

# The Catholic TIMES

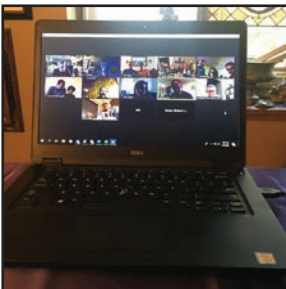
The Diocese of Columbus' News Source

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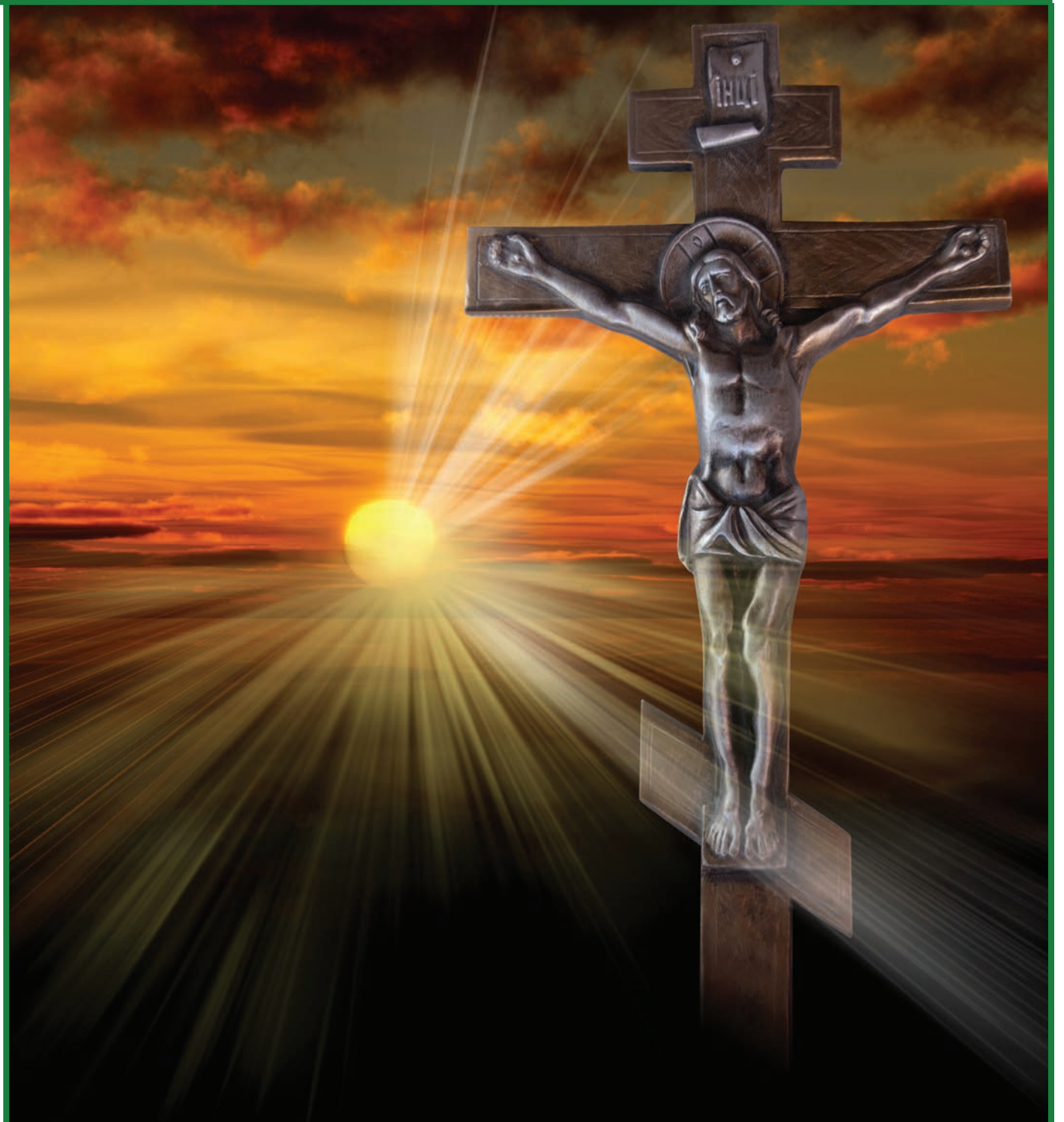
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## Catholic Foundation accepting grant applications

The Catholic Foundation will accept online applications for its 2020 responsive grants cycle. Traditionally, this process has taken place in September of each year, but because of the global health pandemic, the foundation has decided to move this process to the spring of this year.

This allows organizations and parishes access to much-needed funds during the crisis. Parishes, schools, invited religious orders and invited nonprofit organizations in the Diocese of Columbus are eligible to apply. The grants process opens Friday, May 1 and the deadline for all grant applications is Friday, May 29.

The responsive grant cycle will follow the foundation's regular procedures with special consideration for projects related to or impacted by the pandemic. Applicants may apply for one grant in each of the foundation's four pillars of interest: parish life; Catholic education and faith formation; social services; and vocations.

Most funding is awarded for grants requesting less than \$10,000. However, projects that require \$10,000 to \$25,000 for capital or program needs also will be awarded. Finally, a limited number of ministries will receive funding for projects in excess of

\$25,000 (the maximum potential grant amount per year is \$50,000). These applications exemplify great thought to sustainability of the project.

To apply, go to [www.catholic-foundation.org/grants](http://www.catholic-foundation.org/grants) between May 1 and May 29. Eligible organizations will be able to access the application for responsive grants by clicking "Apply Here" after May 1. For complete grant guidelines and eligibility, contact Dan Kurth at (614) 443-8893 or visit [grants.catholic-foundation.org](http://grants.catholic-foundation.org).

## ODU establishes emergency fund, donates medical items

Ohio Dominican University (ODU) has established a student emergency fund to help support students who have been impacted financially by the COVID-19 coronavirus.

Gifts to the fund will assist students by providing relief for expenses related to basic necessities such as food and toiletries; education-related expenses; technology to support remote learning and institutional support of these efforts; and travel or relocation expenses.

To support the fund, visit [ohiodominican.edu/GiveNow](http://ohiodominican.edu/GiveNow) and select "ODU Student Emergency Fund"

when asked where to direct your gift.

Individuals with questions about giving to the fund may contact ODU's office of university advancement and alumni relations at [give@ohiodominican.edu](mailto:give@ohiodominican.edu) or (614) 251-4790. Students with questions may contact Sharon Reed, dean of student life, at [reeds@ohiodominican.edu](mailto:reeds@ohiodominican.edu) or (614) 251-4593, or Tara Schneider, director of financial aid, at [schneidt@ohiodominican.edu](mailto:schneidt@ohiodominican.edu) or (614) 251-4594.

The ODU community has donated a variety of medical supplies to support health care and community workers during the coronavirus crisis.

Athletic training staff members donated three boxes of exam gloves to the United Way of Central Ohio and a large bottle of hand sanitizer to the Dominican Sisters of Peace, ODU's founding congregation. Sodexo, ODU's housekeeping and food services provider, donated a case of exam gloves to the Dominican Sisters.

ODU's physician assistant studies Master's degree program donated 30 boxes of exam gloves, 10 reusable protective eyewear, 10 disposable lab coats, one box of face shields, five bottles of hand sanitizer and 92 surgical gowns to the Mohun Health Care Center, a 72-bed extended care

facility for vowed and ordained religious and immediate family of the Dominican Sisters.

## Damascus offers three live programs daily

The Damascus Catholic Mission Campus is offering live programming three times a day every weekday on Facebook and Instagram, giving families an opportunity for an experience of Christ in their homes.

Its programs are Prayer Lab, from 10:30 to 11 a.m., focusing on the Scriptures; Worship and Intercession, from 3 to 4 p.m., featuring praise and worship music; and Night-Live, from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m., designed to bring families together, with young adult missionaries from Damascus taking part in games and skits, as well as serious conversations about the Catholic faith.

The program also features a segment titled "Glory News" about good news going on among viewers and in the world. Each live stream is open to anyone free of charge and includes content for all ages. All videos will be posted on the "Damascus Catholic Mission Campus" Facebook page after each segment is complete.

## Ohio bishops extend suspension of Masses, other parish activities

The Catholic bishops of Ohio announced last week an extension of their suspension of Masses and other activities in the state's Catholic churches until Sunday, May 3, in response to the extension of Gov. Mike DeWine's "stay at home" order due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Extension of the bishops' suspension order was announced by Catholic Conference of Ohio. The statement read as follows:

"Today (April 2, 2020) Governor Mike DeWine extended the executive 'Stay at Home Order' to continue to curb the spread of the Coronavirus in the State of Ohio. Out of deep concern

for the common good, as well as the physical and spiritual well-being of all the people of Ohio, the Catholic Bishops of Ohio have agreed once again to cooperate with the governor's direction.

"To that end, the Catholic Bishops of Ohio extend the temporary suspension of all publicly celebrated Masses/liturgies at least through and including Sunday May 3rd. The Bishops of Ohio dispense the Catholic faithful who reside in their respective dioceses and all other Catholics currently in Ohio from the obligation of attending Sunday Mass during this time period.

"This decision has not been taken lightly and, as your bishops, together

with you, we recognize the sacrifice we are called to make by being physically distanced from the Holy Eucharist and from one another. Trusting in the graces flowing from the celebration of the passion, death and resurrection of Our Lord, we remain mindful of the hope that does not disappoint.

"As your bishops, we continue to encourage you to keep holy the Lord's Day by participating in Sunday Mass by way of televised, live-streamed, or radio broadcast options and making a spiritual communion. Keeping in mind the gift of plenary indulgences offered to us by the Church, we en-

courage all the faithful to turn to the Church's treasury of prayer, praying as a family or individually the rosary, divine mercy chaplet, the Liturgy of the Hours and Stations of the Cross, etc.

"Please join us in praying for all who are suffering from the Coronavirus, for all health care workers and first responders, and for an easing of the anxiety and tension caused by this pandemic. Relying on the Motherly care of Our Lady, Health of the Sick, we unite our sufferings to those of Our Lord Jesus Christ, and we trust in the glorious hope of His resurrection."



Front Page photo:

**RISEN CHRIST LIGHTS THE WAY**  
The light of the Resurrection shines through the darkness and serves as a reminder during these challenging days that Jesus Christ is our hope and salvation.  
Shutterstock photo

## Catholic TIMES

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# Priests trained to safely give 'last rites' to COVID-19 patients

By Tim Puet  
*Catholic Times Reporter*

About 50 priests of the Diocese of Columbus have been trained to safely provide end-of-life sacramental care during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Father Michael Lumpe, diocesan vicar for priests and vice rector of the Pontifical College Josephinum's College of Liberal Arts, said the training took place in late March during four sessions. Each session involved a different group of priests from throughout the 23-county diocese, including those from religious orders and congregations and priests at the Josephinum.

Before each session, participants were asked to watch a YouTube training video on how to properly put on and take off the personal protective equipment (PPE) doctors and nurses wear to minimize exposure when dealing with hazardous situations such as the COVID-19 coronavirus.

Priests then gathered electronically through the Zoom conference call system for an overview and question-and-answer session with Dr. Marian Schuda, medical director of patient services for the OhioHealth

system and secretary of the local guild of the Catholic Medical Association; Father Dean Mathewson, coordinator of diocesan hospital ministries; and Father Lumpe.

"Weeks ago, when it was first reported that the coronavirus eventually would spread to Ohio, Bishop Brennan gathered his senior staff and others to begin planning for handling the coronavirus in our diocese," Father Lumpe said. "This included a myriad of issues, including how priests could safely provide for what the state of Ohio terms as end-of-life care – what many in the Catholic Church describe as the 'last rites' – while accomplishing our sacramental duty as priests in a safe manner."

"Recognizing that COVID-19 has its own set of issues, we sought the counsel of Dr. Schuda and put together a PPE training program for priests to protect their health and safety while they administer the last sacraments to COVID-19 patients," Father Lumpe said. "We were ordained to administer the sacraments, no matter how hazardous the situation may be. Salvation of souls is what we priests are all about."

Father Lumpe said that when a priest administers the last rites, it encom-

passes several sacraments, including Penance (confession and absolution of sins), the Apostolic Pardon (remission of temporal punishment due to sin given to a dying person who is in the state of grace), Viaticum (Holy Communion given as food for the journey to eternal life) and the sacrament of Anointing of the Sick with holy oil.

Father Lumpe explained that the last rites sacramentally prepare those who are dying, and the sacrament of Anointing of the Sick sacramentally brings about physical and spiritual healing.

When a person is in danger of death, the concluding prayer asks God to "have mercy on your servant who has now entered the struggle of his/her final agony. May this holy anointing and our prayer of faith aid him/her in body and soul. Forgive all his/her sins and protect him/her with your loving care. We ask this, Father, through your Son Jesus Christ, because he has won the victory over death, opened the way to eternal life, and now lives and reigns with you forever and ever."

In situations involving COVID-19 – along with other hazardous situations such as those related to MRSA or C. diff infections – the holy oil used for anointing is applied through use of a

cotton swab or a cotton ball by a priest wearing PPE.

Father Lumpe said the diocese's COVID-19 training was a natural response to a priest's daily mission.

"Priests are in hospitals, nursing homes, hospices and private homes every day," he said. "Like doctors and nurses, priests, too, are exposed to hazardous situations in hospital settings. It's part of our daily ministry to the sick and the dying."

He said many more priests, in addition to those who were trained, stepped forward for this COVID-19 PPE instruction but were not eligible because of age or health issues. Those ineligible include all priests age 69 or older and those with health issues such as immune deficiencies; heart, kidney or lung problems; or diabetes.

"Some priests already have gone into hospitals in our diocese to administer end-of-life sacramental care related to COVID-19 patients," Father Lumpe said. "We don't know where or when a COVID-19 outbreak may occur, but we are fortunate to have an army of priests trained, ready and willing to go wherever needed throughout our diocese to administer end-of-life sacramental care to COVID-19 coronavirus patients."

# Most pantries report 50 percent increase in demand

By Tim Puet  
*Catholic Times Reporter*

Most of the diocese's large food pantries are serving many more people than usual as a result of the coronavirus pandemic, and there is concern about how the extra workload is affecting people now working at the pantries.

"This work is being done by a limited number of volunteers," said Mark Huddy, diocesan moderator for social concerns. "They're going to be experiencing at least another month serving larger numbers of people, and the stress may result in fatigue setting in. Several pantries are either looking for volunteers or considering the possibility.

"I urge people who are thinking about the opportunity, are healthy and are not in a susceptible age group to check with a nearby pantry and find out what they can do to help," Huddy said after a conference call Thursday, April 2 among representatives of diocesan social service agencies.

"We've made it through the first couple of weeks, but now we're preparing for a second wave of challenges and making sure we are paying attention to what resources are available," said Rachel Lustig, president and chief executive officer of Catholic

Social Services.

For the most part, pantries represented on the call or contacted by *The Catholic Times* reported that they are serving about 50 percent more people since the coronavirus began spreading in Ohio. These pantries include the Bishop Griffin Resource Center, St. Stephen's Community House, the Our Lady of Guadalupe Center, the Holy Family Soup Kitchen and St. Lawrence Haven in Columbus and the St. Francis Center in Portsmouth.

One exception was the St. Francis Center at McArthur in Vinton County. Center coordinator Ashley Riegel said the site was distributing less food than usual, saying that probably is because the virus forced it to end its program of going to communities around the county to distribute food. Anyone wishing to obtain food at the center must come to the site.

The Portsmouth St. Francis Center is the only pantry still open in that city. Center director Barbara McKenzie said the site is handing out about 400 boxes of food each week – the amount it usually distributes in a month. She said the center began feeling the impact of the virus early as other pantries closed, so this past week's total remained about the same as the previous week's.

"We're able to handle the food situa-

tion, but there is a dire need for diapers, baby food and formula," she said.

Loren Brown, president and CEO of The Catholic Foundation, said the emergency response fund the foundation has set up to help pantries and parishes have emergency cash on hand for people and families has reached \$650,000 after starting with \$250,000 in seed money from the foundation. He said the fund has awarded about \$150,000 to six pantries and 15 pastors. One of those pastors, Father David Schalk of Columbus Christ the King Church, presented \$500 from the fund to a needy family on Wednesday. "It works," he said. "The grant gives the parish an opportunity to provide help that's greatly appreciated."

Brown said initial donations to the fund, which he hopes will reach at least \$1 million, were mostly from people who have given to the foundation in the past. Now more money is beginning to come from first-time donors. "The coronavirus is a problem that's not going to be addressed quickly," he said. "This will last quite a while, so it's important to grow the fund."

Marilyn Mehaffie, president and CEO of St. Stephen's Community House in Columbus, said its food and nutrition center is serving more people every day, but has been receiving enough from the Mid-Ohio Food

Collaborative to meet needs. She also said the center is now partnering with the Children's Hunger Alliance in distributing "grab-and-go" packets of shelf-stable food to Franklin County residents who come to the site.

"We think we will be inundated with people because the closest pantry is a mile-and-a-half away," she said. "Knowing that our staff is tired, going for another month will be really hard. We're looking for ways to safely integrate more volunteers with our staff. We're also getting more calls for rent and utility assistance, especially since it's April 2 and people are scrambling for rent."

Those wishing to volunteer with or donate to any of the agencies mentioned above are asked to go to the following websites:

Catholic Social Services (includes Our Lady of Guadalupe Center and Portsmouth St. Francis Center – [www.colsscs.org](http://www.colsscs.org).)

St. Stephen's Community House – [www.saintstephensch.org](http://www.saintstephensch.org)

Bishop Griffin Resource Center – [www.bishopgriffinresourcecenter.com](http://www.bishopgriffinresourcecenter.com)

Holy Family Soup Kitchen – [www.holyfamilycolumbus.org](http://www.holyfamilycolumbus.org)

St. Lawrence Haven – [www.svdpcolumbus.org](http://www.svdpcolumbus.org)

St. Francis Center, McArthur – [www.columbuscatholic.org/st-francis-evangelization-center](http://www.columbuscatholic.org/st-francis-evangelization-center)

# Technology helps parishioners adjust to church closings

By Tim Puet  
Catholic Times Reporter

With churches being closed until at least May 3 because of the coronavirus pandemic, parishes throughout the Diocese of Columbus are using technology to maintain a sense of community.

Some parishes are streaming Masses online and on Facebook and YouTube. The Zoom video conferencing network also is helping parishioners stay in touch with one another.

Here is how some parishes are adapting:

Reynoldsburg St. Pius X Church is using Zoom for several devotional activities, including the rosary at 6 p.m. Mondays, the Chaplet of Divine Mercy at 6:30 p.m. Wednesdays, the Stations of the Cross at 7 p.m. Fridays and meetings of the parish's men's faith-sharing group at 6:30 a.m. Saturdays. Sunday Masses with Father David J. Young, pastor; Father Milton Kiocha, associate pastor; and Deacon Eugene Joseph are celebrated on Saturday nights and posted on the parish website.

"I've been pleasantly surprised with the number of people viewing the devotions," parishioner John Swisher said. "It's not just the core group, but we have some new people. I think it's because everyone has more time to do some of the things they've thought about in the past but maybe felt they were too busy to get involved with."

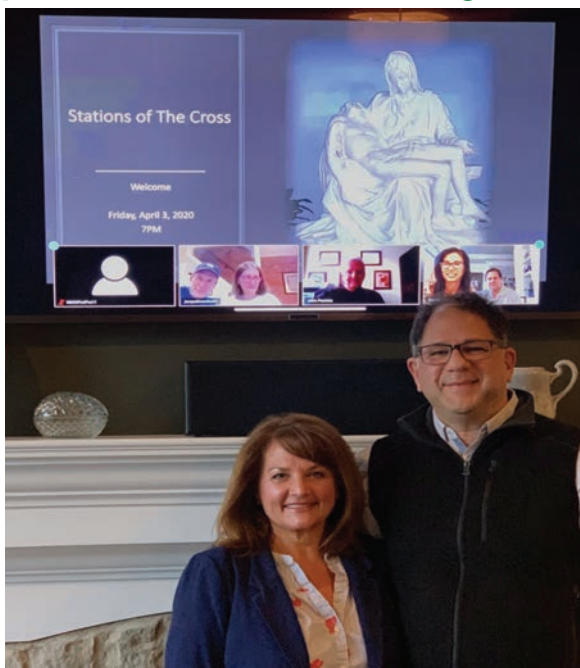
Swisher also is director of Sacred Heart Columbus, which promotes enthronement of homes to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Until recently, enthronements involved a ceremony requiring a visit by a member of the Sacred Heart lay apostolate, but the organization recently developed self-enthronement packets eliminating that requirement.

"We did this because we couldn't keep up with the demand from people wanting their homes enthroned, and we gave out more than 250 (packets) at the diocesan Catholic men's and women's conferences earlier this year," he said. "Now it seems like divine providence that we began offering the packets since people can't leave their homes because of the virus. We've had about 40 requests for kits since the state of Ohio began requiring people to stay home."

Swisher said the packets may be obtained through the websites [www.sacredheartcongresscolumbus.org](http://www.sacredheartcongresscolumbus.org) or [www.welcomehisheart.com](http://www.welcomehisheart.com) or by contacting him at [swisher721@gmail.com](mailto:swisher721@gmail.com).

Deacon Dave Bezusko at Marysville Our Lady of Lourdes Church said 25 to 30 families are getting together via the parish Facebook group at 7 nightly to pray the rosary.

"Several families are taking turns acting as host for the prayers, with a different family playing that role each night," he said. "Because we're doing it through video since people are being required to stay home, the hosts don't have to prepare their home for guests. All they have to do is have a smartphone with a camera, set it on a tripod and go live at 7 o'clock. We've found it to be a great way to stay connected and to engage one another in community prayer."



**Deacon Rob Joseph and wife Krista led an online gathering of Columbus Our Lady of Victory Church parishioners in the Stations of the Cross on Friday, April 3.**

*Photo courtesy Our Lady of Victory Church*

"We're also starting to do more with Zoom. We used it for a That Man Is You! session on March 28, and I conducted an RCIA class through Zoom. The parish isn't set up to stream Masses, but Father (Kevin) Kavanagh (the parish's pastor) is presenting a reflection on each Sunday's Gospel on the parish website. Like most everyone, we're just trying to adjust to the situation and find ways our faith can continue to grow in the midst of it."

The Perry County Consortium of Parishes is not set up for videostreaming at its churches in New Lexington, Corning, Crooksville and Junction City, but it is offering video reflections every Sunday and periodically during the week with Father Michael Hartge, pastor, and Father Christopher Yakkell, parochial vicar, on its new "Perry County Consortium" Facebook page.

"The Sunday videos focus on the readings for the day, while the others are more informal, looking at some of the humorous or interesting things that have happened to us," Father Hartge said. "We had planned all along to start the page on the Solemnity of St. Joseph, March 19, and it turned out to be just the kind of thing needed to help parishioners stay close."

Columbus Our Lady of Victory Church doesn't have streaming Masses or an official parish outreach, but Deacon Rob Joseph is staying in touch with parishioners in several ways, with the approval of Father William A. Metzger, pastor. Deacon Joseph contacts two or three elderly parishioners daily and uses Zoom to pray the rosary with parishioners and members of his family in Florida. He also presented the Stations of the Cross on Friday, April 3 as an official parish function and plans to do so again on Good Friday, April 10.

In addition, he has begun sending periodic email reflections, not in the name of the parish or as a deacon, but as a personal response to the changes resulting from the coronavirus. His first reflection was on the subject of anxiety. "The situation we are going through shakes us all at the core," he said. "At times like this, we run the risk of despair. I've been down that path."

As an antidote to anxiety, he recommends Philippians 4:6-7, which says, "Do not be anxious in anything, but in every situation ... present your prayer to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

Deacon Joseph's wife, Krista, is in charge of the parish's religious education program, which has 268 children in pre-kindergarten through eighth grade.

"We switched very quickly to an online format," she said. "We're fortunate because our textbook publisher gave us a free code to annex everything we needed online. We're getting ready for Confirmation, and the candidates are doing all their interviews online."

"This situation gives us a great opportunity to involve parents and make this a real catechesis at home, since parents are the first teachers of their children."

Chillicothe St. Peter, Waverly St. Mary and Washington Court House St. Colman of Cloyne churches are part of a consortium. St. Peter Church is closed, but Father William Hahn, its pastor, celebrates Masses for the Franciscan Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary daily. Those Masses are streamed on the parish Facebook page at 9:30 a.m. Sundays and 8:30 a.m. on major feast days, such as the Solemnity of St. Joseph on March 19, the Feast of the Annunciation on March 25, and the days of the Octave of Easter.

Father Timothy Lynch, parochial vicar for the consortium, lives in the St. Colman rectory and is celebrating a streamed Mass on that parish's website at 10 a.m. Sundays. Also being streamed on the St. Peter Facebook page are Vespers on some Saturdays from the convent and a five-part series with Father Hahn and Chris Hiles, parish evangelization coordinator, titled *Living the Faith in the Absence of the Sacraments*. It's being shown live from 11 to 11:30 a.m. and first aired live on Thursday, April 2. Subsequent episodes were shown on Monday, April 6 and Wednesday, April 8, with two more scheduled on Monday, April 13 and Wednesday, April 15.

"We live in unprecedented times, where perfectly health clergy are not allowed to celebrate the sacraments publicly," Father Hahn said on the first program. "Even in times of persecution, priests would celebrate Mass in secret."

"This may be unprecedented for us, but there are Catholic communities thriving in many nations without access to the sacraments or a priest for months at a time. We also can thrive during this time, and we will talk about some examples of how to do this."

## Catholic attendance at civil wedding; Biden and same-sex marriage

My family have been dedicated Catholics for generations. Recently, a nephew of mine announced that he is planning to get married in a civil ceremony. (I believe that neither he nor his fiancée is dedicated to a religion. He is a “fallen-away Catholic” millennial.)

As the eldest in the family, I am saddened by this turn of events and have researched the stand of my religion relative to my participation in this union. To be honest, the guidance I’m finding is not very direct as to the church’s stance. Can you provide me some clarity?

As a Catholic, can I attend? (My current decision is to not attend, and this is causing great angst in the family, a family that I treasure.) (City of origin withheld)

I am not surprised that you are finding varying guidance in your dilemma. It is basically a “strategy question” with no hard and fast “rule.” You are trying to strike a balance between fidelity to the church’s teaching and your legitimate desire to maintain family harmony, and different people will have different ideas as to how to do that.

Here would be my suggestion: Go to the wedding, but first sit down and talk with your nephew. Tell him that you feel a certain awkwardness in attending, since he is not being married in a religious ceremony. Explain to him what the Catholic faith has meant to you, how it has sustained you over the years, offering comfort and guidance.

Tell him how much he means to you and that your deepest hope and prayer is that, one day, he might return to the practice of the faith he grew up with

### QUESTION & ANSWER

Father Kenneth Doyle  
*Catholic News Service*

Questions may be sent to Father Kenneth Doyle at [askfatherdoyle@gmail.com](mailto:askfatherdoyle@gmail.com) and 30 Columbia Circle Drive, Albany NY 12203.



and seek the church’s blessing on his marriage.

If you do that, he will not see your attendance as an “endorsement” by the church, you will not risk a family rupture that could be permanent, and you keep open the possibility of his return to Catholic practice through your prayer and gentle example.

I have read that Joe Biden, when he was vice president, presided over a same-sex wedding. As you know, Mr. Biden professes to be a Roman Catholic. I would think that his officiating at this ceremony would have resulted in his excommunication. Has he been excommunicated? And if not, what is the reasoning behind that? (Little Rock, Arkansas)

It is true that in 2016, Biden, who was then the vice president, presided at a same-sex wedding for two men who were longtime White House aides. The ceremony took place at the vice presidential residence at the Naval Observatory.

Reaction from the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops was swift in coming. Within a matter of days, three officials of the conference -- without mentioning Biden by name, but clearly referencing his action -- said this: “When a prominent Catholic politician publicly and voluntarily officiates at a ceremony to solemnize the relationship of people of the same sex, confusion arises regarding Catholic teaching on marriage and the corresponding moral obligations of Catholics.” Such an action, the bishops wrote, “is a counter-witness, instead of a faithful one founded in the truth.”

The three bishops who signed the statement were Archbishop Joseph Kurtz, then-president of the USCCB; Archbishop Thomas G. Wenski, then-chair of the Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development; and Bishop Richard J. Malone, then-chair of the Committee on Laity, Marriage, Family Life and Youth.

Their statement continued, “Pope Francis has been very clear in affirming the truth and constant teaching of the church that same-sex relationships cannot be considered ‘in any way similar or even remotely analogous to God’s plan for marriage and the family.’”

As to the question of excommunication, Edward Peters, professor of canon law at Detroit’s major seminary, explained at the time in his blog that there is no specific canon that excommunicates a Catholic for officiating at a same-sex wedding and that Biden would have to demonstrate a pattern of behavior that violates church law in order to trigger formal disciplinary action.

## Virtual Triduum reflections during the coronavirus pandemic

In the midst of this awful coronavirus, let us all experience a very blessed Triduum, and a joyful and happy Easter! Unfortunately, we must celebrate somewhat of a “virtual” Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday, and Easter Sunday. Thankfully, we are blessed with technology that allows us to watch and experience the Mass of the Lord’s Supper on Holy Thursday evening, the Passion and veneration of the Cross on Good Friday, and the Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday evening. Even though we cannot be there in person and in parish community, we can hopefully pray, worship, and celebrate with our families. We can do so by way of many a parish’s livestream, local television, or international television, even watching Pope Francis lead us from Rome. In any event, it is so important for us to maintain our priorities by keeping God first. It is very probable that many of us have not been able to attend Triduum services over the years due to jobs, school, or otherwise. If we are following the current “stay at home” orders, we have a wonderful opportunity now to experience these richly spiritual and fulfilling Masses and service as a family. What a unique opportunity, even in the midst of a pandemic crisis. Who better to spend an extra hour with each day than our God! And these celebrations are not only the culmination of our Lenten journey, but the Easter Vigil is the absolute height of the li-

### EVERYDAY CATHOLIC

Rick Jeric



turgical year. So much so, we will celebrate Easter for 50 days. Let me offer some reflections based on prayers and scripture over these days.

On Holy Thursday, at the Mass of the Lord’s Supper, we joyfully commemorate and celebrate the institution of the Eucharist and the blessed presence of our priests, without whom we would have no Mass and no Eucharist. Our priests can renew their priestly promises, if not able to do so at the diocesan Chrism Mass with our bishop. We even sing the Gloria. The end of the first reading from Exodus says, “This day shall be a memorial feast for you, which all your generations shall celebrate.” Indeed, we are nothing without the Eucharist. In John’s Gospel, Jesus washes the feet of His disciples, and then He says to them, and to us, “Do you realize what I have done for you? ... You ought to wash one another’s feet, as I have given you a model to follow, so that

as I have done for you, you should also do.” This is precisely our challenge and our great commission. How do we go and make disciples of all nations? Jesus is the model. On Good Friday, we hear the Passion of our Lord from John’s Gospel. We have another opportunity to listen, hear, and reflect upon this important part of our salvation history. We got through it on Palm Sunday, and now we have another opportunity to reflect. Listen to the Intercessions, as we pray together for our Church, our country, our world, and all people as one Body of Christ, universally scattered throughout the world, each of us made in the image and likeness of God. We adore the Holy Cross, and we can certainly find a way to venerate that symbol of our redemption at home. And then we make our own spiritual Communion. Finally, the apex and highlight of everything as Catholic Christians – the Easter Vigil. We will miss welcoming our brothers and sisters into the Church. But we can still make this night “as bright as day” with the service of light and the Exsultet proclamation. The Paschal candle reminds us that Christ is our Light, thanks be to God! Let us join with all newly initiated Catholics, as we together reflect on how we can serve one another in Jesus Christ, furthering the mission and building the Body of Christ. This is the night ... Happy Easter, Alleluia!

## Embracing the kind of redeemer God appointed

The Gospel readings of Lent remind us that opposition to Jesus and his mission frequently grew out of the desire for a redeemer who was more like what various characters in the drama thought a redeemer should be.

Jesus' fellow-townsmen reject him because they can't imagine a messiah whose relatives are all around them. In Jerusalem, the upper crust rejects Jesus and his claims because he's from the Galilean boondocks: "A messiah from *Galilee*? Please. We had something else in mind." The Sadducees reject Jesus because he challenges their notion of the Temple as the privileged locus of God's presence, while the Pharisees object to his understanding of the Mosaic Law. The Twelve, along with Martha and Mary, miss the point when Jesus deliberately delays his visit to Bethany so that the glory of God may be revealed in his raising Lazarus from the dead. Then the final, degrading insults come on Calvary. There, Jesus writhes in agony and struggles for breath on a cross surmounted by the mocking Roman inscription, *Iesus Nazarenus Rex Iudaeorum* (Jesus the Nazarene, the King of the Jews), while passersby hurl taunts – "He saved others; let him save himself, if he is the Christ of God, his Chosen One!" (Luke 23:35).

Notwithstanding the "Suffering Servant" canticles of the prophet Isaiah, Jesus' contemporaries found the idea of a messiah who would redeem Israel through his suffering (especially suffering unto death) implausible, bordering on ridiculous. Surrounded by misery, including such horrors as leprosy and demonic possession, these men and women had difficulty imagining that the Chosen One would manifest God's glory through the suffering that was ubiquitous in their time and place. Our contemporaries often have a different problem: because suffering

### THE CATHOLIC DIFFERENCE

#### George Weigel

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



is typically kept distant, sheltered in special facilities, western culture tends to forget that suffering is an irreducible part of the human condition and that suffering teaches us something important about us.

Throughout his long life, St. John Paul II knew suffering from the inside. In the 1984 apostolic letter *Salvifici Doloris* (Redemptive Suffering), he invited the Church to look deeply into the mystery of suffering – a meditation especially apt in this plague time.

Animals feel pain, John Paul noted, but only men and women suffer. So suffering, even great physical suffering, has an inner or spiritual character; suffering touches our souls, not just our nervous systems. That is why the Bible is "a great book about suffering" (in John Paul's striking phrase). And while the Scriptures contain many accounts of profound suffering, the Bible also teaches that "love ... is the fullest source of the answer to the question of the meaning of suffering." That was the truth to which Isaiah prophetically pointed in the "Suffering Servant" songs. To grasp that truth fully, however, humanity needed more than images or arguments; a demonstration was required.

That demonstration, *Salvifici Doloris* teaches, was

what God ordained "in the cross of Jesus Christ."

There the Son, giving himself without reservation to the Father's plan of redemption, took the world's evil upon himself and immolated it in perfect self-sacrifice to the divine will. On the cross, theologian Hans Urs von Balthasar wrote, the Son freely bore "all that the Father finds loathsome," and did so in order to "clear out all the refuse of the world's sins by burning it in the fire of suffering love." At Calvary, the divine wrath at the world's wickedness coincides with the divine mercy, determined to heal all that evil has broken or disfigured. On Calvary, the purifying fire of divine love reaches into history and transforms everything in this world that seems to stand against love, including suffering and death.

To embrace the cross is to embrace the logic of salvation as God has established that logic, not as we might design things. God's "demonstration" does not end on Good Friday, however. It continues through Holy Saturday until the full meaning of "redemption" is revealed on Easter.

There, in the Risen Lord who manifests what Benedict XVI called an "evolutionary leap" – a new and supercharged mode of human life – we encounter the supreme demonstration of the divine logic of redemption. There, in the "Lamb ... (who) had been slain" (Revelation 5:6) but who is now gloriously, radiantly alive, we meet God's triumph over death itself and over all that is death-dealing in the world. There, we meet the redeemer God ordained:

Jesus ... has become a high priest forever ... For all eternity he lives and intercedes for us ... there is no limit to his power to save all who come to God through him. (First Responsory, Office of Readings for Wednesday of the Fifth Week of Lent, from *Hebrews* 6:19-20, 7:24-25).

## Celebrating the Triduum together while apart

Holy Thursday begins the Triduum — time set apart to reflect on the meaning of events from the Last Supper to the Resurrection, not only in the lives of Jesus and his disciples, but also in the Paschal Mystery unfolding in our lives.

Following the great tradition observed by generations of Christians, we gather to commemorate these events. But this year is different. We cannot gather. Our buildings are closed.

COVID-19 requires us to find new ways to "be church."

In John's gospel, at the last supper, Jesus promises his disciples that the Holy Spirit will come and dwell within them. That divine presence, which lives within each of us, has animated all creation since the beginning: from the tiniest atoms to the furthest galaxies. The challenge of these days is to recognize that presence in each moment, wherever we are.

During the meal, Jesus rises, ties a towel around his waist, fills a basin with water, and gets on his knees. He cradles his disciples' dusty feet,

### GRACE IN THE MOMENT

Mary Van Balen

*Visit Mary van Balen's blog at [www.maryvanbalen.com](http://www.maryvanbalen.com). ©2020 Mary van Balen*



washing and drying them one by one. When he's finished, he asks if they understand what he has done.

Not waiting for an answer, he tells them: If he, their master and teacher, washes their feet, then they should be ready to wash one another's feet.

In this present moment, many are providing such physical acts of caring. Healthcare professionals, parents at home with small children, and those caring for sick family members serve the vulnerable. Farm laborers and grocery store workers keep food flowing to our tables. Sanitation workers and janitors keep our streets and buildings clean. Many find ways to feed the homeless and provide a place for them

to sleep. The list is long.

John also tells of Jesus giving a new commandment: "Just as I have loved you, you should also love one another." He says it twice.

During this crisis, we share that love for one another by staying home; by venturing out only when necessary;

and keeping our distance when we do; by virtual visits instead of meeting face to face. For some, these actions mean loss of jobs and income. How can we show care for them now and when this time has passed?

Jesus reassures his disciples that they will not be forgotten or left alone. He prays for them and for those who will believe through their word: "... that they all may be one. As you, Father are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us ..."

In the midst of self-isolation, we ensure that friends and family do not feel forgotten. We draw one another

into the circle of oneness and love with calls, texts, and video chats. We check that they are OK, share a laugh or a story, and hold their grief at the loss of loved ones.

Then Jesus goes forward, endures betrayal, suffering, and death, showing the unfathomable depth of God's love. His disciples spend their sabbath filled with confusion and fear. Then on the first day of the week, Jesus appears to Mary Magdalene. He instructs her to tell the others what she has seen and heard.

When Jesus appears to them all the following day, he greets them with "Peace," and as promised, bestows the Holy Spirit with a simple breath.

It is the Holy Spirit who makes the present moment the place where we encounter God. We remember the risen Christ is with us. His indwelling abounds in the simple routines of everyday life. While we miss celebrating the Paschal Mysteries together, we are finding new ways to live them while apart.

## Through Him, with Him and in Him: Some thoughts on Easter Sunday

By Father Michael Lumpe

Ask any person of a particular generation where they were when a major historical event took place and they can recall that moment with great detail.

Where were you when you heard that Pearl Harbor had been attacked? When President John F. Kennedy had been assassinated? What about when 9/11 happened?

Years from now when someone asks, “Where were you when the coronavirus pandemic took place?” you will be able to share details about how daily life had been suddenly upended, practicing something called “social distancing” became the norm, there was a shortage of toilet paper (of all things), schools and businesses were closed along with gathering places such as bars and restaurants, and even our churches could not remain open for Mass because of the strict, yet necessary, mandated health guidelines to help contain the spread of the coronavirus.

You will likely remember how we respond individually and as a society to the coronavirus. For the most part self-centeredness and individualism melted away. We all made sacrifices for the common good by complying with government health directives and those

of our religious leaders, and did so in a collective effort to help protect something that so many had taken for granted – the precious gift of human life.

Priests found new ways to serve their people by broadcasting and live-streaming Mass, praying the rosary and stations of the cross, and administering the sacraments – especially to the sick and dying, and getting special training in order to join the frontline battle to give the “last rites” to those with COVID-19 coronavirus. St. Gabriel Radio became an anchor for the Catholic faithful since so many were mandated to stay at home. Parishes and outreach groups found new ways to practice social distancing while getting necessities to shut-ins, and to feed the poor and the needy. Teachers went online with their students to continue class instruction.

With great sadness, we will also share that it did not matter whether you were male or female, young or old, rich or poor. Not one socio-economic, ethnic or religious group was spared from the COVID-19 coronavirus – so many have died and many more to come. We remember them, and continue to pray for their souls especially on this Easter Sunday so that they, too, may be delivered from the bonds of death, experi-

ence the love and mercy of God, and share in the joy of Christ’s resurrection.

Just like the world wars, the great depression, 9/11, and other major historical events in our lives, the coronavirus has not stopped our efforts to proclaim the Gospel and to live Christ’s teachings of mercy, forgiveness, compassion, to love God above all things, and to love our neighbors as ourselves. This is what we do as a community of the faithful.

“Community” may have been redefined over the past weeks, and will continue beyond Easter. But I think all of us find comfort knowing that even as we hunker down in our homes on this Easter Sunday we do so knowing that we can and will get through this situation relying not only on each other, but relying more and more on the Risen Christ. Through Him, with Him and in Him we increasingly turn to Jesus in prayer seeking divine wisdom, hope, patience, strength and perseverance. As Pope Francis said during his extraordinary Urbi et Orbi meditation and blessing: “You ask us not to be afraid. Yet our faith is weak and we are fearful. But you, Lord, will not leave us at the mercy of the storm.”

Yes, folks, we need Jesus! We always have. We depend on Him, we trust in

Him, we find great comfort knowing that Jesus is always at our side letting us cling to Him as He shepherds us through life.

So if during these past weeks each of us came to realize our human vulnerability and frailty, and conversely our greater dependence on Jesus Christ to help us carry the crosses we all bear now and have throughout our lives, then maybe this Lenten Season and Holy Week of 2020 were not wasted after all. In fact, the opposite is likely true – our faith has been renewed and reinvigorated, our hope and trust in Christ has been strengthened, and our relationship with Christ has once again taken the place of primacy in our minds and our hearts. And it is our treasured faith that will continue to guide us through this coronavirus situation over the next several weeks.

OK, so this Easter there are no large-scale Easter-egg hunts, nor parades of Easter bonnets, nor churches adorned with lilies and spring flowers. These we can live without given current circumstances. But we cannot live without the risen Christ.

Christ suffered and died on the cross

See **EASTER MESSAGE**, Page 10



**2020 RESPONSIVE GRANTS**

The Catholic Foundation's Responsive Grants application period has moved from the Fall to **MAY 1 - MAY 29**



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For the complete grant guidelines and eligibility, please visit [www.catholic-foundation.org/grants](http://www.catholic-foundation.org/grants)



## Happy Easter from ODU

*He is not here, for he has risen, as he said he would.*  
– Matthew 28:6

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## Easter still comes

### FINDING FAITH IN EVERYDAY LIFE

Sarah Reinhard

*Sarah Reinhard is a Catholic wife, mother and writer in central Ohio. Get her Catholic take at [www.snorningscholar.com](http://www.snorningscholar.com).*



It has become *quite* a Lent for all of us. And yet, I have seen hope in ways I might never have noticed.

Oh, the crocuses in the yard: Those give me hope and smiles every single year. Because February is the armpit of winter, and by the time the crocuses fight their way through the hard-packed earth and defy the cold by blooming, I'm READY for them.

I told my husband, just the other day, that this fall I'm going to make good on my promise to plant them *everywhere* on our property.

But the amount of streaming Masses? I didn't expect that to fill my heart with so much hope.

The images of drive-thru confessions and priests who are non-tech-savvy posting on YouTube? I would have never seen those coming.

And the peace I have in the face of what may be the biggest terror I've ever faced? Knock me over with a feather, because that's a shock.

I began Lent by committing to read — slowly, not in my usual get-er-done way — *The Imitation of Christ*, by Thomas à Kempis. I stopped listening to audiobooks and tried to embrace silence in the odd moments, instead of filling that time with noise.

And then the world broke. Life got still and chaotic and crazy. Our spring plans — which were many and varied and full — were canceled. Lent, it seemed, was going to be very, very, very long.

But there were crocuses. On the second week of everyone at home — quarantined in a quite polite way, but we're not leaving — the daffodils exploded in my front bed, shouting yellow praises to the

world. My kids have stripped them of their happy flowerbed home and put them in a vase for me.

In that act of love — and the knowledge they have of my love for these bright messages of hope — I am reminded of the fact that Holy Week is spitting distance away, that I have *nothing* for Easter baskets, that we probably won't be going anywhere for Easter anyway.

"At least we didn't buy Easter outfits," my pragmatic 15-year-old remarked at dinner.

"We can still dress up," I replied.

Because, despite all of this — the pandemic, the fear, the statistics and possibilities and looming death — Easter will come.

Jesus still died. And Jesus still rose.

For 2,000 years, Easter has come. For 2,000 years, we have been an Easter people. In the face of plagues and persecution, despite treachery and sin,

although we are all human — Easter. Has. Come.

And Easter will come again.

This year, and next year, and the next two thousand years.

"Faith begins when we realize we are in need of salvation. We are not self-sufficient; by ourselves we flounder: we need the Lord, like ancient navigators needed the stars," Pope Francis said in his *Urbi et Orbi* blessing on March 26.

And the Lord will come — has come — to each of us. Rest in that hope. Let him hold you in that hope. Embrace that hope.

*Grant me your grace, O most merciful Jesus, that it may be with me, and work with me, and remain with me to the very end. Grant that I may always desire and will that which is most acceptable and pleasing to you. Let your will be mine. Let my will always follow yours and agree perfectly with it. Let my will be one with yours in willing and in not willing, and let me be unable to will or not will anything but what you will or do not will. Grant that I may die to all things in this world, and for your sake love to be despised and unknown in this life. Give me above all desires the desire to rest in you, and in you let my heart have peace. You are true peace of heart. You alone are its rest. Without you all things are difficult and troubled. In this peace, the self-same that is in you, the Most High, the everlasting good, I will sleep and take my rest. Amen.*

— Thomas à Kempis, *Imitation of Christ*

## Time to ponder

### 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 [holyllandhealthy catholic.com](http://holyllandhealthy catholic.com).*



For people who have a consistent exercise routine, there is sometimes a need for what is called a 'de-load' week. This is a voluntary break from our regular exercise routine to allow the body and brain to rest, refresh and renew with a set time away from training. Rather than losing their fitness level, this rest helps people come back stronger with a fresh attitude and a rested body to help prevent injury and burnout.

I've been looking at our stay-at-home order recently as a de-load time as it is a break from the normal routine of all the things we humans do, such as working, running errands, going to restaurants, volunteering, visiting family and friends, attending Mass, events and so much more.

The Holy Spirit has given me optimism about this de-load time and I'm trying to allow the Holy Spirit to guide me in how I use it. Some of the fruits of this forced rest so far for me include learning how to use technology and social media in new ways to work from home and to stay connected with family and friends. I have more time to pray, read and listen to God. I spend more time with my loving husband. I'm learning how to talk on the phone again with family and friends near and far. I have time to cook nice meals, clean the house, listen to music and play.

There are times of peace and joy throughout the more unstructured pattern of my day that are unexpected, such as 'attending' Mass, Adoration and

other group prayer events online in different chapels, at different times around the country. I have more time to exercise than ever before. I am also aware of spring bursting forth in a way that feels hopeful and personal and getting outside is life-giving.

I also think there is a big opportunity here to take advantage of the little crack of open space in our lives for some carefree timelessness. With more time at home, and by moving through daily life at a slower pace, there is the potential to spend time pondering what is going on around us. We have the beautiful example of our Blessed Mother who pondered all things in her heart to encourage us in this practice of spending time in prayerful contemplation amid the trials and mysteries of our lives.

So rather than choosing to complain, worry, predict, panic, regret or fear, our faith in Jesus Christ

calls us to trust in him without reserve as our Blessed Mother did — and to do this we might feel called to spend quiet time pondering the events of our lives and how we are called to respond to them with and through Jesus Christ.

I didn't research the definition of pondering, but my definition would be to think and reflect about an event with a loving countenance, asking God to enlighten me and to help me keep an open heart and mind as I prayerfully seek to learn from the event or experience.

Pondering feels like a deep place of honesty even though it doesn't always feel comfortable. Pondering can be a time of reflection and discernment, a time of growth in virtue, that when paired with prayer, can be this amazing gift, that when unwrapped, allows us to discover more about ourselves and how we are called to fulfill the mission God's has for each of us.

May we be open to this unusual gift of time to ponder our lives, our mission, our relationships, and the role of Jesus and Mary in our lives. May we also ponder how we can become more fully alive to love and serve others — with the possibility of coming out of this time of 'de-load' stronger in the virtues of faith, hope and love.

In the words of St. Catherine of Siena, and in the joyful spirit of springtime, "Ponder that fact that God has made you a gardener, to root out vice and to plant virtue."



## Bottoms Up distributes 30,000 diapers monthly

The Bottoms Up diaper drive started as an idea to help the poor in central Ohio by supplying diapers to families in need through food pantries and child care facilities.

In late 2018, Bottoms Up founders Jo and Tim Welsh began collecting donated diapers and distributing them to pantries at the Bishop Griffin Resource Center and St. Stephen's Community House. Tim delivered all of the diapers in his Toyota Prius, but it soon became apparent that more capacity was needed.

As demand grew, Jo and Tim found ways to store and transport more diapers to meet the growing need. As the months passed, it seemed that every week, another pantry asked to be added to the Bottoms Up distribution list.

Today, the list has grown to more than 40 pantries and child care centers, with Bottoms Up distributing more than 30,000 diapers a month. And it just keeps growing.

As impressive as the numbers are, Jo Welsh's focus always has been more on quality than quantity. "The reason we started Bottoms Up was to help the poor in our community in a way that was meaningful to them. If we helped only one person, it would all be worth it," she said.

That philosophy has served Bottoms Up's partner agencies well.

Patti Rinehart, manager of the Bishop



**Columbus St. Agatha School second-grade students collected 2,600 diapers for the Bottoms Up diaper drive.**  
Photo courtesy Bottoms Up

op Griffin Resource Center, said, "Bottoms Up allows us to always have every size of diaper available for parents. It is awful to have to tell a parent that we don't have the size they need."

Bottoms Up is supported by many individual donors who contribute funds to buy diapers and baby wipes – a commodity that is in very high demand right now. In addition, businesses, schools and churches conduct diaper drives to support the venture. The growth in the number of supporters has matched the growth in the organization.

Columbus St. Agatha, St. Cecilia, St. James the Less and St. Catharine, Westerville St. Paul, and Lancaster St. Bernadette and St. Mary churches, Columbus Our Lady of Bethlehem School and Childcare, and Columbus Bishop Ready and Bishop Hartley high schools are among the organizations that have sponsored diaper drives. Businesses sponsoring drives include Jones-Schlatter Flooring, The Joseph Group, HMB, Precision Correction Chiropractic, Engineered Solutions and Vertiv. The office of St.

Gabriel Catholic Radio in Columbus always has been a diaper dropoff spot.

"These folks are the heart and soul of what we do," Jo Welsh said. "Without them, our ability to sustain our supply would be really diminished."

Most diapers are distributed in Franklin County, where Fortner Upholstery supplies warehouse space. But the demand in Fairfield County is growing so fast that Bottoms Up has opened a second warehouse in Lancaster. Licking County is at the start of a growth curve.

The coronavirus has increased demand for diapers enormously, and the Welshes are working harder to secure funding and donated diapers. The unexpected rise in demand has not diminished their resolve to help the poor. "In the midst of this national emergency, I know people will step up," Jo Welsh said. "I have great faith in the community."

She also is excited about what's next for Bottoms Up.

"My husband always has big dreams and he's not afraid to step out in faith," she said. "We've had interest for Bottoms Up from Philadelphia, Minneapolis, North Carolina and other parts of Ohio. The awareness of the need is be-

See **BOTTOMS UP**, Page 10

## Why Good Friday is good

By Leandro M. Tapay  
Diocesan Missions Office Director

"Good Friday"! It is a strange designation. How could "Good Friday" be good? How could it be good when it was the day when the Roman soldiers executed Jesus? Before they killed Him, they beat Him still He almost died. They mocked Him. They spat upon Him. They paraded him across town with a heavy beam on His back. He fell to the ground three times before He reached the crucifixion hill. For three long and painful hours, Jesus was hung on the cross. How could it be good?

Do you know who were paraded across town like Jesus was? Criminals. They were paraded before their execution. They were paraded with a placard hung on their necks. Inscribed on the placard was the crime they had been convicted. This was done as a form of deterrent. Had Jesus a placard hung on His neck, your sins and my sins would be inscribed on it. Why? Because He never committed any crime. He was convicted with the

crimes you and I have committed.

The Roman soldiers nailed the hands of Jesus into the tree. Jesus hands were innocent hands. Those were the hands that formed Adam from a mound of clay. Those were the hands that split the Red Sea. His innocent hands were nailed to the cross. Why? Because the justice of God demands that sin be punished. God's severe punishment could have demolished us. For these reasons, God assumed our sins in Jesus and punished our sins in Jesus.

When we think about it, sin entered into the world through a tree. Sin entered into the world when Adam took a bite of the fruit of a tree. Guess what? It was through Jesus hanging on a tree that God took away the sins of the world. Hung with the Savior were the sins world. Jesus died on the cross to redeem everyone – from Adam to the last person who will live at the end of time.

At the crucifixion hill, Jesus' life on earth hit bottom. Where does everyone go when life hits bottom? I do not know. But I know where Jesus went. He went to the Father and prayed,

"Father into your hands I commit my spirit." Jesus committed Himself to the Father. When everything around you is imploding, where do you go? Do you go to the Father?

Do you want to know how deep is your Christian faith? You could measure it by how much you believed that you are a child of God and how much you believe that God is your Father. Why? Because everything that Jesus taught us, could be summed up in our being adopted children of God and of the Fatherhood of God. "Father" is the Christian name of God.

"Father, into your hands I commit my spirit", is a prayer that sustained the martyrs when they faced their martyrdom. Peter told the suffering Christians, "Entrust your soul to the faithful Creator" (1 Peter 4:19). The dying Stephen said, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit" (Acts 7:59). Towards the end of his life, Paul declared, "I know whom I have believed. I am persuaded that He is able to keep what I have committed to him" (2 Tim. 1:12).

May God grant us the grace to make Jesus' prayer on the cross become our

own prayer. May we live and die conscious of the reality that we indeed belong to the Lord and that we have God for a Father. We are not our own. We belong to God – body and soul – both in life and in death.

Because Jesus was delivered to the hands of sinners, we can - in life and in death - entrust ourselves into the hands of our loving Father.

May we always cling to this prayer of Jesus when everything around us seems hopeless -- when everything around us is imploding.

*Prayer: Father, Jesus commended His spirit into your hands. Grant us grace follow His example – to commend our life and our death into your loving hands. We entrust to you all we have received from you so we shall lose nothing. You made us for yourself. Our hearts are restless until they rest in you. We pray in the Name of Jesus, Who gave His life for us all. Amen.*

Why is "Good Friday" good? Because it was on that Friday when Jesus died. And when Jesus died, death died with Him.

# PRAY FOR OUR DEAD

BREEN, Catherine M., 98, March 26  
St. Andrew Church, Columbus

CAMPBELL, Ruth A. (Toothman), 97,  
March 29  
St. Francis de Sales Church, Newark

GUARASCI, Frank F., 87, March 27  
St. Timothy Church, Columbus

RITZ, Martha J. (Lilley), 88, April 3  
St. Brendan Church, Hilliard

ROSS, John "Dave," 83, March 31  
St. Thomas More Newman Center, Colum-  
bus

SMART, Vickie L. (Hon), 66, March 30  
St. Mary Church, Delaware

SMITH, Barbara A. (Holzmann), 89, March 23  
Immaculate Conception Church, Dennison

## Barbara Cordle

A memorial service for Barbara Cordle, 80, who died Thursday, March 12 in St. Petersburg, Florida, will take place Thursday, Oct. 1 at Columbus St. Cecilia Church.

She was born on Oct. 1, 1939 to Richard Wolcott and Rhea Aline (Hans) Richards, was a graduate of Columbus St. Mary of the Springs High School and worked as a nurse in various capacities for many years.

She was a member of the Order of the Discalced Carmelites of the Blessed Virgin Mary of Mount Carmel.

In the 1980s, she founded Pater Noster House, a hospice in Columbus

for people dying from AIDS, which gained a national reputation and was featured in Life magazine. She also served as a foster parent for many children with AIDS.

In addition, she was the founder of a free job list at St. Cecilia Church, which matched hundreds of people with jobs and was run from her kitchen table.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Ollie "Tony"; and brothers, William and Ritchie. Survivors include sons, Anthony and Randolph; brother, Dennis; sister, Dorothy Lyczak; and seven grandchildren.

## EASTER MESSAGE,

*continued from Page 7*

for the expiation of our sins. Christ rose from the dead after three days in the tomb. By His rising Christ shattered the bonds of death and paved the way for His faithful followers to share in His eternal life.

This is the core of what we celebrate on this and every Easter as God's chosen people.

Thank you, Jesus! Alleluia! Christ is risen!

*Father Lumpe is diocesan vicar for priests and vice-rector of the College of Liberal Arts at the Pontifical College Josephinum.*

## BOTTOMS UP,

*continued from Page 9*

ginning to reach critical mass."

The organization also may expand its outreach in other ways. "We may get into adult incontinence products as we move forward," Jo Welsh said. "Since the population is aging, it feels like that will be a great need for us to help fulfill. We are just following where the Holy Spirit leads us."

To become involved with Bottoms Up, send an email to Jo at jo@bottomsup.life. Interested parties also may visit <https://bottomsup.life> for information on the organization and on donating diapers or funds.



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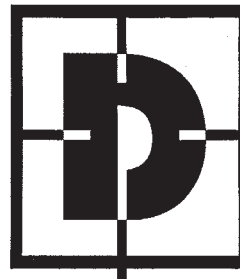
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Easter Sunday, Year A

# What makes this day different from all others?

**Acts 10:34a, 37-43**  
**Ps. 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23**  
**Colossians 3:1-4 or 1 Corinthians 5:6b-8**  
**John 20:1-9,**  
**Matthew 28:1-10**  
**or Luke 24:13-35**

Father Timothy Hayes

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



The Solemnity of Easter is the heart of the Christian liturgical cycle. The celebration of the Sacred Easter Triduum has its high point in the Easter Vigil. All Masses of the Easter Season, beginning with Easter Sunday, flowing through the Easter Octave and Divine Mercy Sunday, and continuing a full 50 days in the Easter season, concluding with Pentecost, serve to bring out the rich meaning of the Easter proclamation.

For Easter Sunday's Scriptures, there are a variety of choices: two for the Second Reading and three for the Gospel. A special "Sequence" before the Gospel draws us into dialogue with Mary Magdalene, the first witness to the Resurrection. Each text shines light on the joyful news of this day. All invite us to a personal response. We are to be witnesses, as Peter says in the Acts of the Apostles, "*He commissioned us to preach to the people and testify that He is the One appointed by God as judge of the living and the dead. To Him all the prophets bear witness, that everyone who believes in Him will receive forgiveness of sins through His Name.*"

When the people of God of Jewish heritage celebrate their Seder meal, the Passover ritual, it is the privilege of the youngest child who can read to ask the question: "*Mah nishtana halailah hazeh mikol haleilot?*" That is, "What makes today different from all others?" We may ask this question of the solemn feast we celebrate today. "What makes this day different from all others?"

In this time of "social separation," we can still deepen our commitment to live in response to the Easter proclamation and experience anew the joy and hope of Easter. "*This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad.*" We are called to be people of joy, who know the Lord and who

delight in Him through faith, with longing, desire, zeal and enthusiasm for sharing Him with others.

Our desire to "get back to normal" can serve to inspire us to reach out with a message of hope and consolation. The Angels tell the women who come to the tomb, "*He has been raised from the dead, and He is going before you to Galilee; there you will see Him.*" Galilee was home to Jesus' first disciples. We will meet Him at home.

Easter Joy takes on its full meaning as we acknowledge our faith in the Risen Lord Jesus. It is truly Jesus, the Crucified One, who is risen. He is Lord and He has established His presence in the world for all time in His Church – the church universal and the domestic church, gathered at home, in His name.

The call to gather the nations into Baptism is given to us through the breath of new life, the Spirit, who conforms us to Christ. All throughout the world, Christians, now confined to their homes due to the coronavirus, still find ways to witness to one another faith in the Resurrection of Jesus. As part of the Easter liturgies when we are together, and even now as they are broadcasted or livestreamed, we are invited to renew our Baptismal promises and to commit to live in accord with God's claim on our lives.

The Lord invites us to enter His world and His way of being. The Son receives all from the Father and pours it out in love, returning to the Father all that He has and IS. If our hearts are open, we can recognize this as an invitation, as the planting of a seed that will grow the more we cultivate it. May our hearts be open to the seed of eternity that Jesus, our Lord and Master, has planted in us.

Jesus Christ is risen! He has risen indeed! May our lives proclaim this truth to all the world.

## THE WEEKDAY BIBLE READINGS

**MONDAY**  
 Acts 2:14,22-33  
 Psalm 16:1-2a,5,7-11  
 Matthew 28:8-15

**WEDNESDAY**  
 Acts 3:1-10  
 Psalm 105:1-4,6-9  
 Luke 24:13-35

**FRIDAY**  
 Acts 4:1-12  
 Psalm 118:1-2,4,22-27a  
 John 21:1-14

**TUESDAY**  
 Acts 2:36-41  
 Psalm 33:4-5,18-20,22  
 John 20:11-18

**THURSDAY**  
 Acts 3:11-26  
 Psalm 8:2ab,5-9  
 Luke 24:35-48

**SATURDAY**  
 Acts 4:13-21  
 Psalm 118:1,14-15b,16-21  
 Mark 16:9-15

## DIOCESAN WEEKLY RADIO AND TELEVISION MASS SCHEDULE: WEEK OF APRIL 12, 2020

### Sunday Mass

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

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

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

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

385, Insight Channel 382, or WOW Channel 378). (Encores at noon, 7 p.m., and midnight).

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

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

### Daily Mass

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

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

8 p.m., St. Gabriel Radio (AM 820), Columbus, and at [www.stgabrielradio.com](http://www.stgabrielradio.com).

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

We pray the Seasonal Propers for the Octave of Easter, Liturgy of the Hours.

## Blessing of the Palms



Father Vince Nguyen blesses palms on Palm Sunday at St. Mary, Mother of God Church in German Village. Assisting is Deacon Roger Minner.

Photo courtesy Lin Duren

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