

# The Catholic **TIMES**

The Diocese of Columbus' News Source

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## Local news and events

## Young Catholic Professionals plans three events

The Young Catholic Professionals (YCP) organization is sponsoring three events in March.

A gala with a “Casino Royale” theme will take place Saturday, March 14 at Columbus Immaculate Conception Church, 414 E. N. Broadway. Tickets are \$55 per person, with the cost including dinner from Carfagna’s, an open bar, music, dancing, gambling with fake money, and raffle prizes including a two-night stay in Las Vegas. Details are at [https://www.ycpcolumbus.org/ycp\\_2020\\_gala\\_casino\\_royale](https://www.ycpcolumbus.org/ycp_2020_gala_casino_royale).

The monthly YCP executive speaker program will take place from 7 to 9 p.m. Wednesday, March 18 at Hilliard St. Brendan Church, 4475 Dublin Road, and feature Marcus Grodi of the Coming Home Network. Grodi is a former Presbyterian minister who became a Catholic, and his organization serves other people who also have joined the Catholic Church from other traditions. For several years, he has hosted *The Journey Home* on EWTN television.

The organization is sponsoring a Lenten retreat open to anyone, but focused on young adults on Saturday, March 28 from 12:30 to 4:30 p.m. at Powell St. Joan of Arc Church, 10700 Liberty Road. The program will encourage young adults to “look upon work with the eyes of faith” and see God’s presence in their vocations and professional lives. It will be followed by the parish’s 5 p.m. Sunday Vigil Mass.

YCP brings together people in their 20s and 30s from across central Ohio for speaker events, panel discussions and networking to foster Catholic identity, encourage community and inspire a call to action.

## London St. Patrick plans March 17 day of prayer

A full day of prayer and other activities will take place on Tuesday, March 17, the Feast of St. Patrick, at London St. Patrick Church, 61 S. Union St.

The day will begin at 7 a.m. with Morning Prayer. The rest of the schedule is as follows: confessions, 7:30 a.m.; Mass, 8 a.m.; Eucharistic Adoration, 9 a.m. to noon, with Rosary and Litany of Our Lady at 10, St. Patrick novena prayer at 11:30 and Angelus and Benediction at noon; guided tour of church and tea reception, 1 p.m.; Divine Mercy Chaplet and Stations of the Cross, 3 p.m.; organ recital, 4 p.m.; and

Evening Prayer, 5 p.m. The day will conclude at 7 p.m. with a Solemn High Mass in the Extraordinary Form (Latin), with music by the Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral Schola.

## Student art show has new site

The annual diocesan student art show and young authors’ exhibit is moving to a new location. This year’s show will be at the Martin de Porres Center, 2330 Airport Drive, Columbus on Saturday and Sunday, March 14 and 15 from 12:30 to 4 p.m.

The event will feature visual and written works by students in parish elementary schools throughout the diocese. It is primarily for students in kindergarten through eighth

grade, with some preschool entries. Teachers in each school are asked to select two pieces of art and two pieces of writing per grade.

Proceeds from donations during the event will be used for printing of an annual literary magazine featuring works by the shows participating writers.

The show has taken place since sometime in the 1980s, first in the Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral undercroft, then at the Pontifical College Josephinum from 1991-1997 and at Columbus Holy Spirit School from 1998 until last year.

## Bishop to celebrate Mass for high school seniors

Seniors from all diocesan high schools will gather for a Mass to be celebrated by Bishop Robert Brennan at 10 a.m. Friday, March 13 at Westerville St. Paul Church, 313 N. State St. Lunch will follow the Mass.

## Cathedral Healing Mass scheduled on March 16

The next bimonthly Mass of healing and healing service at Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral will take place at 6:30 p.m. Monday, March 16.

The healing service will follow the Mass and include Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, veneration of relics of the True Cross of Christ, and an opportunity for everyone present to speak individually with a priest and have him say prayers of healing for what they seek. The sacrament of Anointing of the Sick also will be available. The service will close with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

## St. Anthony Church awarded grant



**Columbus St. Anthony Church has been awarded a \$5,000 grant from The Catholic Foundation through the foundation’s responsive grant cycle. The money will help the parish’s family outreach project provide resources to community members facing eviction from their homes. The project will be administered by the parish conference of the St. Vincent de Paul Society. Pictured are Christy Steffy of the foundation and Father Thomas Petry, the parish’s pastor.**

*Photo courtesy St. Anthony Church*

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Front Page photo:

## HONORING ST. PATRICK

A statue of St. Patrick stands near the entrance of Columbus St. Patrick Church at the corner of Grant Avenue and Naghten Street. The parish will celebrate the saint’s feast day next week. (CT photo by Doug Bean)

## Catholic TIMES

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# Centenarian receives birthday rosary from pope via grandson

By Tim Puet  
Catholic Times Reporter

On her 100th birthday, Jan. 8, Teresa Murphy of Columbus received a document from the Vatican imparting Pope Francis' blessing on her for the occasion, making a special day even more memorable. But there was another papal surprise to come that day, courtesy of Murphy's grandson, Jonathan Smith, a former Columbus resident now studying for the priesthood of the Diocese of Arlington, Virginia, at St. Charles Borromeo Seminary in suburban Philadelphia.

Coincidentally, Smith and his seminary classmates attended an audience with the pope on Murphy's birthday. After the audience ended, Smith made a phone call to his grandmother. As he recalls, the conversation went something like this:

"Grandma knew I was going to the audience, so she asked, 'Did you see the pope?' I told her, 'Yes. In fact, I got to talk to him and told him today was your birthday.' She was so excited she screamed into the phone. Then I told her, 'Wait, there's more. He gave me a rosary for you.' There was a little bit of silence, then she screamed even louder, or as loud as you can when you're 100 years old."

A few days later, the rosary arrived at Murphy's home. The rosary and the Vatican document rest in a place of honor in her sitting room when Murphy isn't holding the rosary.

"I'm still shocked," she said. "I never expected this. I won't be able to travel to Jonathan's ordination as a deacon (scheduled Saturday, May 30 in Arlington), but I'll be using this rosary and praying for him when it happens."

Smith's encounter with the pope was part of a pilgrimage to Italy his class was making during the Christmas break. It began with a stop in Milan that included prayer at the tomb of St. Charles Borromeo. Then came a visit to Assisi and the tombs of Sts. Francis and Clare, followed by several days in Rome.

"We began the day of the audience by attending Mass in the Clementine Chapel of St. Peter's Basilica, at the altar in front of St. Peter's tomb," Smith said. "That was a moment of unforgettable grace. Then we joined about 5,000 people at the Pope St. Paul VI Hall for Pope Francis' weekly Wednesday audience."

"Before the audience began, we were asked not to leave when it ended because we'd have a chance to take a



**Pope Francis presents a rosary to Jonathan Smith, a seminarian of the Diocese of Arlington, Virginia, for his grandmother, Teresa Murphy of Columbus. Smith and classmates from St. Charles Borromeo Seminary in suburban Philadelphia attended a papal audience at the Vatican on Wednesday, Jan. 8, Murphy's birthday.**

group picture with the pope. Different groups were called up for pictures after the audience. Each received a brief greeting from the pope, and a picture was taken. During the picture session with our group, he surprised us by shaking hands with us and talking to us in Italian.

"I speak a little Italian, so I understood most of what he was saying. He asked us how (Philadelphia) Archbishop (Charles) Chaput was doing, saying the two of them are good friends." (Fifteen days after the audience, the pope accepted the resignation of Archbishop Chaput, who had reached the retirement age of 75 for bishops in September 2019.)

"He also said, in English, 'Please pray for me. I need it. This is very difficult.' As he was shaking hands, I started thinking of what to say to him. He got to me and looked me directly in the eyes, and I told him in Italian, 'Today is my grandmother's 100th birthday.'

"'One hundred years?' he said. 'And she's still living?' Then he turned to his assistant, who gave him a black box. 'No,' he said. 'It's for a woman.' So the assistant gave him a white box. He gave it to me and said, 'Give this to your grandma for her birthday from the pope.' Then he moved on."

"I opened the box after the audience and found it contained a pearl rosary. Grandma had asked me to bring back a rosary from the Vatican, but she never expected this."

"I couldn't wait to call my mom and grandma, but had to wait until we were back in our hotel to get phone service. I had sent screen shots of the audience, so they knew I had seen the pope that day, and the document with the pope's

blessing had been sent to Grandma in advance, but the rest was a big surprise."

Smith, 29, had been to the Vatican on several previous occasions. His first visit came about 15 years earlier, when he accompanied his grandmother and other family members on a pilgrimage and saw Pope St. John Paul II at the Easter Vigil. Smith also saw Pope Benedict XVI at the Good Friday Stations of the Cross in 2011 and saw Pope Francis during his visit to Philadelphia in 2015 and at an Easter Mass his family attended in 2016, but the recent meeting with Pope Francis was his first personal encounter with a pope.

"I thought about not going on the class trip because it meant I would miss my grandmother's birthday, but I knew she wouldn't want me to pass up the opportunity," he said. "All she asked me to bring back was a pearl rosary."

Smith is the son of Michael and Mary Smith, who live near Columbus St. Timothy Church, and has two brothers and a sister. He is a graduate of St. Timothy School and Columbus Bishop Watterson High School. "He received a Serra Club altar server award at St. Tim's," his mother recalled. "(The late) Father Tom Shonebarger (the parish's pastor at the time) thought then that he would be a good priest, but the call didn't come until after he had completed college and spent two years as a missionary."

Smith attended George Mason University in Fairfax, Virginia, graduating in 2013 with a bachelor of arts degree in government and international politics. "When I came to George Mason, I wasn't too interested in fervently prac-



**Seminarian Jonathan Smith with his grandmother, Teresa Murphy of Columbus, who celebrated her 100th birthday Jan. 8.**

*Photos courtesy Mary Smith*

ticing the faith," he said. "Then I went to an event on campus and was invited to a beach retreat in Sandbridge, Virginia."

"The retreat was a life-changing event. I encountered Jesus Christ in the Eucharist and a belief in his True Presence there," he said. "I hadn't been to confession for years, but returned to receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation."

"After graduating from college, I joined FOCUS (the Fellowship of Catholic University Students) and spent two years as a lay missionary at Belmont Abbey College" near Charlotte, North Carolina, he said. "During that time, I felt God speaking to my heart more strongly and calling me to the priesthood. What had been a tug at my heart before became more powerful."

Smith decided to study to become a priest of the Diocese of Arlington because that is the diocese where George Mason is located, and much of his faith formation happened at the university under the influence of his college chaplain, Father Peter Nassetta.

"I never talked to Jonathan about being a priest while he was growing up," his grandmother said. "I wanted him to make his own decision. He is very dedicated, and I know he will be a very good priest."

"I have learned a lot from him in the last few years," his mother said. "Whenever I see him, he gives me a Bible lesson, and I'm always asking questions. I'm so grateful that the Lord has called him. All of us in the family are looking forward with great anticipation to his ordination to the diaconate."



# Hunger for the Lord and for helping others during Lent

*Then, taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he said the blessing, broke the loaves, and gave them to (his) disciples to set before the people. (Mark 6:41)*

Welcome to Lent. I grew up in a small farming community. Food was a focus for my family on both personal and commercial levels. Pappy farmed our land and owned feed and grain mills in Centerburg and Croton. (Yes, for those of you old enough to remember the jokes, I am the miller's daughter!) Meals in our home were times to catch up on what was going on in our lives and in our village. I firmly believe you could learn as much having dinner with our family as you could by going to the barbershop on Saturday morning.

Pappy was glad to meet the friends I hung out with in Centerburg, at college, and at work. However, I knew he actually liked them if he said, "It was nice to meet you. You're welcome at my table any time." Trust me, not everyone got to hear the second sentence.

Jesus also liked to share meals with friends. Time and again in Scripture, we see Jesus at a table, talking with friends and strangers alike. He invites everyone to have a place at the table, to know that they belong and can have their hunger met. Even

Perseverance on a difficult but noble path is a virtue. Stubbornness when confronted by irrefutable evidence of a grave mistake is a vice. The latter would seem an apt characterization of a letter sent on Ash Wednesday to the entire College of Cardinals by its new dean, Cardinal Giovanni Battista Re. In that letter – his first official act as dean – Cardinal Re reprimands the redoubtable Cardinal Joseph Zen, SDB, emeritus bishop of Hong Kong, for his criticisms of the agreement the Vatican made with the People's Republic of China in 2018.

The bloom is off the Chinese rose just about everywhere in the world. So it is more than disturbing that the Holy See should be doubling down on what everyone (except those directly involved in cutting it) thinks is a very bad deal: bad, because it allows the Chinese Communist Party to nominate candidates for bishop, which the Holy See can then approve or reject.

Why is the bloom off the Chinese rose? Why are China and its "model" no longer lauded in the global commentariat? The initial Chinese mishandling (and worse) of COVID-19, the coronavirus, has had an impact. Before anyone had heard of COVID-19, however, there was mounting concern about the intentions and brutality of the Chinese communist regime: about its herding Uighurs into concentration camps; about its assaults on religious communities, including the defacing and demolition of Catholic churches after the accord with the Holy See was signed; about its aggressive military moves in the South China Sea; about its creation of an Orwellian internal security apparatus through facial-recognition technology; about its ranking the Chinese citizenry according to their political reliability (meaning their acquiescence to what the Chinese

## FAITH IN ACTION

Erin Cordle

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the last days of his life were no different. During the Last Supper, Jesus challenged his disciples to help others. When he washed their feet, Jesus reminded them that they were called to serve those in need.

Lent is our time of preparation. It is a 40-day journey that spans Ash Wednesday through Holy Week, culminating in the great celebration of Easter. As Catholics, the Lenten spiritual pillars of prayer, fasting and almsgiving guide us in daily reflections on our lives as we strive to deepen our relationship with God and neighbor – no matter where in the world that neighbor may live.

Again this year, our office has collaborated with the diocesan Marriage and Family Life Office to create the *Lenten Journey for Families: Three Ways to Grow Together*. English and Spanish versions may be found at the diocesan home page, <https://>

## Doubling down on a bad deal

### THE CATHOLIC DIFFERENCE

George Weigel

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



Communist Party dictates); about its international espionage, often conducted behind the cover of putatively independent technology companies like Huawei; about its relentless digital attacks on Taiwan; and about the global Chinese "Belt-and-Road" initiative, which financially shackles Third World countries to the Beijing regime.

Yet nary a public word has been spoken by Vatican diplomacy about any of this.

What is most disturbing about Cardinal Re's letter, however, is its claim that the 2018 Vatican-China agreement is in continuity with the diplomacy of John Paul II and Benedict XVI. To my understanding, that is simply not right – or at best, it's a distortion of the historical record in service to defending what can't be defended on the merits.

Yes, John Paul II and Benedict XVI sought ways to unite the Church in China. But neither was prepared to do so at the expense of the Church's right to order its internal life by Catholic criteria. Both John Paul II and Benedict XVI could have had a deal in which the Chinese government would propose candidates for bishop, which the Vatican would then accept or veto. Both popes declined to accept any such arrangement, not only because

columbuscatholic.org – the link is one of the items scrolling at the top. We are suggesting that you pray for and with your family, fast from busyness and distractions, and use the Catholic Relief Services Rice Bowl, activity calendar, recipes, and stories of hope to journey through Lent.

With 25 percent of the CRS Rice Bowl donations, the diocesan Social Concerns Office is able to support local soup kitchens and pantries in relationship with one or more of our parishes. Grant requests for unmet needs may be in the \$200 to \$2,000 range. Funds may not be used for salaries or administrative costs. Grant applications are available at [www.columbuscatholic.org/social-concerns-office](http://www.columbuscatholic.org/social-concerns-office). The grant application is not complicated – just basic contact information and information about the soup kitchen or pantry is required.

We hear Jesus' command to feed the hungry, whether he is multiplying loaves and fishes for a crowd of thousands, or simply breaking bread with friends. Jesus invites us to share what we have with all people – our global human family. I pray that during your Lenten journey this year, your relationship with Christ will become more intimate and your faith will deepen. May your Lenten journey be truly transformative.

it contradicted the teaching of Vatican II in its *Decree on the Pastoral Office of the Bishops in the Church* and Canon 377.5 of the *Code of Canon Law*, but because they knew that that concession would weaken the Church's evangelical mission in China. The deal Cardinal Re defends is not in a line of continuity with the policy of John Paul II and Benedict XVI: it is an even worse deal than the deal those popes would not make. For it concedes nominating power to the Chinese Communist Party, which manages religious affairs in China, not the Chinese government. And that is, in a word, intolerable.

Cardinal Re's defense of the indefensible is a last gasp of the old Vatican *Ostpolitik*, the failed policy of making concessions to totalitarian regimes that did much damage to the Church in east central Europe during the 1970s. Italian Vatican diplomats still defend that policy, claiming absurdly that it set the table for the Revolution of 1989 and the fall of the Berlin Wall. But what did the *Ostpolitik* actually accomplish? It made the Hungarian hierarchy a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Hungarian Communist Party, gutting the Church's evangelical credibility in the process. It demoralized Catholicism in what was then Czechoslovakia. It put unnecessary pressure on the Church in Poland. And it facilitated the deep penetration of the Vatican by communist secret intelligence services.

Cardinal Re's letter laments that the path forward for the Catholic Church in China is difficult and complex. Who could doubt it? That path is not made easier, however, by making unbecoming concessions to thugs – or by calling out fellow cardinals who challenge the 2018 Vatican-China deal because it does precisely that.

## A hundred love letters tell a father he is treasured

In a recent essay in *The Wall Street Journal*, Kimberly Cutter chronicled the death of her father by suicide. As he struggled with rapidly progressing prostate cancer, he lost more than 30 pounds, becoming gaunt and emaciated. Back pain and nausea forced him to spend much of his time in bed.

A few days before Christmas, he shared with Kimberly that he was thinking about shooting himself. Kimberly argued with him, stressing that she and her sisters couldn't accept a violent ending: "If he shot himself, my father would die alone. Someone in our family would have to find him," she wrote.

His daughters persuaded him to look into other options. When he started investigating lethal drugs, he ran into questions of reliability. He encountered horror stories about "wrong dosages and unreliable contents, painful, drawn-out demises." As a lifelong marksman, he deemed the gun his best option: "If I shoot myself, I know I won't miss."

Kimberly then describes an important decision she made:

"I couldn't accept my father's threat to shoot himself. I thought about violence and the fear that always lies beneath it. How violence, in essence, is a twisted cry for help. At some point, it occurred to me that what I needed was a way to make my father feel loved. If I could make him feel loved enough, maybe he would not forget my sisters and me in his lowest moments and do what his darkest impulses urged. Late that night, I had an idea. It was childishly simple. Corny, really. I would start sending him daily love notes. I sent the first email the next morning. The subject line read: 'Reasons Why I Love You.' ... As soon as I sent it, I knew I was onto something. ... For the next 99 days, I continued sending my father a different reason why I loved

On Ash Wednesday, I took tentative steps into the Lenten season. I wasn't sure what disciplines to embrace, but that morning, I lit a candle and sat quietly in prayer before going through liturgical readings for the season. I attended a noon service and stood in line to receive ashes on my forehead, remembering that I was dust and someday to dust would return.

After work, I made a few calls checking on a friend who had undergone surgery for a broken hip, chatting with a daughter who was celebrating a birthday, and catching up with someone I hadn't seen in a while.

Then again, a prayer candle burned as I read through the *Lectionary* again. Lent is full of powerful readings.

They include passages that remind us the most important commandment is to love and care for others, especially the least among us. And when we do, Jesus tells us, we are caring for him. Isaiah insists that the sacrifices God wants aren't the drooping of ash-covered heads or the rending garments.

That's not the drama the Holy One desires. No, the desired actions are more along the lines of freeing the oppressed, sharing food, taking care of the marginalized, being civil in speech and working for justice – all facets of the Love commandment.

There's the Samaritan woman who is the first apostle. After accepting the truth about her own life and also the love offered to her by Jesus, she hurries back to town, telling everyone that she has met the Messiah

### MAKING SENSE OUT OF BIOETHICS

Father Tad Pacholczyk

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him each morning. They ranged from the ridiculous to the sublime – from memories of snorkeling with him through a school of angelfish in Jupiter, to his incomparable Daffy Duck imitation: "Suffering Succotash!" ... I could tell the emails were working; I could hear it in my father's voice when I spoke to him on the phone; could feel it in the grateful emails he sent back in response. The daily act of pulling up a reason I loved him and sending it to him seemed to restore him in some essential way. ... My father never again discussed with me his plans for how or when he would die."

Kimberly's hundred love letters emboldened her dad to live out his life more fully and resist his fears for much longer than he would have otherwise. Tragically, they did not stop his suicide. He ended up purchasing lethal barbiturates from China and, late in his illness, consumed the fatal powder.

His death left painful contradictions, as suicide always does. He had acceded to his daughters' requests to avoid shooting himself, using drugs rather than a bullet, but he still died alone, discovered by a

## Lent: Letting love enter in

### 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*



right over there at the community well.

Instructing the people to repent, Nineveh's king shows humility and sincerity that changes God's mind about destroying the city. Queen Esther beseeches God for help in foiling the enemy's plan and turning her husband's heart in order to save her people.

These are just a smattering. But in the midst of the more grand and familiar passages sits a small one from Isaiah – just two verses. They grab my heart. Maybe it's the simple comparison of the life-bringing fall of rain and snow onto the earth to the transforming entrance of God's word into the universe:

*Just as from the heavens / the rain and snow come down / And do not return there / till they have watered the earth, / making it fertile and fruitful, / Giving seed to the one who sows / and bread to the one who eats, / So shall my word be / that goes forth from my mouth;*

stunned family member. And while his suicide was perhaps not as violent, death by overdose can feel just as violent as death by gunfire. The underlying reality of pills, powders or poisons still involves a brutal devastation of our physiology. Our bodies often resist, with the vomiting of pills, convulsions, paralysis and the like. Although Kimberly and her sisters may have preferred that their dad succumb to toxins instead of a bullet, those sentiments are more poetic than rational in the final analysis.

Sometimes the poetic may feel like all we have when we're confronted with the tragedy and incoherence of certain human choices. Another incoherent part of Kimberly's story is that despite her father's suicide, she seems to support the idea of physician-assisted suicide. While no one wants a loved one to experience pain and agony in the final days, only a false and misguided sense of compassion could conclude that instead of eliminating the suffering, we should eliminate the sufferer.

Kimberly may well have been aware of these inconsistencies as she embarked on the project of crafting a hundred love letters to her father, striving to help him understand that he was treasured and still a source of blessing to others in spite of his painful trials. Each of our loving human gestures speaks volumes about the singular power of love to overcome fear and to strengthen us in adversity.

While the hundred letters ultimately did not dissuade him from giving into the temptation to take his life, they nevertheless give us a step we can take when confronted with loved ones who think their life no longer has meaning or that death is better than life. And there is no need to wait until loved ones are in agony to pick up the pen to say, in one or more ways, how much and why they're loved.

*/ It shall not return to me void, / but shall do my will, / achieving the end for which I sent it.*

I'm not sure how that works, but it is hopeful in a time when hope is difficult to find.

This passage reminds me of short poem, *Indwelling*, by Thomas E. Brown, a 19th-century scholar, teacher, poet and theologian born on the Isle of Man.

*If thou could'st empty all thyself of self,  
Like to a shell dishabited,  
Then might He find thee on the ocean shelf,  
And say, "This is not dead,"  
And fill thee with Himself instead.*

*But thou are all replete with very thou  
And hast such shrewd activity,  
That when He come,s He says, "This is enow  
Unto itself - 'twere better let it be,  
It is so small and full, there is no room for me."*

The connection between the two? *Indwelling* suggests to me why God's word does not return without doing what it was sent to do. It is a living Word that dwells within each of us. As Brown writes, the more we empty ourselves of false selves, of cluttering activity, the more Divine Love can fill us and do its work.

We participate in the Word fulfilling its mission – as Jesus prays at the Last Supper, to bring all together in love, united with the One who sent him.

Whatever disciplines fill Lent, may they be ones that allow more Love to enter in.



## Reconciling Gospel accounts; Politics and the pulpit

**Q**In the Gospel for the Feast of the Epiphany, Matthew indicates that the Magi visited with King Herod in Jerusalem at the time of Jesus' birth and that apparently, very soon after their visit, the Holy Family fled to Egypt to avoid the wrath of Herod and stayed there until Herod had died.

But on Feb. 2, we heard Luke's account of the Christ Child's presentation in the Temple in Jerusalem just a few weeks after his birth, and Luke indicates that the Holy Family returned then to Nazareth in Galilee. How are we to reconcile these different accounts? (Circleville)

**A**Some Scripture scholars have pointed out what you see as a conflict between the infancy narratives of Matthew and Luke. (The late renowned New Testament expert Father Raymond Brown once declared that the two accounts "are contrary to each other.")

Other biblical authorities, however, have no problem with reconciling the two narratives. The key, they explain, is to understand that the four Gospel authors wrote for different audiences, and thus, each of them did not feel compelled to detail every aspect of the life of Jesus.

Luke, for example, says nothing about the flight into Egypt, while Matthew doesn't mention the Temple observance of the presentation. In addition, the Gospel writers sometimes used the word "then" to introduce a particular passage as though the events happened in quick succession, while that may not have been true.

Luke does not say that the Holy Family returned to Nazareth "immediately" after the presentation in the Temple; he simply indicates that Mary and Joseph settled afterward in Nazareth, without specifying how much time had elapsed. So it is quite possible that Luke's narrative allows for a period of time for a flight into Egypt to escape the wrath of

### QUESTION & ANSWER

Father Kenneth Doyle  
*Catholic News Service*



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Herod, followed by an eventual return to Nazareth.

**Q**If the pastor praises President Donald Trump by name during the course of a homily, isn't that the same thing as campaigning for him? (Grand Island, Nebraska)

**A**I believe, particularly in the midst of a very active and heated political campaign, that a preacher needs to be very careful about seeming to praise or criticize a particular candidate. Priests are encouraged at all times to share the principles of Catholic social teaching and to encourage parishioners to participate in the political process.

But in a website article titled "Do's and Don'ts Guidelines During Election Season," the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops is very clear on activities that must be avoided. To parishes, other church organizations and their representatives, these guidelines say, "Do not endorse or oppose candidates, political parties, or groups of candidates, or take any action that reasonably could be construed as endorsement or opposition."

In my mind, what the pastor in your question has done is a clear violation of that "reasonably could be construed" provision.

In a further specification of this caution, the Washington State Catholic Conference lists under what the Catholic Church and Catholic organizations cannot do: "endorse or oppose candidates or political parties, or actively engage in political campaigns for or against any candidate or party through homily, newsletter, flyer, poster, bulletin, email, phone, parish website links, social media, or by providing a parish mailing list."

In a document that the national bishops' conference revises periodically called *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship*, it is noted that among the subject areas that should be of concern for Catholics in weighing their voting preferences are such things as human life, promoting peace, religious freedom, the preferential option for the poor, migration, combatting unjust discrimination and care for our common home. That document is available on the USCCB website.

Editor's addendum: While the bishops' guidelines are clear that mentioning political candidates or officeholders by name should be avoided, it would seem prudent to know the context before judging the pastor. Citing the passage of a humanitarian bill or providing information about sponsored legislation, for example, is different than telling parishioners to vote for a particular individual.

As for weighing voting preferences, the U.S. bishops voted at their November meeting to retain the original text of their *Faithful Citizenship* document that states, "The threat of abortion remains our preeminent priority because it directly attacks life itself, because it takes place within the sanctuary of the family, and because of the number of lives destroyed."

## Father, show us where we fit in your loving plan

By Leandro M. Tapay  
*Diocesan Missions Office Director*

The month of March is dedicated to St. Joseph. We do not know a lot about St. Joseph. We know that his father's name was Jacob and that he was the husband of Mary. We know that he was a carpenter, that after he was engaged to Mary, he found out that Mary was pregnant, and that in order to protect Mary's reputation, he decided to divorce Mary quietly.

The Gospels describe Joseph as an upright and righteous man. But in the Gospels, there is no mention of Joseph saying anything.

We know that Joseph followed the law. He observed the religious law – he went to Jerusalem for the Jewish festivals. He followed the civil law – he went to Bethlehem for the census. We know that Joseph had dreams and

he followed what God told him in his dreams.

It is interesting that the Gospels never mention Joseph saying anything. He said nothing. But he was a man of action. He did what the angel told him – he took Mary as his wife; he went to Bethlehem; he found a stable for the night; he took his family to Egypt.

Over the centuries, scholars and artists have tried to figure out Joseph's words. Michael Card, an American singer and songwriter, wrote a Christmas song about Joseph. It is one of my favorite Christmas songs. I love the words Michael Card put in Joseph's mouth. Did Joseph say them? I doubt it.

*Here is the lyric of that song:*

*How could it be, this baby in my arms,*

*Sleeping now, so peacefully,*

*The Son of God, the angel said.*

*How could it be?*

*Lord, I know he is not my own,*

*Not my flesh, not my bone.*

*Still, Father, let this baby be*

*The son of my love.*

*Father, show me where I fit into this plan of yours.*

*How can a man be a father to the Son of God?*

*Lord, for all my life I have been a simple carpenter.*

*How can I raise a king?*

What a model Joseph is to us! He is a man after God's will. He longed to see God's will. He searched to see how he fit in the Father's plan.

And just as God had a plan for Joseph, God has a plan for each of us. As God did for Joseph, God gives us dreams and God speaks to us in our dreams.

Like Joseph, we may not see the fruit of our labor. We never may reap

the harvest. Neither did many of the heroes in the Scriptures.

It was promised to David that his line would continue forever. But David did not live long enough to see the promise fulfilled.

Abraham did God's will. God promised to give him land. But Abraham never saw the fulfillment of God's promise to him. But the promise was fulfilled.

Joseph may have been a simple carpenter, but he is one of the greatest saints in the Church. In 1870, Joseph was declared patron of the universal Church.

Let us allow St. Joseph to guide us and help us open our hearts to God's plan; that we may be upright and righteous; that we may be women and men after God's will; that we may be able to pray, "Father, show me how I fit into this plan of yours."

## LOCAL NEWS, continued from Page 2

All persons who seek Christ's healing are invited, especially those who suffer with physical illness and infirmities, in addition to those seeking emotional and spiritual healing. All caregivers, family members, and members of the medical community also are invited.

Secured parking is available off East Gay Street. There is a handicapped-accessible elevator in the courtyard (west side of the cathedral) on East Broad Street. Healing Masses take place at the cathedral on the third Monday of every other month. Other Healing Masses at the cathedral in 2020 are scheduled for May 18, July 20, Sept. 21 and Nov. 16.

For more information, call the cathedral at (614) 224-1295.

### Father Gaitley to speak at Grove City parish

Father Michael Gaitley, MIC, will speak on "God the Father: Finding the Father in the Gospel of John" at Grove City Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, 3730 Broadway, at 7 p.m. Friday, March 20, preceded by Stations of the Cross at 6:30.

Father Gaitley is director of evangelization for the Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception, based in Stockbridge, Massachusetts, and director of formation for the Marian Missionaries of Divine Mercy. His newest book, *33 Days to Greater Glory*, on consecration to God the Father, will be available for purchase and signing after the talk.

He also is the author of *33 Days to Morning Glory*, on Marian consecra-

tion, and *33 Days to Merciful Love*, on consecration to the Divine Mercy.

### St. Colman of Cloyne plans two musical events

Washington Court House St. Colman of Cloyne Church, 219 S. North St., will host two special musical events in March and April.

A Solemn Vespers service featuring the first section of part two of Georg Frideric Handel's oratorio *Messiah* will take place at 3 p.m. Sunday, March 22. The second concert in the parish's annual Concerts in a Country Church series, titled "String-ed Sonic Splendor," will be at 3 p.m. Sunday, April 26.

The Vespers service, also known as Evening Prayer, has taken place for several years at St. Colman on the Fourth of Sunday of Lent, one of two Sundays in the liturgical year known as "rose Sundays" for the color of vestments worn that day.

Besides the *Messiah* selection, the program will feature Psalms sung in Gregorian and Anglican chant forms, a *Magnificat* (the song of Mary) and a sung prayer for the evening. The parish choir, with soloist Carolyn Redman will be accompanied by organ and a string quartet.

The April program will include music for organ, strings and other instruments. Selections will be Josef Rheinberger's Concerto in F Major for organ, strings and French horns; Handel's Organ Concerto in D Minor with strings and harpsichord; and Francis Poulenc's Concerto in G Minor for organ, strings and tympani.

Admission to the Vespers service is free. A free-will offering will be taken for the St. Colman music program. Tickets for the April concert are \$15 each.

For more information, contact parish music director Craig Jaynes at (937) 675-7055 or visit [www.stcolmanmusic.org](http://www.stcolmanmusic.org).

### Catholic Record Society announces spring luncheon

Father Charles P. Connor will speak on "Faith and Fury: The Rise of Catholicism During the Civil War" at the Catholic Record Society's annual spring lecture and luncheon, which will take place at noon Sunday, May 3 at St. Therese's Retreat Center, 5277 E. Broad St.

Father Connor, a priest of the Diocese of Scranton, Pennsylvania, is the diocese's historian and is a professor of systematic theology and church history at Mount St. Mary's Seminary in Emmitsburg, Maryland.

Through anecdotes and analysis, he will show how the tumult, tragedy and bravery of the war, in which Catholics found themselves on both sides of the conflict, forged a new American Catholic identity.

The talk will be followed by a short business meeting. You do not need to be a member of the society to participate in the day's activities.

Those wishing to have lunch are asked to send a \$25 check, payable to the Diocese of Columbus, by Friday, April 24 to the record society at 197 E. Gay St., Columbus OH 43215.

For more information, contact

society chairman Mike Finn at (614) 268-4166 or [FCoolavin@aol.com](mailto:FCoolavin@aol.com).

### Ohio Dominican partners with Grove City

Ohio Dominican University has partnered with the City of Grove City to offer its employees an opportunity to complete a wide range of business-related undergraduate or graduate degrees and certificate programs at a discounted rate.

ODU's educational partnership program gives corporations, government agencies and nonprofit organizations the ability to provide employees with continuing education options at the undergraduate and graduate level to help their organization foster innovation, identify and keep top talent, and give employees with the opportunity to enhance their professional credentials.

ODU's partnership with Grove City is the latest in a series of similar agreements announced during the past year with the southwest Columbus suburb. In April 2019, ODU joined Grove

City's high her education investment program to offer scholarships to eligible residents. In January 2020, ODU partnered with the Grove City Area Chamber of Commerce to provide educational benefits to its members and their employees.

For more information on ODU's educational partnership program, visit [ohiodominican.edu/Partner](http://ohiodominican.edu/Partner) or contact ODU's graduate admissions office at [grad@ohiodominican.edu](mailto:grad@ohiodominican.edu) or (614) 251-4615.

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### REYNOLDSBURG SAINT PIUS X PARISH

Custodian/Maintenance Technician Position Available

**Qualifications for the position:** The Custodian/Maintenance Technician is responsible for performing general cleaning and upkeep of assigned areas within the school facilities to include minor maintenance tasks. This includes hard floor cleaning, carpet vacuuming, cleaning and sanitizing all surfaces, waste removal, and some exterior maintenance, such as snow removal, and other related tasks as needed. Applicants must be able to work independently, paying close attention to detail, and perform all physical aspects of the job duties. Previous custodian or maintenance experience preferred but not required.

This is a full-time position (40 hours per week) with a work schedule of Monday through Friday from 7:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. At certain times, flexibility and overtime may be required.

Must have on file or be able to pass a BCI/FBI Background Check prior to start date and completion of the VIRTUS "Protecting God's Children" training session.

Hourly rate is commensurate with education and experience. Benefits are according to Diocesan policy.

If you are interested in the position, please send your resume and references to Scott Marsh, Maintenance Manager, at [smarsh@cducation.org](mailto:smarsh@cducation.org).



# 600 attend diocesan youth conferences at Bishop Hartley

About 600 young people attended two events sponsored this past weekend at Columbus Bishop Hartley High School by the diocesan Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry, with about 350 coming to the Bosco Bash for sixth- to eighth-graders on Saturday, March 7 and 250 at the annual Diocesan Youth Conference for high school students the following day.

Both events had the theme “Blessed and Beloved.” Talks at both were delivered by Catholic recording artist Noelle Garcia, who gave the keynote presentations, and Bishop Robert

Brennan. The programs also included Mass, a meal, music, Eucharistic Adoration, community service opportunities, games, and displays by diocesan agencies and other exhibitors.

“The glory of God is revealed through you, through me,” Garcia said at the Bosco Bash, named for St. John Bosco, patron of young people. “God enters into your pain and suffering and he tells you that he is searching for you right now, calling you back to who you are. If you are struggling, don’t be afraid. Call out to God: ‘God, please speak to me, show me that you

are real. God, take me deeper.’”

Bishop Brennan said that “When we’re having fun, that’s when Jesus wants us to discover him because he wants us to know he’s with us when it’s not so fun. He wants us to have these times together so that we can be assured of his presence when we’re alone, both in times of reflection and in times of sadness or isolation.”

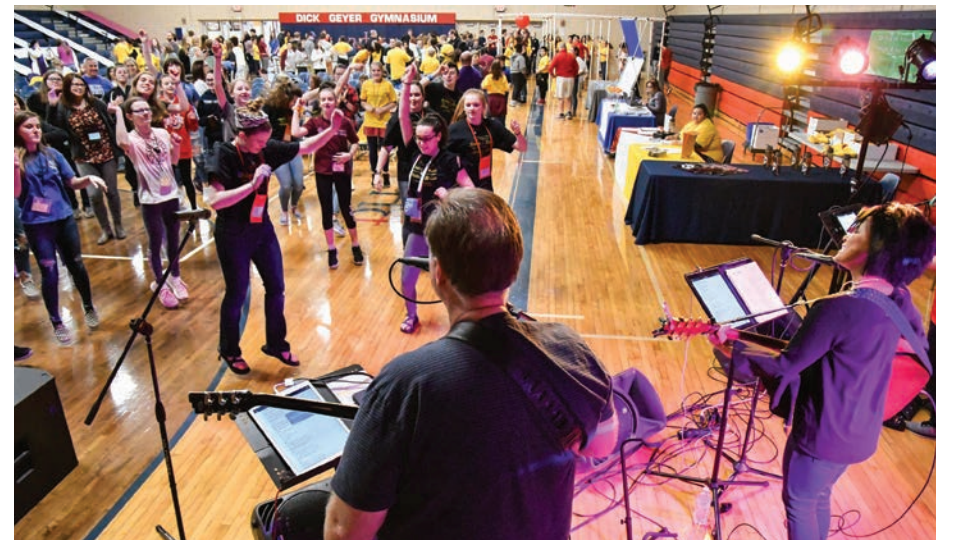
**Clockwise from right: Keynote speaker Noelle Garcia; Bosco Bash participants (from left) Mack Murnane, Evan Maurer and Mason Murnane; Bishop Brennan**



**Left: Father David Schalk distributes the Eucharist at the Bosco Bash at Columbus Bishop Hartley High School on Saturday, March 7.**

**Right: The Station 14 praise and worship band plays at the Bosco Bash, attended by about 350 sixth- to eighth-graders.**

**Below: From left: Angie Hanson and Bailey Arins of Dublin St. Brigid of Kildare Church and Sister Joseph Marie of the Children of Mary play Jenga. CT photos by Ken Snow**





**St. Margaret of Cortona**  
1600 N. Hague Ave., 43204

**Six Fridays during Lent:  
February 28 - April 3  
4:30 - 7:30 PM**

- \$11.00 Adults
- \$10.50 Seniors
- \$5.00 Children (10 & under)
- Free (3 & under)
- \$16.00 Xtra Large Fish Platter
- Special Family pricing

**Fried Ocean Perch or Baked Cod with choice of two sides:**

- Baked Potato
- French Fries
- Baked Sweet Potato
- Cole Slaw
- Macaroni & Cheese
- Applesauce

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



# Death penalty foe: Hating is easy, loving is hard

By Tim Puet  
Catholic Times Reporter

George White has seen the justice system from many perspectives – as the survivor of a shooting that killed his wife, as the person wrongfully convicted of the shooting, as a prison inmate whose conviction was overturned and as someone who, though freed from prison, had to fight for seven years to be exonerated.

He is opposed to capital punishment, favoring instead giving even those accused of the worst offenses a chance to help heal their victims while maintaining their dignity as human beings.

White and other representatives of an anti-death penalty group known as Journey of Hope ... From Violence to Healing, founded in 1993 by White and four other members of murder victims' families, spoke of their experiences to students at Columbus Bishop Watterson, Bishop Ready and St. Francis DeSales high schools and St. Charles Preparatory School last week. They also participated in a public forum on Monday, March 9 at DeSales.

During the week they were talking to students, two state senators announced they have built a bipartisan coalition of lawmakers who plan to introduce legislation abolishing the death penalty in Ohio.

White, who now lives in northern Virginia, said he was vice president of a building supply firm in Enterprise, Alabama – “living a piece of the American dream, a yuppie in southeast Alabama” – before his life was changed irrevocably late on Feb. 27, 1985.

He and his wife, Charlene, had stopped at his company's store after business hours when a masked gunman entered the building and shot the couple during an armed robbery. “Char died in my arms,” he told Watterson students on Thursday, March 5. “Sixteen months later, I was charged with murder. Intellectually, I knew what was going on. Emotionally, I couldn't get around it. ... I was clinging to what I was brought up to believe – that at trial, the truth would come out.”

Newspaper accounts said local authorities claimed White shot himself to make it look as though he and his wife had been attacked. They said his motive was to collect about \$30,500 in life insurance proceeds.

“I was convicted, but luckily, I didn't get the death penalty,” he said.



**Speakers expressing opposition to the death penalty at a program presented by the Journey of Hope organization at Columbus Bishop Watterson High School on March 5 included (from left): Emma Tacke of the Catholic Mobilizing Network; the Rev. Jack Sullivan Jr., executive director of the Ohio Council of Churches; and Abraham Bonowitz, Journey of Hope Ohio organizer.**

*Photo courtesy Bishop Watterson High School*



**Abraham Bonowitz, co-founder of the group Death Penalty Action, speaks to Columbus St. Charles Preparatory School students at an assembly program titled “Journey of Hope: From Violence to Healing.” In the background are presenters from the Catholic Mobilizing Network, who shared experiences of how the murder of a family member affected their lives and their belief that the death penalty should be abolished, but in a way that allows justice to still be served. Discussion of the topic continued after the program, with the presenters visiting religion classes for question-and-answer sessions. Similar programs took place at three other diocesan high schools in Columbus in early March, concluding with a program for the general public on March 9 at Columbus St. Francis DeSales High School.**

*Photo courtesy St. Charles Preparatory School*

“I was sentenced to life in prison, and that was like dying day by day for two years and 103 days.” A state appeals court overturned White's conviction in 1989, calling his trial “a mockery, a sham and a circus.” A second trial was ordered, but for the next three years, White and his lawyers endured multiple delays until the Alabama Supreme Court ruled in 1992 that he had been denied a speedy trial.

That court required that White's second trial take place within 30

days, but he never was retried. White said two police officers had shared with him information on 104 pieces of evidence proving his innocence that prosecutors never gave to his lawyers. Confronted with that knowledge, the district attorney moved for dismissal of the charges, the motion was accepted and White was freed. No one else has been charged in his wife's slaying.

White told the students that after he was exonerated, “I hated the man

who murdered my wife, I hated the people in the system who failed me, and I hated God, though I never stopped believing in him. But it wasn't hatred that sustained me over seven years. It was love,” he said. “I came to fully understand that I had a God who loves me in spite of myself, (in spite of) my hating him. That love is manifested through people, through family. It's hard to love someone who hates.

“As difficult as it was for me, I can't imagine how it was for my two children. They lost their mother, then they had the state of Alabama say that ‘Daddy did it.’ This should in no way minimize their pain, their anger, their hurt, but their response was to keep on loving me. How could I do less?

“Sometimes hating is easy. Sometimes it's this loving stuff that's hard,” he said. “I've come on a long and somewhat tortuous path to where I stand before you now. I went from ambivalence about the death penalty, to absolute support for it, to where I stand before you absolutely opposed to it in every circumstance and for every reason.

“It's been a long, painful path. For years, I couldn't see my children. I couldn't remember Char, except as I last saw her. No one should live like that. But today, by the grace of God, I can look into the faces of my children and into the faces of my seven grandchildren and see reflected there the legacy of Charlene White, wife and mother.

“Sure, I still have angry days at times. We're entitled to those. What we're not entitled to do is to give back what we've been given. Charlene White loved. Let that be her legacy,” White said.

During a question-and-answer session following his talk, White was asked about his views on prison reform. “Too often, especially in the last 30 years, we've gotten back to a punitive mindset, and instead of trying to attain rehabilitation, it's all about punishment,” he said. “Politicians in some states came out with ‘three strikes and you're out’ rules – three felonies and you're in prison for life. That isn't what our faith calls us to do.

“I believe in restorative justice,”



# Churches named for St. Patrick carry his torch

By Doug Bean  
Catholic Times Editor

Most of the world has come to identify St. Patrick's Day as a celebration replete with green beer, leprechauns, Irish whiskey, funny hats and shamrock shakes. But in the Catholic Church, the great saint represents more than a party icon.

"When you look at the real St. Patrick, he's the furthest thing from a caricature," said Father Stephen Alcott, OP, pastor at Columbus St. Patrick Church. "He's a real missionary, a man of amazing accomplishments, a former slave who came back to the people."

Next week, the universal church will observe at daily Masses the feast of the man who brought Christianity to the pagan culture of Ireland in the fifth century.

Closer to home, here in the Diocese of Columbus, parishes named in honor of the Irish hero will mark the occasion with special Masses and commemorative events.

At St. Patrick Church in downtown Columbus, the parish will celebrate a solemn Mass on the eve of the feast, Monday, March 16 at 6:30 p.m., followed by a torchlight procession outside with a life-size statue of St. Patrick and a festive reception afterward with Irish tea, soda bread, shortbread, drinks and Irish music from The Kells band.

On Tuesday, March 17, St. Patrick Church will be the site for the annual feast day Mass sponsored by the Shamrock Club of Columbus that attracts a broad range of people with Irish heritage from outside the parish. Immediately after the Mass will be a downtown parade.

Bishop Robert Brennan will honor his Irish lineage by celebrating both Masses at St. Patrick Church.

On March 17 at London St. Patrick, a Day of Prayer is scheduled to begin at 7 a.m. with Lauds (Morning Prayer), confessions at 7:30 and a Low Mass (Ordinary Form) at 8.

After Mass, Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament is slated for three hours starting at 9 a.m. and will include the rosary and Litany of Our Lady at 10 a.m. and a St. Patrick Novena prayer at 11. At noon, there will be the Angelus and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

The day continues at 1 p.m. with a guided tour of the church and a tea reception. At 3 p.m., a Divine Mercy chaplet will be recited, and



**Columbus St. Patrick Church's annual parish celebration of its patron on the vigil of St. Patrick's Day features a torchlight procession and a statue of the saint that is carried around the parish.**

*CT photo by Doug Bean*

Stations of the Cross will be prayed. At 4 p.m., there will be an organ recital followed by Vespers (Evening Prayer) at 5. The Day of Prayer concludes with a Solemn High Mass (Extraordinary Form) at 7 p.m. that features music from the Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral Schola choir.

Junction City St. Patrick Church will offer a 5:30 p.m. Mass on March 17 with a potluck dinner to follow.

But to most of the rest of the world, religious observances in honor of St. Patrick are virtually nonexistent other than those offered by Catholic churches, reflecting the secularization of the saint's day.

"St. Patrick's Day is not about getting drunk," said Eddie Cotter Jr., the assistant youth ministry director at Columbus St. Patrick whose Irish family connections to the parish spans six generations. "It's a great day to celebrate our culture and heritage and the legacy of St. Patrick, but remember, St. Patrick was about holiness and evangelization, and he poured his life into that. We convey that to the young people."

"God created us to become saints. We may not all become famous. It may not be easy, but St. Patrick is a great model of having a rugged faith. He Christianized his environment. We all can help Christianize our environment."

In Ireland, March 17 is considered a holy day of obligation on the church calendar, because St. Patrick

is the country's patron. Cotter has visited Ireland on St. Patrick's Day and says he hasn't experienced anything quite like what Columbus St. Patrick does.

"It's a proper way to celebrate St. Patrick and his legacy to the faith that he spread," Cotter said. "There are a lot of celebrations, but the faith element can be left behind."

Columbus St. Patrick has been a focal point for Irish Americans in central Ohio since it was established as the city's second church in 1853 for the growing Irish community. Naghten Street, which runs past the church and is named for a former Irish Catholic Columbus City Council president, was once referred to as "Irish Broadway."

Through the years, the number of parishioners with Irish heritage has dwindled as families moved out of the downtown area, but many Irish-American Catholics still recognize St. Patrick Church as their home.

"When there's an important Irish event, St. Pat's is usually connected to it," Father Alcott said. "The Irish heritage very much lives here, but it's not as front and center."

Names such as McGovern and Egan, Dorgan, Kelly, Cassady, Fenlon, Dorrian, Murnane, Brennan, Keough, Grady, Murphy, Dempsey, O'Connor, O'Sullivan and others still remain associated with the parish. But as the city has expanded, the parish population has become

more diverse and now includes a large number of families with young children who attend Mass for the solemn celebration of the liturgy and the sacraments made available by the Dominican fathers.

That reverence will be on display at the parish's patronal Mass the night before the feast day. Father Ambrose Eckinger, OP, was the pastor in 1999 when the first vigil Mass was celebrated on a rainy evening.

Father Eckinger and his confreres recognized that many parishioners weren't able to attend the crowded Mass on St. Patrick's Day or miss a day of work. That led to the idea for an alternative Mass. Since then, the night-before celebration has become a staple at the parish.

The liturgy incorporates Irish-themed hymns, harp, violin, readings and prayers associated with the saint. Among the musical selections this year will be *Ag Criost an siol*, a traditional Irish-Gaelic prayer.

The procession after the Mass features special torches, bagpipes and drums, and the statue of St. Patrick carried by the parish's altar servers.

Those who visit a parish church on the feast of its patron are eligible to receive a plenary indulgence that removes all of the temporal punishment due to sins. The conditions to receive the indulgence are that during the visit one must



ST. PATRICK, *continued from Page 10*

**The Kells band provides traditional Irish music at a celebration in the parish hall at Columbus St. Patrick Church following a solemn Mass and procession on the eve of St. Patrick's Day.**

*Photo courtesy the Kells*

offer prayers for the pope (the Creed and the Hail Mary) and within 15 days make a sacramental confession and receive Holy Communion.

“Our parishioners like to celebrate in a more solemn way,” Father Alcott said. “They like the liturgical music that fits in with the Mass. They like to have lots of altar servers. There’s a sense that this is a Church celebration, and it’s the feast of a saint.

“For the people here, St. Patrick Day is celebrated as a feast of a saint more than for a culture identity.”

Father Stephen Dominic Hayes, OP, developed the torches used for the first vigil Mass.

“We revived the old custom of carrying an image of the saint in procession,” said Father Hayes, who is in residence at St. Patrick Priory. “We didn’t have covered torches, and I was asked to make a torch. Being a ‘medieval’ person, I did. I already had a recipe (bands of muslin interwoven with ropes and a mixture of paraffin and pine tar to cover them).

“There’s nothing like the flickering of the torches when you’re hearing the pipes. It takes you back to the old days.”

The torches serve as a reminder of the triumph of the light of faith in Ireland in St. Patrick’s time over the darkness and the superstitions of the druids. On Easter Sunday 433, Patrick lit a fire that defied the pagan leader’s authority, and the druids

were unable to snuff out the flames despite repeated attempts, a symbol that Christ would illuminate the hearts and minds of the people on the Emerald Isle.

“I love the fact that at St. Patrick’s, the torch is processed around the church,” Cotter said. “It’s a bold look, and it really shows that the light of faith wasn’t extinguished in Ireland. There has been many attempts, especially in our times now, but thank God there are faithful people in Ireland keeping it lit.”

Images of the saint and the parish’s Irish roots can be found in and around St. Patrick Church. A statue with votive candles is located in the gallery, another statue greets visitors at the entryway, a Celtic cross is positioned outside the parish hall, and another large statue sits next to a parish sign at the corner of Grant Avenue and Naghten. Carved into the pews are shamrocks representing the Holy Trinity.

The parish’s Irish identity remains strong in central Ohio, Father Hayes said, through groups such as the Shamrock Club, Ancient Order of Hibernians, Irish language society, Emerald Society of Columbus and the Daughters of Erin.

“We who are Irish look at St. Patrick’s as our home,” Father Hayes said. “The saint gave us the Gospel, and he gave us a particular way of life and prayer, and we’re very proud of it.”

## Irish patron saint ‘superhero’ of evangelization

By Doug Bean  
*Catholic Times Editor*

Eddie Cotter Jr. calls St. Patrick “the first superhero I ever learned about.”

Unlike Spider-Man and Superman, the superheroes of today, St. Patrick was a real person whose feats are just as amazing as the fictional characters’.

Cotter, an Irish descendant and a youth minister at Columbus St. Patrick Church who founded the Dead Theologians Society apostolate for teens and young adults, recalls sitting in church as a boy and looking in awe at a statue of the saint. “So when it came time to pick a confirmation saint, it was a no-brainer.”

The feast of Ireland’s patron saint on March 17 serves as an annual reminder that God raises up men and women to be his holy instruments no matter their circumstances or background.

The basics of St. Patrick’s life are known by many Christians. He was born in the late fourth century in England into a relatively wealthy family, captured by Irish pirates as a teenager and forced into slavery in Ireland for years before God allowed him to miraculously escape and return home to his family. Years later as a bishop in his 40s, he came back to Ireland as a missionary and converted much of the country to Christianity.

“Patrick got himself in a very difficult situation but turned to God and turned to prayer, and it equipped him for the mission he would go on later,” Cotter said. “He was one of the first to speak out against slavery and the injustices of the world.”

Patrick had not taken his studies or religion seriously during his youth before he was captured, but “he had a rugged faith, a belief in

the Holy Trinity,” Cotter added.

Everything changed during his captivity. He learned to pray fervently while living in the midst of his captors. He described his situation as like being “a stone stuck in the mud, and God lifted him out,” Cotter said.

After Patrick’s escape from Ireland and return to the country years later, he preached with

a legendary fervor.

Patrick is most often depicted clothed in green vestments, wearing a bishop’s miter and holding a shamrock while pointing to snakes on the ground that he drove out of Ireland.

“He’s relevant today because we live in a culture that’s less and less Christian,” said Father Stephen Alcott, OP, the pastor at St. Patrick Church. “There’s kind of a Christian veneer to it in some ways, but there are more and more people who are a-religious, or Christianity is kind of foreign to them.

“We are right back in sort of a missionary field, and I think St. Patrick gives us that model of getting to know the people and speaking to them in a way that moves them.”

Father Alcott considers St. Patrick a model for evangelization because of his humility and the time he spent as a slave.

“He thought of himself as unlearned,” Father Alcott said, “but he had a great heart for the Gospel.”

One of two letters attributed to St. Patrick is his *Confessions*, which is an explanation of his life’s work in Ireland.

In his *Confessions*, Patrick wrote, “For as every day arrives, I expect either sudden death or deception or being taken back as a slave, or



**A statue of St. Patrick greets visitors in the entryway at Columbus St. Patrick Church.**  
*CT photo by Doug Bean*



## Film about St. Patrick tells who he really was

By Sister Hosea Rupprecht, DSP  
Catholic News Service

NEW YORK -- The reasons the church continues to honor the Apostle of Ireland more than 1,500 years after his death shine forth in the film *I Am Patrick* (CBN), a docudrama screening in theaters for two nights only, March 17 – St. Patrick’s Day – and March 18.

Written and directed by Jarrod Anderson, the profile – subtitled “The Patron Saint of Ireland” – seeks to debunk many of the myths and legends that have grown up around its subject over the centuries. The goal is to capture who Patrick really was as a man and a follower of Christ.

John Rhys-Davies (Gimli in the *Lord of the Rings* trilogy) plays Patrick in old age. With his distinctive voice and stately bearing, he brings the patriarch to life as he reflects on his past and writes his *Confession*, laying out the facts about his work to refute the detractors who have arisen during his evangelization of Ireland.

Anderson has brought together an impressive array of people to lay out what is known about Patrick. Those interviewed include historians Charles Doherty and Elva Johnson, as well as authors Thomas O’Loughlin and Father Billy Swan. They weave a narrative that reveals Patrick for the amazing missionary he was.

The exact dates of Patrick’s life are not known, but the historical consensus identifies him as a fifth-century figure. Probably born in Roman Empire-controlled Britain, he was the son of a deacon, though his father’s position was more that of a civil servant than a church leader.

Because Patrick (played as a teen-

ager by Robert McCormack) was also expected to enter the civil service, he was taught to read and write. But all of the youth’s plans for the future came to an abrupt end when he was kidnapped by Irish raiders and taken to their homeland as a slave.

In his *Confession*, Patrick describes his descent into slavery as a wakeup call from God. His duties as a shepherd meant that he was in danger from other raiders, but his solitude gave him ample time to reflect on God’s goodness. As he came to think of God as a father he could trust, he began to pray and developed a personal relationship with him.

One night, Patrick heard a voice urging him to go home, “for a ship was prepared.” Traveling 200 miles through lands where he was constantly exposed to the danger of being recaptured, he reached the coast and found safe passage back to Britain. During all that time, he was not afraid “because he had come to know God.”

Unsurprisingly, his family was thrilled to see him. But the Patrick who returned to them was very different from the Patrick who had left six years previously. He followed his desire to become a cleric, first, serving as an apprentice to the local bishop, then being sent to Gaul (modern-day France) to study theology.

In explaining Patrick’s journey to ordination, the film falters a bit, failing to clarify the process by which he would have become a priest and then a bishop in late Roman times. Simply saying that Patrick “worked his way up the ranks to become a bishop” seems vague and inadequate.

The film then fast-forwards to the middle of Patrick’s life. After a decade in Britain, Bishop Patrick (now played



St. Patrick, played by Sean T. O’Meallaigh in *I Am Patrick*, returned to Ireland as a bishop and a missionary to evangelize the pagan country. The film will be shown in theaters around the country, including central Ohio, on March 17 and 18 only.

Photo courtesy CBN Films

by Sean T. O’Meallaigh), acts on a call from God to return to Ireland as a missionary. Of course, everyone thinks this is a crazy idea because, legally, he would still be considered a fugitive slave. But Patrick insists that it’s God’s will that he go. And go he does.

It’s no spoiler to say that Patrick’s evangelizing mission was a great success. And the film does a splendid job of detailing just how much of a change it was for the Irish pagans to become Christian.

Some back in Britain, however, were uncomfortable with Patrick’s efforts and with the way the church was developing in Ireland. Even after decades of work, Patrick still had his critics. It was for them that he wrote his *Confession*, saying that his only motivation in all the preceding years of labor had been “to bring people to Christ.”

The live-action and documentary elements blend well, keeping the pace moving along as the story unfolds with the help of Moe Dunford’s narration. The actors who portray Patrick at different stages of his life successfully capture the excitement, determination and zeal Patrick consistently displayed.

Anderson gives moviegoers an opportunity to view this popular saint as the lover of Christ and proclaimer of the Gospel that he was. His screen biography thus makes especially apt fare for Lent. Perhaps in witnessing the radical way Patrick responded so fully to God’s calling, we might take a moment to reflect on how we live out our own vocations.

For theater and ticket information, visit: [www.fathomevents.com/events/i-am-patrick](http://www.fathomevents.com/events/i-am-patrick).

### SUPERHERO, continued from Page 11

some such other misfortune. But I fear none of these since I look to the promises of heaven and have flung myself into the hands of the all-powerful God, who rules as Lord everywhere.”

St. Patrick survived attempts by the druids to take his life, but that didn’t stop him. One of the more recognizable prayers associated with Patrick is the “Lorica” or the “Breastplate,” which includes the following passage:

*Christ with me, Christ before me,  
Christ behind me,  
Christ in me, Christ beneath me,  
Christ above me,*

*Christ on my right, Christ on my left,*

*Christ when I lie down, Christ when I sit down,*

*Christ in the heart of every man who thinks of me,*

*Christ in the mouth of every man who speaks of me,*

*Christ in the eye that sees me,*

*Christ in the ear that hears me.*

St. Patrick, who died around 461, was known for showing great compassion to his enemies and was considered highly successful as a missionary because he had learned the language and customs of the native people while being held as a

slave.

“I’ve always thought of him as a proto-Dominican,” said Father Stephen Dominic Hayes, OP, who is in residence at St. Patrick Church. “He combined preaching the faith with the monastic life, which is what St. Dominic gives us. With one foot in the cloister and one foot in the marketplace, bring the fruits of your contemplation to others.”

A statue of the parish patron at Columbus St. Patrick Church, established in 1853, with votive candles is located in the gallery.

CT photo by Doug Bean





## Former Watterson coach Bjelac joins district Hall of Fame

By Doug Bean  
Catholic Times Editor

Dan Bjelac was recognized for his successful run at Columbus Bishop Watterson High School with his induction into the Central District Football Coaches Association (CDFCA) Hall of Fame on Wednesday, March 11.

Bjelac, Jim Collis of Columbus Academy, Rich Weiskircher of Marysville, Gerald Cooke of Pataskala Watkins Memorial and Jeff Arndt of Amanda-Clearcreek high schools were chosen for the 2020 class by eight current coaches who make up the CDFCA Hall of Fame committee.

Bjelac received word of his selection about two weeks ago.

"You're not thinking about any of that, and you get a text and it's nice to hear, sure," Bjelac said. "To me, I look at it as a group award because it takes a lot of people to do it. It's not just me.

"You're the head coach, but it's all the kids and all the people you work with, the other coaches. So it represents some good things we did over the years."

Bjelac spent 15 years as an assistant under Ron Shay and Mike Golden before taking over as Watterson's head coach in 2003. In 14 seasons, he became the Eagles' third-winningest coach with a 97-63 record that included the 2010 Division III state championship, nine playoff appearances and six Central Catholic League titles.



**Coach Dan Bjelac guided Columbus Bishop Watterson High School to a 97-63 record and one state football championship in 14 seasons as head coach from 2003 to 2016.**

*Photo courtesy John Hulkenberg/ThisWeek Newspapers*

The 2010 season remains noteworthy because Watterson hasn't won a state football title since then.

"It's one of those accomplishments that others notice," Bjelac said. "It is difficult to do, more difficult that people realize."

The Eagles experienced other highlights on the field under Bjelac, including one state semifinal and two regional final appearances.

"We always competed hard, and that's part of what you're trying to teach the kids beyond the game itself, to carry on with them in life," Bjelac said.

"Being able to prepare yourself, having a faith in the Lord, and also

the idea of faith in the people you're around, trying to help others to improve themselves, having a work ethic to be resilient and working through difficult things that are going to come up. It's not always going to be easy every day in life.

"I'd like to think we were respected by our opponents and we did things the right way."

Bjelac stepped down as coach after the 2016 season, but he continues to teach in the social studies department at Watterson and remains in contact with coaches and former players, some of whom went on to play college football.

"We're obviously all competitive

and want to win," he said, "but when you take a step back, the stuff you remember are the kids that you coached and obviously the relationships you form with them. Also the guys that you coached with. You spend a lot of time around them, and you have a closeness to them."

Bjelac served as an assistant coach at Cincinnati Archbishop Moeller High School from 1984 to 1987 and was on the staff when the Crusaders won a state title in 1985. His first year at Watterson was Shay's last season as head coach in 1988.

Golden followed Shay as the head coach, and Bjelac remained an assistant before taking over when Golden left after the 2002 season.

"I was very fortunate to follow some great people and step into a place with great tradition going all the way back to Dick Walker (Watterson's head coach from 1960 to 1966) and those guys," Bjelac said.

Coaching remains in Bjelac's blood. This past fall, Golden began his first season as head coach at Bexley High School and Bjelac joined his staff as an offensive line coach. Bjelac considers Golden a friend and mentor.

"It's been good. It's been fun," Bjelac said of his return to coaching. "It's the latter half of our careers, as we say. You're just trying to work with a new group, a different type of challenge. It's fun to be around the kids. It keeps you young."

## All-CCL teams named in boys basketball

Columbus St. Charles Preparatory School, Columbus St. Francis DeSales and Columbus Bishop Ready high schools each placed two players on the All-Central Catholic League boys basketball first team announced last week.

Vic Searls, a 6-foot-8 senior, and 6-4 sophomore Jared Frey of league champion St. Charles were on the first team, along with 6-5 junior Desmond Watson and 5-10 senior Kobe Righter of DeSales and 6-2 junior Darius Parham and 6-foot senior Brock Baker of Ready.

St. Charles also had two players on the second team. Spencer Martin, a 5-11 senior, and 5-9 sophomore Doogie James were joined by 6-3 sophomore Amari Gaston of Colum-

bus Bishop Hartley, 6-3 junior Davis Boone and 5-6 junior Austin Mann of DeSales and 6-1 junior PJ Daniels of Ready.

In CCL play, St. Charles finished with a 7-1 record, followed by DeSales at 6-2, Ready at 5-3, Watterson at 2-6 and Hartley at 0-8. DeSales also won its first district title since 2016 in Division II.

St. Charles and DeSales posted the best junior varsity records in the CCL at 6-2. Ready was next at 4-4, Watterson at 3-5 and Hartley at 1-7.

Watterson and St. Charles tied for first in the freshman standings with 7-1 records. DeSales was 3-5 in league play, Ready went 2-6 and Hartley wound up 1-7.

## St. Charles senior awarded scholarship



**Columbus St. Charles Preparatory School senior Luke Eversole is one of 14 high school scholar-athletes in central Ohio to receive a John H. McConnell and Worthington Industries Foundation scholarship from the Columbus Chapter of The National Football Foundation and College Hall of Fame. He was named to the All-Central District first team this fall, when he also was selected as the Cardinals' offensive Most Valuable Player. He holds the school's season rushing record. In addition, he is a four-year member of the St. Charles lacrosse team. Last spring, he was named to the state's All-Region team and was a U.S. Lacrosse Academic All-American.**

*Photo courtesy St. Charles*



## Third Sunday of Lent Year A

## Jesus thirsts for all souls

Exodus 17:3-7

Ps. 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9

Romans 5:1-2, 5-8

John 4:5-42

Father Timothy Hayes



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

"I Thirst." These are among the last words Jesus speaks from the Cross. They contain within them both His human aspirations and the longings of God's own Heart. Jesus thirsts with our thirst. He is dying. All the liquids of His human body are flowing out. His mouth is dry. His lips are parched. He has no source of nourishment left. A bit of wine turned to vinegar is put to his lips and He knows the moment has come. After saying, "It is finished," He breathes out His spirit into His trust of the Father.

Jesus thirsts with God's desire to give salvation to souls open to receive it. We see this at work in the heart of Jesus as He encounters the woman of Samaria with the natural thirst that any human being experiences on a hot day. "Give me a drink." In the moment of this encounter, as well as at the moment of Jesus' death on the cross, His earthly thirst gives way to the divine urge for the completion of the act of establishing the New Covenant.

The thirst that Jesus expresses continues in the world. We thirst for something beyond ourselves. All around us there are people in need, suffering from hunger and thirst, from isolation and loneliness, from the alienation caused by a world that does not seem to care. Natural disasters such as tornadoes and hurricanes, illnesses like the corona virus and the sense of alienation present in a world that values bureaucracy and convenience over persons and their need, all serve to highlight our thirst for something more than this world offers.

Once, when she was traveling on a train, Mother Teresa of Calcutta heard Jesus say, "I thirst." These words are on the wall by the crucifix in the chapels of the Missionaries of Charity all around the world. In them, they understand their call to respond to the needs of the poorest of the poor.

What is your thirst? What do you want with every fiber of your being? What is God thirsting for from you? What has He placed in your heart that

belongs to Him?

If you are ready to hear it, listen to the deepest question of all: What is God thirsting for *from within you*? The very cry of God is present in the depths of your soul. If you can find a way to be in touch with that thirst, you will find the answer to your quest and the means to discover the answers to all your true questions.

God is in us. His presence in us makes all the difference. We are invited to set aside everything else, to open our souls to God. The woman of Samaria went for water and came back to town as a proclaimer of salvation. She set aside her isolation and became the means by which her town came to know the Messiah.

Notice something here: Jesus had not yet revealed His full identity to His disciples. An outsider heard it first. A woman who came at midday to the well in order to avoid the gossip circle found that she had a gift worthy of God that no one else had yet given. Jesus spoke to the heart of the woman of Samaria. As John tells it, she was the first person ever to hear from Jesus the unambiguous message that Jesus is the Messiah. "I am He, the One speaking with you."

"I who speak to you am He." She heard, wrestled with it, and then believed. She responded and left her bucket behind. Are you thirsty with that kind of thirst? What do you really long for?

The disciples return with food. Jesus is not hungry anymore. The woman of Samaria has quenched His thirst for a soul.

Now take time to speak to Jesus of your thirst. Listen to what He says. And drink. Jesus speaks intimately to the hearts of every person willing to listen. Hear Him. When Jesus speaks to your heart, listen to Him. "If today you hear His voice, harden not your hearts." Follow the longing of your own heart to meet Him. He thirsts for your soul.

## THE WEEKDAY BIBLE READINGS

## MONDAY

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

## WEDNESDAY

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

## FRIDAY

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

## TUESDAY

Daniel 3:25,34-43  
Psalm 25:4-5ab,6-7bc,8-9  
Matthew 18:21-35

## THURSDAY

2 Samuel 7:4-5a,12-14a,16  
Psalm 89:2-5,27,29  
Romans 4:13,16-18,22  
Luke 2:41-51a

## SATURDAY

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

## DIOCESAN WEEKLY RADIO AND TELEVISION MASS SCHEDULE: WEEK OF MARCH 15, 2020

## SUNDAY MASS

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

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

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

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

(Spectrum Channel 385, Insight Channel 382, or WOW Channel 378). (Encores at noon, 7 p.m., and midnight). Mass from the Archdiocese of Milwaukee at 6:30 a.m. on ION TV (AT&T U-verse Channel 195, Dish Network Channel 250, or DirecTV Channel 305).

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

## DAILY MASS

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

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

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

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

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

7AM



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**DEATH PENALTY**, *continued from Page 9*

White said. “I have seen people who have done horrible things – I lived with them for a time – that are now doing good things. Can people change? Yes, it happens.

“Here’s what I’m advocating for – listen carefully – life without the possibility of parole consideration for whatever period of time we as a society deem is necessary,” he said. “Certain people should never get out. That’s fine. Should we lock away the key forever? No.

“I believe in full employment in the prison system for those physically able to work. Take and withhold a portion of their wages to support their dependent children, if they have any, and a portion for victim

assistance, to pay for counseling and grief therapy for crime victims. Who better to do that than the offender? If we started switching to those kind of policies across the country, we’d have a revolution,” White said.

Other Journey of Hope speakers at diocesan high schools were Abraham Bonowitz, Ohio organizer for the program; Emma Tacke of the Catholic Mobilizing Network, a national group promoting restorative justice; the Rev. Jack Sullivan Jr., executive director of the Ohio Council of Churches; and Melinda Elkins Dawson and the Rev. Crystal Walker,

members of murder victims’ families. “We’re on target toward ending the death penalty in the United States, and the Catholic

community is a big part of that movement,” Bonowitz said. He noted that the Colorado Legislature this month approved a bill ending the death penalty in that state as of July 1, making Colorado the seventh state in the past 10 years to do away with capital punishment. He said 28 states, the federal government and the military have the death penalty, and 22 states do not.

Bonowitz said at Watterson on March 5 that on the previous day, a Republican and a Democratic member of the Ohio Senate announced they were jointly sponsoring legislation to abolish the death penalty and replace it with a sentence of life without the possibility of parole.

Sens. Nickie Antonio, D-Lakewood, and Peggy Lehner, R-Kettering, said a coalition of lawmakers from both political parties is in favor of the bill. The Catholic Conference of Ohio also supports the measure, and the conference’s Jim Tobin was at the news conference related to the bill.

“This is an area where you can have an impact by supporting this bill,” Bonowitz said. “You get to decide, based on the values you have.”

Tacke talked about her organization’s work with the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and state Catholic conferences on behalf of ending the death penalty and of how the Catholic Church’s position on the subject continues to evolve.

The most recent example of that evolution came in 2018, when Pope Francis announced the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* was being changed to express total opposition to capital punishment.

“There is an increasing awareness that the dignity of the person is not lost even after the commission of very serious crimes,” the *Catechism* now states in Section 2267. “Consequently, the Church teaches, in the light of the Gospel, that the death penalty is inadmissible because it is an attack on the inviolability and dignity of the person, and she works with determination for its abolition worldwide.” The *Catechism* previously had said use of the death penalty was acceptable in limited circumstances.

Following the speaking program, Deacon Christopher Campbell, principal at Bishop Watterson, said, “The stories the students heard were very powerful. It’s unbelievable for young people to imagine some of the things that the speakers have gone through and the way those people were able to get past their hurt and forgive those who wronged them.

“The students listened to the murder victims’ families and became as quiet as the proverbial church mouse. It’s remarkable any time you can get 17- and 18-year-old young people so quiet for so long.”

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# PRAY FOR OUR DEAD

**BARR, Jennifer L., 64, March 2**  
St. Paul Church, Westerville

**BRUNETTO, Lola A. (Borghese), 99, March 5**  
St. Catharine Church, Columbus

**CAIN, Marilyn, 84, March 2**  
St. Mary, Mother of God Church, Columbus

**CAPRIOTTI, Maria (Scesa), 90, Feb. 24**  
St. Elizabeth Seton Parish, Pickerington

**CARSKADON, Jacqueline A. (Coady), 85, March 6**  
St. Andrew Church, Columbus

**CLARKE, David A., 64, Feb. 24**  
St. Mary Church, Marion

**CRABBE, Barbara L. (Jaromscak), 81, Feb. 29**  
St. John Church, Logan

**D'SOUZA, Philomena M., 85, Feb. 28**  
St. Brendan Church, Hilliard

**FRANKLIN, Sue E. (Bayly), 69, March 3**  
Christ the King Church, Columbus

**GAUGHRAN, Mina C. (Wyatt), 91, Feb. 27**  
St. Timothy Church, Columbus

**GRASSI, Robert J., 86, Feb. 29**  
St. Paul Church, Westerville

**HAYER GOODWIN, JoAnn (McCurdy), 90, Feb. 27**  
St. Mary Church, Marion

**JACONETTE, Ida M. (Rossetti), 95, March 3**  
Sacred Heart Church, Columbus

**LANMAN, Susanne (Rush), 93, Feb. 10**  
Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, Grove City

**MAY, Tom, 90, Feb. 29**  
St. Peter Church, Columbus

**McCARTY, Marshall "Mac," 95, Feb. 28**  
St. Joseph Church, Dover

**MOOS, Glenn J., 85, March 3**  
Our Lady of Peace Church, Columbus

**REID, Thomas M., 67, Feb. 29**  
Our Lady of Victory Church, Columbus

**RICHARDSON, K. Carol (Boehmer), 86, March 1**  
Our Mother of Sorrows Chapel, Columbus

**ROBERTS, Joanne A. (Rose), 90, March 3**  
St. Joan of Arc Church, Powell

**ROGERS, Margaret "Peg" (Spires), 88, Feb. 28**  
St. Mary Church, Lancaster

**SALRIN, Catherine (Lauvray), 95, Feb. 29**  
Immaculate Conception Church, Dennison

**SAUER, William E., 74, March 6**  
St. Brendan Church, Hilliard

**SCHAEFER, P. David, 75, March 4**  
Ss. Augustine & Gabriel Church, Columbus

**SCHEMINE, Anna L., 79, Feb. 26**  
St. Mary Church, Delaware

**SHERBURN, Ann M. (Baker), 76, Feb. 27**  
St. Edward Church, Granville

**SHUE, Ronald A., 71, Feb. 28**  
St. Mary Church, Lancaster

**SMITH, Craig G., 39, March 5**  
Immaculate Conception Church, Columbus

**TAYLOR, Robert J., 71, Feb. 26**  
St. Mary Church, Marion

## PRAYER TO THE VIRGIN

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

To have an obituary printed in the Catholic Times, send it to: [tpuet@columbuscatholic.org](mailto:tpuet@columbuscatholic.org)

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## Sister Rosina Amicon, OSF

Funeral Mass for Sister Rosina Amicon, OSF, 90, who died Monday, March 2, was celebrated Friday, March 6 at Columbus St. Leo Church. Burial was at St. Joseph Cemetery, Columbus.

She was born Jeannette Amicon on Feb. 17, 1930 in Columbus to Rocco and Rose (Iacobucci) Amicon.

She was a graduate of New Lexington St. Aloysius Academy and received a bachelor of science degree in elementary education from Rosary Hill College (now Daemen College) in Amherst, New York in 1964.

She entered the Sisters of St. Francis of Penance and Christian Charity on Sept. 25, 1948 and professed her first vows on Aug. 17, 1951 and her final vows on Aug. 18, 1954.

In the Diocese of Columbus, she

was a teacher at Columbus St. Leo (1962-1963) and St. John the Evangelist (1963-1964) schools and St. Aloysius Academy (1965-1967). She was a religion teacher in Junction City from 1970 to 1975, served as latchkey director at Columbus St. Catharine School from 1986 to 1990 and was a home health care aide from 1990 to 2005. She also taught at schools in New York, South Carolina and New Jersey.

She retired in 2007, moving first to the St. Leo Convent and then in 2018 to the Mohun Health Care Center.

She was preceded in death by her parents; brother, Billy (Marge); and sisters, Lillian (Donald) Guyton, Anne (Albert) Corna, Irene (Mike) Flaherty and Rosemary. She is survived by many nieces and nephews.

## Mary C. Ruddy

A memorial service will take place this summer in Columbus for Mary C. Ruddy, 93, who died Thursday, Feb. 27 in Scottsdale, Arizona.

She was born on Sept. 24, 1926 in Columbus to Patrick and Anna Ruddy.

She was a graduate of the former Columbus Our Lady of Victory High School and attended St. Mary of the Springs College (now Ohio Dominican University).

She worked for the Diocese of Columbus in the Catholic Youth Organization office before moving in 1962 to Washington, D.C., where she was employed by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops for nearly 40 years, retiring as assistant to the general secretary. She was a member of Annunciation Catholic Church in Washington.

She was preceded in death by her parents; a brother, Patrick; and a sister, Patricia Glaser.

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Beer and wine available for purchase.

## MARCH

### 12-13, THURSDAY-FRIDAY

#### 33 Hours of Adoration at Resurrection

From end of 9 a.m. Thursday Mass to 6:30 a.m. Friday, Resurrection chapel, Church of the Resurrection, 6300 E. Dublin-Granville Road, New Albany. 33 hours of Eucharistic Adoration in honor of Jesus' 33 years on Earth. Also on March 19-20.

### 13, FRIDAY

#### Christ Child Society Day of Reflection

8:30 a.m. to noon, Parish hall, St. Andrew Church, 1899 McCoy Road, Columbus. Day of reflection sponsored by Christ Child Society of Columbus,

with guest speaker Rachel Muha, founder of the Run the Race Club on Columbus' west side. Begins with Mass; includes lunch. Cost \$35. Register at [www.christchildssociety.org](http://www.christchildssociety.org).

**Living Stations at Delaware St. Mary**  
7 p.m., St. Mary Church, 82 E. William St., Delaware. Living Stations of the Cross.

### 13-15, FRIDAY-SUNDAY

#### Parish Retreat at St. John Chrysostom

St. John Chrysostom Byzantine Catholic Church, 5858 Cleveland Ave., Columbus. Parish retreat led by Bishop Milan Lach, SJ, of the Byzantine Catholic Eparchy of Parma. **614-882-7578**

### 14, SATURDAY

#### Life and Mercy Mass in Plain City

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

#### Altar Server Awards at Cathedral

1 p.m., St. Joseph Cathedral, 212 E. Broad St., Columbus. 58th annual Serra Club diocesan altar server awards program, with Bishop Robert Brennan presenting awards.

#### SPICE St. Patrick Party at St. Catharine

6 p.m., St. Catharine School, 2865 Fair Ave., Columbus. 17th annual St. Patrick party sponsored by parish SPICE (Special People in Catholic Education) organization for special-needs students. Includes dinner, silent auction, Irish step dancers and entertainment by The Hooligans. Tickets \$50 (\$25 entertainment only).

#### Young Catholic Professionals Casino Royale

6 to 11:30 p.m., Immaculate Conception Church, 414 E. North Broadway, Columbus. Casino Royale gala sponsored by Young Catholic Professionals, with dinner, music, dancing, raffle, and gambling with fake money. Tickets \$70; formal attire requested. Register at [www.ycpcolumbus.org](http://www.ycpcolumbus.org).

#### Filipino Mass at Christ the King

7:30 p.m., Christ the King Church, 2777 E. Livingston Ave., Columbus. Mass in the Tagalog language for the Filipino Catholic community.

### 14-15, SATURDAY-SUNDAY

#### Diocesan Art Show, Young Authors Exhibit

12:30 to 4 p.m., Martin de Porres Center, 2330 Airport Drive, Columbus. Diocesan art show and young authors exhibit, featuring visual and written works by diocesan elementary school students.

### 15, SUNDAY

#### Adoration at Our Lady of Mount Carmel

9:30 to 10:30 a.m., Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church, 5133 Walnut Road S.E., Buckeye Lake. Eucharistic Adoration each Sunday during Lent.

#### St. Christopher Adult Religious Education

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

#### Blessing of St. Gerard Majella at Holy Family

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

#### Eucharistic Adoration at Resurrection

After 11 a.m. Mass to 4 p.m., Our Lady of the Resurrection Chapel, Church of the Resurrection, 6300 E. Dublin-Granville Road, Columbus.

Eucharistic Adoration, concluding with Benediction.

#### Angelic Warfare Confraternity at St. Patrick

Following noon Mass, St. Patrick Church, 280 N. Grant Ave., Columbus. Monthly meeting of Angelic Warfare Confraternity, with talk on chastity-related issues followed by Holy Hour. **614-224-9522**

#### Kateri Prayer Circle at St. Mark

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

#### Seasons of Hope Bereavement Ministry

2 to 4 p.m., Marian Hall, Immaculate Conception Church, 414 E. North Broadway, Columbus. First meeting of six-week support group sponsored by Seasons of Hope bereavement ministry for those who have lost a loved one, sponsored by North High Deanery. **614-282-7156**

#### St. Catherine of Bologna Secular Franciscans

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

#### Taize Evening Prayer at Corpus Christi

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

#### Solemn Vespers at Cathedral

4:45 p.m., St. Joseph Cathedral, 212 E. Broad St., Columbus. Singing of Solemn Vespers with members of the cathedral choir. **614-241-2526**

#### Prayer Group Meeting at Christ the King

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

#### Speaker Series at Our Lady of Peace

6 p.m., Our Lady of Peace Church, 20 E. Dominion Blvd., Columbus. Talk by Dr. Perry Cahall, academic dean at the Pontifical College Josephinum, on Pope St. John Paul II's Theology of the Body. Begins with Eucharistic Adoration, followed by talk, question-answer session and reception. Third talk in series titled "The Agora: A Catholic Marketplace of Ideas." **614-263-8824**

#### Solemn Vespers at Holy Redeemer

6:30 p.m., Holy Redeemer Church, 1325 Gallia St., Portsmouth. Singing of Solemn Vespers.

#### Catechesis at the Cathedral

6:45 p.m., St. Joseph Cathedral, 212 E. Broad St., Columbus. Father Adam Streitenberger's series of talks on the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* continues. Topic: "What Is Holy Orders?"

### 16, MONDAY

#### Divine Mercy Chaplet, Rosary at St. Pius X

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

#### Mass of Healing at Cathedral

6:30 p.m., St. Joseph Cathedral, 212 E. Broad St., Columbus. Healing Mass followed by healing service including Exposition, Benediction and veneration of relic of the True Cross. **614-224-1295**

#### Feast Day Celebration at Columbus St. Patrick

6:30 to 10 p.m., St. Patrick Church, 280 N. Grant Ave., Columbus. Celebration of the March 17 Feast of St. Patrick, with Vigil Mass, torchlight procession with pipes and drums, and reception with music by the Kells and Irish dancing.

#### Evening Prayer at St. John Neumann

6:30 p.m., St. John Neumann Church, 9633 E. State Route 37, Sunbury. Evening Prayer led by Deacon Carl Calcara on the Mondays of Lent.

#### Eucharistic Adoration at Dresden St. Ann

7 to 8 p.m., St. Ann Church, 405 Chestnut St., Dresden. Eucharistic Adoration each Monday during Lent. **740-754-2221**

#### Talk for Parents at Immaculate Conception

7 to 9 p.m., Marian Hall, Immaculate Conception Church, 414 E. North Broadway, Columbus. Talk focusing on development of children from kindergarten through fourth grade with Jennifer Miller, author of *Promoting Social and Emotional*

*Well-Being in Our Young Children.* **614-267-9241**

### 16-18, MONDAY-WEDNESDAY

#### Parish Mission at Lancaster St. Mary

7 p.m., St. Mary Church, 132 S. High St., Lancaster. Parish mission with Deacon Greg Kandra, former CBS News producer. Theme: "Living the Good News in a Time of Bad News and Fake News." Reconciliation Tuesday and Mass Wednesday. **740-653-0997**

### 16-19, MONDAY-THURSDAY

#### Parish Mission at St. Elizabeth

7 to 8:30 p.m., St. Elizabeth Church, 6077 Sharon Woods Blvd., Columbus. Parish mission with Father Thomas Blau, OP. Theme: "Understanding God's Mercy." Confessions at 6. **614-891-0150**

### 17, TUESDAY

#### Day of Prayer at London St. Patrick

St. Patrick Church, 61 S. Union St., London. A day of prayer for the Feast of St. Patrick. Schedule: 7 a.m., Morning Prayer; 7:30, confessions; 8, Mass; 9 to noon, Eucharistic Adoration; 10, Rosary and Litany of Our Lady; 11:30, St. Patrick novena prayer; noon, Angelus and Benediction; 1 p.m., guided tour of church and tea reception; 3, Divine Mercy Chaplet, Stations; 4, organ recital; 5, Evening Prayer; 7, Solemn High Mass in Extraordinary Form with Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral Schola. **740-852-0942**

#### Adoration, Mass, Faith Formation at Dover

5 p.m., St. Joseph Church, 613 N. Tuscarawas Ave., Dover. Eucharistic Adoration and confessions, followed by Mass at 6 and adult faith formation at 7. **330-364-6661**

#### Rosary for Life at St. Joan of Arc

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

#### Study of Luke's Gospel at Holy Spirit

6:30 to 8 p.m. Holy Spirit Church, 4383 E. Broad St., Columbus. Lenten Bible study of "Luke's Gospel: The Good News of God's Mercy."

#### Death of the Messiah Discussion

6:45 to 8 p.m., Parish office, St. John Neumann Church, 9633 E. State Route 37, Sunbury. Discussion of *Death of the Messiah* by Raymond E. Brown, a meditation on the Passion of Christ and the mysteries of Holy Week. **740-965-1358**

#### Byzantine Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts

7 p.m., St. John Chrysostom Byzantine Catholic Church, 5858 Cleveland Ave., Columbus. Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts, a Vespers service with Holy Eucharist. **614-882-7578**

### 18, WEDNESDAY

#### Abortion Recovery Network Group

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

#### Retreat Afternoon at de Porres Center

1:30 to 4:30 p.m., Martin de Porres Center, 2330 Airport Drive, Columbus. Retreat led by Sister Carol Ann Spencer, OP, with theme of "Desert Time." **614-416-1910**

#### Lenten Talk Series at Marion St. Mary

6:30 p.m., St. Mary Church, 251 N. Main St., Marion. Wednesday Lenten series continues with talk by Lynn Marie Busch on "Mary at the Foot of the Cross." **740-382-2118**

#### Delaware St. Mary Faith Formation Series

6:30 to 8 p.m., Beitel Commons, St. Mary Church, 82 E. William St., Delaware. "A Lenten Encounter With Mercy" adult faith formation series with Deacon Todd Tucky and parish faith formation director Julie Lutz. **740-363-4641**



## St. Agatha Living Stations



Sixth-grade students at Columbus St. Agatha School present the Living Stations of the Cross every Friday morning during Lent. In this enactment, Sean Mankowski is the narrator, Ryan Grim portrays Jesus and Lily Kate Aulino is Mary.

*Photo courtesy St. Agatha School*

## OLB students donate to mission program



Children at Columbus Our Lady of Bethlehem School and Childcare presented a check for \$250 to Father David Gwinner, a retired priest of the Diocese of Columbus who celebrates Masses at the school and is a weekend assistant at Westerville St. Paul Church. Father Gwinner said the donation will go to the Unbound program to support a family for a year. Unbound provides basic necessities to children and senior citizens in some of the world's poorest communities. *Photo courtesy Our Lady of Bethlehem School*

## St. Bernadette students make sandwiches



Students in Joan Miller's third-grade class at Lancaster St. Bernadette School continued the school's monthly service project by making 115 sandwiches for Lancaster's Foundation Dinners program, which serves lunch and dinner to the needy of Fairfield County every day. The project was completed on the day after Ash Wednesday, giving it a special meaning in this season of prayer, fasting and almsgiving. Pictured with Miller (far left) are (from left): Colten Sisco, Kyler Nagle, Graham Forquer, Kendal Roberts, Dessie Strohl, Alex Rugg and Noah Figueroa.

*Photo courtesy St. Bernadette School*

## 40 years of Viking Magic



Columbus St. Andrew School's basketball performance team, Viking Magic, celebrated its 40th anniversary with a special presentation. The school's coach, Aaron Day, recalled memorable events from the team's history and was joined in a reunion by former team members, all of whom were anxious to prove they still could spin balls as they did when they were part of the group. The team was formed to help students learn ballhandling skills and boost their self-confidence. It consists of about 50 members and has performed at many college and professional basketball games, in addition to school activities. Its members are third- to sixth-grade students. Pictured are (from left) team alumni Gretchen McGowan, Kenzie McKerns, Sam Slater and Ellen Rudzinski, all sixth-graders, and third-grader Trevor Ezell.

*Photo courtesy St. Andrew School*

## St. Michael School visits Museum of Art



Worthington St. Michael School seventh-graders visited the Columbus Museum of Art in February as part of an all-day field trip. The students participated in small group tours with docents in the morning and had group exploration time to see exhibits in the afternoon. They were inspired by the different media in the exhibits and impressed with how the great masters treated concepts they are learning in art class. "As an art teacher, I am wonderfully encouraged to see my students with more enthusiasm to practice magnificence in their artwork after a field trip to their local museum," St. Michael art teacher Mary Stuller said.

*Photo courtesy St. Michael School*



Cast members rehearse for Lancaster Fisher Catholic High School's production of Rodgers and Hammerstein's *Cinderella* from Thursday to Saturday, March 19 to 21.

Photo courtesy Fisher Catholic HS



## Fisher Catholic presents *Cinderella*

Lancaster Fisher Catholic High School, 1803 Granville Pike, will present Rodgers and Hammerstein's musical *Cinderella* at 7 p.m. Thursday and Friday, March 19 and 20 and 3 p.m. Saturday, March 21. Tickets will be \$12 for adults, \$8 for students and \$5 for children age 10 and younger. On Saturday, there will be a special family rate of \$30.

Featured players will be Taylor Stanton as Cinderella, Anna Tencza as her fairy godmother and Ben Shaw as the prince. Others in the cast include Kate Crow, Isabelle Gentile, Emma Albert, Mauve Boley and Luke Sharp.

Mary Walsh will be the director, with Sharon Silleck as vocal director and Judy Rehrer as orchestra director.

Rodgers and Hammerstein are best known for their Broadway shows, but their version of *Cinderella* was written for CBS-TV, which broadcast it live in 1957, with Julie Andrews in the title role and an audience of 100 million people. Subsequent television productions featured Lesley Ann Warren in 1965 and Brandy Norwood (with Whitney Houston as the fairy godmother) in 1997. It was brought to Broadway in 2013.

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