb. She opened the door to her heart, trusted in God, and gave us all the most beautiful gift.

In saying Yes to God, Mary allowed salvation to take place. By agreeing to motherhood, she caused the joy I feel at the Christmas midnight Mass; without Mary's Yes, there would be no Christmas.

She didn't cause Jesus' birth by herself, but her cooperation, her Yes, makes her a partner. Joy is Jesus; Jesus is joy.

When I find myself eye to eye with Mary, I see that joy is something all around me, waiting for me to see it. It's in that steaming cup of coffee, savored during morning prayers in the silence of my kitchen. It's in the bite in the air as the seasons change. It's in the fall sunsets, glimpsed while my hands are immersed in household duties.

There is joy all around me, from the small hands

to the wagging tails. It's in the coziness of a fuzzy blanket, the accomplishment of finishing a house project, the lovely interlude of music.

Most of all, it's in the peace I find when I celebrate the Eucharist, when I participate in Mass, when I offer myself again to my Lord.

Did Mary pause to marvel at the table each night, surrounded by expectant faces and filled with food? What was it like, raising Jesus as an ordinary boy while knowing He was so much more?

Maybe, instead of limiting Mary to the statue in front of the church, I should picture her stained with the day's work, lovely despite her disheveled hair, beaming though exhausted from laundering and lifting and cooking. Toddler Jesus was surely as much a handful as any other toddler. I imagine her one minute holding on to every ounce of patience with Jesus, who must have said "I do it MYSELF!" at least once, and then, in the next moment, feeling his soft hair under her lips as he exclaimed "Hug you!" for no reason other than affection.

When she said Yes to Gabriel at the Annunciation, Mary couldn't have known the joy she would bring to each of us. As the first person to know the person of Jesus -- inside her very self -- she's the starting point for the Messiah. She wasn't the author or the creator, she was the vessel. She didn't work alone to bring Jesus into the world, instead she cooperated and agreed to the terms.

Her Yes resounds to my daily life. It reaches me, 2,000 years later, sitting in front of a glowing screen and ignoring the suspicious thunks a child's causing in the other room. Her joy overflows to touch me, despite my hesitation and doubt.

She holds out her hand, once again, asking me to come with her to see something. I know her look; I've used it with my children. There's a great surprise waiting for me, and when I go with her, I see that joy is a person and that she is the one who led me to Him.

God's love is our Valentine

We are all God's Valentines. By our own faith, we know that He is all love, and can never stop loving us, no matter how often we fail. It just can't get any better than that. As St. John says in his first letter, "Anyone who does not love does not know God because God is love." We all know God because we love. As we celebrate that love with all sorts of material ways to show our closest loved ones how much we love them, let us not forget that we witness God's love in doing so. Valentine's Day is a great way to show our love, and we must pray and keep in mind the true love that binds us to one another. God gives us so many good gifts, and we lovingly share them with others. That is love. As good and faithful stewards, we cultivate and share our gifts, returning them to God with good measure. So love away, love one another, love your sweetheart, love your gifts from God, but remember whose love makes it all possible.

I love M&M's. I'm eating some red ones as I write this. Someone has to get rid of them before Ash Wednesday. But at the same time, I am reminded of another way to love, and to love those I don't even know. We have a list of items that our local food pantry needs, and I need to get to the store soon and get a good number of those items to share.

EVERYDAY CATHOLIC

Rick Jeric



I also need to be sure I find some simple ways to let my wife and daughter know how much I love them and appreciate them. A few red M&M's and maybe some other goodies will help, but the most important thing will be to tell them sincerely and often how much I love them.

Valentines are great and fun. St. Valentine himself remains mysterious, as so little is known about him historically. We have mostly legends and stories to go by. One thing we do know for sure is that he loved everyone, even his enemies and persecutors. He did so much good for so many, even curing and healing in the name of Jesus Christ. His example and the way he lived his life was a reflection of God's love. As the story goes, one of the people he cured of her blindness was the daughter of the jailer where he was imprisoned for refusing to denounce his Christianity. Before he was led to his execution, he left a very loving note for the daughter. He signed it, "Your Valentine." And 1,800 years later, we celebrate and witness to that love. If you

are like me, it is difficult to be disciplined enough to pray extra, to attend daily Mass -- virtually or in person, or to pick up the Bible to read and meditate. As a motivation for us all, especially on Valentine's Day weekend, here are some good verses that can help us to remember what God's love is, as we love one another. St. Paul's first letter to the Corinthians: "Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, and endures all things. Love never ends." St. Peter's first letter: "Above all things, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins." St. Paul's letter to the Colossians: "Above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony." The Gospel of John: "By this all will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." St. John's first letter: "God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him." We all know the consistent message of Jesus and His love throughout the Gospels: "Love your enemies, and pray for those who persecute you. Love your neighbor as yourself. Greater love has no one, than to lay down his life for his friends." Finally, a simple reminder from St. Paul's letter to the Romans: "Let your love be genuine." Live God's love as we approach Lent and prepare for Easter.

St. Valentine: special saint for a special son

By MaryBeth Eberhard

The feast of St. Valentine holds fond memories of cards and treats in most homes but recently has taken on a new meaning for our family.

I have walked a long journey with my son Gabriel. Born with arthrogyposis multiplex congenita, in which his legs were originally bent behind his neck and his ear touching his hip, we have journeyed together through dozens of surgeries, procedures and out-of-state medical trips.

Now, as a sophomore in high school, he drives in a wheelchair through our home at breakneck speed, constantly pondering politics and story plot lines and inviting us into a discussion or debate. Let there be no doubt, however: The Lord has always been by his side.

As a young child, Gabriel would often sing. Friends would remark on his cherubic blond curls and angelic voice. The twinkle in his eye only added to his charm. Unable to sit or stand, Gabriel would roll throughout the house.

One day at karate class, I placed him on the rug while I ran to help one of my other sons. The next thing I knew, I found him persuading a toddler in the waiting area to hop on one foot while Gabe played “bowling” and rolled across the floor at top speed yelling, “Strike!” The mother was incredulous as I threw him over my shoulder, shaking my head, and headed to the car. To this day, Gabriel still enjoys describing that particular accomplishment.

Gabriel’s first hospital stay was in Manhattan, and later we added Philadelphia. The many attempts at straightening legs and later bending legs, releasing

WALKING WITH THE SAINTS

contractures, moving thumbs and straightening his spine walked us through countless Calvary moments. There were a couple of times when his life was threatened. I have held my own Gethsemane-style vigils during many nights spent rubbing limbs, praying decades, watching and counting breaths. But that is my journey. We all have our own testimonies. I wonder what his will be, but it is his to share. I am privileged to walk beside him as it unfolds.

A couple of years back, Gabriel made his confirmation. After all the experiences we had shared, all the religious who had prayed with us, the education we had provided, I was sure he would choose as his saint someone bold and big such as Aquinas, Augustine or Ignatius. His firm reply: Valentine.

I was incredulous and also aghast because, at times, St. Valentine’s story can be read more like a legend than a typical feast day. Knowing Gabriel’s penchant for stirring the pot and pushing my buttons, I acquiesced only with a firm reasoning from him as to why he chose this saint.

“Mother,” he said, “‘Gabriel’ means ‘messenger.’ The root of ‘Valentine’ is ‘valor,’ and he is known for his love. I want to be a messenger of love.” And so, he is, constantly seeking out others to lift up and encourage with his insights, laughter and courage.

Gabriel’s confident smile and twinkle in his eye as he boldly spoke the name “Valentine” to the bishop on his confirmation will always be in my heart as well as the glint in his eye every time we go to

Mass at the cathedral and the bishop calls him by his Confirmation name: “Valentine, my friend, how are you?” I am pretty sure Gabe feels victorious in more ways than one.

One tradition holds that St. Valentine was a doctor and a bishop in third century Rome under the rule of Claudius II Gothicus. One day, a jailer from the emperor’s prison brought his blind daughter to be treated by Valentine who was recognized for his gift of healing. Refusing payment, Valentine continued to pray for the young girl. Over time, they developed a friendship.

One day, Roman soldiers suddenly came to Valentine’s shop and arrested him because of an uprising in the streets. The emperor blamed Christians, and Valentine was thrown into jail. The jailer was unable to help him, and Valentine quietly asked for a piece of paper. Writing a note, he gave it to the jailer, asking him to please give it to his daughter. When the jailer arrived home, he gave the note to his daughter. Enclosed was a blossom that she was able to see for the first time and a note that read, “From your Valentine.”

St. Valentine was executed on Feb. 14, 270. He is the patron saint of epileptics. His feast day is tied to the ancient Roman feast of Lupercalia, which took place on Feb. 15. This tradition involved the writing of love messages to young maidens. Both dates came to signify the celebration of love, both romantic and sacrificial.

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

New Year’s wisdom from St. Augustine

The New Year is always filled with promise. Something shifts in us that makes us want to become more holy and healthy. Maybe it’s the change of routine during Christmas and New Year, the travel, or our over-indulging in things of the world (like cookies and wine) that make us ready to begin anew in January.

It’s great to build new habits of exercise and healthier eating patterns, but more important, this is an excellent time of year to renew our commitment to prayer, fasting and receiving the sacraments. Developing strong holy habits now can help us have a more holy and healthy Lent (which is just around the corner.)

As it turns out, St. Augustine has some priceless and even humorous words of wisdom about the power of habits and the role of God in our lives.

He said, “Such is the strength of the burden of habit. Here I have the power to be but do not wish it. There I wish to be but lacks the power. On both grounds, I’m in misery.”

I laugh (and cry) in agreement with him. I want so much to be faithful to holy and healthy habits that will help me grow and to more fully live out God’s mission for me, but I try and fail, try and fail, again and again. Oh, misery!

HOLY AND HEALTHY

Lori Crock



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

He encourages us. “You aspire to great things? Begin with the little ones.”

Small steps daily, little things with great love, small changes like 10 more minutes of prayer, offering kind words to others, doing a chore without complaint, starting a Holy Hour. A series of small steps can be a gift, a surprise of happy and holy changes that take root and bear fruit in our lives and in the lives of those we love.

St. Augustine said, “For if God is man’s chief good, which you cannot deny, it clearly follows, since to seek the chief good is to live well, that to live well is nothing else but to love God with all the heart, with all the soul, with all the mind.”

And so in our steady stream of resolutions, goals and desires for achievement, we are reminded by this dear saint to stay the course, to pray, to listen and rely on God by seeking his will and loving him with all we’ve got.

When the discipline of holy and healthy habits becomes wearisome, we are reminded that what we are trying to do here on earth is filled with temporary toil and that our true destiny is to be with our God one day in heaven.

St. Augustine said, “When I come to be united to thee with all my being, then there will be no more pain and toil for me, and my life shall be a real life, being wholly filled by thee.”

Just in case we become full of ourselves with all of our trying, controlling and doing to improve conditions for this temporal body, St. Augustine points us to hope in our mighty Lord and the powerful union we have with him as his beloved sons and daughters.

“Now, may our God be our hope. He who made all things is better than all things. He who made all beautiful things is more beautiful than all of them. He who made all mighty things is more mighty than all of them. He who made all great things is greater than all of them. Learn to love the Creator in His creature, and the maker in what He has made.”

May this new year be a joyful kick-start of holy and healthy habits for you, with our mighty God at the helm, and with a new appreciation of God living (and working) within each of us.

A winding road led to the priesthood for Father Sill

By Tim Puet

Catholic Times Reporter

The road to the priesthood had a few detours along the way for Father Ted Sill, the pastor of Gahanna St. Matthew Church, but he ultimately decided it was the right path for him.

"I started thinking in second grade about becoming a priest," said Father Sill, 64, one of four sons and two daughters of the late Richard and Helen (Geis) Sill, who attended Circleville St. Joseph Church. "My parish had a school then, and it was staffed by the Sisters of St. Joseph. I can't recall my second-grade teacher's name now, but I remember she was so kind and sweet – and so were the other sisters – that it had a big influence on me.

"My Uncle Ted Sill, my favorite uncle, was a Carmelite priest, and that also had an impact. After my first Communion, I asked God to help me be a priest. I had that idea until I started high school, but then I began noticing girls, and that distracted me. I thought that since I'm attracted to girls and the idea of being a husband, with a wife and children, I should give up on being a priest."

But his friends at the former Chillicothe Bishop Flaget High School may have been seeing something in Father Sill that he couldn't perceive on his own. "I was the kind of person who other students would talk to and tell me their troubles," he said. "They used to call me 'Father Ted.' I'd go to a storage closet in a hallway so people could talk to me privately. That became my 'office.'"

Father Sill, who graduated from Flaget in 1974, said he "felt kind of lost" after high school. He attended Hocking Technical College for two years, earning an associate degree in forestry, and then went to Ohio State University, graduating in 1979 with a Bachelor of Science degree in agriculture and horticulture.

He spent the next five years bidding on, designing and supervising work for three landscaping companies. "I also met a woman I thought I should marry and even bought an engagement ring, but I never gave it to her because I was beginning to have serious doubts about my future," he said.

"For about two years, I was dodging the question of entering the priesthood until I decided to end the relationship, check out the seminary and see what would happen. After I had spent a little time at the Pontifical College Josephinum, I realized God was calling

ANSWERING GOD'S CALL

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

me to be a priest."

He said some of the priests who have been influential in his life were the late Father Richard Snoke, retired Msgrs. Anthony Frecker and Frank Meagher and the late Msgr. Joseph McGlynn.

"Father Snoke was the principal at Flaget, and my parents used to invite him over for dinner," Father Sill said. "I remember he and my mom and dad used to get into some fiercely competitive Monopoly games with us kids. Msgr. Frecker taught religion at Flaget and was the first person to get me interested in the Scriptures.

"Msgrs. McGlynn and Meagher both were pastors at my church. I was an altar server for Msgr. McGlynn, and I remember he was very exacting in his standards for servers. Msgr. Meagher was at St. Joseph's during the years I was discerning my vocation, and he was most encouraging. Both were excited to have someone from Circleville studying for the priesthood."

Following 4½ years of study at the Josephinum, Father Sill was ordained as a priest by Bishop James Griffin on June 24, 1989 at Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral. He was the first member of his parish to be ordained to the priesthood in 23 years.

His first assignment was at Columbus St. Cecilia Church, where Father Raymond Larussa, who died late last year, was pastor. "He gave me a good deal of responsibility," Father Sill said. "For instance, I had some ideas on how to celebrate some of the Holy Week liturgies, and he put me in charge of them."

After two years at St. Cecilia, he was assigned to Powell St. Joan of Arc Church. "(The late) Msgr. (George) Schlegel was pastor there. He was easy to get along with, and we had a very good living arrangement," he said. "When you have priests living in a rectory, it's sort of like what I understand newlyweds go through in the early part of marriage. You just have to adjust to each other."

Bishop Griffin appointed Father Sill as diocesan vocations director after a year at St. Joan of Arc. "That was a surprise because I was just getting settled in Powell," he said. "When the bishop asked me to be vocations director, I was honored and excited to do it."

He continued in that position for seven years.

"Carrying out that role gave me great insight into the priests and parishes of the diocese," he said. "What I enjoyed most was the enthusiasm and idealism of the guys who were thinking about becoming priests. It was very uplifting and encouraging to me. Not all became priests, but those who didn't became great husbands and fathers. My biggest challenge was the negative perception of the priesthood that existed then, even among some parents."

After seven years as vocations director, he was eager to assume the responsibilities of a pastorate. He was appointed pastor of London St. Patrick Church in 1999 and stayed there for 11 years. "This is a parish with a school, and it was always a challenge to deal in a professional way with the best interests of the parish and the school and to be sure the students were the first priority," he said. "I liked the small-town atmosphere in London, much the same as where I grew up and very focused on family life."

While he was in London, the parish rectory and other buildings were renovated, classes were added at the school and plans were made for an activity center that was completed at the parish after Father Sill became pastor at St. Matthew Church in 2010.

"Parishioners here have shown a very willing spirit, and their involvement in ministry and service has steadily grown," Father Sill said, noting that the parish has more than 2,200 families and 59 ministries and organizations, most of which have continued to meet virtually or in small groups during the COVID-19 pandemic. "The parishioners have ideas and are willing to take ownership of them. That's important because priests and the parish staff can't do anything without their help," he said.

One of those ideas is the parish's Perpetual Adoration Chapel, which Father Sill said was suggested by Father Ryan Schmit, a former parochial



Father Ted Sill

vicar, when the parish's Knights of Columbus council asked how it could respond to an unmet need in the parish. The chapel was opened in February 2015 and remained open continuously until the pandemic forced its closure.

"We have three adorers signed up for every hour," Father Sill said. "That's important in case one of them doesn't show up or has to leave the chapel unexpectedly. We never want to leave Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament unattended."

Although the chapel is closed, Adoration is taking place in the main church from 3 to 9 p.m. every Monday and Wednesday. Father Sill said he and others involved in Adoration at the chapel are working on ways to have it reopened for at least part of each week.

"Because of the pandemic, this parish and others are trying to do things in a way that will allow people to safely participate," Father Sill said. "There's an ebb and flow to it. What makes sense at one point may not work at another time. As things continue, it may be that we find that in certain aspects, we are becoming more efficient and want to continue doing things the same way after people are able to gather in large groups again. For instance, we're likely to continue livestreaming of Masses."

Asked for his definition of a priest's role, Father Sill said, "The phrase 'another Christ' says it well. A priest is a servant leader – one who can compassionately minister to people, not just through the Sacraments, but as a good listener. Sometimes a person's need is just to be understood. I get the most satisfaction as a priest from the opportunity to inspire people to be agents of goodness."

He said that if a young man told him he was thinking about becoming a priest, he would say, "Don't hesitate to talk to a priest about it. I didn't talk about it for a long time. Think about it, pray about it, then talk openly. All of that is essential to the process. It takes time, so be patient."

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DISCIPLESHIP, *continued from Page 3*

with being uncomfortable.”

During the 2019-20 school year, the Toltonites began meeting once a month with members of Bishop Hartley’s Diversity Club to talk about the transition to college, living the faith while in school and whatever else might be on students’ minds. The club’s weekly meetings were halted in mid-March 2020 when schools were closed because of the COVID-19 pandemic but resumed with safe-distancing guidelines in place after schools reopened in August.

One recent meeting featured Dr. Corey Thompson, a recent Ohio State University medical school graduate, talking about minorities in medicine, while another had Mark Huddy, diocesan moderator for social concerns, as a speaker. The group is making plans to sponsor an event in February as part of Black History Month.

Hartley senior Myrka Cruz, a member of the Diversity Club, said, “I was interested in attending the meetings, since I think representation is vital. That’s also why it’s important to highlight the voices of young Catholic people of color because we often are not the groups most represented in Catholic schools. I’m thankful for the meetings, as I gained insight on how to overcome the obstacles that come with being a person of color and was able to relate with others in my position.”

Adora Namigadde, another Toltonites founder, said the group hosted a prayer vigil for racial reconciliation in early June at Columbus St. Matthias Church in response to the killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis, which sparked protests in central Ohio and throughout the nation.

“We wanted to respond to something that clearly disturbed the community by turning to the Lord and leading others to do the same,” said Namigadde, who also covered some of the protests as a reporter for WOSU Radio.

Anna Mullins, adviser for the Hartley Diversity Club, which is in its seventh year, said she got in touch with the Toltonites after the vigil. “It was heartwarming to see a group of young Catholics exploring their faith while centering the voices of people of color and addressing head-on both the joy and the pain associated with their experiences. I knew right away that it was important to provide a similar opportunity to our students,” she said.

“Anna has been a wonderful ambassador for all the students who come to the club’s meetings,” said Hartley principal Mike Winters. “Everyone in



Anh Nguyen (left) and Gabriel Okeke of the Toltonites talk about their work with Columbus Bishop Hartley High School students. Photo courtesy Andy Mackey

our building appreciates our diversity. We always try to serve the holistic needs of all students by creating spaces where they can express the love of their faith and combine it with their lived experience. The presence of the Toltonites has become a regular and continuing part of that.”

During Easter week, the Toltonites hosted a four-day virtual retreat on the question “How do we live out the virtue of hope and Easter joy during a pandemic?” Speakers included Danielle Brown, associate director of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ ad hoc committee against racism, and Father Steven Bell, CSP, who lives in Berkeley, California and was a former campus minister at the Columbus St. Thomas More Newman Center adjacent to Ohio State.

“That was a very powerful event,” Okeke said. “It wasn’t a show that was put on, just something very authentic. I’ve had plenty of struggles and bad days because of the pandemic, and this has helped me get through them.”

Many Toltonite events are similar to a safe-distancing gathering Namigadde hosted in early January to discuss the questions “Where is God leading you individually?” and “Where is God leading us as a group?” She said the Toltonites might start visiting one another’s parishes and gathering for corporal works of mercy, such as volunteering at a homeless shelter. She also said the group has been conducting weekly video chats.

“Things are very much in transition for us,” she said. “The key is that we are friends of many faiths and many races who can come together in an atmosphere of hospitality and acceptance which starts at a very basic level and grows from there.”

“We’re in constant contact,” Reedus said. “At our gatherings, there’s usually always someone you know and someone you’re unfamiliar with,

who brings in a new perspective. We pray together, and our variety is our strength. We engage and evangelize with each other in the spirit of Father Tolton, and as we show young people we are open to this, we hope it’s setting an example for them.”

The Toltonites began with a chance meeting of Namigadde, Reedus and two other young people at a Mass at Columbus Holy Rosary-St. John Church in 2019. The same four met again later the same day at a Mass in the Catholic Church’s Syro-Malabar rite, one of the Catholic Church’s several Eastern rites of worship, at Columbus Sacred Heart Church.

Other young people joined them in a lively conversation that led to a dinner gathering a few days later, and the Toltonites have been sponsoring activities ever since. It’s not a formal organization, just a group of young people with a shared desire to grow in faith.

The group’s namesake, Father Tolton, whose parents were slaves, had to study overseas because no seminary in the United States would accept him. He endured other discriminatory treatment because of his race, but he persevered and was ordained a priest in 1886. He served mostly in Chicago before dying in 1897 at age 43. One of his most notable achievements was the founding of St. Monica Church, Chicago’s first multicultural parish.

“What strikes me about Father Tolton is that for all the racism and discrimination he endured, he was very humble,” Namigadde said. “He gave his life for Christ in the face of people who didn’t want him.”

“Father Tolton embodied the phrase ‘Walk by faith and not by sight,’” Reedus said. “In the face of rejection, he kept moving forward. If he were living today, he would call us to deeper interior conversion. He sought the

Lord every day and would tell us to lay down our lives for Jesus Christ.”

Some Toltonites said part of the reason they are with the group is to lead others to the type of unexpected encounters with Christ that they’ve experienced.

Toltonite Ciara Clarke grew up as part of a non-Catholic family in the Youngstown suburb of Hubbard. She attended Catholic grade schools and high schools and was involved with the Newman Center, the hub for Catholic activities across from the OSU campus. After being influenced by Catholic teaching for much of her life, she decided to join the Church as a result of what she describes as an unexpected moment of conversion at St. Patrick Catholic Church in her hometown.

“I suddenly felt an overwhelming sense of peace and excitement and in my heart, I knew ‘this is where you are meant to be,’” she said. “After that, I started the process of becoming Catholic and eventually was baptized and confirmed.”

She said her faith has brought great strength to her job as a nurse at OSU’s Wexner Medical Center, where she works mainly in the psychiatric unit but occasionally tends to COVID patients. “Somehow it’s allowed me to have greater empathy with others and given more meaning to my service as a nurse,” she said.

Reedus grew up Catholic in the Washington, D.C. area. “My grandfather fostered my faith,” he said. “He talked about the faith all the time, and I knew the texts, but the faith wasn’t deep within me. Then I took part during high school in a Kairos retreat,” a weeklong gathering geared to finding meaning in the highs and lows of life.

“I thought of this as taking a week off school, and that was great. At that time, I was the king of doing things minimally,” he said. “I figured I’d spend five minutes in the chapel, but I started praying, a flood of tears came, and that five minutes turned into two hours. We had a tough conversation. I got angry, and at the end I felt Christ taking a big weight off my shoulders. I needed that.”

Reedus went on to work for the Diocese of Columbus and now is managing director for diversity at Five to Flow, a Columbus-based organizational consulting company.

For more information about the Toltonites, call Namigadde at (734) 968-3577 or send an email to the-toltonites@gmail.com.



February

- 17 St. Joseph Cathedral**
212 E. Broad St, Columbus, OH 43215
8AM to 8PM
- 18 St. Vincent de Paul, Mt. Vernon**
303 E. High St, Mt. Vernon, OH 43050
Wednesday 5PM to Thursday 5PM
- 19 St. Patrick, Columbus**
280 N. Grant Ave, Columbus, OH 43215
7:30AM to 8PM
- 20 St. John Neumann, Sunbury**
9633 E. OH-37, Sunbury, OH 43074
7:30AM to 8PM
- 21 Immaculate Conception, Kenton**
215 E. North St, Kenton, OH 43326
9AM to 9PM
- 22 St. Joan of Arc, Powell**
10700 Liberty Rd, Powell, OH 43065
7:30AM to 8PM
- 23 St. Mark, Lancaster**
324 Gay St, Lancaster, OH 43130
8:30AM to 9PM
- 24 Our Lady of Peace, Columbus**
20 E. Dominion St, Columbus, OH 43214
8:30AM to 9PM
- 25 St. Mary of the Assumption, Lancaster**
132 S. High St, Lancaster, OH 43130
7:30AM to 9PM
- St. Brigid of Kildare, Dublin**
7179 Avery Road, Dublin, OH 43017
9:30AM to 7PM
- 26 Our Lady of Lourdes, Ada**
300 E. Highland Ave, Ada, OH 45810
9AM to 9PM
- St. Thomas Aquinas, Zanesville**
144 N. 5th Street, Zanesville, OH 43701
7PM to 12AM in Activity Center
- 27 St. Mary, Marion**
251 N. Main St, Marion, OH 43302
Friday 7PM to Saturday 7PM
- St. Anthony of Padua, Columbus**
1300 Urban Dr, Columbus, OH 43229
7AM to 8PM
- 28 St. Leo's Oratory, Columbus**
221 Hanford St, Columbus, OH 43206
10:30AM to 9PM
- Church of the Ascension, Johnstown**
555 South Main St, Johnstown, OH 43031
12PM to 7PM

March

- 1 St. Thomas, Columbus**
767 N. Cassady Ave, Columbus, OH 43219
9AM to 9PM
- 2 Holy Name, Columbus**
154 E. Patterson Ave, Columbus, OH 43202
Monday 9PM to Tuesday 9PM
- 3 St. Brendan the Navigator, Hilliard**
4475 Dublin Rd, Hilliard, OH 43026
7AM to 9PM
- St. Mary, Waverly**
407 S. Market St, Waverly, OH 45690
6:30AM to 7:30PM
- St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Pickerington**
600 Hill Rd N, Pickerington, OH 43147
9AM to 7PM
- 4 St. Margaret of Cortona, Columbus**
1600 N. Hague Ave, Columbus, OH 43204
6:30AM to 7:30PM
- 5 St. Matthew the Apostle, Gahanna**
807 Havens Corners Rd, Gahanna, OH 43230
7AM to 9PM
- St. Brigid of Kildare, Dublin**
7179 Avery Road, Dublin, OH 43017
9:30AM to 5PM
- 6 St. Colman of Cloyne, Washington C.H.**
219 S. North St, Washington C.H., OH 43160
9AM to 9PM
- Church of the Sacred Heart, Cardington**
4680 US Highway 42, Cardington, OH 43315
9:15AM to 3:15PM
- 7 Church of the Resurrection, New Albany**
6300 E. Dublin-Granville Rd, New Albany, OH 43054
11AM to 9PM
- Sts. Augustine and Gabriel, Columbus**
1550 E. Hudson St, Columbus, OH 43211
12PM to 5PM
- 8 St. Paul the Apostle, Westerville**
313 N. State St, Westerville, OH 43082
Sunday 7PM to Monday 7PM
- 9 Christ the King, Columbus**
2777 E. Livingston Ave, Columbus, OH 43209
7AM to 8PM
- 10 St. Rose of Lima, New Lexington**
309 N. High St, New Lexington, OH 43764
8:30AM to 9PM
- 11 St. Christopher, Columbus**
1420 Grandview Ave, Columbus, OH 43212
9AM to 4PM
- St. Peter, Chillicothe**
118 Church St, Chillicothe, OH 45601
10AM to 7PM
- 12 St. Mary, German Village**
684 S. 3rd St, Columbus, OH 43206
7AM to 9PM
- 13 Sacred Heart, New Philadelphia**
139 3rd St NE, New Philadelphia, OH 44663
8AM to 8PM
- St. Michael the Archangel**
5750 N. High St, Worthington, OH 43085
8AM to 8PM
- 14 St. Joseph, Dover**
613 N. Tuscarawas Ave, Dover, OH 44622
9:30AM to 9PM
- St. Mary Magdalene, Columbus**
473 S. Roys Ave, Columbus, OH 43204
6PM to 8PM
- 15 St. Joseph, Plain City**
140 West Ave, Plain City, OH 43064
6AM to 9PM
- 16 St. Agatha, Upper Arlington**
1860 Northam Rd, Upper Arlington, OH 43221
8:30AM to 8:30PM
- 17 Blessed Sacrament, Newark**
394 E. Main St, Newark, OH 43055
8AM to 10PM
- 18 St. Francis de Sales, Newark**
40 Granville St, Newark, OH 43055
Wednesday 7PM to Thursday 7PM
- 19 St. James the Less, Columbus**
1652 Oakland Park Ave, Columbus, OH 43224
9AM to 9PM
- Immaculate Conception, Columbus**
414 E. N. Broadway St, Columbus, OH 43214
7AM to 8PM
- St. Thomas More Newman Center, OSU**
64 W. Lane Ave
TBA
- 20 St. Mary of the Annunciation, Portsmouth**
5th & Market St, Portsmouth, OH 45662
9AM to 9PM
- St. Cecilia, Columbus**
434 Norton Rd, Columbus, OH 43228
4:30AM to 4:30PM
- 21 St. Patrick, London**
61 S. Union St, London, OH 43140
8 AM to 8 PM
- 22 St. Peter, Columbus**
6899 Smoky Row Rd, Columbus, OH 43235
9 AM to 9 PM
- 23 St. Andrew, Upper Arlington**
1899 McCoy Rd, Columbus, OH 43220
9 AM to 9 PM
- 24 St. Pius X, Reynoldsburg**
1051 S. Waggoner Rd, Reynoldsburg, OH 43060
9 AM to 9 PM
- 25 Holy Family, Columbus**
584 W. Broad St, Columbus, OH 43215
Thursday 8AM to Friday at 12PM
- 26 St. Mary, Delaware**
82 E. William St, Delaware, OH 43015
9:30AM to 6PM
- 27 St. Bernadette, Lancaster**
1343 Wheeling Rd NE, Lancaster, OH 43130
4AM to 4PM
- 28 St. Catharine of Siena, Columbus**
500 S. Gould Rd, Columbus, OH 43209
9:30AM to 8PM

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600 Hill Road N., Pickerington (Activity Center)
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ST. CATHARINE CHURCH
500 S. Gould Road, Columbus
Fridays, 2/19-3/19, 5-7 p.m.
Drive-thru only

ST. MATTHEW CHURCH
807 Havens Corners Road, Gahanna
Fridays, 2/19-3/26, 4:30-7:30 p.m.
Drive-thru and carryout only

ST. PIUS X CHURCH
1051 S. Waggoner Road, Reynoldsburg
(New Parish Center)
Fridays, 2/19, 3/5, 3/19, 5-7 p.m.
Drive-thru only

WEST

ST. CECILIA CHURCH
434 Norton Road, Columbus
Fridays, 2/19-3/26, 5-7:30 p.m.
Drive-thru only

ST. STEPHEN THE MARTYR CHURCH
4131 Clime Road, Columbus (West Entrance)
Fridays, 2/19-3/26, 5-7 p.m.
To go only

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ST. JOSEPH CHURCH
670 W. Main St., Plain City
Fridays, 2/19-3/26, 5:30-8 p.m.
Drive-thru only

ST. MARY CHURCH
66 E. William St., Delaware (Commons)
Fridays, 2/19-3/26, 5-7 p.m.
Drive-thru only

ST. MARY CHURCH
K of C Hall, 1232 E. Center St., Marion
Fridays, 2/19-3/26, 5-7:30 p.m.
Carryout only

NEWARK CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL
1 Green Wave Drive, Newark
Fridays, 2/19-3/26, 4-7 p.m.
Drive-thru or carryout only

ST. LUKE CHURCH
7 W. Rambo St., Danville (Community Center)
Fridays, 2/19-3/26, 5-7 p.m.
Drive-thru only

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL CHURCH
206 E. Chestnut St., Mount Vernon (School)
Fridays, 2/19-3/26, 4:30-7 p.m.
Carryout only

CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY
1835 Dover-Zoar Road, Bolivar
Fridays, 2/19-3/26, 4-7 p.m.
Drive-thru only

SACRED HEART CHURCH
39 Burt Ave., Coshocton
Friday, 3/26, 5-6:30 p.m.
To-go meals only

SACRED HEART CHURCH
777 3rd St. N.E., New Philadelphia
(Tuscarawas Central Catholic Jr./Sr. High School)
Fridays 2/19-3/26, 4-7 p.m.
Drive-thru only

BISHOP FLAGET SCHOOL
570 Parsons Ave., Chillicothe
Fridays, 2/19-3/26, 4-7 p.m.
Drive-thru only

ST. PETER IN CHAINS
2167 Lick Run Lyra Road, Wheelersburg
Fridays, 2/19-3/26, 5-7 p.m.
Curbside pickup, takeout only

ST. MARY AND HOLY REDEEMER
(Portsmouth parishes)
1518 Gallia St., Portsmouth (K of C Hall)
Wednesday 2/17, Fridays 2/19-3/26, 5-8 p.m.
Dine-in or carryout

Pandemic limits, cancels Lenten fish fries in diocese

By Tim Puet

Catholic Times Reporter

As it has done for nearly every other aspect of parish life, the COVID-19 pandemic will alter a major activity of many parishes – the community fish fry that usually takes place on Lenten Fridays.

This will be the second year in which the virus has affected such events. Last year's fish fry season was about to enter its third of six weeks when on Friday, March 13, Ohio's bishops suspended the state's Catholics from the obligation of attending Saturday Vigil or Sunday Masses through the end of March, in conjunction with statewide restrictions on public gatherings. That suspension remains in effect, with most other parish activities also being restricted.

State health officials in mid-March issued orders closing schools, bars, restaurants and most businesses and halting public gatherings. Public Masses resumed on Pentecost Sunday, May 31, schools were reopened in August for the 2020-2021 academic year and business restrictions were eased, although many people continue to work from home instead of at an office. However, state orders prohibiting most indoor gatherings of more than 10 people and requiring that safe-distancing rules be maintained remain in effect.

This means that most parishes where fish fries will take place this year will be limited to drive-thru and carryout service. Several parishes decided not to have fish fries this year. *The Catholic Times* asked parishes that hosted fish fries before the pandemic hit in 2020 if they were going to continue with the dinners this year. Of the 49

parishes that responded, 23 said they would go ahead with fish fries or pasta dinners this year.

Powell St. Joan of Arc Church, one of the largest parishes in the diocese, will hold its fish fry each Friday from Feb. 19 to March 26 from 5 to 7 p.m., continuing a tradition that began about 25 years ago. Dinners are \$15. Orders must be placed in advance at www.bestfishfry.com. They will be taken until 5 p.m. of the Thursday before each event, with each order assigned to be picked up during one of four half-hour slots.

"Having a fish fry in the midst of all the COVID restrictions takes a lot of planning," said Mike Natarian, deputy grand knight of Knights of Columbus Council 10765. (Most fish fries are sponsored by Knights of Columbus councils affiliated with a particular parish.) "We started in September to form a plan that would maintain safe distancing and follow all the other rules.

"We put together a PowerPoint presentation and presented it to Father (James) Black (the parish's pastor). He approved it and took it to the diocesan Chancery for approval by the diocese. After it was accepted there, we had a couple of trial runs in December – the first one with 100 dinners, and the second with 200."

Natarian said he anticipates that a maximum of 400 dinners will be served in the two-hour window for the event. "We'd do as many as 1,000 sit-down dinners with the setup we had, but the restrictions make about 400 the best number for this year," he said. "One other change is that it won't be an all-you-can-eat dinner. We think our run-throughs have shown how

See FISH FRIES, Page 11

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Feb. 19, 26 | March 5, 12, 19, 26

25th YEAR

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
FISH FRY
SAINT JOAN OF ARC

K of C

FISH FRIES, continued from Page 10

this can be done safely, so we're pretty confident about our plans."

Columbus St. Margaret of Cortona won't be having a fish fry this year for the first time since 1999.

"We discussed several options with Father Jeff Rimelspach," the parish's pastor, said fish fry chairman Larry Pishitelli. "But none of them would follow our mission statement, which for 22 years has said, 'Our goals are to encourage fellowship and friendship throughout the community and parish; to provide an opportunity for all parishioners and their children to become involved in parish life; and, lastly, to raise additional income for the parish.'

"Anyone who has come to the dinners and seen our social hall filled with happy people eating a good dinner knows why we feel that if we can't have our dinners the regular way, it's better not to have them at all," he said. "There's always the hope that conditions might improve to the point that we might be able to have a dinner late in Lent, but this is highly unlikely."

Pishitelli said about 850 people usually attend the St. Margaret fish fries weekly. He said the abrupt ending of fish fries last year meant that the parish had about 1,200 pounds of fish in a cooler. "We donated some and sold some, and ended up supplying a good many people with fish," he said. "It took about four months to distribute everything we had."

"Parishioners wanted to continue

our fish fries not only because they enjoy the food, but because it's a great way of supporting the Knights' charitable works in the parish and community," said John Page, grand knight of Knights Council 11354, which will be sponsoring Friday fish fries at Columbus St. Catharine Church from Feb. 19 to March 19. He said that the council has been conducting fish fries for around 20 years and serves about 600 meals weekly. He's hoping for a turnout of about 400 per week this year.

"We've been adding to the fish fry menu for the past couple of years, and people have noticed, so we wanted to keep the momentum going," said John Swails, deputy grand knight of Council 5253. It will be serving diners a choice of fish or shrimp, with a choice of rice pilaf or hush puppies, on Feb. 19, March 5 and March 19 in a drive-thru-only format at Reynoldsburg St. Pius X Church.

"We're proud of the support we provide for parish needs, for scholarships to Catholic schools, for the diocesan religious education program, for the developmentally disabled and other things," he said. "We've had to postpone some of our fundraising activities for the past year, so the fish fry is important because it allows us to continue at least some of that support."

"We've been having fish fries for the past dozen years or so, and our guys wanted to keep going because they just love doing it," said Marty Ross of Council 14346, based at Wheelers-

burg St. Peter in Chains Church. "It's become a tradition and a service to the parish and the community, and people missed us when we had to shut down last year.

"It's not just the food that draws people. It's the chance to have people going from table to table and talking with each other; for instance, we have three sisters who come every week because it's the best opportunity they have to get together.

"This is the kind of thing people can't do this year, but we want to at least have people keep thinking about us so they're ready to come back when we hopefully can reopen our hall next year." Ross said his council usually serves 90 to 100 meals each week. Dates for the council's fish fries are Fridays from Feb. 19 to March 26.

Tim Peterson of Knights Council 2299 at Logan St. John Church said his council won't be serving fish dinners this year because it isn't likely to be a profitable venture. "We're a small parish and need to have about 200 people at our dinners for them to be successful," he said. "That's usually not a problem, but it isn't likely we'll draw those numbers during a pandemic. There's also the safety factor to consider with the number of people needed to handle food."

His council's principal charita-

ble work involves supplying meals, laundry detergent, toiletries and other necessities for the Hocking Hills Inspire Shelter for the homeless, which has been open for about three years. To replace the money raised through the fish fries, the council is selling gift cards from Honey Baked Ham and from local restaurants, with a portion of each sale being returned to the council. "This is helping us and helping local business at the same time," Peterson said.

Council 5386 at Washington Court House St. Colman of Cloyne Church also is not having any fish fries this year, said its grand knight, Doug Hosch.

"We decided a few weeks ago to suspend the dinners for this year because we're a small council with about 70 members, many of them elderly," he said. "We had a drive-thru fish dinner in October which made us a good bit of money because we had a credit with our fish supplier. Members who had stores and other businesses donated other food, so our costs were minimal."

His council provides scholarship funds to high school seniors from the parish and support for the parish St. Vincent de Paul Society, organizations for the developmentally disabled, the Veterans Affairs hospital in Chillicothe, diocesan seminarians and a local pregnancy center.



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Knights of Columbus St. Jude Council 5801

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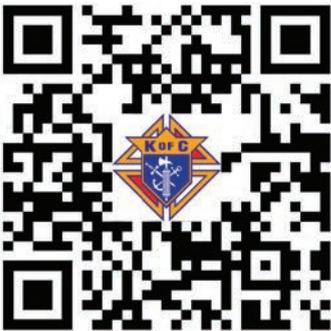
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Lenten activities at parishes throughout the Diocese of Columbus

The following is a list of special events for Lent planned by parishes of the Diocese of Columbus, as supplied to The Catholic Times.

In addition to the events listed, many parishes will conduct penance services, either individually or in conjunction with other parishes in their deanery. Many also will offer the traditional Lenten devotion of Stations of the Cross.

Buckeye Lake Our Lady of Mount Carmel – Eucharistic Adoration, Sundays, Feb. 21 to March 28, 9:15 to 10:15 a.m., concluding with Benediction.

Columbus St. Catharine – Evening of ministry and healing with the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal, Tuesday, Feb. 23, 6:30 p.m. “God, Are You There?” retreat for all with Father Thomas Blau, OP, Monday to Wednesday, March 1 to 3, 7 p.m. with confessions at 6. Topics: Monday, “Is the Church Afraid of Science?”; Tuesday, “Why Do Bad Things Happen to Good People?”; Wednesday, “St.

Thomas Aquinas on God.”

Columbus St. Cecilia – Parish consecration to St. Joseph, begins Monday, Feb. 15 and continues through the Feast of St. Joseph, Friday, March 19. Bishop Robert Barron’s Pivotal Players video series, Wednesdays, Feb. 24 to March 31, 7 p.m. “Faithful at the End of Life” presentation by Beth Vanderkooi, executive director, Greater Columbus Right to Life, Sunday, March 7, 1:30 p.m. Vigil Mass for the Solemnity of St. Joseph, Thursday, March 18, 7 p.m., includes consecration prayer to St. Joseph. 40 Hours of Eucharistic Adoration, 8 p.m. Thursday, March 18 to 4:30 p.m. Saturday, March 20. Mass for the Solemnity of St. Joseph, Friday, March 19, 8:15 a.m.

Columbus St. John Chrysostom Byzantine Catholic Church – Liturgy of the Hours with readings from Isaiah, Wednesdays, Feb. 17 to March 31, 9 a.m. “In the Footsteps of St. Joseph: Biblical Patristic Reflections,” Thursdays, Feb. 18 to March 25 on-

line. Send a request to stjohnbyz@hotmail.com. Liturgy of St. Gregory the Great (Presanctified Gifts), Fridays, Feb. 19 to March 26, 7 p.m. Moleben Service to the Lifegiving Cross, Sundays, Feb. 21 to March 21, 11:15 a.m.

Columbus St. Peter – Bilingual Living Stations of the Cross, Friday, April 2, time to be determined.

Lancaster St. Bernadette – 40 Hours of Eucharistic Adoration, Thursday, to Saturday, March 25 to 27.

New Philadelphia Sacred Heart – Bishop Robert Barron’s Catholicism video series, Tuesdays, Feb. 16 to March 23, 7 to 8:30 p.m.

Scioto Catholic Consortium – Consecration to St. Joseph, Mondays beginning Feb. 15, 7 p.m. via Zoom or at Portsmouth Holy Redeemer activity center. Call parish office to obtain Zoom link. Novena to Our Lady, Undoer of Knots, Thursday to Friday, Feb. 18 to 26, 3 p.m. daily on Scioto Catholic Facebook page. 24-hour Ad-

oration prayer vigil for priests, Scioto Catholic parishioners, and peace, 4 p.m. Friday, Feb. 26 to 4 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 27, Portsmouth Holy Redeemer Church. Mass of Consecration to St. Joseph, Friday, March 19, 6:30 p.m., Portsmouth St. Mary Church.

Sunbury St. John Neumann – Virtual parish mission on St. Joseph. Tentative speaker is Father Victor Galier of Atlanta St. Anthony of Padua Church, Sunday to Tuesday, March 21 to 23. Details as available at www.saintjohnsunbury.org. Parish also has a set of outdoor Stations of the Cross which may be visited at any time.

Zanesville St. Thomas Aquinas – Parish mission in honor of St. Joseph, presented by Father Brett Garland, parochial vicar, Delaware St. Mary Church, Monday to Wednesday, March 16 to 18, 7 p.m.

Lancaster St. Mary – Thursday, March 25, Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament, from end of 9 a.m. Mass to Benediction at 1:45 p.m. St. Mary School students will be present for Benediction.

Diocesan parishes list times for Eucharistic Adoration

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

The information is current as of Feb. 8. Adoration times might be changed, or Adoration might be canceled, because of possible government orders related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

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

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

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

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

Columbus Holy Name – 4:30 p.m. Mondays to 8 a.m. Saturdays.

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

Columbus St. Agatha – Wednesdays, end of 9 a.m. Mass to 11 a.m.; Thursdays, 4 to 8 p.m., concluding

with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

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

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

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

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

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

Columbus St. Margaret of Cortona – Thursdays, 9 a.m. to noon; church open until 8 p.m.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

the Sacrament of Reconciliation, concluding with Benediction.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Newark parishes march for life

Parishioners of Newark St. Francis de Sales and Blessed Sacrament churches who were unable to travel to Washington for the annual March for Life this year decided to conduct their own version of the march closer to home.

St. Francis hosted a Newark Day for Life on Saturday, Jan. 30 that included a day retreat with Mass, speakers, and periods of praise and worship. The retreat focused on the dignity of human life, the responsibility to protect life from conception to natural death and the call to live abundantly in Christ.

During the day, more than 100 people participated in a Eucharistic procession from the steps of St. Francis Church to the Licking County Courthouse downtown. Participants prayed the rosary as they followed the Blessed Sacrament down Main Street before circling the courthouse and stopping in the center of the town square for Benediction and the Chaplet of Divine Mercy.

On the way back to St. Francis,



Participants in the Newark March for Life pray the rosary as they walk with the Blessed Sacrament down Main Street from St. Francis de Sales Church to the Licking County Courthouse.

Photo courtesy St. Francis de Sales Church

participants sang hymns and held up signs bearing the verse “I came so that

they might have life and have it more abundantly” from the Gospel of John. Participants say they hope to have another hometown march next year.

Before the march, St. Francis hosted 31 hours of continuous Eucharis-

tic Adoration from 10 a.m. Thursday, Jan. 28 to 5 a.m. Jan. 30. Those would have been the approximate departure and return times for a bus the Newark parishes would have chartered for the Washington march.

Adoration for Respect Life Day



Students Molly Johnson (left photo), Sophia Henery and Henry Monnin adore the Blessed Sacrament as part of Respect Life Day at Columbus Immaculate Conception School and Church on Thursday, Jan. 28. Adoration took place from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Approximately 375 people took part. *Photos courtesy Immaculate Conception School*

The logo for AM 820 Catholic Radio is displayed in large, bold, black letters. Below the logo is the website address STGABRIELRADIO.COM. Below the logo is a photograph of a brown dachshund dog sitting and holding a silver tin can in its mouth. The text "Lend an ear!" is written in a light blue font at the bottom right of the image.

Catholic Scout award winners resist evil, bishop says

By Tim Puet

Catholic Times Reporter

Bishop Robert Brennan told recipients of Catholic Scouting awards that through the Scouting program they are facing the demons of today in the same way that Jesus confronted demons during his ministry.

The bishop honored about 100 members of Scouts BSA, Girl Scouts and American Heritage Girls units who completed Catholic-centered emblem programs during 2020 at the annual Scout Day with the Bishop prayer service on Sunday, Jan. 31 in the New Albany Church of the Resurrection. Each award recipient was recognized by name and received a Scout Day uniform patch from Bishop Brennan.

The bishop's spiritual reflection for the program focused on Sunday's reading from the Gospel of St. Mark, which included Mark's first description of a miracle performed by Jesus – the casting out of unclean spirits from a man in the synagogue at Capernaum.

"The demons shouted, 'Have you come to destroy us?' and Jesus said, 'That's exactly what I came here to do.' St. Mark says Jesus responded with just five words – 'Quiet! Come out of him!' – and pushed out this man's evil. This is how He works through the heart of people," the bishop said. "He speaks with authority; He's totally different than anyone else. People realized that He was not repeating the same things, as other teachers of the time, but was displaying a strength from within. He didn't just speak God's word but lived it."

Bishop Brennan said today's demons are not the kind found in horror movies but are "the demons of violence, drugs and alcohol trying to get your attention. The culture of life is disrespected through the demons of racism and anti-Semitism. Jesus came to face down those demons, to denounce them as unclean.

"Today, social media and the internet are capable of tremendous good and tremendous evil," Bishop Brennan said. "These are the demons that plague our world. You, through Catholic Scouting, are resisting those demons and have chosen another path – the path of Jesus.

"His words made a difference," the bishop continued. "They changed reality. He continues to speak His word to you, and it changes you and me and every one of us. When you live Jesus' word, His word spreads. That's what we celebrate today – the way that through your religious awards and your manner of life, you try to conform your life to Jesus' words.

"Jesus makes a difference in the world through you. You have that authority that helps you resist temptation. You're a sign against evil in the way you build up, not tear down. You build bridges rather than sow division. You are showing a different path in a world filled with unhealthy choices. This gives me great hope," Bishop Brennan said.

The event was sponsored by the diocesan Catholic Committee on Scouting, which presented its Red Sash of Merit to Luke Waldo of Marion St. Mary Church and its Bronze Pelican award to Jeffrey Leach of Dublin St. Brigid of Kildare Church.

The Red Sash is presented to young people who



Cub Scout Pack 117 of Dublin St. Brigid of Kildare Church was honored by the diocesan Catholic Committee on Scouting as the Bishop's Pack. *CT photos by Ken Snow*



Jeffrey Leach of Dublin St. Brigid of Kildare Church (left) received the Bronze Pelican award, and Luke Waldo (third from left) of Marion St. Mary Church was presented the Red Sash of Merit by the diocesan Catholic Committee on Scouting. The boys are pictured with Bishop Robert Brennan and Deacon Christopher Reis, diocesan Scout chaplain.



Girl Scouts and leaders from Wellston Sts. Peter & Paul Church, the committee's selection as the Bishop's Parish.

have earned other Catholic Scouting emblems and have demonstrated leadership, accepted responsibility and are active in their unit, community and parish. The Bronze Pelican honors adults who have performed exceptional service to Scouting through their contributions to the spiritual development of Catholic youth.

Scout Troop 50 of Marion St. Mary Church was honored as the Bishop's Troop for combining active participation in religious activities with service to the community and to Scouting. Also honored were Cub Scout Pack 117 of St. Brigid of Kildare Church as the Bishop's Pack and Wellston Sts. Peter & Paul Church as the Bishop's Parish for its Girl Scout programs. Scout Troop 310 of Columbus St. Matthias Church received the Pope St. Paul VI national unit of excellence award.

Scout Day patches were presented to participants in various Catholic Scouting activities. These included the Light of Christ and Parvuli Dei programs for Cub Scouts; the Family of God, I Live My Faith and Spirit Alive programs for Girl Scouts and Camp

Fire members and American Heritage Girls; and the Pope Pius XII program for young men and women. Several other emblem programs sanctioned by national Scouting organizations did not take place in 2020 because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The diocesan committee also sponsors the annual Catholic Scout Camporee, which is tentatively scheduled for Friday to Sunday, May 21 to 23, at Somerset St. Joseph Church. In addition, the committee conducts the locally based St. Tarcisius and International Awareness programs, which examine various aspects of the faith each year, and it offers uniform patches for completion of activities related to the rosary, Marian feasts, Catholic practices and traditions, women in Scripture, and men and women who are saints or have been declared "blessed" or "venerable" by the Catholic Church and have connections with the Americas.

More information on Catholic Scouting programs is available at the committee's website, www.columbuscatholic.org/catholic-scouting.

Music, not medicine became cathedral organist's passion

By Tim Puet

Catholic Times Reporter

Amanda Mole grew up in a medical family and thought she was going to become a surgeon. Instead, she pursued another career where hands are essential tools – playing the organ.

Mole arrived in Columbus on Wednesday, Jan. 13 and took the position of assistant music director and principal organist at St. Joseph Cathedral 12 days later. She had been music director at St. Michael Catholic Church in Rochester, New York since 2013 and had lived in Rochester since 2011.

She succeeds Nicole Simental, who had been the cathedral's organist since 2017. She is now in formation with the Order of the Most Holy Savior, familiarly known as the Bridgettine Sisters, who have a convent near Columbus Holy Family Church.

"Most organists start playing when they are 12 or 13 years old, and they are tall enough to reach the pedals," Mole said. "I played the piano when I was young but didn't start playing the organ until I was almost 17 and a senior in high school, so I had a lot of catching up to do once I started playing."

Mole, 34, grew up near Worcester, Massachusetts as the only child of biochemists and professors. She was planning to take a pre-medicine program in college when she decided she'd like to play the organ as a creative outlet.

"I grew up in churches where there was good organ music, good hymns and good choirs," she said. "I decided to take organ lessons because the organ seemed to be an instrument nobody played. I started the lessons and thought, 'Wow! This is really cool.' I took to the organ like a fish to water. I'd wanted to play, but didn't know how exciting it would be until I actually did it."

She started college at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst with the intention of pursuing a double major in pre-med and music. But as she continued her organ studies, music won out over medicine, and she realized she needed to attend a school specializing in music to fully pursue her passion.

"Fortunately, my parents were very supportive and receptive," she said. After two years at UMass, she transferred to one of the world's premier musical education institutions, the Eastman School of Music in Roches-



Amanda Mole

ter. She received a bachelor's degree in music from Eastman in 2009 and a master's degree in music from Yale University in 2011, and then returned to Rochester to work on her doctorate, which she hopes to receive this year, with a minor in choral conducting.

In that city, she played at St. Michael Church on Sundays and Holy Cross Church on Saturdays, as well as playing at a Lutheran church on Sundays and singing at additional churches.

"I enjoy not just practicing but working with choirs and other musicians," she said. "I especially love the choral repertoire. My strength is some of the German Romantic composers – (Franz) Liszt, (Max) Reger, (Felix) Mendelssohn and (Julius) Reubke, a name many people aren't familiar with because he died of tuberculosis at 23. And, of course, any organist has to have a strong foundation in (the works of Johann Sebastian) Bach."

Mole said long days of practice were needed before she could reach the familiarity other organists had with the instrument's repertoire because they started younger. "I'd practice eight to 10 hours a day in college, at least three hours in grad school and eight to 10 again when getting ready for a competition," she said, "but it usually never seemed that long because of the joy it brought me."

Mole has participated in several international competitions, winning first prizes in 2014 at events in Syracuse, New York and Ridgewood, New Jersey; in 2016 in Miami; and in 2017 in Tokyo. Her success has allowed her to tour as a concert organist throughout the United States, Europe and Japan. She presented a recital at St. Joseph Cathedral last September, not imagining she would be coming back to

Columbus four months later in a permanent position.

The cathedral organ, built by Paul Fritts & Co. of Tacoma, Washington, was dedicated in late 2006, took more than two years to complete, consists of about 5,000 pipes and ranks as one of the largest mechanical-action organs in the United States.

"It's one of the best-known organs in the United States," Mole said. "As a recitalist, I looked forward to playing it more than just about any other organ because it is so good."

Mole said she "jumped at the chance" when Richard Fitzgerald, the cathedral's music director, invited her to apply for the organist's position that Simental was leaving. "I wasn't going to leave Rochester just for a change of scenery," she said. "I was waiting patiently, perched for the right position. Columbus struck me as a great place."

"It's a pleasure to work with the choir here, and Richard is extremely talented. All the elements here – organ, choir, music director, clergy – are very supportive of each other. All the pieces of the puzzle fit together here in a way you rarely find."

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues, music at the cathedral's 10:30

a.m. Sunday Mass and other major programs that usually feature the full cathedral choir is being limited to smaller, socially distanced groups. The entire choir, like other large ensembles throughout the nation, has been unable to sing together for nearly a year because of the pandemic, and it's not known when regular performances might resume.

"I was not prepared for both the emotional and financial pain of not being able to work," Mole said. "I didn't feel I was serving the purpose I was meant for. There also was physical pain involved. My body really struggled when certain muscles I was using all the time while playing weren't being used. Things got better when churches started being opened on a limited basis, and I got to play a little more."

"I never dreamed that I'd find a job I really wanted in the midst of a pandemic," Mole said. "Now at least I'm getting to work more, while many of my colleagues haven't been that fortunate. It will be a great day when the complete choir will be able to perform again and the cathedral congregation will be able to hear the full glory of organ music once more."

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Bishop Robert J. Brennan

Church recognizes importance of marriage, family life

When I came to Columbus to serve as your Bishop nearly two years ago, I was happy to learn was that St. Francis de Sales is the patron saint of our Diocese. His book, *Introduction to the Devout Life*, first published over 400 years ago is a classic that is still being published and read today by men and women of all ages and all walks of life who desire to draw themselves closer to God and to grow in holiness and grace. If you have not yet had the opportunity to read this book, I would encourage you to do so.

At the conclusion of *Introduction to the Devout Life*, St. Francis de Sales writes:

Look upon Jesus Christ, and do not renounce Him for all the world. And when the labors of a devout life seem hard to you sing with St. Francis of Assisi: "Such are the joys that lure my sight, all pains grow sweet, all labors light."

On our journey through this life that God our Father has given us, His Son, Jesus Christ, invites us to follow Him as He shepherds and guides us through all aspects of life – the joyful, the sorrowful, and everything in-between. And throughout our life's journey, Jesus is always there reaching out to us, calling each of us by name. What joy we experience, what comfort we find, and what hope we discover by encountering Christ and embracing His teachings in the Gospel!

With this in mind, I invite you to join with me and your fellow brothers and sisters in Christ in celebrating National Marriage Week (February 7-14). The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) marks it as "a great prompt for everyone to reflect on the gift marriage is to our Church and our country, as well as an opportunity for couples to build up their own marriages." Indeed married couples, living faithfully the vows of their marriage in the context of real life challenges and struggles, transform the world. Their free, total, faithful, and fruitful love, expressed in their vows and lived out every day, is a sign of God's love within the Trinity and His love for us all. Marriage is a gift that demonstrates sacrifice, fosters hope, manifests mercy, and creates new life. With gratitude for this profound witness to the *Joy of the Gospel* as described by Pope Francis and the *Splendor of Truth* as proclaimed by Pope St. John Paul II,



Bishop Brennan CT photo by Ken Snow

the Church seeks to honor, encourage, and support couples in married life. The USCCB provides many great resources for all men and women on their website (www.foryourmarriage.org) in observance of this week, as does our own Marriage and Family Life Office (www.columbuscatholic.org/marriage-enrichment).

It is important for all of us to remember – especially during this week – that life is never as simple and clean as we would like it to be as we walk this journey together. Marriage can be difficult and many marriages are under stress or in need of healing. This is not something to be ashamed of, but rather an opportunity to seek assistance and support. There is always hope! We also recognize individuals who have experienced the trauma of civil divorce and we desire to provide pastoral guidance, accompaniment, opportunities for healing, and above all, encounters with our Lord Jesus Christ. Additionally, we can never underestimate or undermine the heroic sacrifices that single-parents make each and every day because of various circumstances they have experienced in their lifetime. For all of these situations – and many others – our Marriage and Family Life Office offers resources and support and our Tribunal stands ready along with our parishes who may seek an annulment and regularize marriages.

During the past several years we have witnessed many groups that devoted their efforts to legally redefine marriage. By and large during this legal process, regrettably, the outcome of their efforts has distorted or mischaracterized the Church's teach-

ing on the sanctity of marriage as lacking respect, with some describing our faith and our teaching as a form of "hatred." Nothing could be farther from the truth.

The church's teaching on marriage as a faithful, committed, life-long, life-giving union between one man and one woman is rooted both in natural law and divine revelation. The consistent teaching of the Church on every moral teaching from the protection of all human life from conception to natural death, to the dignity and respect of every person, and the outright rejection of racism and anti-Semitism, to the commitment to care for the poor and the vulnerable, to the teachings on sexuality and marriage all rest consistently on the pillar of faith that from the very beginning God made the human person in His own image and likeness. (Genesis 1:27)

As a Church, and as Catholic institutions, we faithfully and authentically teach that which Christ has revealed to us in the Gospel. Joyfully, boldly, faithfully, and lovingly, we proclaim the fullness of His teachings. His overarching teachings are twofold – love God above all things, and love your neighbor as yourself. Love is at the core of Christ's teachings, which entails a profound respect and love for every person. However, love does not mean shying away from the truth, for it is love, and with respect, that we speak and convey the timeless truths of scripture.

Numerous questions around human sexuality are felt and experienced in our towns and cities and in many of our own parishes and homes. We read and hear that many in our contemporary and progressive society disagree with the teachings of the Church regarding marriage and gender identity. But on this subject two points need to be made. First, it is wrong to dismiss Church teaching as being disrespectful or even hateful. In proclaiming and living the Gospel of Christ there is no hatred, but only the constant call to follow Him and to live our lives according to His way, not the way of the world. And therein lies the rub because, secondly, when we identify ourselves and society as "progressive" we have to ask ourselves what are we progressing toward and what are we progressing away from? When we turn to our civil and legal system to change the definition of marriage,

there may be a cheer by some for having achieved a civil recognition and legal outcome, but nothing changed from the perspective of moral teaching nor natural law. Thus, we must ask, whom do we follow and why?

Jesus Christ invites us to follow Him. But competing voices in our world invite us to do the same and follow them. "No one can serve two masters... You cannot serve both God and mammon" (Matthew 6:24).

Hear me out, because a major part of this discussion must include the fact that we are called to love one another as Christ loves us. We cannot, as faithful followers of Christ, stop walking alongside those who experience same-sex attraction. In doing so we are not condoning any lifestyle that does not embrace a chaste expression of love. Rather, it is a reminder that we are on this life's journey together. Thus I want to state, unequivocally, that the Church wishes to walk with and demonstrate respect for every person in this position with support as well.

Remember, too, that the labels of "liberal" or "conservative" get tossed around and applied rather loosely at times to advance one's arguments against the Church. How can the Catholic Church be categorized as liberal or conservative when we adhere to and proclaim the teachings of Jesus Christ? Jesus Christ is truth personified; His teachings are neither liberal nor conservative and, thus, are timeless and stand firmly on their own.

Friends, living a life in faithful witness to Jesus Christ and His Catholic Church can seem challenging at times when we are presented with any number of contemporary issues concerning faith and morality, but this sense of being "challenged" occurs only if we allow the complexity of contemporary issues and arguments to cloud the clear and consistent teachings of Jesus Christ in the Gospel and those of His Catholic Church.

My prayer for you and your families is this: during National Marriage Week we may together take time to explore the depths of the sanctity of marriage and the authentic joy of family life so that we may live it to the fullest and, in doing so, continue to walk our faith journey together in the footsteps of Christ who leads us on the path of eternal salvation. May God bless you and your families!

One good marriage can bless many others

By **Stephanie Rapp**

Director, Diocesan Marriage and Family Life Office

It was happening again. My husband's parents, Pam and Chris Rapp, and their marriage were inspiring me.

This time it was through a group text message with his side of the family. In this instance, Mom was gushing about Dad and his accomplishments at work. He was responding with how he could not have done it without her and how amazing she is. They went back and forth for a while as the rest of us – their children and children's spouses – witnessed a couple in love.

This was not the first time I glimpsed the strength of their marriage. I can vividly remember a time when my brother-in-law was in the hospital recovering from surgery. During one of the few moments when Mom had left the hospital room, Dad began to sing her praises. Even in the midst of stress and suffering, sitting next to their sleeping son (who is healthy and well now), Dad rejoiced in his wife, her warmth, her care for their child and the life that they were living together. And I just sat there, blessed beyond words.

Of course, the most obvious way their marriage has been a gift in my life is that it gave me my husband, Craig. I have repeatedly thanked God for his parents' love for each other and their openness to life, which in turn led to our marriage and our own three beautiful children.

God helps couples continue to love in difficult times

By **Catherine Suprenant**

Diocesan Marriage Formation Coordinator

I recently attended the wedding of my dear friend. Watching Jenna and her husband, Evan, speak their vows to each other was a joyful moment but also a solemn one, as the reality between them changed and a marriage bond was formed.

Jenna and Evan had chosen each other in small ways throughout their relationship, through a freshly mowed lawn, a fixed car, timely encouragement, a home-cooked dinner, prayer together ... all the small choices to be for the other. A joyful tenderness was always evident between them; service to others seemed to be a natural overflow of the goodness of their relationship.

All such love is special, even extraordinary. Now, those choices will still be made, but in an entirely new context. A marriage bond, a covenant bond, has made a new family, the Joneses. Mr. and Mrs. Jones can love each other not only on occasion, but also in the difficult and beautiful vulnerability of a complete gift. Their path to heaven now lies specifically through their choice to love each other and never stop.

As the vows were said (I think one voice choked up), we all felt the sacredness of the moment, a sign of the invisible grace God was bestowing on the couple. While they were choosing each other, God was choosing them. He chose to live in their love every day for the rest of their lives.

Their relationship also provided Craig a childhood home that was filled with love and helped him grow into the man he is today. He has shared that when he was a teenager, he noticed that his friends seemed drawn to his home, and he credits his parents for this. Who wouldn't want to be around such love?

My in-laws would be the first to tell you that their marriage is not perfect. Yet marriages do not need to be perfect to be powerful. Married couples do not need to have it all figured out before letting their union be a gift in this world. Simply by living out the vocation to marriage, being faithful to their vows, seeking holiness and help when necessary, being open to children, etc., the love that married couples share overflows to those around them.

This can – and will – happen naturally, yet couples can also be intentional by starting or becoming involved in a marriage ministry, mentoring an engaged couple or serving and volunteering together. The ways that God can use a marriage to bless others is limitless, if only a couple says “yes” to the invitation. This does require a certain level of vulnerability but is well worth it.

“Witness to Love” founders Mary-Rose and Ryan Verret have articulated the enduring power of one good marriage this way: “It touches countless lives, transforms parishes and communities and is a shining beacon in a hurting world.”

I could not agree more. My in-laws' marriage has been a witness for me, and I hope and pray that my own marriage, and all others, can be a gift as well. Because marriage is a gift worth sharing.



Pam and Chris Rapp

Photo courtesy Marriage and Family Life Office

disconnected and alone. You might discover new annoying qualities of your spouse. There might be the occasion when you find out that you are more broken and hard to live with than you thought possible. And these experiences might spark the fear, “Will our relationship ever recover the joy it once had?”

Counterintuitive as it might seem, these moments are some of the most important in your life, as they are opportunities for you to learn to love and fully experience the grace of your wedding day. These are the moments that God chooses to bless day in and day out – the grace to hand over the reins of your life to Him, and love with His help.

He gives you the grace to open your heart again and again, even through difficult, dry and painful seasons. He moves you to humbly apologize, to give when you feel like your spouse is neglecting to give, to bring your spouse joy even when you feel indisposed. You are given the grace to repeat your wedding day over and over again, to lovingly say “I do” in every life circumstance.

I am excited for Jenna and Evan to walk this path of grace together and grow in holiness each step of the way. I also hope every married couple is reminded in this National Marriage Week of their own wedding day and God's promise to be faithful to them with His love and grace. Married couples, He is with you, always.

A truer test than wallpaper

By Jennifer Fullin

Diocesan Natural Family Planning Coordinator

My mother told me that the true test of a couple's marital relationship is hanging wallpaper together. Her comment was likely based upon my parents' experience of stripping, sanding and repapering the walls of the big, century-old house I grew up in.

My husband and I accepted the wallpaper challenge a few years into our marriage when we decided to paper the tiny half bath on the lower level of our home. We read the directions that came with the wallpaper and got to work.

We discovered that it was no easy task for my husband and me to measure, cut and carefully align the seams and pattern of each strip of paper on the wall before the adhesive dried. The tension in the tight quarters led to sharp words, but at the end of the day the wallpaper was up, and our marriage was still intact.

A deeper challenge to our marital equilibrium arose when my husband and I began practicing Natural Family Planning (NFP).

Like hanging wallpaper, NFP isn't difficult to learn. In just one session, a good NFP teacher can provide a basic explanation of a woman's cycle and a method for recording the observable signs of her fertility.

However, practicing NFP requires couples to apply this knowledge to their personal circumstances. It means daily determining their phase of fertility/infertility and then aligning their expressions of marital love to their current intention, whether hoping to conceive a child or postpone pregnancy.

Because the stakes involved in NFP are considerably higher than in hanging wallpaper, it seems



Like hanging wallpaper, Natural Family Planning isn't difficult to learn.

Photo courtesy Marriage and Family Life Office

inevitable that marital tensions will be, too. My husband and I had our share of emotional outbursts,

misunderstandings and hurt feelings as we adjusted to the NFP way of life and love.

Open and honest communication is key to practicing NFP well in marriage, but it might take some getting used to. Initial conversations about female body parts and cyclical discharges are likely to be awkward – especially for men, who up to now might have viewed such topics as a “women's thing.”

Wives might feel vulnerable discussing their bodies with their husbands, fearing a response of disgust or a lack of interest. However, the truth is that most men who learn NFP with their wives express being awed by the beautiful intricacy and creative power of their spouse's body.

Another difficult discussion for many couples using NFP is the timing and frequency of lovemaking. Couples who are seeking to postpone pregnancy need to avoid sexual intimacy during the phase of the woman's cycle known as the fertile window (six-10 days). Men might fear a loss of intimacy with their wives or a lack of control over when they can initiate lovemaking, while women might worry about acting as “gatekeepers” or rebuffing their husbands.

These fears are natural, but not insurmountable, especially when shared with your spouse.

Wallpaper's popularity is rising among the younger generation whose mothers never warned them about the marital risk involved; technical advances have supposedly made wallcoverings easier to apply. Similarly, NFP has become more appealing with the advent of fertility apps, hormone monitors and wearable fertility trackers. However, no technology can replace the open, honest and vulnerable conversation necessary for a couple to practice NFP. And that's a challenge worth accepting!

Ministry aids divorced Catholics

By Keith F. Luscher

Reneé, of Pataskala, was looking forward to, and planning for, her 20th wedding anniversary when her life was shattered unexpectedly. Suddenly, planning for an anniversary celebration became planning for an eventual divorce.

“At first, though,” she recalled, “I had heard from people that I could no longer be Catholic if I was divorced! I was at my rock bottom, when I heard on AM 820 (radio) about this program, Surviving Divorce, being offered at St. Catharine of Siena, my old parish where I grew up. I went back and participated, and it saved my life. It was just wonderful. It gave me a whole new outlook on life, a whole new perspective of my Catholic faith. ... It kept me going.”

Reneé admitted she was hesitant: “Yes, I was nervous about doing Surviving Divorce at first. I didn't want people to know what I was going through – I was a very private person. But letting this ministry into my life was the best thing I ever did. I was able to open up, I was able to share. I was able to get comfort and give comfort. I learned so much about

myself, about my faith and how to move on, and how to be who I am, and not let my divorce define me.

“I came to realize that I wasn't this outcast,” she said. “The people in the church still loved me and wanted me there. I felt welcomed. And, when I would get that anxiety coming up, an anxiety I had never felt before this divorce, ‘Jesus, I trust in You’ became my go-to saying.”

Mark, of Newark, also found himself alone after a marriage of nearly 40 years ended in divorce. “Being Catholic,” he said, “I had received the sacraments. And they strengthen you. ... It's God's dynamic power working in our lives. And, for those of us who've been shattered by divorce, it's the glue that holds us together, that keeps us stronger than we ever were before.”

Mark, who also participated in Surviving Divorce, knows one might not heal on his or her own. “They say, ‘Time heals all wounds,’ but I don't believe that, because you can be in agony forever. You need that spiritual growth that only God gives, that is lasting. Reconciliation, the Eucharist ... it's the sacraments through which we receive grace. I think a lot of people think it's kind of like pixie dust that

God trickles down from heaven. But that's what the sacramental system is set up for ... as a means for us to receive grace.”

Reneé and Mark tell their stories firsthand at DivorcedCatholicColumbus.org. Their stories, though unique, are not unusual. Reneé's fear of acceptance after divorce is common.

For this reason, Catholics going through divorce are often in danger of becoming “lost sheep” because of the challenges they face. They want and need love, support, mercy and truth. But if they do not experience this from their Catholic brothers and sisters, they will go elsewhere, most likely to a community that does not embrace and share God's truth.

Non Solum, Latin for “not alone,” is a local Catholic apostolate that aims to help separated and divorced Catholics find this supportive community. Through its website and the MeetUp.com group, Non Solum promotes a 12-week support program called Surviving Divorce: Hope and Healing for the Catholic Family, offered by several parishes in the diocese. Although 2020 did present challenges be-

Family life is a liturgy? What does that even mean?

This column is the second in a series of eight articles on the “Liturgy of the Domestic Church” that will take you through aspects of making your home a domestic church and living Catholic family life. For questions or to learn more, contact the Diocesan Marriage & Family Life Office at 614-241-2560 or familylife@columbuscatholic.org.

By Greg Popcak

The “Liturgy of Domestic Church Life” is a model of family spirituality that allows families to experience God, not only when they pray together, but in their relationships, their rituals and the ways they reach out to others. Before I share how to actually celebrate the Liturgy of Domestic Church Life, I want to share what it means to think of family life as a liturgy.

The word “liturgy” describes the spiritual “work” God does to heal the damage sin does to our relationships. The Liturgy of the Eucharist conquers sin’s power to separate us from God and gives us the grace we need to create communion with others.

The “Liturgy of Domestic Church Life” enables us to “bring Jesus home” and heal the damage sin does to our families. Here are five ways the Christian family is a liturgy.

1. Instituted by God

In “The Spirit of the Liturgy,” Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger wrote that “liturgy includes some kind of ‘institution.’ It cannot spring from our own creativity.” The Eucharist and the ministerial priesthood were instituted by Christ on Holy Thursday. The apostles didn’t

make it up. Jesus gave these gifts to them and then commissioned them to “do this in memory of me.”

Likewise, as current debates about the family illustrate, the Christian vision of family as one man, one woman and the children they raise together isn’t obvious from a purely human perspective. The Christian vision of “family” wasn’t invented by mankind. It was instituted by God (cf. *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, No. 2202).

In the Garden, the Father gave Adam and Eve the first Great Commission to “go forth and multiply.” By being born and raised in a family with a mother and father, Jesus conveyed a special dignity to this family arrangement. Finally, by choosing the wedding at Cana to initiate his public ministry, Christ raised marriage and family life to the dignity of a sacrament. The Christian understanding of family is not invented; it is revealed and instituted.

2. A priest presides

You can’t have a liturgy without a priest -- or a priest without a liturgy. One can’t exist without the other. That’s why we celebrate Holy Thursday as being the institution of both the Eucharist and the ministerial priesthood. The priest consecrates bread and wine into the Body and Blood of Christ.

In a different sense, we are all priests! Through baptism, every Christian is invested in the “common priesthood of the laity.” But again, you can’t be a priest without a liturgy! The “Liturgy of Domestic Church Life” is what enables us “common priests” to consecrate the world to Christ by liv-

ing out Christ’s sacrificial love in everything we do at home all day.

3. Conveys God’s love and blessing

Liturgy conveys God’s love and blessing. The Eucharist does this by facilitating the most intimate encounter with God possible this side of heaven.

The “Liturgy of Domestic Church Life” also conveys God’s love and blessing. The Catechism (No. 2205) asserts that the love experienced in the Christian family is meant to model the love that flows from the heart of God himself. That’s why the last three popes have referred to the Christian family as an “icon of the Trinity,” because it’s uniquely equipped to convey and model God’s self-giving love to the world.

4. Facilitates transformation and healing

Liturgy helps us to heal and to grow into godly people. The Liturgy of the Eucharist draws us into communion with the Lamb of God who takes away our sins. It makes eternal life with God possible. The “Liturgy of Domestic Church Life” also facilitates healing. A healthy Christian family serves as what St. Thomas Aquinas

called a “spiritual womb.” It is the primary way God raises up whole and holy disciples of Christ.

5. Draws us up into the life of God

Liturgy enables us to participate in the life of God. The Liturgy of the Eucharist gives us God’s flesh and blood and actually makes us his “flesh and blood” — so to speak.

By calling the family an “icon of the Trinity,” the Church asserts that the Christian family helps us experience the inner life of God. An icon isn’t just a picture. It’s a portal that invites us to participate in a spiritual mystery. The “Liturgy of Domestic Church Life” enables Christian families to participate in the love that exists between the Father, Son and Holy Spirit — the love each of us was created to long for and emulate.

The Christian family isn’t just a collection of individuals living under the same roof. It is a liturgy that enables the common priesthood to consecrate the world to Christ.

Dr. Greg Popcak is the author of many books and the Executive Director of the Peyton Institute for Domestic Church Life (PeytonFamilyInstitute.org)

MINISTRY, continued from Page 18

cause of COVID-19 restrictions, program organizers are looking forward to a busier 2021.

Between programs, I often receive calls or emails asking when the next support session will begin. Often these inquirers aren’t interested in the support group per se but just seek someone who will listen.

My hope is that more parishes will offer Surviving Divorce. We are also building a network of caring individuals who want to listen to a fellow Catholic going through divorce. Which begs the questions:

- Do you know a fellow Catholic who is quietly suffering through divorce?
- Have you experienced divorce and

want to help others who are walking a similar path?

To learn how you can help others, visit our website or contact us directly. Our information is below. Non Solum welcomes your call.

Keith F. Luscher has returned to the Catholic Church following a 20-year absence. He is happily remarried and living in Newark. He divides his time between Columbus St. Catharine of Siena Church and Newark St. Francis de Sales Church. He is a co-founder of Non Solum Columbus and can be reached at keith@nonsolum.org or at (614) 205-0830. Learn more about the apostolate at DivorcedCatholic-Columbus.org.

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THE CATHOLIC FOUNDATION

Sixth Sunday of Ordinary Time, Year B

Exclusion is the new leprosy

Leviticus 13:1-2, 44-46
Psalm 32:1-2, 5, 11
1 Corinthians 10:31-11:1
Mark 1:40-45

How are we to understand the Scriptures offered for our reflection this weekend? They seem to be about a disease that has been overcome in most parts of the world, leprosy. I would suggest that leprosy is a symbol of something still among us: the penchant for finding reasons to be divided.

When we look at peoples and nations throughout the world, we discover that all human cultures have this. It can be evident to us when we are not part of a culture. However, we can be blind to our own divisiveness.

What sets us apart from others? What isolates us? Every human society and culture have taboos and attitudes that create division. Our current experience of the "COVID culture" has many forms of separation in physical terms and in thought. People think differently about what is going on, and that disagreement can create division more profound than physical distancing.

You stay there because I don't want to get what you have! Don't breathe on me. Don't touch me. Stay away from me. I am "unfriending you" because of your way of thinking.

Who has said that to you and why? Do you have such thoughts about others even without saying so? Often it has taken over and become an attitude, a way of thinking that subtly does its work, isolating us and keeping us apart inwardly, where union really begins.

Ash Wednesday, Year B

Joel 2:12-18
Ps. 51:3-4, 5-6ab, 12-13,
14 and 17
2 Corinthians 5:20-6:2
Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18

"Brothers and sisters: We are ambassadors for Christ, as if God were appealing through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who did not know sin, so that we might become the righteousness of God in him.

. . . Working together, then, we ap-

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Father Timothy Hayes

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



The people of God have an answer that comes from God: Moses tells how a leper may first be discerned and then show concern by not spreading his illness. The priests attend to the symptoms of the disease. This might sound strange to us, but the beginnings of the modern understanding of germs and scientific study of human illness are found in this practice. Observation of symptoms and their effects and what leads to a cure are at work to the present day in our development of the COVID vaccines.

Involvement in the life of the community is the heart of our desire as human beings in the world. We want to belong and to feel we can contribute. The worst thing is to be left out, excluded from interaction with others.

Jesus moves us beyond division. Becoming ritually unclean Himself, He touches the leper and communicates God's mercy and healing. He provides the way to reenter into communion, even taking our place in the experience of isolation. Paul reminds us of our power to follow the example of Christ by watching how His disciples make choices that are different than the surrounding society's.

The Gospel has as its goal the inclusion of every human being, not only

See EXCLUSION, Page 21

THE WEEKDAY BIBLE READINGS

2/15-2/20

MONDAY

Genesis 4:1-15, 25
Psalm 50:1, 8,
16bc-17, 20-21
Mark 8:11-13

TUESDAY

Genesis 6:5-8; 7:1-5, 10
Psalm 29:1a, 2,
3ac-4, 3b, 9c-10,
Mark 8:14-21

WEDNESDAY

Joel 2:12-18
Psalm 51:3-6b, 12-14, 17
2 Corinthians 5:20--6:2
Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18

THURSDAY

Deuteronomy 30:15-20
Psalm 1:1-4, 6

Luke 9:22-25

FRIDAY

Isaiah 58:1-9a
Psalm 51:3-6b, 18-19
Matthew 9:14-15

SATURDAY

Isaiah 58:9b-14
Psalm 86:1-6
Luke 5:27-32

2/22-2/27

MONDAY

1 Peter 5:1-4
Psalm 23:1-6
Matthew 16:13-19

TUESDAY

Isaiah 55:10-11
Psalm 34:4-7, 16-19
Matthew 6:7-15

WEDNESDAY

Jonah 3:1-10
Psalm 51:3-4,
12-13, 18-19
Luke 11:29-32

THURSDAY

Esther C: 12, 14-16, 23-25
Psalm 138:1-3, 7c-8
Matthew 7:7-12

FRIDAY

Ezekiel 18:21-28
Psalm 130:1-8
Matthew 5:20-26

SATURDAY

Deuteronomy 26:16-19
Psalm 119:1-2, 4-5, 7-8
Matthew 5:43-48

DIOCESAN WEEKLY RADIO AND TELEVISION

MASS SCHEDULE: WEEKS OF FEB. 14 & 21, 2021

SUNDAY MASS

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

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

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

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

and midnight).

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

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

DAILY MASS

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

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

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

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

During Lent, plan to become your best self

peal to you not to receive the grace of God in vain."

What do you think you are capable of doing? What does God think you are capable of doing? Who is right?

The right answer is: Both are right. If you limit yourself to your own idea of yourself, then that is all you will get – or even less. But if you open your heart to God's knowledge of who He created you to be, then you get your true self, far more than you could ever ask for or imagine.

Lent is about reaching for our best

selves. We are called to be holy.

You are invited to cooperate with the creator of the universe, who has made a covenant with you, to become a saint. God's plan for you is higher and better than your plan or anyone else's plan for you.

How do we learn to cooperate? We practice our faith. In Lent, we have three aids: prayer, fasting and almsgiving. These move us beyond our usual mode of behavior.

What will you do for Lent?

First, decide as a family how you

will spend your Lent: prayer, fasting and almsgiving (practical works of charity) are the three traditional means. Choose at least one action under the heading of each of these. How will you pray together as a family? What will you give up? How will you put mercy into practice?

Second, consider the options made available by your parish and school and invite someone outside your family to be a part of something. Attend

See LENT, Page 21

First Sunday of Lent, Year B

Temptation offers a choice: **ourselves or God**

Genesis 9:8-15
Psalm 25:4-5, 6-7, 8-9
1 Peter 3:18-22
Mark 1:12-15

Does God know what is happening among us? With all the violence and sad news, and with the ever-present reality of the pandemic, sometimes we wonder about that.

The Gospel of Mark for the First Sunday of Lent is very short, but it makes clear that Jesus knows us and understands exactly what is going on among us. Mark's Gospel does not go into the details of the temptation of Jesus (as Matthew and Luke do). But he makes clear that this world includes a test even for Jesus.

The Spirit drives Jesus into the desert. The encounter is with Satan – the enemy of our human nature – and a testing of everything about Him, body, mind and spirit. He is with beasts; He is ministered to by angels. Temptation always has two possible directions: toward self or toward God. For Jesus, the reality of the temptation was something He embraced as a human being.

Coming out of the wilderness, Jesus makes a clear proclamation: "This is the time of fulfillment. The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the Gospel."

The central temptation of our time is to set our sights only on this world, to think materially about everything. If we do this, we are lost, not because God does not want to allow us to go to heaven, but because we shut heaven out of ourselves.

The limits of our human nature are set. To be human is to be limited. But the Spirit drives us beyond what this world can offer if we are willing to go where He leads – into the wilderness for as long as it takes.

Noah's experience of God reminds us that salvation is held in promise for us all and for all creation. We are in a covenant with the Living God. He knows us – our earthly and our heavenly natures. He invites us to deepen

our own relationship by a renewed commitment.

Peter tells us of what happens beyond the death of Jesus – the opening of eternal life to us and to those who have gone before us through baptism. We are facing a temptation in our time to set this all aside, to choose our own will and to try to create a world of our own design.

What tempts you? This temptation, personal to you, is a test, an experience of limit and the limits of self-reliance. At the same time, it is an invitation to grow, to stretch. The times of temptation in our lives are times of decision. In the face of temptation, we experience our capacity to make a choice. We are forged by the directions we choose in times of temptation.

The only way to be rid of temptation is to acknowledge it for what it is: an invitation. There are only two possibilities: sin or grace.

If we give in to temptation by way of sin, it goes away and becomes sin. It then gradually, or not so gradually, enslaves us. We are no longer tempted. We are caught up in sin. Just recall anytime you told yourself it was OK because everyone else was doing it. Or, why not? You tried it before, and no lightning bolts struck.

If we respond to temptation by way of grace, we admit our own weakness and ask for help from the Spirit. Then, often, temptation actually increases. To be empty for grace, we are stretched – new wine in new wineskins.

God has chosen us to be bearers of the Word, to proclaim of the truth in our very being. We are tempted, but we are also led by the Spirit. God's covenant is with all humanity, and as the Church, we are the ark of salvation. Noah's ark saved the whole of humanity and creation for life in this world, with all its ambiguity. The Church is the ship of salvation for the whole of humanity and creation for eternity.

How are you responding to the invitation to face temptation? Are you weak enough to open to grace?

EXCLUSION, continued from Page 20

in whatever goes on in this world, but also in what happens in the next. As the answer to the old catechism's question "Why did God make you?" tells us: We are created to know, love and serve God in this life and to be happy with Him forever in the next.

As Christians, we are to live in a relationship with God that lets everyone know that God is first for us, and we are to do all we can to bring healing to the world through the inclusion of all who feel left out.

Whatever we do, we can, as St.

Paul says, "Do everything for the glory of God." Those who know the Jesuits will recognize A.M.D.G.: Ad maiorem Dei gloriam – for the greater glory of God. We are called to do everything for the glory of God. All that we are – body, mind and spirit, heart and soul, all our possessions and all our plans – are meant to be directed toward God. For the glory of God, we are to become one with our brothers and sisters, healing the disease of isolation.

LENT, continued from Page 20

Stations of the Cross and other Lenten programs, in person (with proper social distance) or virtually. Does your parish use "Formed" or some other online program?

Third, prepare well for your Lenten confession. Do an examination of conscience individually and with others, reflecting on the need for conversion. How is the Lord inviting you to invest more of yourself in the mission entrusted to you?

Fourth, respond to the spiritual inventory made available through your parish by the Diocese of Columbus. Express your involvement in the spir-

itual journey and the longings of your heart. This will guide the diocese during the next several years to formulate a response to the spiritual needs of our community.

Finally, as you journey through Lent, consider how you want to live your faith more intentionally the rest of the year. How will you celebrate Easter and the gift of the Resurrection? Are you interested in finding a retreat or some other practice that will help you grow in your faith? Plan now, and put something new on your calendar. What do you want to see happen in the Church that will help you grow spiritually?

S U B S C R I B E

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PRAY FOR OUR DEAD

ANDRES, Joseph E., 89, Jan. 21
Immaculate Conception Church, Columbus

ARLEDGE, Nancy (Witchie), 85, Feb. 2
St. Thomas Aquinas Church, Zanesville

BAILEY, Mary A. (Schisler), 92, Jan. 14
Holy Redeemer Church, Portsmouth

BECKER, Lucille A. (Poss), 92, Jan. 31
Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church,
Grove City

**BOERGER, Rose A. (Buttress), 94,
Jan. 24**
Our Lady of Victory Church, Columbus

**BOURGEOIS, Elizabeth T. "Betty,"
(Loeffler), 83, Jan. 25**
Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Marysville

BUTSKO, Dorothy A. (Wonn), 75, Jan. 29
St. John XXIII Church, Canal Winchester

**CANTWELL, Marjorie E. (Clouse), 81,
Jan. 21**
St. Mary Church, Bremen

CRAWFORD, Herman L., 85, Jan. 21
St. Matthias Church, Columbus

DEIBLE, Michael E., 70, Jan. 31
St. Mary Church, Lancaster

ESTELL, Vivian I. (Immel), 84, Feb. 1
Holy Family Church, Columbus

FREDERICK, Robert V., 85, Jan. 30
Resurrection Cemetery Chapel, Lewis
Center

**GILLESPIE, Margaret "Peg" (Snider),
87, Jan. 22**
St. Thomas Aquinas Church, Zanesville

GRAFFIS, Sandra (Piper), 83, Jan. 15
St. Bernadette Church, Lancaster

HOPE, Paul B., 96, Feb. 1
St. Bernard Church, Corning

LUPO, Ursula P. (Rauch), 83, Jan. 28
St. Edward Church, Granville

LUSIGNOLO, Thomas J., 55, Jan. 22
Our Mother of Sorrows Chapel, Columbus

LYNCH, Thomas F., 89, Jan. 7
Holy Redeemer Church, Columbus

McKEE, Ellen M. (Ruck), 73, Jan. 17
St. Paul Church, Westerville

MILLER, Hugh R., 89, Jan. 31
St. Leo the Great Oratory, Columbus

MOULD, Herbert J., 88, Feb. 2
St. Anthony Church, Columbus

MURPHY, Geraldine (Devine), 94, Jan. 6
St. Catharine Church, Columbus

NOVAK, Thomas J., 81, Jan. 23
Sacred Heart Church, Coshocton

PALLAY, Mary J. (Trapp), 94, Jan. 20
St. Catharine Church, Columbus

POLIS, Stephen L., 72, Dec. 18
Our Lady of Peace Church, Columbus

PRINTZ, Charles W., 87, Jan. 24
St. Rose Church, New Lexington

REESE, Jesse "Jack," 95, Jan. 30
St. Joseph Church, Dover

RITTER, George B., 86, Jan. 21
Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church,
Grove City

ROSS, Anthony J., 81, Dec. 17
St. Mary Church, Lancaster

**WALBECK, Anne (Stickelmann), 88,
Jan. 31**
St. Mary Church, Delaware

WELKER, Marilyn L., 86, Jan. 23
St. Brendan Church, Hilliard

Juliana T. Devine

Funeral Mass for Juliana T. Devine, 88, who died Friday, Jan. 22, was celebrated Wednesday, Jan. 27 at Columbus St. Catharine Church. Burial was at St. Joseph Cemetery, Columbus.

She was born on Jan. 19, 1933 in Minster to John and Constance (Durbin) Halsema.

She was a graduate of Columbus Rosary High School and received a Bachelor's degree in business from Ohio State University. She was an administrative assistant at St. Catharine School

and also was employed by the Lazarus department store and by her husband's business, Devine Foods.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Thomas; and sisters, Sister Corinne Halsema, OSF, Mary Bresnen and Margaret Troyan. Survivors include sons, Timothy, Michael (Marcia) and Paul (Robin); daughters, Marybeth (Doug) Hubbard and Patty (Randy) Beers, four grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

Sister Rita Busch, OP

Funeral Mass for Sister Rita Busch, OP, 96, who died Monday, Jan. 25, was celebrated privately at the sisters' Motherhouse, followed by burial at St. Joseph Cemetery, Columbus.

She was born in Pittsburgh to Frank and Othelia (Aschenbrenner) Busch and earned a Bachelor of Science degree in secondary education from the College of St. Mary of the Springs (now Ohio Dominican University) in 1959 and a Master's degree in business education from Hunter College in New York in 1957.

She entered the congregation of the Dominican Sisters of St. Mary of the Springs (now the Dominican Sisters of Peace) in 1956 and made her profession of vows on July 9, 1957.

In the Diocese of Columbus, she was a teacher at Columbus Christ the King (1957-1958) and Columbus Holy Spirit

(1958-1959) schools, treasurer at Ohio Dominican (1967-1977); secretary to Bishop Edward Hermann (1977-1980); an administrative assistant for the diocesan religious education department (1981-1991) and for Lancaster St. Mary Church (1991-1994); and development director for her congregation (1994-1995). She had a ministry in Reynoldsburg from 1996 to 2018 and lived in the Motherhouse for one year and the Mohun Health Care Center from 2019 until her death.

She also taught at schools in Pennsylvania, New York and the Diocese of Steubenville and was treasurer at Albertus Magnus College, New Haven, Connecticut.

She was preceded in death by her parents, and sisters, Mary Elizabeth Busch and Claire Schweibinz Meredith. She is survived by a niece and a nephew.

Sister Mary Owen Doody, OSF

Funeral Mass for Sister Mary Owen Doody, OSF, 92, who died Wednesday, Dec. 23, 2020, was celebrated Friday, Jan. 22 at St. Joseph Cathedral, Buffalo, New York. Burial was in the cemetery of the Sisters of St. Francis of Penance and Christian Charity at Stella Niagara, New York.

She was born on April 6, 1928 in Columbus to Owen and Margaret (Brown) Doody.

She received a Bachelor's degree in education in 1963 from Rosary Hill College (now Daemen College) in Amherst, New York.

She entered the congregation of the Stella Niagara Franciscans on Aug. 31, 1946 and professed her vows on Aug. 18, 1949.

In the Diocese of Columbus, she spent 26 years at Worthington St. Michael School as a teacher (1981-1988), in computer enrichment (1988-2000) and as a volunteer coordinator (2000-2007). She also taught at New Lexington St. Aloysius (1950-1952, 1960-1962), Columbus Holy Rosary (1966-1968) and Columbus St. Anthony (1968-1981) schools.

In addition, she was a teacher at schools in New York and New Jersey. She moved to Stella Niagara in 2011 and to the Stella Niagara Health Center in 2013.

She was preceded in death by brothers, Robert and Joseph, and a sister, Gloria. She is survived by nieces, nephews and cousins.

Sister Jane Feller, OSF

Funeral Mass for Sister Jane Feller, OSF, 77, who died Tuesday, Jan. 19, will be celebrated later at the Motherhouse of the Sisters of St. Francis of Penance and Christian Charity in Stella Niagara, New York. Burial was at the sisters' cemetery.

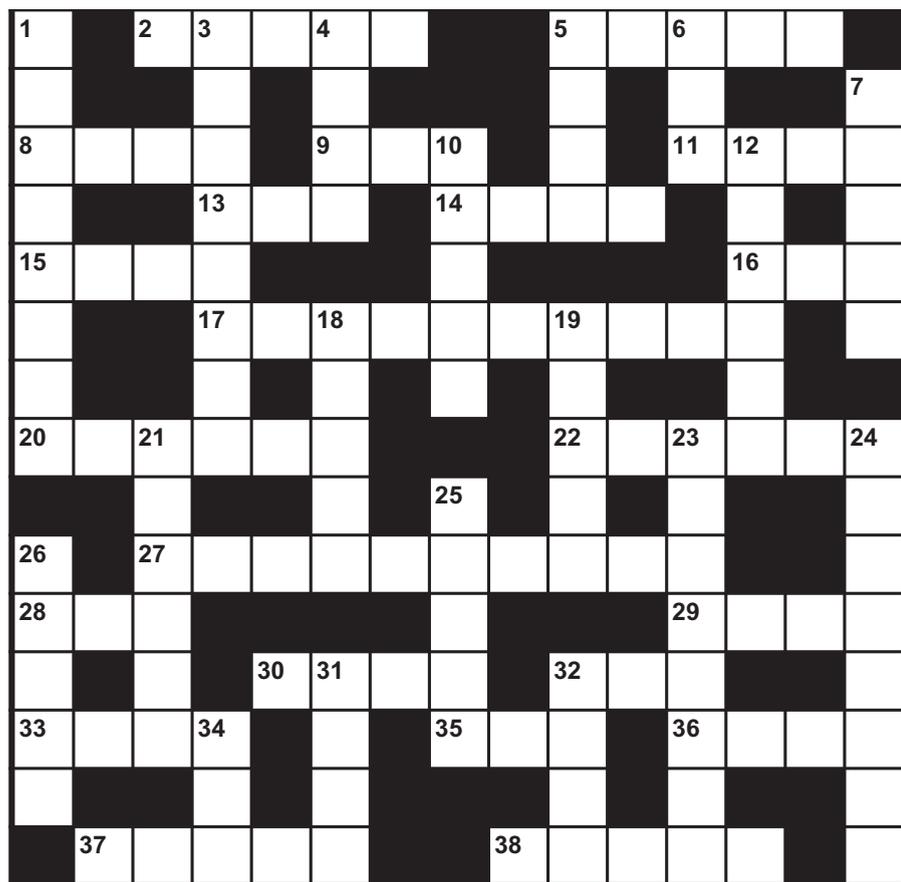
She was born in Buffalo, New York, on Sept. 9, 1943 to the late Frederick and Esther (Geblein) Feller.

She received a Bachelor of Science degree from Rosary Hill College (now Daemen College) in Amherst, New York in 1970 and a Master of Social Work degree from the State University of New York at Buffalo in 1980.

She entered the order of the Stella Niagara Franciscans on Sept. 6, 1964, and made her first profession of vows on July 2, 1967 and her final vows on Aug. 26, 1972, taking the name Sister Mary Faith.

In the Diocese of Columbus, she was a social worker at the St. Philip Neri Center in Murray City (1986-1987) and Perry County Children's Services in New Lexington (1990-1991). She also held various teaching and social work positions in New York, Kentucky and New Jersey before retiring in 2016 and entering the Stella Niagara Health Center in 2018.

CATHOLIC CROSSWORD



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ACROSS

- 2 "___ Regina"
- 5 Abraham was probably glad to see this in the desert
- 8 Feast in the Diocese of Honolulu
- 9 Abbr. for two NT epistles
- 11 OT prophetic book
- 13 Nephew of Abraham
- 14 Catholic actor, Robert ___
- 15 Gospel with the most chapters (abbr.)
- 16 ___ Saints' Day
- 17 Teaching letter from the pope
- 20 David, to Goliath
- 22 Occupation of Luke, the Evangelist
- 27 The bishops, collectively
- 28 Some Carmelites (abbr.)
- 29 Religious ceremony
- 30 Wife of Tobit
- 32 He gave Hannah words of comfort
- 33 Biblical measure
- 35 "Agnus ___"
- 36 Creche
- 37 There are 27 in the New Testament
- 38 Catholic actor of "Singin' in the Rain" fame

DOWN

- 1 Knights of ___
- 3 Violation of the sixth commandment
- 4 It's on Mt Graham, but operated by the Vatican (abbr.)
- 5 Father of Jesse
- 6 French holy woman (abbr.)
- 7 Place of the ___, so named in Matthew 27
- 10 Possible Easter month
- 12 Simon, the apostle, was one of these
- 18 This king allowed the Jews to return to Jerusalem
- 19 Tradition says Bartholomew preached here
- 21 "___ Fideles"
- 23 Pertaining to those who have received Orders
- 24 "We ___, we celebrate, we believe"
- 25 Abraham was one
- 26 Top monk
- 31 "Then they abandoned their ___ and followed him" (Mk 1:18)
- 32 Island converted in the 5th century
- 34 Chi ___

Margaret R. Todd

Funeral Mass for Margaret R. Todd, 100, who died Sunday, Jan. 24, was celebrated Friday, Jan. 29 at Delaware St. Mary Church. Burial was at Resurrection Cemetery, Lewis Center.

She was born on May 28, 1920 in Delphos to Edward and Mathilda (Von-Lehmden) Haehn and was a graduate of Delphos St. John High School.

She managed the cafeteria at Colum-

bus St. Francis DeSales High School for more than 35 years and was a member of Columbus St. Matthias Church before coming to Delaware St. Mary.

She was preceded in death by her parents and her husband, Orville. Survivors include daughters, Stella Dickman and Karen Channels; three grandsons; three granddaughters; and 16 great-grandchildren.

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Josephinum, seminarians meet challenges of pandemic

As with all colleges and educational institutions, the Pontifical College Josephinum has weathered the storm of COVID-19 armed with creativity, a willingness to adapt and a focus on persevering in its mission while maintaining a safe and healthy environment for its students.

“This has been an academic year for the record books,” said Father Steven P. Beseau, the Josephinum’s rector-president, at the conclusion of the seminary’s fall semester.

Seminarians spent the fall semester on campus in a “family bubble,” with minimal interaction with non-residents and extremely limited travel off campus.

“Despite the challenges and difficulties, we can celebrate the fact that no seminarian at the Josephinum ever contracted COVID-19 while on campus and that we were able to hold in-person classes and formation,” he said.

Seminarians spent Christmas break at home with their families. They returned to campus on January 9 and, along with resident priest-faculty, entered a two-week period of quarantine. All classes and meetings were held online until the health of all residents was confirmed and it was safe to return to in-person activities.

“Seeing my family and parish community for Christmas was filled with many blessings,” said Columbus seminarian Zachary Goodchild. “But it has been great to be back at the Josephinum with my brother seminarians. We’ve been doing classes online,

wearing masks everywhere, and staying distanced for the first two weeks. Soon we will be re-bubbled like last semester and routines will go back to normal. It will be good to sing and pray together again, and to see each other’s full faces.”

After the campus quarantine was lifted, policies and procedures remained in place while efforts were made to 1) maintain a Catholic, homelike and safe environment for prayer, study and work for resident seminarians and priests; 2) maintain a safe work environment for non-residential priests, faculty and staff that still fosters a Catholic spirit and a shared sense of mission; and 3) keep residents free from COVID so that

on-campus formation may continue.

Plans for the current semester were made in broad consultation with administration, the formation team, faculty, and staff, as well as with the bishops and vocation directors of the dioceses that send seminarians to the Josephinum.

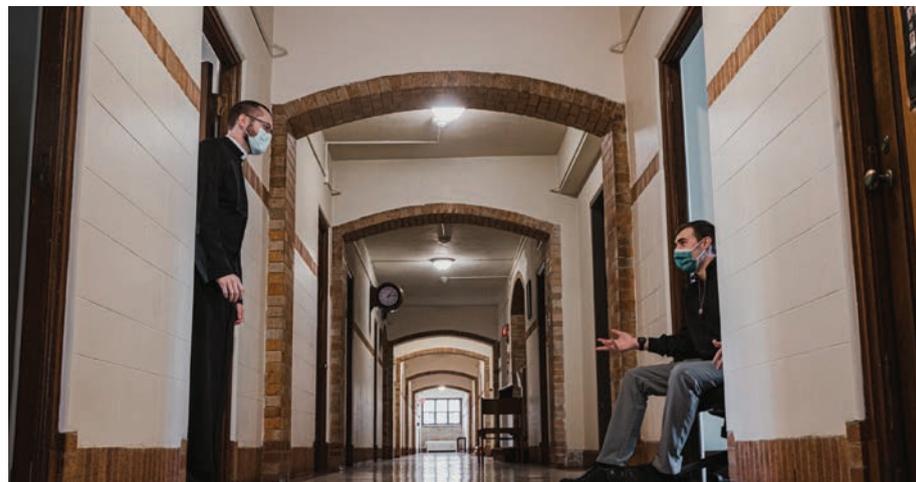
The most significant change to the semester regards the seminary calendar. Pandemic policies instituted by government leaders prevented the seminarians’ usual participation in the March for Life in Washington, D.C. The annual inter-seminary basketball tournament will have to wait for 2022, and it is unlikely the seminary will have its traditional St. Joseph Day festivities on March 19. (At pres-

ent, vaccine reports have the seminary confident that its annual Good Shepherd Dinner (formerly known as the Rector’s Dinner) will take place at the Josephinum on April 19.

The days off initially planned for the March, basketball tournament and St. Joseph Day will be used as class days. This adjustment, along with a slight shortening of both midterm and Easter breaks, will enable the Josephinum to complete the semester on April 30 – one week earlier than planned. Seminarians will return home at Easter break; the remaining class days and exams will be conducted online.

“It is important for seminarians to be in their home dioceses for Easter break, to participate fully in the liturgies of Holy Week and Easter Sunday,” said Father Beseau. “It is unlikely that a vaccine for COVID will be widely accessible to young adults by Easter, so returning to the seminary after Easter break may require another lengthy period of quarantine and online courses, which would put us very close to the end of our academic year.”

Under usual circumstances, seminarians spend Christmas break in parishes as assigned by their respective director of vocations. While this was not the case during the 2020 holiday break, many of the vocation directors do plan to place seminarians in parishes at Easter and throughout the summer, ensuring the seminarians’ access to the sacraments and places to study and pray – all critical to their vocational discernment and formation for the priesthood.



Columbus seminarians John Paul Haemmerle (left) and Zachary Goodchild visit at a distance from the doorways of their rooms in the residence hall at the Pontifical College Josephinum. Photo courtesy Josephinum seminarian Max Gallegos of the Diocese of Birmingham

COVID-19 and faith: Virus’ unpredictability presents challenges

By Father Marek Kaspercuk

The experience of COVID-19 is something extraordinary due to its unpredictability. Having contracted and recovered from COVID, I now recognize its three critical stages – illness, transition and full recovery – the challenges related to them and how the need for faith can significantly help with the process of healing. The challenge of coronavirus compels us to become more sensitive to other people’s material and spiritual needs and calls for pastoral responsibility directed to those experiencing this extraordinary illness.

The first critical moment of this disease, which is usually not thought of or discussed, is associated with receiving a positive test result, which confirms the awareness of a prob-

lematic and unknown reality. After all, it is unknown to anyone how the coronavirus will proceed and how it can end. Some people pass it asymptotically, others with only mild symptoms, or in some cases, it becomes a terminal illness. This unpredictability of the body’s reaction to COVID brings a challenging uncertainty that puts the infected person in an extremely difficult situation – “against the wall,” which makes the world and all its affairs relatively indifferent.

This first crisis can lead to a break-



Father Kaspercuk

down, anxiety, fear and sometimes even resignation and depression. The requirement for self-isolation contributes to this situation even more. During self-quarantine, for many people, it can turn out to be something inexplicable and non-communicative, which can further deepen the feeling of isolation and alienation. The dependence on other people in getting simple but necessary things like food, drink and medications creates another sense of seclusion and a lack of security. Accepting one’s own helplessness and reliance on other people in basic needs raises additional difficult challenges. An extreme experience of possible death with symptoms of an ordinary cold or flu, as in the case of COVID, poses an additional challenge to every person.

Only trust in God, regardless of the course and ultimate effects of the dis-

ease, helps bring peace of heart and cooperation with the healing process. It is the first difficult stage of COVID, which requires faith and total trust in God.

The second stage of COVID that I call “transition” brings another significant challenge. It is a transitional period in which physical weakness and, at the same time, mental helplessness occur in the face of stacking tasks. The developing awareness of enormous work left behind and the constant multiplying of new responsibilities are overwhelming. It is a time that in the experience of some people who have undergone COVID can extend even up to a few weeks after the final disappearance of its entire symptoms. Positive motivation and patient performance

Local news and events

Rite of Election will take place on Feb. 21 at St. Catharine

The annual diocesan Rite of Election for unbaptized people who wish to become Catholics at the Easter Vigil will take place at 2 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 21 at Columbus St. Catharine Church, 500 S. Gould Road. There will be a second ceremony at 3:30 p.m. if the number of participants exceeds the church's capacity under safe-distancing guidelines.

The guidelines will limit attendance at the event to only catechumens (those seeking baptism), their godparents and a maximum of three members of a parish's Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) team.

The Call to Continued Conversion for those who already are baptized Christians and desire to enter full communion with the Catholic Church at the Easter Vigil, which in past years occurred at the same ceremony, this year will take place in parishes rather than as a diocesan event.

Michelle Lemiesz, director of the diocesan Office for Divine Worship, said the main reason to separate the Rite of Election and the Call to Conversion was the desire to highlight the difference between the catechumens seeking baptism and the candidates who already enjoy the graces of baptism. A secondary factor was the necessary considerations resulting from COVID-19 protocols.

Bishop Robert Brennan will attend the Rite of Election, which will ratify the catechumens' readiness for the Sacraments of Initiation – Baptism, Confirmation and the Eucharist. Catechumens will be called individually and asked to sign their names to the Book of the Elect, representing a public declaration of their desire to receive the Sacraments of Initiation.

St. Joseph Cathedral adds 7:30 a.m. Mass during Lent

Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral, 212 E. Broad St., is adding a 7:30 a.m. weekday Mass for Lent, beginning with Ash Wednesday, Feb. 17 and continuing every Monday through Friday until Wednesday, March 31, the Wednesday of Holy Week.

Masses also are celebrated at the cathedral at 12:05 p.m. Monday through Friday, 5:15 p.m. Wednesdays and Saturdays, and 8 and 10:30 a.m. and 12:30 and 5:15 p.m. Sundays.

Catholic Ethnic Ministries sponsors online programs

The diocesan Catholic Ethnic Min-

istries office is presenting four online programs during February, Black History Month. The series features the six Black American Catholics who are candidates for sainthood and the stories of how they triumphed over tragedies.

The programs will begin at 4 p.m. on consecutive Saturdays. Admission is free by going to eventbrite.com/e/134671105903.

Subjects of the remaining programs will be: Mother Elizabeth Lange, OSP; Feb. 13, Venerable Mother Henriette Delille, SSF, and Venerable Father Augustus Tolton; Feb. 20, Venerable Julia Greeley and Venerable Sister Thea Bowman, FSPA; Feb. 27, Augustus Tolton: Renewal, Restoration and Reconciliation.

Cardinal Wilton Gregory, archbishop of Washington, will speak during the Feb. 13 and 27 programs. Joining the Diocese of Columbus as co-sponsors are the Archdiocese of Denver; the Dioceses of Birmingham, Alabama and Richmond, Virginia; and the Tolton Spirituality Center.

Ohio Dominican awarded grant to support STEM students

Ohio Dominican University (ODU) has been awarded a five-year grant totaling nearly \$650,000 from the National Science Foundation (NSF) to recruit, engage and support low-income students who are pursuing a bachelor's degree in biology, chemistry or environmental science.

Approximately \$420,000 of the grant is dedicated to providing scholarship assistance to as many as 14 students during the five-year period who demonstrate financial need.

The grant will allow ODU to create the St. Albert Scholars Program for STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) students, which will consist of two groups. Six students will begin classes this and a group of eight will begin in the fall of 2022. Each student will receive as much as \$7,500 per year for a maximum of four years, in addition to a summer research stipend during their third year.

"STEM-related industries across Ohio and the United States are experiencing a significant workforce shortage and talent gap," said Dr. Robert Gervasi, ODU president. "This grant will allow us to support students who have a passion for the sciences, but might not have access to the financial resources they need to pursue a col-

lege degree and a successful career in these growing fields.

"In addition to scholarship support, this grant will provide our faculty with additional resources they can use to better engage our students to ensure their academic and professional success throughout and beyond their ODU studies."

Funds provided by the grant will allow faculty to introduce new programming, enhance student learning, better monitor academic performance, increase retention and improve outcomes. Evidence-based services will include a STEM cohort model that incorporates common course work, faculty mentoring, internship and research opportunities, graduate school preparation and career counseling.

Ohio Dominican announces health care partnership

Ohio Dominican University (ODU) and Central Ohio Primary Care (COPC) have entered into an agreement to enhance academic opportunities available to students and provide care to people on campus and in nearby communities.

Elements of the partnership were established at the beginning of the fall semester when COPC opened a drive-up COVID-19 testing site outside Peace Hall on the east side of the ODU campus. That site is available to students, faculty and staff, as well as patients referred by COPC physicians.

COPC also has provided a physician assistant to serve alongside staff in ODU's wellness center on a part-time basis to treat the mental and physical health needs of the campus community.

ODU academic leaders have worked closely with COPC to create and develop the curriculum for a course focused on population health. The course was launched during the second half of the fall 2020 semester and was led by an ODU faculty member. Additional academic offerings are under consideration.

The partnership will culminate with construction of a 4,700-square-foot Care Forward Center in Peace Hall, which will serve as a health care clinic for people who reside in the neighboring community as well as the general public. The center will feature eight exam rooms, two conference rooms and offices for physicians. Construction is to begin in early 2021 and the center is expected to begin seeing patients in April 2021.

Besides treating patients, the center

will provide ODU students with opportunities to gain hands-on experience in a health care setting. As many as two students in ODU's Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies program will have access to clinical rotations in the center, and two additional students who are studying other aspects of the health care industry will be able to amass observation or internship hours.

St. Charles students receive essay contest honors

Columbus St. Charles Preparatory School student Julian Howell received an \$800 prize for his entry in the Voice of Democracy essay contest sponsored by the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW). Two other St. Charles students, Tyler Ferris and Freddy Shimp, earned \$200 prizes.

The program's goal is to provide students grades 9-12 the opportunity to express themselves concerning democratic ideals and principles. Students must write and record a three-to-five-minute essay on the year's selected theme, using an audio CD or flash drive. This year's theme was "Is This the America the Founders Envisioned?"

Howell will learn in February whether his essay has been selected to compete at the state level.

Christ the King to celebrate 75th anniversary in 2021

Columbus Christ the King Church, 2777 E. Livingston Ave., will be hosting events throughout the year to celebrate its 75th anniversary.

The commemoration began with Masses celebrated by Bishop Robert Brennan on Sunday, Jan. 17 in English and Spanish.

The parish will be taking part in a consecration to St. Joseph from Monday, Feb. 15 to Friday, March 19, the Feast of St. Joseph, when a Mass to conclude the consecration will be celebrated at 7 p.m.

A Divine Mercy novena will take place from Good Friday, April 2 until Divine Mercy Sunday, April 11. Outreach to pro-life organizations, as well as a walking pilgrimage to Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral, are being planned for May and June.

A parish consecration to Mary is scheduled for Wednesday, July 7 to Sunday, Aug. 8. Outreach to the Bishop Griffin Resource Center, located

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on the Christ the King campus, and a pilgrimage to Somerset St. Joseph Church, the oldest Catholic church in the Diocese of Columbus, are scheduled for September and October.

The celebration will conclude with a novena to Christ the King from Friday, Nov. 12 to Sunday, Nov. 21, the Feast of Christ the King. For more information, go to the parish website, www.christthekingcolumbus.com or call (614) 237-0401.

Order of Malta sponsoring Mass for Anointing of the Sick

The Columbus Region of the Order of Malta is sponsoring a Mass for the Anointing of the Sick at 9 a.m. Sunday, Feb. 14 in Columbus Holy Rosary-St. John Church, 648 S. Ohio Ave. The celebrant will be Father Michael Hartge, vice chancellor of the Diocese of Columbus. Priests will be on hand to administer the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick to all who wish to receive it.

The Order of Malta, in cooperation with the Catholic Medical Association, operates a Center of Care at the St. John Center, which offers free medical and dental services to anyone. The organization has 14,000 members in 120 nations and more than 100,000 volunteers who serve the sick and the poor. It has served the Catholic Church and the world for more than 900 years, is considered a sovereign entity recognized by international law, maintains neutrality and independence as a faith-based institution and has a seat at the United Nations.

Diocesan vocations office offers service awards

The diocesan Office of Vocations invites all Catholic eighth- to 12th-grade students in the diocese to take part in its ninth annual Face Forward Service Awards competition.

Two \$500 awards will be presented, based on three criteria: a short answer on faith inspiration; parish involvement; and service to the community. Entries may be submitted through Monday, March 22 by visiting <https://faceforwardcolumbus.com/service-awards/> or [Facebook.com/FaceForwardColumbus](https://facebook.com/FaceForwardColumbus).

Father William Hahn, diocesan director of vocations, will select the two winners. "We are pleased to offer this opportunity for all of the young people in the diocese," he said. "The awards are available to all students, whether public, private, or home-schooled. We encourage all students to take advan-

tage of this opportunity and be rewarded for their outstanding service to their parishes and communities."

Last year's award recipients were Liam Zacovic, a student at Columbus Bishop Hartley High School and a parishioner at Reynoldsburg St. Pius X Church, and Isaac O'Rielley from Lewis Center Olentangy High School and Powell St. Joan of Arc Church.

Our Lady of Peace presents Living in the Spirit seminar

The prayer ministry of Columbus Our Lady of Peace Church, in cooperation with the Columbus Catholic Renewal organization, is presenting a six-week Living in the Spirit seminar at 7 p.m. every Wednesday from April 14 to May 19 via Zoom.

Each session will open with a presentation from a video series titled The Gift, followed by small-group discussion. Teachings during the sessions are rooted in the Bible, the Catechism of the Catholic Church, Pope Francis' apostolic exhortation The Joy of the Gospel and reflections on the Holy Spirit from the pope. Sessions will last approximately 90 minutes. There is no charge. To register, go to <http://bit.ly/olpthegift>, send an email message to Ed Price at Pricee99@Yahoo.com or contact Danny Canlas at (614) 989-7890.

The seminar will be the first event of the parish's 75th anniversary celebration. Other programs are planned throughout 2021 that will include spiritual enrichment, social events and outreach events. Memories, photos and testimonies are being sought from current and former parishioners. For more information, contact Katy Wyatt or Father Sean Dooley at (614) 263-8824.

Frassati Fellowship offers program for those in ministry

Verso Ministries, a Notre Dame, Indiana-based sponsor of Catholic pilgrimages, is accepting applications for its inaugural Frassati Fellowship, a six-month journey of prayer, formation, and pilgrimage to the Holy Land.

The program has been created exclusively for individuals in Catholic ministry, whether they are volunteers or work full- or part-time in parish, school or nonprofit ministry. Individuals enrolled in full-time graduate studies in theology, divinity or related fields are also welcome to apply.

There will be a maximum of 25 participants, who will meet virtually for bimonthly meetings that will include

formational activities, mentor sessions, prayer, and readings in anticipation of a nine-day pilgrimage to the Holy Land from Wednesday, July 14 to Thursday, July 22.

With visits to places including Bethlehem, Nazareth, Jerusalem, and the Sea of Galilee, participants will experience firsthand the land of Jesus' birth, ministry, death, and resurrection. After the pilgrimage, each participant will present a creative capstone project expressing outcomes from their participation.

The program's cost is \$2,499, plus the cost of round-trip airfare to Israel. This final cost includes a \$2,000 scholarship courtesy of Verso Ministries. An additional \$500 discount can be applied by entering the referral code Catholic Times when submitting your application.

Applications may be completed online at www.VersoMinistries.com/Frassati-Fellowship and must include a personal statement, current resume, and letter of support from a supervisor or religious superior. The application deadline is Monday, March 15. Finalists will be invited to a virtual interview and decisions concerning participation will be communicated during the week of April 5.

Ave Explorers Series looks at Catholicism around the world

The next Ave Explores series will focus on the health and cultural richness of Catholicism around the world. It will begin on Sunday, Feb. 21.

Ave Explores is a free educational series created to help Catholics explore aspects of their faith from a variety of angles, helping them take a look at topics that are relevant to their daily spiritual life in fresh, engaging and practical ways.

While the core beliefs of Catholicism are the same everywhere, this four-week multimedia series will focus on the diversity of practices and traditions, and the health of the Church in different corners of the world.

The series is sponsored by Ave Maria Press, a ministry of the Congregation of Holy Cross, and will include a look at the work of Holy Cross priests and brothers across the 16 nations in which they serve. It also will look at a different saint each week through art and the written word.

Sneak previews will be available on Wednesday, Feb. 17 and Friday, Feb. 19. The series runs from Sunday, Feb. 21 to Saturday, March 20. It is available on Apple Podcasts, Spotify and Google Play Music and also is located

on Breadbox Media, Redeemer Radio and Spoke Street Media.

Prayer essay contest accepting entries

The Family Rosary organization is announcing its annual "Try Prayer! It Works!" essay contest for 2021.

Inspired by Family Rosary's founder, Venerable Patrick Peyton, the contest focuses on Father Peyton's message "The family that prays together stays together," and aims to strengthen family prayer, creating a family-faith experience that takes children and parents through a reflective, enriching journey.

"Try Prayer! It Works!" invites families to light a candle and pray together and share this year's theme as a family reflection.

"Do Whatever He Tells You," this year's theme, will help families explore how Mary's example and intercessory prayer can help people follow God's will. From Mary, especially through the prayer rosary, participants can explore how her maternal influence can lead families closer to Jesus.

Participants are invited to write about a real story from their lives about following Jesus; interview someone in their family or community about doing God's will; create a drawing that reflects the Blessed Mother's impact on the world; or create a short family video project expressing what it means to be disciples of Jesus.

Children from grades kindergarten to 12 enrolled in a Catholic school, religious education program, parish, or other organization, including home school, are eligible to enter. All United States contest entries must be submitted by Thursday, March 25.

Order of Malta sponsors virtual Lourdes pilgrimage

To celebrate the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes and the World Day of the Sick on Thursday, Feb. 11, EWTN has partnered with the North American Lourdes Volunteers and the Federal Association of the Order of Malta to create a virtual pilgrimage to Lourdes.

Virtual pilgrims will learn about the story of St. Bernadette, her apparitions of the Immaculate Conception, and the cures and miracles associated with Lourdes. The one-hour pilgrimage will debut on EWTN television at 10:30 a.m. Feb. 11, with an encore at 5 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 13.

The virtual pilgrimage will include

Catholic Foundation grant helps parishioners during pandemic

Columbus Christ the King Church is a diverse parish that strives to build the kingdom of God, sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ through liturgy, prayer and works of justice and mercy.

Christ the King is blessed with many immigrant families in its parish, and many of them work in the service or hospitality industry. Those industries have been hit hard by the COVID-19 pandemic, and, as a result, many Christ the King parishioners have lost their jobs and found it hard to pay rent or buy food.

In response to the pandemic, Dan Kurth, vice president of grants and community impact at The Catholic Foundation, reached out to diocesan parishes, asking how the Foundation could help them and highlighting the new Catholic Emergency Response Fund.

Father David Schalk, pastor at Christ the King, responded and worked with the Foundation to secure a grant to help his parishioners.

“I saw this grant to our parish from the Catholic Emergency Response Fund as the Foundation’s commitment to the poor in our community,” he said. “This was The Catholic Foundation saying, ‘We are concerned with the marginalized and those on the peripheries,’ as Pope Francis likes to

say. That was very encouraging to me.

“They are putting their money where their mouth is, and if there was ever a time to lift up our neighbors in need, it is during the pandemic.”

The grant helped a family that is very close to the parish. The wife was cleaning hotels when the pandemic hit and was laid off when the state went on lockdown. At the same time, the husband was working in construction, and the company had everyone quarantine in March. Using the Foundation grant, Christ the King paid the family’s rent for one month, enabling them to stay in their home. The family viewed this as a sign of God’s faithfulness, telling Father Schalk that they had prayed, and God provided.

Another Christ the King family had children in the church’s school and, after the pandemic hit, asked the church to refund their preschool payment. After talking with the family, Father Schalk learned that they needed the money for living expenses. Both parents were restaurant workers affected by shutdowns. Not only was the church able to refund the family’s money, but it used the Foundation grant to help the family in other ways.

“These are the people who were and are continuously hit the hardest,” Fa-



Father David Schalk celebrates Mass at Columbus Christ the King Church.

Photo courtesy The Catholic Foundation

ther Schalk said. “They are the ones that have the hardest time recovering and staying on their feet. If you are vulnerable in everyday living, the pandemic put that pressure on even more.”

Not only did the Foundation grant directly help those parishioners, but it also inspired giving from others attending Christ the King. One individual offered a generous donation to help the parish start its own separate emergency fund. “I felt empowered and confident that we could assist folks in a variety of ways, not just spiritually,

but also financially,” Father Schalk said. “The work of the Foundation really jump-started that giving.

“The gesture of the grant was encouraging and inspiring. How are we going to come together and make sure that people aren’t left behind? The spirit that was behind it motivated me and lifted me up.”

To support Christ the King Church through the Catholic Foundation, contact Scott Hartman at (614) 443-8893 or shartman@catholic-foundation.org.

Stay the Course program helps student remain in college

Catholic Social Services

The beginning of a new year is a time for making resolutions. New goals and aspirations parade through our minds, exciting us with possibilities. Yet, such goals can be difficult to accomplish. Often they’re soon forgotten, left by the wayside as minds grow busy, old habits return and initial motivation shrinks from sight in the proverbial rear-view mirror.

But for a determined few, a goal carries enough weight and hope that their resolutions stick, and they achieve what they are after.

Here is the story of Dillon – a young man who set his goals and, while doing so, became the first student to successfully complete Catholic Social Services’ Stay the Course program.

Stay the Course addresses the personal, non-academic, social and institutional barriers to success in community college. As you’re one of the generous donors who support this program, we want you to see its success and to celebrate what’s possible when community college students – many of whom struggle with the daily pressures of poverty – have a support

structure to help them set goals and reach them.

Meet Dillon

Dillon is a full-time student at Columbus State Community College who also works part-time to make ends meet. Like many community college students, because of economic disadvantage, Dillon faces disproportionate barriers to degree completion:

- Less than 40% of community college students graduate within six years.
- 2 in 3 community college students are food insecure.
- 50% of community college students are housing insecure.

When Stay the Course came to Columbus State last year, Dillon immediately applied to the program to take advantage of its benefits, which include intensive case management services and emergency financial assistance, if needed.

Like many students in Stay the Course, Dillon pursued his education as a means of bettering himself and his family. But he faced an immediate challenge: overwhelming debt that resulted from a catastrophic car

accident. At the time of the accident, Dillon did not have insurance to cover his medical expenses. The financial repercussions were severe and lasting. While Dillon hoped that an education would help him to secure a better job and find financial stability, he was also worried about his debt and education expenses.

A service supplied by Stay the Course is a navigator, who serves as a case manager for each participating student, helping to identify and address a student’s challenges so that he or she is more likely to complete a degree. Dillon’s navigator helped him create and achieve small action steps that began moving him toward his financial goals. In one year he worked toward paying off \$5,000 in debt and pursued a certification that helped him get a job and economic relief.

Additionally, Dillon’s navigator told him about government issued health insurance options and other resources that could assist in paying qualified medical expenses, should another catastrophic event occur. He was also coached on being proactive in paying future medical bills. This support helped in the moment and for

the long run with practical knowledge that will help him avoid falling back into debt.

While his financial matters were being addressed, Dillon began to envision larger goals. Working with his navigator, he applied to Ohio State University in hopes of earning a bachelor’s degree and eventually becoming a real estate agent. He wanted to study urban planning and development.

Dillon knew that a bachelor’s degree would help him achieve his personal and professional goals, but he worried about getting lost at a large state institution. With his navigator’s help, Dillon identified resources at Ohio State that would help him to feel welcomed and equipped for success after he transferred. His navigator linked Dillon with a program sponsored by the university’s Office of Diversity and Inclusion that serves minority Pell Grant-eligible students.

Throughout his time in Stay the Course, Dillon has remained in school while overcoming personal challeng-

Lancaster St. Bernadette 5th grade



Fifth-graders at Lancaster St. Bernadette School celebrated their last Catholic Schools Week at the school before moving on to other schools. St. Bernadette houses students in grades kindergarten through five. The students are (from left) Flora Woo, Anderson Crook, Ella Reed, Ella Sanford, Christopher Springer, Braeden Strang, Kenlie Moore, Christopher White and Cecilia Milligan. *Photo courtesy St. Bernadette School*

St. Brigid petting zoo



Just before Christmas, children at Dublin St. Brigid of Kildare School were surprised with a live Nativity petting zoo in front of the school. Each class spent a few minutes petting animals and seeing Mary and Joseph. The scene included a camel, two goats, a donkey, three sheep and an alpaca. Children were able to visit with their classroom pods, as each class pod was assigned an eight-minute time slot to adhere to COVID-19 restrictions. *Photo courtesy St. Brigid of Kildare School*

Pledge and prayer at St. Anthony



Roxanna Salazar holds the American flag for the Pledge of Allegiance and Jojo Gaihto joins her for prayer in front of the kindergarten class to start the day at Columbus St. Anthony School. *Photo courtesy St. Anthony School*

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a visit to the Church of Our Lady of Lourdes and an opportunity to pray in the grotto where the apparitions took place, all from the safety and comfort of home.

Pope Francis is granting viewers a plenary indulgence for joining the virtual pilgrimage telecast. The usual conditions for the indulgence – being in a state of grace, sacramental confession and reception of the Eucharist within a reasonable time, and prayer for the pope’s intentions – have been extended to at-home pilgrimage participants by the Vatican because of the worldwide pandemic.

The Order of Malta, which has served the Catholic Church and the world for more than

900 years, has 13,500 members in 120 nations, including 29 in the Diocese of Columbus, where its organized activities include operating the Order of Malta Center of Care at the St. John Center in Columbus, hosting an annual anointing Mass for the sick, making sandwiches for local community kitchens and writing letters to those in prison.

Members also donate and raise funds to operate hospitals and health clinics in needy communities around the world – most notably the Holy Family Hospital in Bethlehem, which serves Palestinian women and babies, most of them Muslims, steps away from the birthplace of Jesus.

PROGRAM, continued from Page 27

es, including financial strain and the ongoing pressures of online education during a pandemic. He has persevered and continues to excel, being recently accepted to Ohio State and awarded a scholarship, which will help to reduce his education debt.

Dillon completed Stay the Course in December. With the help of his navigator, he has viewed his challenges as opportunities for growth, developed financial responsibility and set himself up for success as he takes on the new challenge of finishing his bache-

lor’s degree at Ohio State. He is grateful for the encouragement and support of his navigator in helping him to stay on track, dream big and achieve his goals.

We are proud of Dillon and wish him well as he begins the next phase of his education. As the first to complete Stay the Course, Dillon is a trailblazer. His new year is off to a promising start.

Thank you for your role in supporting Dillon and others like him with your generous donation to Catholic Social Services.

In the marriage case styled BRENDA SUE JOHNSON and RANDY ALAN THRESS, the Tribunal of the Diocese of Columbus, Ohio is currently unaware of the present address of RANDY ALAN THRESS. The Tribunal herewith informs him of the case and invites him to contact REVEREND ROBERT KITSMILLER, M.DIV, JCL, Presiding and sole Judge, no later than – 1 MARCH 2021, or call phone 241-2500 Extension 1. Anyone who knows of the whereabouts of RANDY ALAN THRESS, is herewith asked to make this Citation known to him or to inform the Tribunal of his current address.

Given this 14 FEBRUARY 2021;

REVEREND ROBERT KITSMILLER, M.DIV, JCL
Presiding Judge

KAREN KITCHELL
Notary

FOCUS, continued from Page 4

discuss the topics. Those watching online were assigned to virtual small groups with whom they could interact. Late night games were offered to keep students interacting.

The high point of SEEK21 was the worldwide prayer vigil Feb. 6. Thousands came together across the globe to pray to the Holy Spirit for healing in the Church and throughout the world. Eucharistic Adoration took place in hundreds of locations simultaneously.

FOCUS has opened registration for SEEK22, which will take place in Salt Lake City, Dec. 30, 2021 through Jan. 3, 2022. The organization serves on 182 campuses and seven parishes with almost 1,000 missionaries throughout the world. For more information, visit focus.org.

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

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CATHOLIC CEMETERIES

Spring Clean-up!

CEMETERY field workers will be removing winter-time and artificial decorations from graves and mausoleums at all Catholic cemeteries beginning March 1, 2021

WE request that families wishing to retain any personal keepsakes, to please remove them by March 1.

DUE to the number of decorations involved, the cemetery staff can not be responsible for collecting or storing personal items. Thank you for your cooperation.

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Collection for Black and Indian Missions scheduled for Feb. 20-21

By Sister Zephрина Mary GracyKutty, FIH
Director, Diocesan Missions Office

In the Diocese of Columbus on the weekend of Feb. 20-21, there will be a second collection at every Mass to support evangelization efforts among the Black and Indian Communities.

Your generous support of this collection helps build the Church in these communities from coast to coast. Schools, parish religious education programs and diocesan ministries depend on your generosity to help them spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The funds from the collection will distribute as grants to dioceses throughout the United States.

We all know the disruption of the COVID-19 pandemic has been economically devastating. Your support and help will alleviate sufferings of others. Through our giving, we journey hand in hand with the dedicated missionaries ministering to our brothers and sisters in our local churches. The collection will be supporting and strengthening evangelization programs. Your generosity would help the evangelization easier and would bring saintly life such as St. Kateri Tekakwitha (first Native American saint) and St. Martin de Porres (First black saint of the Americas).

This is one of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' national collections. It was established at the 1884 Plenary Council in Baltimore to keep the light of faith shining in these communities. These funds are used for evangelization efforts in poor rural and reservation communities that cannot survive without our help. It mainly focuses on administering the sacraments, giving witness to the people whom they serve, helping them understand God loves them and recognizing the Church as a mediator. They evangelize with the sacraments, community participation and a spe-

cial relationship with the saints by devotional practices. As Pope Francis advocates in one of his encyclicals, "Any missionary impulse, if derived from the Holy Spirit, manifests predilection for the poor and vulnerable" (Evangelii Gaudium7).

In an interview, Father Maurice Henry Sands, director of the Black and Indian Mission Office, speaks about the needs and urgency of evangelization among the Native American communities.

"A lot of Native American Catholics don't have access to the sacraments," he said. "They don't go to Mass because they don't have a priest who is specifically assigned to serve in their community. I hope that Native American Catholics can be acknowledged and be welcomed to participate more fully in the life of the U.S. Catholic Church.

"I also hope that the Church can help to bring about restoration and healing through increased efforts to address our spiritual and material needs. Many native people live in poverty and don't have proper housing, electricity, telephones or running water. Unemployment rates are very high. The quality of health care for most Native Americans is very poor. Most Native American children on reservations and in urban centers attend public schools that are inadequately staffed and resourced."

Mission work is the most precious service of the Church, according to St. John Paul II.

"The Church can never be closed in on herself," he wrote. "She is rooted in specific places in order to go beyond them. The mission of Christ, which is entrusted to the Church, is still far from completion. An overall view of the human race shows that Christ's mission is still only beginning and that we must commit ourselves wholeheartedly to its service." (Redemptoris Missio).

COVID, continued from Page 24

of tasks with entrusting their effectiveness and fruitfulness to God, without panicking and fear for our work's effectiveness, can be crucial not only for mental health but also for quicker physical recovery from COVID. Pastoral guidance to patiently rise up from physical and sometimes even mental helplessness to return to full strength can be very helpful.

The third stage – the full recovery – can sometimes become the most difficult challenge. This challenge is connected to unending questions and

an awareness of painful responsibility for others. How does one face the reality that they may have infected their relatives or co-workers before the appearance of symptoms, which caused chain reactions? How to live with the awareness of infecting a close family member who ended up in death? How to accept the somatic consequences of our health failure for the rest of our life, such as respiratory problems by extensive damage to the lungs or other internal organs, or perhaps even irreversible neurological changes?

Message from the Bishop

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

During the weekend of February 20-21, we will observe the Black and Indian Missions collection at all Masses. This national campaign for America's mission lands has been serving the Catholic Church in the United States since 1884.

The proceeds from the collection have been distributed as grants to dioceses supporting and strengthening evangelization programs, which would otherwise be in danger of disappearing among the Black, American Indian, Eskimo and Aleut communities of the United States. Even though we are marked by the hardships and challenges caused by the COVID-19 global pandemic, the missions journey continues with the light of Christ, who is the light of the world.

These mission communities exist in almost every diocese in the United States. Missionary priests, religious, catechists and devoted lay people work tirelessly in parishes, missions and reservations to promote the faith. Through our contributions, we work hand in hand with missionar-

ies who deliver the light of Christ's witness to the impoverished, isolated and long-suffering people in these communities. When we support the missions, we support the poor with what we have helping them with great love.

I would like to thank you for joining me in the missionary work of the Church as the National Black and Indian collection is conducted throughout the Columbus diocese. Through our prayers and generosity, we share in spreading Christ's Gospel message in Black and Native Indian communities across the country.

Together, let us truly be missionaries through our sacrifice and the love of Jesus Christ we share.

Sincerely yours in Christ,
Most Reverend Robert J. Brennan
Bishop of Columbus



In the current pandemic, mission work includes evangelization and caring for the basic needs of the poor; sharing meals, cleaning clothes and helping a struggling family to cover the cost of education. It can be possible with people of goodwill. The support of generous hearts can fulfill dreams of many unfortunate people to pursue a college education and to have a better future. When they receive these grants/funds, they recall the words of the Psalmist: "My father and mother may abandon me, but the Lord will take care of me" (Psalm 27:10).

On behalf of Bishop Robert J. Brennan, I would like to thank you for supporting the Black and Indian Missions collection. In 2020, the Diocese of Columbus contributed \$80,383.68 to this collection. Through our donations, we help bring the light of Christ to our sisters and brothers in Christ. We, the Catholic faith community, have been a beacon of hope for the hopeless for generations. Today, our solidarity with them is more important than ever, especially with vibrant Catholic faith communities in the poorest regions, serving and caring for the marginalized.

The crisis connected with this stage can become even more difficult than the two previous stages because while they end with the disappearance of symptoms and the execution of stacking tasks, this stage's consequences and questions never end. ... It is another critical dimension of COVID that requires trust and faith in God, charitable pastoral care and sensitivity directed to those affected by it.

More than two decades ago, I quoted in my first Mass card the words of St. Paul in the Second Letter to the

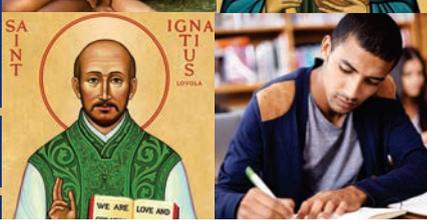
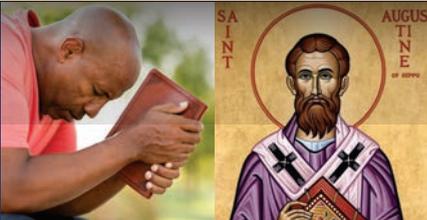
Corinthians: "We hold this treasure in earthen vessels, that the surpassing power may be of God and not from us" (2 Cor 4:7). I did not expect that these words would become so uniquely authentic and vital today. COVID-19 requires our total dependence on God, radical faith and trust in Him, obviously calling for gratitude for securing our health and saving our life in all its human dimensions.

Fr. Marek Kasperczuk is director of liturgy at the Pontifical College Josephinum, 7625 N. High St., Columbus.



The 24th Annual
**CATHOLIC
MEN'S CONFERENCE**

CALLED TO BE SAINTS



YOU HAVE BEEN CALLED...

An ON-LINE and SMALL-GROUP EVENT
at SELECT LOCATIONS
FEBRUARY 27th, 2021 | 9:00am - Noon

**Internationally-Known Speakers
with Amazing, Inspirational Messages:**



REGISTRATION: \$10.00

(Clergy/Religious Complimentary)

Online Registration **PRIOR TO THE EVENT** is highly encouraged to help with arrangements for in-person attendance at Conference viewing sites.

DETAILS AND LOGISTICS:

Due to anticipated social distancing limitations for gatherings, the 2021 Catholic Men's Conference will not be held at the fairgrounds (in Columbus, Ohio). Instead, smaller groups will gather (as permitted) in designated locations throughout the Columbus Diocese to view the 2021 Conference Video.

Our website contains a list of current Conference Viewing Sites as well as additional speaker details and schedule.

REGISTER NOW!

ALREADY REGISTERED?

**Find Hosting Sites, Speaker Videos,
and More Information ONLINE!**

REGISTER: **CatholicMensMinistry.com** FOLLOW:     

Women's morning of prayer and reflection with the Sacred Heart of Jesus



"Come unto me...and I will give you rest" (Mt 11:28)

Join fellow sisters in Christ for a morning of
prayer and Adoration with the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

Saturday, February 20, 2021

9:30 AM to 12:30 PM

St. Paul the Apostle Catholic Church and the Klinger Activity Center

Featuring special guest speakers from Daughters of Holy Mary & the Heart of Jesus

Holy Mass at 9:30 AM with speakers after Mass and
concluding with Eucharistic Exposition & Benediction

*"Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am meek
and humble of heart; and you will find rest for yourselves.
For my yoke is easy, and my burden light."* (Mt 11:29-30)

REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED

Please register via WeShare: <https://stpaulcatholicchurch.weshareonline.org/>

The event is FREE; we welcome freewill offerings

The event will also be livestreamed via St. Paul YouTube and Facebook pages