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Bishop addresses Goodson shooting

Bishop Robert Brennan expanded Monday on his original statement addressing the Dec. 4 shooting death of Casey C. Goodson Jr. in Columbus, emphasizing that “the loss of life anytime is a human tragedy” and again acknowledging the painful wounds of racism while commending the peacefulness of the protests and asking the faithful to pray for authorities carrying out their investigation.

Goodson, 23, was shot and killed outside his home on Columbus’ Northeast side by a Franklin County sheriff’s deputy. Columbus police and the FBI have taken over the investigation since Bishop Brennan released his statement on Dec. 9.

“We patiently wait for the facts,” the bishop said Monday. “But what’s been reported is very troubling and, again, at the very least, a human tragedy. And it’s true there is no evidence that this is racially motivated, but it’s important to recognize that this opens the wounds of the racial issue and the wounds of those who suffer racism and have for a long, long time, and that pain is deep.

“One of the things that we need to do as a Catholic Christian community is listen deeply to one another. And understand the pain. Even in some cases, listen to the anger that some people feel. When one member of the body hurts, the entire body hurts. The fact of the matter is that there are a lot of people in tremendous, tremendous pain right now.

“There are many divisions in our society. We can’t deny that.

But we need to be instruments of that healing and we start by listening to one another and walking with one another.”

The Catholic community needs to stand together rooted in prayer and parishes serve as instruments of peace, the bishop said.

Bishop Brennan said it’s hopeful to see that protests taking place in downtown Columbus have remained peaceful. The bishop and other leaders of the faith community in central Ohio recently signed a letter calling for peace.

“Casey Goodson’s mother (Tamala Payne) has called for peace and people have been very respectful of that,” the bishop said, adding that “it’s healthy for our society that we call for greater and ongoing reform and we try to do whatever we can to promote human dignity in any fashion.”

“I decry violence in the strongest of terms and the destruction that took place during protests earlier this year. But we have to go beyond that and focus on our ordinary people, all of our fellow Catholics, fellow Christians, and just fellow human beings who are experiencing tremendous pain with this incident and try to be in solidarity with one another and heal the divisions.”

As the investigation progresses, Bishop Brennan cautioned against a rush to judgment of the officer involved, or law enforcement as a whole, and the “many men and women who go out and do their jobs sometimes facing unknown danger.”

“As I mentioned in my state-

ment earlier this summer, the people of law enforcement are good, generous, courageous men and women whose goal is to serve the community,” he said. “And so when something goes wrong, getting to the truth of the situation is best for everybody.”

Pamela Harris, director of the diocese’s Ethnic Ministries Office, said, “My hope is that we will all remain patient and peaceful during this time, that we pray for Casey Goodson’s family, we pray for the officers involved in the incident. I too join Bishop Brennan in my thanks and support of the courageous men and women of law enforcement. We must continue to work together as a community and be open to honest conversations to heal the wounds of racism.

“When we do not take the time to research and investigate our history, it impedes on an understanding of the present, of our future. We, as a nation, as a society, must acknowledge the many facets of racism. It is personal, systemic, and institutional.

“Casey Goodson’s tragedy is a reminder of the years of oppression, discrimination and racism that continues to plague the African-American community. This in no way brings judgment against anyone in the shooting death of Mr. Goodson. It challenges us to accompany one another, as Bishop Brennan stated, on a journey of reconciliation and healing. When one rejoices, we all rejoice. When one suffers, we

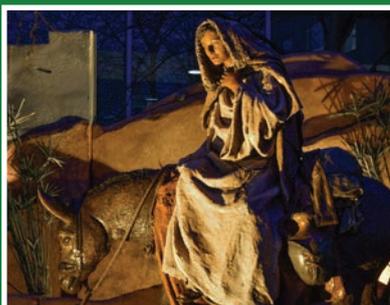
See **BISHOP**, Page 13

Channel 4 to televise Cathedral’s Christmas morning Mass

The Christmas Day Mass to be celebrated at 10:30 a.m. Friday, Dec. 25 will be telecast on a delayed basis at noon that day on WCMH-TV. Channel 4 in Columbus. This will be the first time in several years a television station has presented a local Christmas Mass. The Mass also will be livestreamed on the

diocesan website, www.columbuscatholic.org.

In addition, the Mass will be available at noon Dec. 25 on Channel 4’s website, www.nbc4i.com. Check with your local cable television company to determine where to find Channel 4 on your cable service.



Front Page photo:
VIRGIN SHALL BE WITH CHILD AND BEAR A SON
A donkey carrying Mary is among the Nativity scenes on display annually at State Auto’s Christmas Corner in downtown Columbus.

CT photo by Ken Snow

Father Raymond M. Larussa passed away on November 26

Funeral Mass for Father Raymond M. Larussa, 72, who died Thursday, Nov. 26, was celebrated Thursday, Dec. 3 at Columbus St. Anthony Church. Burial was at Resurrection Cemetery, Lewis Center.



He was born in Cleveland on Aug. 29, 1948 to the late Angelo and E. Marie (Slaughter) Larussa.

He began his studies for the priesthood at Columbus St. Charles Preparatory School in 1962 and continued his philosophy studies at St. Charles College Seminary. He completed his undergraduate work and graduated from Ohio State University in 1970, then earned a degree in theology from Mount St. Mary of the West Seminary in Norwood in 1974.

He was ordained a priest of the Diocese of Columbus by Bishop Edward Herrmann on June 2, 1974 in Columbus St. Aloysius Church.

He began more than 46 years of dedicated priestly ministry by serving as assistant pastor at Columbus Christ the King Church, with a teaching assignment at Columbus Bishop Hartley High School, and associate pastor at Columbus St. Mary Magdalene Church, with a part-time teaching assignment at Columbus Bishop Ready High School. He then served as pastor at five different churches – Waverly St. Mary, Columbus St. Cecilia, Columbus Holy Spirit, Powell St. Joan of Arc and Columbus St. Matthias – before retiring from active ministry in 2018.

He is survived by two sisters: Linda Green and Rita (Bill) Stepka.

Fourth Sunday of Advent, Dec. 20



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Bishop Brennan's 2020 Christmas message

Dear Friends,

Greetings in Our Lord Jesus Christ as these late days of Advent give way to the joyful celebration of Christmas! This has been an Advent of unique importance and emphasis. We are always called to enter into that hopeful anticipation of the second coming of Christ as we prepare our hearts for his coming at Christmas. Our anticipation is in no way diminished this year; rather, it's heightened to a fever pitch. We're so eager to feel the closeness of the Infant Christ and the Holy Family as we're separated from our own. I am right there with you!

I have every expectation that we will have Christmas Masses celebrated in public with congregations and with all the health-related precautions we have become accustomed to now for several months. The churches have been safe places because you have sacrificed and taken this very seriously; for that, I am extremely grateful. Maintaining our vigilance in attending to these precautions is imperative for us and our ability to continue public worship in a safe way during this pandemic.

Let us all be mindful of the ways each parish is preparing to make Mass safe and accessible to those who wish to come in person. Our goal is not to restrict but rather to provide wide opportunities for Christmas Mass by spreading out the anticipated congregation over various Mass times. We're preparing our hearts for Christmas in a very special way this year. May our hearts be full of joy, patience and understanding at our Christmas Masses and throughout the Christmas season.

While we want to be as welcoming as physical circumstances and safety considerations will allow, it will not be prudent for many to come out on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. I understand and even encourage that prudent decision. The obligation to attend Mass continues to be dispensed. For those who choose to remain at home, there are many opportunities to remain connected to Mass and to feel a sense of community on Christmas.

Livestreaming continues to be provided at St. Joseph Cathedral and so many of our parishes. St. Gabriel Catholic Radio continues to offer a live broadcast of the Mass from the Cathedral and St. Mary's Portsmouth both at 10:30 a.m. Additionally, the Christmas Day Mass from St. Joseph Cathedral will air on the local NBC affiliate (Channel 4) at noon.

I have heard of the ways families made the most of the virtual options when public Mass was suspended at Easter; this Christmas is very similar. The Feast of Christmas retains its joy this year, but you are likely to have a different routine. Whether in person or at home, I encourage you to place Holy Mass at the cornerstone of your family celebration of Christmas.

To those of you who are by yourself this Christmas, either because of illness or living in a residence with restrictions to visitors, I want to say that you are in my heart in a very special way this year. These virtual offerings give you the opportunities to see your familiar churches and to hear the familiar voices of your priests. While these options are not a replacement for gathering in person, I truly hope that they help to lift your heart in prayer and remind you that you are not alone on Christmas.

Our Holy Father's recent encyclical letter, *Fratelli Tutti, We Are All Brothers*, continues to inspire me. In the second chapter, Pope Francis discusses the familiar parable of the Good Samaritan, which has plenty of application to these holy seasons as we await Christ coming in the flesh and encounter him in our neighbor in these weeks ahead. Our Holy Father reminds us that all people are neighbors to us.



We don't have to seek to justify this by asking, "Who then is my neighbor?" or by going through a check list to determine if someone is worthy of my time and attention. Jesus was once born in an unfriendly environment exposed to the elements and at the mercy of the charity of others. As we encounter someone in distress, Pope Francis reminds us to look on them with compassion using the Book of Job stating, "Did not he who made me in the womb also make him?"

With so much around us causing us distress and reminding us of the divisions that seem to become wider each day, we hear from the Prophet Isaiah at Mass

in these days of Advent and Christmas. The Prophet paints a picture of unique peace that only the shoot from the stump of Jesse can bring. A time of peace when the unthinkable can become a reality, when the wolf shall be the guest of the lamb, the leopard lie down with the kid; the calf and the young lion browse together with the child to guide them (cf. Is. 11:6). This is a peace that only Jesus can offer. No one else on this earth can do what he does. Let us wait for him with joyful anticipation by adoring Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. Let us serve him in serving our neighbor. Let us then open our hearts to be filled with Jesus' real presence and lasting peace.

Be assured of my most sincere prayers for you and all your loved ones this Christmas, and may the Lord's blessings be upon you in the New Year.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Rev. Robert J. Brennan
Bishop of Columbus

Merry
Christmas

from all of us at
The Catholic Times!

Doug
Tim
Kimberly

Nativity of
the Lord

December 25

Check individual parishes
for schedule of
Holy Day Mass times

2020 schedule for diocesan Christmas Masses

The following is a list of Mass times at diocesan parishes for the Vigil of Christmas, Thursday, Dec. 24, and Christmas Day, Friday, Dec. 25, as provided to *The Catholic Times* by parishes before this issue went to press on Tuesday, Dec. 15. Masks will be required for all in attendance and social distancing requirements will be observed. Many of the Masses also will be livestreamed in various formats. Check parish websites for details and for late updates to this list.

Ada Our Lady of Lourdes – 5:30 p.m. Dec. 24; 11 a.m. Dec. 25.

Bremen St. Mary – 9 p.m. Dec. 24 and 8:30 a.m. Dec. 25.

Buckeye Lake Our Lady of Mount Carmel – 6 p.m. and midnight Dec. 24; 9 a.m. Dec. 25. Reservations required for all Christmas Masses.

Canal Winchester St. John XXIII – 4, 6 and 10 p.m. Dec. 24; 8 and 10 a.m. Dec. 25.

Cardington Sacred Hearts – 4:30 p.m. Dec. 24 and 9 a.m. Dec. 25.

Chillicothe St. Mary – 6 and 9 p.m. Dec. 24; 10 a.m. Dec. 25.

Chillicothe St. Peter – 5 p.m. and midnight Dec. 24; 10:30 a.m. Dec. 25.

Circleville St. Joseph – 5 and 7 p.m. and midnight Dec. 24; 10 a.m. Dec. 25.

Columbus Christ the King – 4 p.m. (English, simultaneous Masses in church and school gym) and 6 p.m. (Spanish) Dec. 24; 10 a.m. (English), 12:30 p.m. (Spanish), Dec. 25.

Columbus Corpus Christi – 6 p.m. Dec. 24 and 9 a.m. Dec. 25. Reservations required for all Christmas Masses.

Columbus Holy Cross – 4 and 7 p.m. Dec. 24; 10 a.m. Dec. 25. First-come, first-seated until permitted capacity reached.

Columbus Holy Family – 7 p.m. and midnight Dec. 24; 11 a.m. Dec. 25.

Columbus Holy Name – 5:30 p.m. Dec. 24; 9 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. Dec. 25.

Columbus Holy Rosary-St. John – 5 p.m. Dec. 24 and 9 a.m. Dec. 25. Reservations required for all Christmas Masses.

Columbus Holy Spirit – 6 and 9 p.m. Dec. 24; 11 a.m. Dec. 25. Reservations required for all Christmas Masses.

Columbus Immaculate Conception – 4, 7 and 10 p.m. Dec. 24; 10 a.m. Dec. 25.

Columbus Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal – 4 p.m. Dec. 24 and 10 a.m. Dec. 25.

Columbus Our Lady of Peace – 4 and 6:30 p.m. Dec. 24; 10 a.m.

Dec. 25. Reservations required for all Christmas Masses.

Columbus Our Lady of Victory – 4 p.m. (possibly livestreamed to parish center), 7 and 10 p.m. Dec. 24; 10 a.m. Dec. 25. Reservations required for all Christmas Masses.

Columbus Parroquia Santa Cruz – 7:30 and 9:30 p.m. Dec. 24; 11 a.m. Dec. 25 (all in Spanish).

Columbus Sacred Heart – 4 p.m. and midnight Dec. 24.

Columbus St. Agatha – 4 and 6 p.m. in both church and parish hall, 10 p.m. in church Dec. 24; 10 a.m. in church Dec. 25. Reservations required for all Masses. 6 p.m. Dec. 24 in hall and 10 a.m. Dec. 25 have spaces available; all other Masses are full. Parish hopes to livestream the 4 p.m. Dec. 24 church Mass on its YouTube channel.

Columbus St. Aloysius – 6 p.m. Dec. 24; 11 a.m. Dec. 25. Maximum attendance 100 for both Masses.

Columbus St. Andrew – 4 p.m. (simultaneous Masses in church and school gym), 6 and 10 p.m. Dec. 24; 9 and 11 a.m. Dec. 25. Reservations required for all Christmas Masses.

Columbus St. Anthony – 4, 5:30 and 7 p.m. Dec. 24; 9 and 10:30 a.m. Dec. 25. Reservations required for all Christmas Masses.

Columbus Sts. Augustine & Gabriel – 7 p.m. (English) Dec. 24; 11 a.m. (Vietnamese) Dec. 25.

Columbus St. Catharine of Siena – 4 and 6:30 p.m. and midnight Dec. 24; 11 a.m. Dec. 25. All Masses will be livestreamed to the parish center and the lower level of the church building. The 4 and 6:30 p.m. Dec. 24 Masses will be livestreamed on parish YouTube and Facebook pages.

Columbus St. Cecilia – 4 p.m. pre-recorded Mass, available on parish website, 5 p.m. (church), 5:15 p.m. (gym), 8 p.m. and midnight Dec. 24; 9:30 a.m. Dec. 25.

Columbus St. Christopher – 4, 6 and 8 p.m. (English) and midnight (Polish) Dec. 24; 10 a.m. and noon (English) Dec. 25.

Columbus St. Dominic – 7 p.m. Dec. 24 and 11 a.m. Dec. 25. Reservations required for all Christmas Masses.

Columbus St. Elizabeth – 4 and 7 p.m. Dec. 24; 10 a.m. Dec. 25, all livestreamed.

Columbus St. Francis of Assisi – 5 p.m. Dec. 24 and 10 a.m. Dec. 25.

Columbus St. James the Less – 4:30 p.m. (English), 7 p.m. (Spanish) and 10 p.m. (English) Dec. 24; 9 a.m. (English) and 11 a.m. (Spanish) Dec. 25. Masses will be livestreamed to

other sites on the property if needed and online.

Columbus St. John Chrysostom Byzantine Catholic – 10 p.m. Dec. 24; noon Dec. 25.

Columbus St. John the Baptist – 5:30 p.m. Dec. 24.

Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral – 4 and 6:30 p.m. and midnight (music 11 p.m.) Dec. 24; 10:30 a.m. Dec. 25. All but the 6:30 p.m. Dec. 24 Mass will be livestreamed on the diocesan website, including the 11 p.m. music. The Dec. 25 Mass will be televised on WCMH-TV, Channel 4, Columbus at noon Dec. 25.

Columbus St. Ladislav – 4 p.m. Dec. 24; 11 a.m. Dec. 25. Reservations required for all Christmas Masses.

Columbus St. Leo Oratory – Midnight (High Mass) Dec. 24; 8:30 (Low Mass) and 10:30 a.m. (High Mass) Dec. 25; all in Latin.

Columbus St. Mary Magdalene – 4 p.m. Dec. 24; 9 a.m. Dec. 25. Maximum attendance 120 for both Masses; Dec. 24 Mass is probably filled.

Columbus St. Margaret of Cortona – 4 and 10 p.m. Dec. 24; 10:30 a.m. Dec. 25. 4 p.m. Mass will be livestreamed to Kulp Hall and parish website.

Columbus St. Mary German Village – 4 and 6 p.m. and midnight Dec. 24; 10 a.m. Dec. 25. Reservations required for all Christmas Masses.

Columbus St. Matthias – 5 p.m. (simultaneous Masses in church and school gym) and 10 p.m. (livestreamed) Dec. 24; 10 a.m. Dec. 25.

Columbus St. Patrick – 4, 6 and 8 p.m. and midnight in church and 4 and 6 p.m. in Patrick Hall Dec. 24 (incense at 6 and 8 p.m. and midnight church Masses); 7, 8:30 and 10:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. Dec. 25 in church (incense at 10:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.)

Columbus St. Peter – 4 and 6 p.m. (English), 8 p.m. (Spanish) Dec. 24; 9 a.m. (English) 11 a.m. (Spanish) and 2 p.m. (Swahili) Dec. 25.

Columbus St. Philip – 4 p.m. Dec. 24 and 9 a.m. Dec. 25. Reservations required for all Christmas Masses.

Columbus St. Stephen the Martyr – 5 p.m. (English), 7 and 9 p.m. (both Spanish) Dec. 24; 10 a.m. (English) and noon (Spanish) Dec. 25.

Columbus St. Thomas the Apostle – 5 p.m. (bilingual) Dec. 24 and 10 a.m. (English) Dec. 25.

Columbus St. Timothy – 4 p.m. (simultaneous Masses in church, gym and cafeteria), 6 and 8 p.m. Dec. 24; 9 a.m. Dec. 25.

Corning St. Bernard – 5 p.m. Dec.

24.
Coshocton Sacred Heart – 5 and 8 p.m. Dec. 24; 9 a.m. Dec. 25.

Crooksville Church of the Atonement – 8 p.m. Dec. 24.

Danville St. Luke – 4 p.m. Dec. 24 and 10 a.m. Dec. 25, both livestreamed to parish center and at facebook.com/STLKCD/.

Delaware St. Mary – 4 p.m. (simultaneous Masses in church and school gym), 6 and 9 p.m. and midnight Dec. 24; 9 and 11:30 a.m. (both English) and 2 p.m. (Spanish) Dec. 25. Masses in church at 4 p.m. and midnight Dec. 24 and 9 a.m. Dec. 25 will be livestreamed on parish website, with 4 p.m. Mass also livestreamed to Betitel Commons. Reservations required for all Christmas Masses.

Dennison Immaculate Conception – 5 and 10 p.m. Dec. 24; 9 a.m. Dec. 25.

Dover St. Joseph – 5 p.m. (English), 7:30 p.m. (Spanish) and 11:30 p.m. Dec. 24; 9 a.m. Dec. 25.

Dresden St. Ann – 6 p.m. Dec. 24 and 9 a.m. Dec. 25.

Dublin St. Brigid of Kildare – 4 p.m. (livestream only), 6:30 and 9 p.m. Dec. 24; 9 and 11 a.m. Dec. 25. Some Masses will be livestreamed to Hendricks Hall and parish gym and on parish YouTube channel. Reservations required for Christmas Masses at all on-site locations. Parish also will have daily Masses during the Octave of Christmas, from Saturday, Dec. 26 to Thursday, Dec. 31.

Gahanna St. Matthew – 4, 6:30 and 9 p.m. Dec. 24; 10 a.m. Dec. 25.

Glenmont Ss. Peter and Paul – 6 and 8 p.m. Dec. 24.

Granville St. Edward – 4 and 7 p.m. Dec. 24; 8:15 and 10:45 a.m. Dec. 25.

Grove City Our Lady of Perpetual Help – 4, 6, 8 and 10 p.m. Dec. 24; 9:30 a.m. Dec. 25. Livestreaming to gym for 4 and 6 p.m. Dec. 24 and to parish life center for all Masses.

Groveport St. Mary – 5 and 8 p.m. Dec. 24; 9 a.m. Dec. 25.

Heath St. Leonard – 4 and 9 p.m. Dec. 24; 10 a.m. Dec. 25. Reservations required for all Christmas Masses.

Hilliard St. Brendan the Navigator – 4 and 6:30 p.m. (simultaneous Masses in church and multipurpose room) and 10 p.m. Dec. 24; 8:45 and 10:45 a.m. Dec. 25. Reservations required for all 4 and 6:30 p.m. Masses Dec. 24.

MASSES, *continued from Page 4*

Jackson Holy Trinity – midnight Dec. 24; 9 a.m. Dec. 25. Reservations required for all Christmas Masses.

Johnstown Church of the Ascension – 4 and 9 p.m. Dec. 24; 10 a.m. Dec. 25. Reservations required for all Christmas Masses.

Junction City St. Patrick – 8 p.m. Dec. 24.

Kenton Immaculate Conception – 6 and 8 p.m. (livestreamed) Dec. 24 and 9 a.m. Dec. 25.

Lancaster St. Bernadette – 5 and 7 p.m. and midnight Dec. 24; 10 a.m. (English) and 11:30 a.m. (Latin), Dec. 25.

Lancaster St. Mark – 5 and 8 p.m. Dec. 24; 9 a.m. (livestreamed) Dec. 25. Reserving a pew is optional.

Lancaster St. Mary – 4, 6, 8 and 10 p.m. Dec. 24; 8 and 10 a.m. Dec. 25. Reservations required for all Christmas Masses. Masses livestreamed at 6 and 10 p.m. Dec. 24 and 8 a.m. Dec. 25. Incense at 8 and 10 p.m. Dec. 24 and 10 a.m. Dec. 25.

Logan St. John – 4 and 6:30 p.m. and midnight Dec. 24; 9 a.m. Dec. 25.

London St. Patrick – 4 and 6 p.m. and midnight Dec. 24; 10:30 a.m. Dec. 25.

Marion St. Mary – 5, 7 and 9 p.m. Dec. 24; 11 a.m. Dec. 25. Reservations required for 5 and 7 p.m. Dec. 24 and 11 a.m. Dec. 25 Masses. All Masses livestreamed on parish Facebook page.

Marysville Our Lady of Lourdes – 4 and 7 p.m. and midnight Dec. 24; 10 a.m. Dec. 25.

Mattingly Settlement St. Mary – 4

p.m. Dec. 24.

Millersburg St. Peter – 4 p.m. Dec. 24; 10:30 a.m. Dec. 25.

Mount Vernon St. Vincent de Paul – 4 and 6 p.m. and midnight Dec. 24; 10:30 a.m. Dec. 25. All Masses livestreamed.

New Albany Church of the Resurrection – 4 p.m. (social hall), 4:30, 7:30 and 10 p.m. Dec. 24; 9 and 11 a.m. Dec. 25. Reservations required for all Christmas Masses.

New Lexington St. Rose – 5 p.m. (simultaneous Masses in church and parish center) and midnight Dec. 24; 10 a.m. Dec. 25.

New Philadelphia Sacred Heart – 5 and 8 p.m. Dec. 24; 8:30 a.m. Dec. 25.

Newark Blessed Sacrament – 4, 6:30 and 10 p.m. Dec. 24; 9 a.m. Dec. 25. Chairs will be set up in annex for overflow. All Masses livestreamed on parish Facebook page.

Newark St. Francis de Sales – 4, 6, 8 and 10 p.m. Dec. 24; 10 a.m. Dec. 25. Overflow seating likely in Murphy Hall, Johnson Hall and gym for 4 p.m. Mass and as needed for other Masses.

Newcomerstown St. Francis de Sales – 7 p.m. Dec. 24.

Pickerington St. Elizabeth Ann Seton – 4 p.m. (simultaneous Masses in church and activity center), 6:30 and 11 p.m. Dec. 24; 9:30 a.m. Dec. 25.

Plain City St. Joseph – 4, 6 and 8 p.m. Dec. 24 in both parish activity center and church; midnight Dec. 24 and 9 a.m. Dec. 25 in church only.

Pond Creek Holy Trinity – 5 p.m.

Dec. 25.

Portsmouth Holy Redeemer – 6:30 p.m. (bilingual) Dec. 24 and 9 a.m. Dec. 25.

Portsmouth St. Mary – 4 p.m. (livestreamed) and 6:30 p.m. Dec. 24.

Powell St. Joan of Arc – 4 and 6:30 p.m. (simultaneous Masses in church and social hall) and 8:30 and 10:30 p.m. (church only, livestreamed to social hall) Dec. 24; 9:30 and 11:30 a.m. (church only, livestreamed to social hall) Dec. 25. All Masses in church will be livestreamed to parish website, Facebook and YouTube.

Reynoldsburg St. Pius X – 4, 6:30 and 9 p.m. Dec. 24; 9 a.m. Dec. 25. First two Dec. 24 Masses will be livestreamed to parish center and possibly to school gym and cafeteria. Other Masses might be livestreamed if necessary.

Somerset Holy Trinity – 4 p.m. Dec. 24; 9 a.m. Dec. 25.

Somerset St. Joseph – 6 p.m. Dec. 24.

Sugar Grove St. Joseph – 4:30 and 8 p.m. Dec. 24; 9 a.m. Dec. 25.

Sunbury St. John Neumann – 4, 6:30 and 10 p.m. and midnight Dec. 24; 8 and 10 a.m. Dec. 25. Communion will be distributed from 8 to 9 p.m. in the church. Reservations required for all Christmas Masses; some Masses are full. Doors open 45 minutes before Mass. Midnight and 10 a.m. Masses will include incense. All Masses will be livestreamed to chapel, Faith and Family Center and classrooms, and via 89.5 FM to cars in parking lot.

Washington Court House St. Colman of Cloyne – 4 and 6:30 p.m. and midnight Dec. 24; 8:30 and 10:30 a.m. Dec. 25. Reservations required for all Christmas Masses. No reservations taken before Monday, Dec. 21.

Waverly St. Mary – 9:30 p.m. Dec. 24; 9:30 a.m. Dec. 25.

Wellston Sts. Peter & Paul – 4 and 6:30 p.m. Dec. 24, both livestreamed. Reservations required for all Christmas Masses.

West Jefferson Sts. Simon & Jude – 4, 6 and 9 p.m. Dec. 24; 10 a.m. Dec. 25. Tickets required for all Christmas Masses.

Westerville St. Paul – 4 and 6 p.m. (simultaneous Masses in church and Klinger Center) and 8 and 10 p.m. and midnight Dec. 24; 8 and 10 a.m. and noon Dec. 25. Reservations required for all Christmas Masses.

Wheelersburg St. Peter in Chains – 4 p.m. Dec. 24 and 9 a.m. Dec. 25.

Worthington St. Michael – 4, 6 and 8 p.m. and midnight Dec. 24; 9 and 11 a.m. Dec. 25. Tickets required for 4, 6 and 8 p.m. Dec. 24 Masses.

Zaleski St. Sylvester – 6:30 p.m. Dec. 24. Reservations required.

Zanesville St. Nicholas – 6 and 9 p.m. Dec. 24; 9 a.m. Dec. 25.

Zanesville St. Thomas Aquinas – 5 and 10 p.m. Dec. 24; 9 and 11 a.m. Dec. 25, all in activity center. Church is undergoing repairs.

Zoar Holy Trinity – 6 p.m. Dec. 24 and 10 a.m. Dec. 25, both available on livestream.

Annunciations – Mary’s and ours

What image comes to mind when you think of the annunciation? A painting by Bellini or Da Vinci? A woman kneeling on ornate pillows? Father Kilian McDonnell, O.S.B., wrote a poem, “In the Kitchen,” that offers a different view. “Bellini has it wrong,” it begins, as Mary gives her account. She wasn’t kneeling on a satin pillow. She was bent down, wiping up water spilled on the kitchen floor when she noticed a light on the wall “as though someone had opened/the door to the sun.”

Kilian’s Mary is down to earth. A young Jewish girl living in an occupied country, she would not have been surrounded by luxury when the angel came. She’d have been busy with everyday chores like drawing water from the well and getting food on the table.

Dorothy Day knew the danger in naming someone a saint. The title separates, making those great witnesses too easy to dismiss. They’re not like us. They’re different. Their circumstances are far removed from our own. But as Kilian reminds us, neither is true: Saints aren’t a different breed, and all people are called to holiness.

GRACE IN THE MOMENT

Mary Van Balen



It does take practice. Mary needed to be awake, tuned in to God’s presence in ordinary life. For many on this planet, everyday life is a harsh battle to survive. For others, daily chores and choices are not matters of life and death but are so repetitive they can be done without thinking. How does one stay attentive to grace in the moment when the moments are so fraught? Or so predictable?

We might think that ignoring an angel or bright light or voice from heaven would be impossible, no matter how one lived their life. But maybe not. In her poem “In the World I Live In,” Mary Oliver says that “... only if there are angels in your head will you ever, possibly, see one.”

Throughout her young life, Mary of Nazareth was listening, expecting God to be present. God had a long history of working in the lives of her people and in hers as well. So when the message arrived,

she was ready to hear it.

Sometimes, presence breaking into life is spectacular. Perhaps not an angel, brilliant light or vision (though it could be – it has happened before). But inbreaking can be jolting: a dreaded medical diagnosis, the loss of job or an unexpected opportunity, all life changing. Inbreaking can be the realization that a wonderful relationship is blossoming or that one is dying and beyond repair.

Whether annunciations come through the ordinary or spectacular, one must be awake to recognize them. Once perceived, they present a choice: to let them in or not. Mary had a choice. The Creator of all that is waited for her answer. She could have said “no.”

Besides being awake to God’s presence, Mary was open and empty, like a monk’s begging bowl. She wasn’t full of herself and her plans but had room to receive what was offered. She could have thought, “Joseph and I are going to be married. No thanks.”

Pray during Advent and Christmas for a world full of good Samaritans

Advent provides the opportunity to be better people, to be emancipated from the practices infused with greed and corruption that deny people the right to live a dignified life. (Paul Magno, longtime peace and justice activist)

As we wait in prayerful anticipation of our celebrations of Christ's birth, we also have the opportunity to be prayer filled. Now is a great time to ask the God of Compassion to quiet our minds and still our hearts. We ask for inspiration to listen to the cries of our suffering world, speak of love and acceptance, walk beside those in need, and to clothe, feed and shelter the homeless and displaced.

This year, our world has witnessed a sequence of catastrophic natural disasters: devastating hurricanes, wildfires, heavy rains with floods and mudslides, and a pandemic no one could imagine. For millions of people, the day-to-day patterns of life have been disrupted – many lives have been lost and many are ill and separated from loved ones.

As we wait again for the celebration of the birth of Christ, I feel we have received an early Christmas gift: Pope Francis' new encyclical, *Fratelli Tutti*.

My prayer for this Advent is in italics that follows each excerpt.

"The decision to include or exclude those lying wounded along the roadside can serve as a criterion for judging every economic, political, social and religious project. Each day we have to decide whether to be Good Samaritans or indifferent bystanders⁶⁹"

FAITH IN ACTION

Erin Cordle

Erin Cordle is associate director of the diocesan Office for Social Concerns.



During this Advent season, give us the grace to understand that all personal and political actions have an impact on those on the margins.

"Each day offers us a new opportunity, a new possibility ... Let us take an active part in renewing and supporting our troubled societies⁷⁷ ... All of us have a responsibility for the wounded, those of our own people and all the peoples of the earth. Let us care for the needs of every man and woman, young and old, with the same fraternal spirit of care and closeness that marked the Good Samaritan.⁷⁹"

May we take on our responsibility for the wounded and ignored, as the Good Samaritan did.

"We have grown indifferent to all kinds of wastefulness, starting with the waste of food ... to the discarding of throwaway people.¹⁸"

May we grow in respect toward God's gifts of food, the natural world, and all peoples.

"Human beings are so made that they cannot live, develop and find fulfillment except "in the sincere gift of self to others." Nor can they fully know themselves apart from an encounter with other persons.⁸⁷

May we find new ways to encounter others and give them the gift of our listening.

We are more alone than ever in an increasingly massified world that promotes individual interests and weakens the communitarian dimension of life.¹²"

May we humbly confront our own individualism and pray for community and cooperation.

"Isolation and withdrawal into one's own interests are never the way to restore hope and bring about renewal. Rather, it is closeness; it is the culture of encounter.³⁰"

May this Advent Season bring us out of isolation.

During his Urbi Et Orbi blessing (March 27, 2020), Pope Francis also reminded us that "We have realized that we are on the same boat, all of us fragile and disoriented, but at the same time important and needed, all of us called to row together, each of us in need of comforting the other."

In times of darkness and adversity, it may be difficult to have hope. Pope Francis also reminds us that Christian hope is both personal and communitarian and that "help must be given especially to the poor, the weak in faith, the suffering, and those tempted to despair." (*Vatican Radio*, 8/24/17) He calls us to be living signs of hope.

May we be inspired to be a living sign of hope this Advent and throughout the year.

Please do everything possible to stay safe and healthy and have as great an Advent and Christmas as possible in 2020 so we all can be together to have our truly best Advent and Christmas EVER in 2021!

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Must Catholics refuse COVID-19 vaccine made with cell line from abortion?

In the wake of announcements from multiple pharmaceutical companies about safe and effective COVID-19 vaccines, many are expressing ethical doubts about whether it is OK to take these vaccines. Do Catholics have a moral duty to decline an inoculation if it was unethically produced using a cell line that came from an abortion?

The short answer is “no.” This has been discussed and explained in several magisterial church documents in recent years.

In 2008, for example, the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith reminded us in the Instruction *Dignitas Personae* that:

“Grave reasons may be morally proportionate to justify the use of such ‘biological material.’ Thus, for example, danger to the health of children could permit parents to use a vaccine which was developed using cell lines of illicit origin, while keeping in mind that everyone has the duty to make known their disagreement and to ask that their healthcare system make other types of vaccines available.”

For a serious reason, therefore, Catholics may receive a COVID-19 vaccine having an association with abortion, and a serious reason could include a threat to one’s health and well-being. Those who are elderly or who face co-morbidities like diabetes, obesity or other significant health conditions are among the highest risk groups for adverse outcomes from infection, and would clearly have a serious reason.

Vaccines from Moderna and Pfizer are likely to be among the first to receive emergency approval in the United States, and do not rely on cell lines from abortions in the manufacturing process. As such, they appear to be good candidates for Catholics to use. There is a problem that a cell line from a 1972 abortion was used to carry out some ancillary testing of those vaccines, but the fact that zero material derived from any cell line from an abortion is present in these vaccines, that is to say, inside the syringe that actually jabs the patient, is sufficient in the minds of most to assuage any concern over using them, even if problematic laboratory testing may have taken place

MAKING SENSE OF BIOETHICS

Father Tad Pacholczyk



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

along the way.

If we end up facing a choice among multiple COVID-19 vaccines of similar or equal safety and efficacy, as appears likely, it will clearly be preferable to choose alternatives with a better ethical profile, i.e. those not associated with, or less associated with, material derived from abortions.

Suppose, however, that two new vaccines both appeared to be safe during clinical trials. The first vaccine had no association with abortion but was only 35 percent effective at protecting from COVID-19, while the second was more than 90 percent effective but was manufactured using a cell line derived from

an abortion. In such a case, again, we could choose the significantly more effective version for the serious reason of danger to our health.

Relying on cell lines from abortions to manufacture a COVID-19 vaccine provokes strong moral objections and some can and will refuse the vaccines on these grounds. While it is a personal decision of conscience as to whether or not to accept a vaccine, it is important to be clear that the Church, for her part, does not require us to decline it on such grounds in the face of serious reasons, as in the situation of an elderly person or someone with multiple health issues who faces significant risks if they were to contract COVID-19. This fact, of course, in no way absolves or diminishes the serious wrongdoing of those who used cell lines from abortions to make vaccines in the first place.

Any time we decide to receive an unethically produced vaccine, moreover, we should push back. We need to do our part in applying pressure on the manufacturer, perhaps by sending an e-mail indicating our objection to the fact that their vaccine was produced using ethically controversial cell sources, and requesting that they reformulate it using alternative, non-abortion-related cell sources. Alternatively, we might write a letter to the editor of our local paper pointing out the injustice of being morally coerced to rely on these cell sources, or take other steps to educate and inform others.

Such efforts help expand public awareness of the problem and apply real pressure for change. Such efforts can be more effective (and require more authentic determination on our part) than merely “digging in our heels” or “taking a stand” and refusing to get vaccinated, which has the negative effect of subjecting us, and others around us, to heightened risk from various diseases.

While it is too early to know which COVID-19 vaccines will end up becoming available in the United States, the pandemic is certain to elevate the profile of abortion-related ethical concerns among the public to a degree not previously seen, offering a unique opportunity to push for the elimination of these cell lines from future biomedical research and pharmaceutical development projects.

COVID-19 Vaccine Candidates in the U.S. & Association with Abortion-Derived Cell Lines

Company/Sponsor	Abortion-Derived Cell Line Used in Vaccine Development/Production?	Abortion-Derived Cell Line Used in Vaccine Laboratory Testing?	“Ethical Profile”
Altimmune	Yes	?	Poor
Arcturas Therapeutics	No	Yes	Good
AstraZeneca/University of Oxford	Yes	Yes	Very Poor
Immunity Bio & NantKwest	Yes	Yes	Very Poor
Inovio Pharmaceuticals	No	Yes	Good
Janssen Res/Johnson & Johnson	Yes	Yes	Very Poor
Merck and IAVI	No	?	Good
Moderna	No	Yes	Good
Novavax	No	Yes	Good
Pfizer/BioNTech	No	Yes	Good
Sanofi & GSK Protein Sciences	No	?	Good
Sanofi Pasteur/Translate Bio	No	Yes	Good
Sorrento [“T-viva-19”]	No	No	Very Good
Univ. of Pittsburgh	Yes	?	Poor
Vaxart	Yes	?	Poor

Information comparing some of the COVID-19 vaccine candidates that may become available in the United States in terms of their association with abortion-derived cell lines, helpfully collated by the Charlotte Lozier Institute and alphabetically arranged.

St. John the Evangelist always by Jesus’ side

By MaryBeth Eberhard

We all have someone in our life whom we call “beloved,” whether that person holds a special place deep in the memories of our heart or we have the blessing of waking to that person’s vision every morning.

To be beloved is to be known intimately, accepted, cherished and desired. For me, my mind goes immediately to my husband and my family. In my desire to model the Father’s love for them, I love them by seeking them out, loving them unconditionally and sacrificing for them in ways seen and unseen. I seek to be in constant communion with each of them from the morning smile to the evening

WALKING WITH THE SAINTS

prayer. That communion with my beloveds is the bedrock of our relationship.

On Dec. 27, we celebrate the feast of St. John the Evangelist. We know John, son of Zebedee and Solome and brother to James the Apostle, through tradition, as the beloved apostle. He was with Jesus at the wedding of Cana, journeyed with him to Capernaum, was present at the Transfiguration of Jesus, placed his head upon the breast of Jesus at the Last Supper and sat with him in the Garden of Gethsemane. Upon the cross, Jesus asked St. John

to care for Mary, Jesus’ mother.

It was John who ran ahead of Peter to the tomb, John who recognized Jesus on the water after the Resurrection. On my walk with St. John, I have pondered how it is that he and the Lord shared such intimate moments. Why was it that John was always there? How did he know?

I often use my family dynamic as a backdrop to my prayer life. It helps me weave the two together more intricately as I believe they should be. For me to call my husband or my children “beloved,” our connection needs to be intentional and intimate. This is not your surface-level, “How was your day?” conversa-

In training to grow in holiness

Most of the people I work with want to get stronger and move better for everyday life. They want to be healthy and able to enjoy their families and friends, to travel, and be able to take care of themselves as they age and have the ability to serve others.

So the approach I use in teaching fitness is moderate and consistent physical activity. I refer to physical activity as “training” instead of “working out” because the word “training” sounds like we are on a journey — which we are — to provide consistent care for the gift of this human body so we can serve God and neighbor to the best of our ability while we are here on earth.

I also like to think that we are in training to grow in holiness each day. When we rise and pray anew, frequent the sacraments and try to be loving and giving to others, we are in training in a way — to grow in holiness.

The special seasons of the Church, Advent and Lent, offer us a unique opportunity to double-down on our training. Just like the times of training in-

HOLY AND HEALTHY

Lori Crock



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

tensity in our physical training, our spiritual lives can also have times of more intensity. The special seasons of the Church invite us into a deeper and more intense experience of knowing and loving Jesus, serving our neighbor and growing in holiness.

I'm a realist and when I look back over the years, I've had some really fruitful times during Advent and Lent, and other times where I can say that, for different reasons, I didn't give the time or effort that Jesus was calling me to. I have let worldly things crowd out my time with Jesus, but that inspires me to get back up and keep training to grow in holiness with more gusto. I've set my heart anew on making

this Advent a peaceful and fruitful time with Jesus.

How about you? How has Advent been for you this year? I have learned that for me it's best to stick to my routines of prayer, Adoration and Mass. I try to spend a little more time in quiet prayer and reading of spiritual books. I also like to take advantage of parish Reconciliation services and listening to moving music this time of year. I decorate my home simply, and I have realized that for me, doing less during this busy time gives me joy and time to spend with Jesus.

From 1 Timothy 4:7-8, “Train yourself for devotion for, while physical training is of limited value, devotion is valuable in every respect, since it holds a promise of life both for the present and for the future.”

I pray that Advent has been, and continues to be, a peaceful time of training in holiness for you and yours with an eye on the eternal prize. May your Christmas be a time of gratitude for the gift that each of us is called to grow in holiness, and may we each courageously respond to the call from Jesus.

On cages and evangelization in China

Joshua Wong is a young Chinese human rights activist, recently sentenced to 13 1/2 months in prison on the Orwellian charge of “incitement to knowingly take part in an unauthorized assembly” — meaning, in Chinese Newspeak, urging others to protest peacefully the tyranny now throttling Hong Kong. In his first letter from prison, the uncowed Mr. Wong wrote, “Cages cannot lock up souls.” Indeed, they cannot. But the failure to defend the caged by standing in solidarity with them can do the gravest damage to evangelization.

Jimmy Lai, one of Hong Kong's most prominent Catholic defenders of religious freedom and other basic human rights, was back in jail in early December; his bail in a civil lease dispute was revoked on the grounds that he might flee and is a national security risk to boot. The real reason for his incarceration, of course, is that keeping Mr. Lai in prison stifles his ongoing challenge to repression. In numerous interviews, Jimmy Lai has emphasized that his Catholic faith undergirds and sustains his commitment to human rights for all, even as the Xi Jinping regime tries to ruin his business and threatens his life. Has Jimmy Lai been encouraged by a public word of protest from the Vatican against his persecution since he became a prime target of China's overlords? No.

Martin Lee is another devout Catholic, a distinguished barrister, and pro-democracy activist, who has seen his work undone as Beijing tightens its stranglehold on Hong Kong in brazen disregard of the commitments it made in 1997, when Great Britain reverted sovereignty over the territory to China. Profiled in the Wall Street Journal, Mr. Lee rebuffed any suggestion that he would ever leave Hong Kong: “If I have the choice of dying peacefully in bed outside Hong Kong, or dying in pain in a Chinese jail, the question for me is not how I die, but will I go to heaven? Dying without my convictions is what would really give me pain.” Has this Chinese embodiment of the spirit of St. Thomas More been encouraged by a public word of protest from the Vatican against Beijing's tyranny? No.

Just before Thanksgiving, the Vatican initiated a meeting between Pope Francis and a group of NBA

THE CATHOLIC DIFFERENCE

George Weigel



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

players and their union representatives, evidently to discuss issues of justice in the United States. Has any similar outreach been made to Chinese Catholic human rights activists — or even to the redoubtable Cardinal Joseph Zen, bishop emeritus of Hong Kong and another courageous defender of religious freedom throughout China? No.

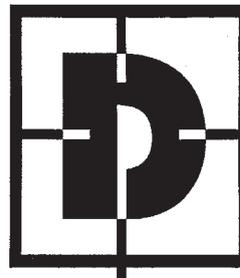
Attempts to defend this shameful Vatican reluctance to support beleaguered Chinese Catholics publicly remain unpersuasive, even ludicrous. Some argue that current Vatican China policy is necessary to regularize the Catholic situation in China, which suffers from a deficit of bishops; how a method of appointing bishops that leaves the opening moves in the process to the Chinese communist party, in violation of the teaching of the Second Vatican Council (which was given legal effect in Canon 377.5 of the Code of Canon Law), is not self-evidently clear. Others argue that the Church must take thug-gish regimes as they are and try to create open space for Catholic life under those circumstances; but this makes no sense in today's Chinese situation, where the Xi Jinping regime uses intimidation and torture to impose on the entire country what amounts to an alternative religion — canine fealty to the Chinese communist party and its maximum leader.

As for the risible claim that the arrangement begun in 2018 is an advance because it recognizes the pope's position as head of the Catholic Church: Of what use is that recognition of the obvious, in the face of ubiquitous regime propaganda touting Xi Jinping as a quasi-divine figure to whose benevolent wisdom all must defer?

Like Catholicism-vs.-communism in east central Europe during the Cold War, Catholicism-vs.-communism in China is, ultimately, a zero-sum game. There is no middle ground of accommodation where everyone lives happily ever after. Someone is going to win, and someone is going to lose. The Ostpolitik of the Vatican in the 1960s and 1970s never grasped this; John Paul II did, and the self-liberation of Poland and other Warsaw Pact countries followed in 1989.

Chinese communism is not immortal. When it ends, China will be the greatest field of Christian mission in centuries. A Catholicism identified with the old, despised regime will be at a serious evangelical disadvantage in post-communist China: not least because it will be seen to have failed Jimmy Lai, Martin Lee, Joseph Zen, and so many other noble and courageous confessors of the faith.

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Father Black a joyful servant 'in the name of Jesus'

By Tim Puet

Catholic Times Reporter

Father James Black says the priesthood has brought him a satisfaction he could not have found anywhere else.

"Like all of us, I've had good and bad days, challenging times, and gone through joyful and tragic experiences, but I've been happy for my entire priesthood," said Father Black, pastor of Powell St. Joan of Arc Church.

"I can't imagine any other type of life that would be so rich and bring so many blessings. Any challenges and sacrifices have been more than compensated by the fulfilling and joyful nature of what priests do.

"When I think of a simple way to describe the priesthood, the word 'servant' comes to mind," he said. "The most enriching part of my ministry has been to serve in the name of Jesus."

Father Black, 61, grew up on Columbus' south side with an older brother, two younger brothers and a younger sister and attended St. Leo Church. His parents are the late Bernard Black, who was in the heating and air conditioning business, and Ruth Black, a homemaker.

"My mother and father were active in various roles at St. Leo's, and I was an altar server there," he said. "I think the seeds for me to recognize my call to the priesthood were planted there. My father died at age 43, and the late Msgr. (Edward) Trenor, who was pastor there at the time, took good care of him. I first realized what a priest does, especially the importance of administering the sacraments, through seeing what Msgr. Trenor did for my father."

Father Black attended St. Leo School, graduated from the now-closed Columbus Father Wehrle High School in 1977 and received a business degree from Franklin University in 1981.

"With the business degree, I might have gotten a position in marketing, but by the time I graduated from college, I was more strongly considering the priesthood," he said. "I attended a Teens Encounter Christ (TEC) retreat at Wehrle and helped with TEC programs in college. This made me know more priests and see them in a different setting, and I began considering the priesthood more strongly."

During his last two years in college, he lived in the SPES House (SPES is Latin for hope) on Neil Avenue in Columbus, a facility then operated by the Diocese of Columbus for young men discerning whether they were being called to the priesthood. "Father Jerry Stluka and the late Father Ted Thom-

ANSWERING GOD'S CALL

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

as were living there with us, and they were instrumental in making me realize my calling," he said.

After college, Father Black spent a year of pre-theology studies at St. Meinrad (Indiana) Seminary, followed by two years of theology at Mount St. Mary Seminary of the West in Cincinnati and two years of parish work at Columbus Holy Spirit and St. Peter churches. He completed his studies for the priesthood at the Pontifical College Josephinum in 1988 and was ordained on June 11 of that year by Bishop James Griffin at Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral.

His first assignment was as associate pastor at Gahanna St. Matthew Church, where he was stationed until 1992. That was followed by four-year periods as associate pastor at Columbus St. Catharine Church and the cathedral. While at St. Catharine, he also was chaplain at Columbus Bishop Hartley High School.

"One of the things I learned quickly after being ordained was how little control a priest has over his day," he said. "I discovered that any plans I may have might be changed at a moment's notice. Every day was different, but fulfilling.

"I feel blessed by being able to have three different parish experiences and being given the opportunity to learn from three pastors and from other associate pastors. Young priests don't get the chance for that type of experience today because having a smaller number of priests in the diocese means they often become a pastor following their first assignment as a parochial vicar.

"My four years at the cathedral were especially interesting because the cathedral is such a different parish than any of the others. Besides being the 'home parish' for everyone in the diocese, it serves three distinct groups – those who are parish members; downtown residents, including many college students and the homeless;



Father James Black

and people who work downtown and live elsewhere. I spent much of my time at the cathedral doing spiritual direction for people working downtown," Father Black said.

His first assignment as a pastor was in 2000 at Chillicothe St. Peter and Waverly St. Mary churches, where he spent six years. "Once you're given the responsibility of a parish, there's certainly plenty to do," he said. "The responsibilities are greater, but so is the satisfaction. This also was my first assignment outside of Columbus, giving me a chance to know a little more of the diocese. The late Msgr. Charles Griffin was in residence there, and I enjoyed getting to know him. It created quite a bond."

This was followed by nearly seven years as pastor of Delaware St. Mary Church, which was and continues to be a fast-growing parish because of the continuing housing boom in Delaware County. "The biggest challenge there was dealing with the growth," he said. "Because of its location in Delaware, it's a 'landlocked' parish, so I had to say, 'This is all we have' in terms of room and work out ways to deal with the situation. It also was my first experience at a parish with a cemetery."

In March 2013, Father Black moved 12 miles south of Delaware to St. Joan of Arc, on the border of Delaware and Franklin counties – a parish growing even faster than the one he left. "We've grown from 2,000 to 4,000 families in 10 years, and that growth is going to continue, but here, we do have room to expand," he said.

"We completed a feasibility study that was the first step toward expansion and had just started a fundraising campaign when the COVID-19 pandemic hit. People were starting to make pledges and are continuing to do that, but any building plans are on hold for now."

The parish hopes to add a building that will be connected to the church and have 24 classrooms for the Parish School of Religion (PSR) and other functions. The parish offices also will be moved there,

and the social hall will be expanded.

More than 1,000 students are enrolled in the PSR program at St. Joan of Arc, which does not have a parochial school. "PSR takes up all the meeting space we have available for meetings on Sundays, Monday and Wednesday nights, leaving just Tuesday and Thursday for faith formation, family and youth activities and other programs," Father Black said. "Having this extra space will benefit all parish activities because it will allow a lot more flexibility."

Father Black said the most difficult thing about the pandemic for him is the limits it places on contact with parishioners. "One of the most important things for a priest is to be with a family when one of its members is sick," he said. "Not being able to do that is very painful. I can talk to families but can't go to a hospital except to give the last rites. That's hard to do. And I'm certainly ready to get off Zoom and return to face-to-face meetings.

"Being at a parish as large as St. Joan of Arc has given me a chance to be involved in the important moments of so many people's lives – baptisms, confirmations, first Communions and weddings – and for people sometimes to tell me that something I've said in a homily or at Mass has made a significant difference to them," he said. "That's very satisfying and makes me feel honored to be part of God's work."

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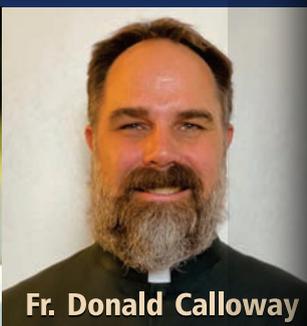
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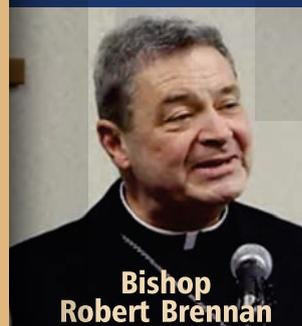


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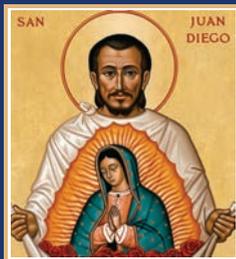


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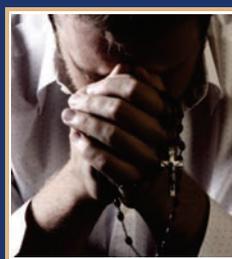
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December:
JUAN DIEGO

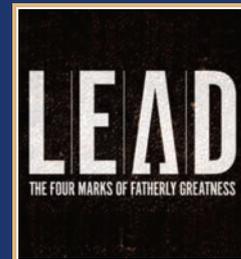
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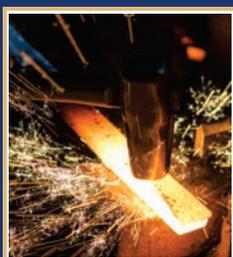


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2020: The year in Catholic school education

It's hard to think of much else to say about 2020 other than that it was the year of Covid. Nothing has redefined, reshaped or refocused the past year in education more than the response to the global pandemic by Our Catholic Schools.

Schools in our Diocese and throughout Ohio complied with the school closure order on March 13 and made the rapid switch to distance learning, ready to meet our students online on March 17.

As the weeks passed, the educators of the Diocese were resilient. The principals of our schools met daily, sharing ideas and experiences and working through one new challenge after another. The teachers were simply amazing, switching their lessons to an entirely new format, adapting to an unbelievable change that no one had ever thought possible. Our schools found new ways to pray together and to share moments of faith and support. Those moments kept our communities together and helped us overcome the loss and sadness as the closure continued and one tradition after another met with cancellation.

There was no typical summer break for any edu-

HAVE FAITH IN EDUCATION

Adam Dufault

Adam J. Dufault is the diocesan Episcopal Moderator for Education and Superintendent of Catholic Schools.



cator in our Diocese this year. Intense planning for the fall was underway before the previous school year had even ended. The goal was to reopen our schools as close to normal as possible while following health and safety protocols. We knew that, in our school communities of faith, relationships and daily encounters at the core of everything we do. Catholic education is Trinitarian – much as the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are a relationship of three in one, our schools are a relationship between parents, students and educators. For the sake of our educational mission, we needed to bring our schools back in person.

The schools of the Diocese reopened this fall only due to the incredible hard work of our administra-

tors, teachers, nurses, facilities managers, custodians, secretaries, aides and counselors, and with the support and encouragement of our parents and students. The rigorous protocols we put in place have worked. We have been able to operate for the first half of the year mostly in an in-person or hybrid format. Make no mistake – this has come at an incredible sacrifice. The time, energy, creativity, responsibility and stress have been tremendous. But our educators have persisted in their work because they know that we are doing what is best to provide an outstanding Catholic education to our students.

As 2020 comes to an end, it is easy to despair that the pandemic will never end or that our schools will never be as they once were. However, the calendar year ends as the liturgical year begins with a season of hope. Advent reminds us to be people of joyful expectation, knowing that Our Lord will come to us. Our schools will carry on, continuing to draw strength from our shared prayer as we make this school year the best possible experience for our students.

SAINTS, continued from Page 7

tion but, “How is your heart?” Days come and go, but your heart is your morality, your compass, your anchor. Fertile soil lies within the heart, where-as the skin withers away daily.

John the Evangelist knew our Lord intimately. This knowing began with an encounter with John the Baptist and then a life spent serving beside the Messiah. John saw Jesus – think about that – as we see our own beloveds. We see the shadows and light play across their faces. We see their struggles and their joys. We participate in them. We feel them. This is how close John, the beloved apostle, was to our Lord. It gives me such pause to place myself in that moment.

After the Ascension of Jesus, St. John went on to spread the Gospel of Jesus, caring for Mary until her As-

sumption. He was beaten, tortured, jailed and exiled for his labors. The communion St. John kept with Jesus through prayer bore the fruit of his Gospel and the Book of Revelation where he was granted visions of Christ's second coming. One can easily understand the trust the Lord had in sharing these sacred visions with His beloved disciple, knowing that they would be shared with His people in ways desired and holy.

As a disciple of Jesus, I know I am beloved to Him as there are immeasurable moments in my life when I have felt His shelter, His comfort, His intimate embrace that come only from being known and cherished. I seek to live a life that is in constant communion with Jesus, not only so that I am known but also so that He is known to me.

In the same way, I pause at night and pray over one of my sleeping children or gaze in holy wonder upon my husband in the morning sunlight, the Lord deserves a hundredfold of that adoration and wonder.

May we, along our walk with St. John, cherish the relationship we have

been given as daughters and sons of the Lord and seek to draw more closely into that beloved communion with Him, so that we might radiate a living gospel to others.

St. John the Evangelist is the patron saint of booksellers, art dealers and printers.

ANNUNCIATIONS, continued from Page 5

I'm happy with how things are going.”

Mary was humble. She had plans, but was willing to consider that God had others. She listened. When she was puzzled about the whens and hows, she accepted that reality is sometimes beyond understanding.

Mary had courage. She didn't know what lay ahead if she embraced God's call. But if she was needed, she'd give herself to something bigger.

Mary had hope. Not knowing what her “yes” would bring, she trusted it would be good: not easy, neat, or predictable, but good because she knew God was good. She knew God's track record in her life and the lives of her people. Even in their suffering, God was present.

Her birthing of Jesus introduced the

world to God as it had never known God before. We, too, are called to birth Christ into the world.

When annunciations come, opening new ways to birth love into the world, we will be better able to say “yes” if we've practiced. If we've been awake and listening. If we've worked to open our hearts and empty them to receive. We will be better able to do our part if we are humble and recognize that we can't see the big picture, that there is something much bigger than what we can imagine. To trust God will not leave us stranded to face suffering and struggle alone.

And to have hope. Because God is good. And God is coming. Has always been coming. And, indeed, is already here.



Merry Christmas

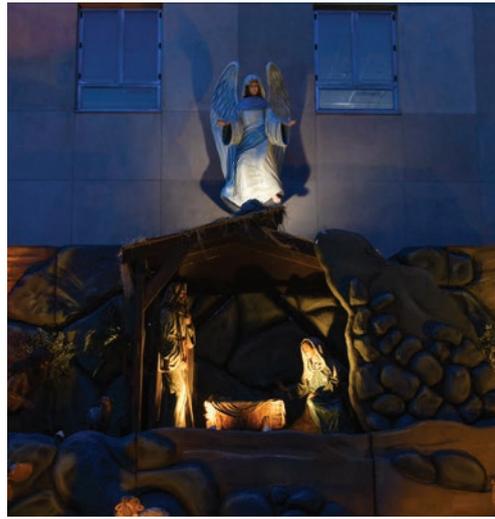


“For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.” – Isaiah 9:6

The Ohio Dominican University family sends you and your loved ones best wishes for a blessed Christmas and a wonderful 2021! May each day of the New Year be filled with abundant blessings, joy and peace.

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Materials used for the more than 80 life-size figures on display at State Auto's Christmas Corner include plaster, fiberglass, resin, foam, stucco, rope, hemp and hula skirts. Six separate scenes feature the Angel Speaks to Mary, Journey to Bethlehem, Holy Family, Field of Shepherds, King Herod and the Wise Men. *CT photos by Ken Snow*

The 1941 display at the start of America's involvement in World War II included a large depiction of Christ on the rooftop while Christmas music was broadcast over loudspeakers. TWA and American Airlines planes circled the building before landing in Columbus to give passengers a look. *Photo courtesy State Auto*

Christmas display a touchstone in uncertain times

When State Auto founder Bob Pein hatched the idea in the early 1930s to create an elaborate Christmas display at the insurance provider's two-story building on East Broad Street in downtown Columbus, the world was struggling through the throes of the Great Depression. He wanted to do something to boost people's spirits during a tumultuous time.

And so the Cincinnati native who grew up in a family of seven children turned the company headquarters into what he called "a Christmas card to the community" that at various points in the 1930s featured thousands of colored electric light bulbs, hundreds of Christmas trees, a "little church in the air" on top of the structure and broadcasts of carols and sacred music.

Ninety years later, the world again is experiencing an extremely challenging situation with the coronavirus pandemic. And what is now called "Christmas Corner" is still lifting our spirits and providing a sense of stability when we're all feeling a little insecure.

State Auto spokesman Kyle Anderson said the company decided to go forward with its annual display this year after considering the health and safety of visitors. However, musical performances that normally take place at the site were canceled.

"We talked with some of our friends in the community about it and what their thoughts were on whether we should put on the display this year or not," he said. "And I think it was pretty much unanimous the response we got was that the community would appreciate seeing that type of tradition continue."

For anyone unable to travel downtown or avoiding public interaction, State Auto added a feature this year. The company positioned a 3D camera used for insurance inspections at the site to provide a virtual experience for online viewers at <https://my.matterport.com/show/?m=2LhqcoRhtim&brand=0>.

"Frankly, it was an idea that we just came up with in the past few weeks," Anderson said. "We'll do a

EDITOR'S REFLECTIONS

Doug Bean



better one in the future. This one we had to do kind of quickly."

During an era when so many businesses have taken Christ out of Christmas, State Auto should be commended for eschewing corporate America's willingness to secularize this holy season.

Public feedback, Anderson noted, "is almost universally positive. The only complaints I recall hearing were related to the folks who mistakenly believed that the Nativity scene is on public property.

"We were able to dismiss that pretty quickly by saying that this is private property. We get praise every year, including this year, from folks saying, 'Thank you so much for doing this. We're sure you're having to stick your necks out,' and set aside the naysayers and that type of thing. And while I appreciate the sentiment, that really does not happen. We don't hear from those saying we shouldn't be doing this."

Think about how many central Ohioans through the years have loaded their families in the car and made a pilgrimage to downtown Columbus, just a few blocks east of St. Joseph Cathedral, to see this Christmas season landmark. The company estimates that 200,000 people stop or get out of their vehicles each year to gaze at the depictions leading up to Christ's birth and what happened immediately afterward.

"We actually did a brief video piece on a couple in 2014 when they were celebrating their 50th anniversary," Anderson recalled. "And on their first date in 1964, they visited Christmas Corner, and every year but for one, when (the husband) was serving in Vietnam, they would come to Christmas Corner on their anniversary. We hear from people in the community every year who say that going is a tradition for them."

Through Facebook, visitors can tour the site from throughout the world, including former Columbus residents who moved out of town and even State Auto employees who work elsewhere.

One of the few complaints came after the display was moved in 2009 from the front of the building to Pein Park, which is named after the company founder and located next to the building. Visitors were no longer able to see everything while sitting in their parked cars.

"We heard from some who were not happy about it," Anderson said. "But we felt that the new location offered visitors an opportunity to explore the display, as opposed to just viewing it from Broad Street. We do hope the (3D tour) is a way to bring the experience to even more people."

That's just one of many changes that have taken place over the course of the exhibit's 90-year history.

In the 1930s, the second-story rooftop was the focal point and included Santa, a manger scene and choirs singing songs of the season. Images of Christ's life were projected on a big screen.

In 1938, State Auto received a national "outstanding animated display of the year" award. Two years later, as World War II raged in Europe, a patriotic "Santa Claus still visits America" theme was adopted that featured the Statue of Liberty and the U.S. flag every 30 minutes while the rest of the Christmas display went dark.

A 1941 press release issued by the company just before the United States entered World War II read, "During these strenuous times, with hate, chaos, greed, tears and unhappiness all about us, the company would recall symbolically, the promise of Peace on Earth, Good Will toward Men; that if men will live close to Christ, as a Little Child, they will live at peace with one another." The company's historical account pointed out that commercial planes

Christmas brings the faithful and non-believers together in prison

By Michele Williams

I am a member of the Entertainment Committee in my housing unit of the Ohio Reformatory for Women. Sounds like a bit of an oxymoron, doesn't it? There are 12 of us who have volunteered to try our best bring fun, joy, decorations and the general spirit of Christmas into our building and, hopefully, our fellow inmates. That's a pretty daunting task this year. Holidays are quite difficult in prison and the added COVID crisis has simply made them worse.

Just like in America, we are dealing with the restrictions as best we can. But the intensity of emotions is magnified by homesickness, the loss of Mass with its sense of community, and the continual fear and stress connected with rising positive cases inside the prison fences. We can succumb to Grinch Syndrome pretty easily if we're not careful.

The Entertainment Committee is a multi-denominational and eclectic group bound together by our mission to make the holiday season better. We are very diverse in our religious beliefs and practices, yet we are all essentially celebrating Christmas. To be clear, by "diverse" I mean our chairperson is pagan, there are two Catholics, two Baptists, a Pentecostal, a nondenominational, two "Christian-ish" and 3 Wiccans. However, every single member, in the course of our meetings, has said a variation of "It's Christmas, so we should do x, y, or z," or, "We should have this or that because it is Christmas." We are not

here to quibble about whose religion believes or does what. We are here to help everyone through an emotionally messy time of year regardless of religious differences. We reach out to every single woman in our housing unit and respect the decision of those who don't want to participate.

One of the biggest activities we sponsor is the door/dorm decorating contest. On the first and second floors of the building, we decorate our cell doors. The basement is a dorm and so they decorate their walls and supporting center pillars. Supplies are limited, but creativity certainly is not. We work with cardboard, construction paper, toilet paper rolls, yarn, colored pencils and lots of tape. This year, as an unexpected blessing due to COVID, we are able to use leftover scraps and snippets of fabric from the mask-making team! The added colors and patterns add so much variety to our decorations.

I came up with my door decoration idea while talking with my parents on the phone. I asked if they had set up their Nativity scene on the piano in the living room yet. They hadn't (although I'm sure it's up by now). It is at least 50 years old and my favorite display of the season. I love the holy family figurines, the animals and the stable with its thatched roof and ladder leading to the hayloft. The wise men begin their journey in a different room of the house, moving closer as Christmas nears. But the best part is this: For as long as I can remember, a cow has inevitably ended up in the hayloft. It started when my brothers



Michele Williams' cell door decoration

and I were kids and we thought it was hilarious to put the cow in the loft. Much to my mother's chagrin, it became a tradition, and Dad has since been tasked with doing the dirty work, usually with a timely reminder from me. Sorry Mom!

In light of that memory, I really wanted to create a Nativity scene on my door. In my mind's eye, I saw a rustic cardboard stable with Mary and Joseph gazing adoringly at baby Jesus in His construction paper manger. I saw the wise men decked out in colorful robes of fabric snippets, the little drummer boy playing his toilet paper roll drum, and a cow looking down from the hayloft made of yarn.

Unfortunately, while I have great

visionary skills, I have terrible art skills. I can only draw stick people and smiley faces. Scissors always have a mind of their own, and I rarely color inside the lines. That said, I nixed the whole Nativity idea and opted for a cardboard Christmas tree with bits of material for decoration. My cat "helped" by chewing everything and leaving bite marks in the star on top. It's a lopsided mess, but I love it. It is currently on my door where I will proudly keep it until Jan. 1. I won't win the contest, but Charlie Brown would definitely approve of my tree and I had fun.

Therein lies the whole point of our Entertainment Committee's activities: to have fun and make the holiday blues fade away for a while. I felt called to be part of the committee because I love to help others – especially through difficult times, like Christmas in prison. I see it as an opportunity to spread joy and light in a dark and depressing place. I have been blessed, regardless of my circumstances, and I know where my help comes from. It comes from the Lord. Therefore, I have a duty to share blessings and smiles any chance I get, even if it is with a dilapidated cardboard Christmas tree. Paul said it best in Philippians 4:12-13, "... I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or want. I can do all things through him who gives me strength."

Michele Williams is an inmate at the Ohio Reformatory for Women in Marysville.

A clergy Christmas memory

By Msgr. John K. Cody

I was in the fourth grade at Worthington St. Michael School when Sister Antonita, the fifth-grade teacher and organist for the parish, decided to begin training a boys choir for Christmas midnight Mass.

She sent word to my teacher, Sister Julitta, to send any boys interested to her classroom at 1:30 p.m. About 10 of us were interested in trying out. Auditioning was somewhat intimidating to us fourth-graders, since Sister Antonita taught the fifth-graders and we knew we'd have to audition before them – not something any of us looked forward to.

We went down and each one of us were required to sing, without accompaniment, one verse of a Christmas carol of our choice. As you can well

imagine, the fifth-grade boys did everything they could to distract us with funny faces, chuckles and anything else to throw us off.

When it was my turn, I chose to sing one verse of Silent Night. After all of us had auditioned, sister asked us in front of her class if any of us thought we made the choir. I was the only one to raise my hand. The whole class laughed out loud, which surprisingly did not bother me.

I was a shy little boy (no one believes that now) and I had a speech impediment, but I was sure of one thing: God gave me a good voice and I knew I could sing! I made the choir, and for several years, Midnight Mass at St. Michael's had a boys choir. And I was happy and privileged to be part of it, and ever-thankful for the good voice God gave me!

BISHOP, continued from Page 2

all suffer."

The bishop's Dec. 9 statement follows:

I am deeply saddened and troubled by the recent shooting death of Casey C. Goodson Jr., in Columbus last Friday. With the faithful of the Diocese of Columbus, I offer our deepest sympathy to Mr. Goodson's family and friends as we share in their pain and grief caused by this unimaginable loss of life. We also stand in solidarity with all those in our community who seek a full and impartial investigation to understand the circumstances surrounding this tragic event.

It is incomprehensible to write this statement following a summer of significant unrest caused by similar events. This distressing incident reminds us of the effort we must make together to form a community that is sincerely committed to eradicating

racism, prejudice, and unjust discrimination.

While experiencing initial shock and dismay, our response to any officer-involved shooting must be rooted in nonviolent means of expression so that justice may be served.

We have a long road ahead of us, but this must be traveled in fellowship with those who are most vulnerable to unjust discrimination. We must continue to open wide our hearts to honest dialogue with a moral and prophetic voice.

I encourage the faithful of the Diocese to hold discussions at your parish on racism and other injustices that plague our communities. When our city's different communities seek proactively to understand each other, our future will be full of mutual respect, acceptance, and hope.

Pope's envoy has hopeful message at Guadalupe celebration

By Tim Puet
Catholic Times Reporter

The Vatican's ambassador to the United States told a small group gathered in Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral and a much larger television audience that despite the coronavirus pandemic, this is a time for joy, hope and love because of God's constant presence.

Archbishop Christophe Pierre made those remarks in his homily that concluded a two-hour celebration of the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, patroness of the Americas, on Saturday, Dec. 12, presented by the Diocese of Columbus.

Because of the pandemic, only 100 people, most of them representing the 17 diocesan parishes with a significant number of Hispanic parishioners, were in attendance, but the event, conducted entirely in Spanish, was telecast live on WCMH-TV, Channel 4 in Columbus, with onscreen translation to English, and on the diocesan website and YouTube channel and broadcast live on La Mega 103.1 FM.

"Our true mother is the Virgin of Guadalupe," Archbishop Pierre said. "We are all brothers and sisters. God himself is the one who takes the initiative and chooses to introduce himself, as he did with Mary – in our homes, in our daily struggles, full of anxieties and at the same time full of longing.

"And it is precisely in the midst of our cities, in our schools and universities, in our public squares and hospitals that one can hear the most beautiful announcement possible: 'Rejoice, the Lord is with you!'

"How is this possible? In the midst of so many doubts and difficulties, especially this year, joy exists because God exists, and He is with us. In these challenging times, we must listen to the one who listens to us – Mary." The archbishop then quoted a portion of Mary's apparition to St. Juan Diego on Tepeyac hill in Mexico in 1531, in which she told him, "Why are you afraid? Am I not here – I who am your Mother?"

Archbishop Pierre followed by quoting a passage from a homily by Pope Francis on the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe in 2014. At the time, he described the miraculous image the Blessed Mother left on St. Juan Diego's cloak as a message given "so we would feel her constant presence, thereby becoming a symbol of Mary's covenant with these peoples (the Aztecs living in Mexico at the time) to

whom she imparts her soul and tenderness."

"Yes, Mary is always with us," the archbishop said. "And our Mother brings us to her Son. In Him we have hope. 'And hope does not disappoint' (Romans 5:5). We want to make of this hope something that stirs our existence as a kind of cure for the virus."

He again quoted from the pope, this time from a general audience on Aug. 19 in which Pope Francis said, "The response to the pandemic must be twofold. On the one hand, it is essential to find a cure for this small but terrible virus, which has brought the whole world to its knees. On the other, we must also cure a larger virus, that of social injustice, inequality of opportunity, marginalization and the lack of protection for the weakest."

"Thus, the cure is love," Archbishop Pierre said. "Pope Francis has said that as disciples of the Lord, we all have the same vocation that St. Therese of the Child Jesus came to identify as her own. 'In the heart of the Church,' she wrote. 'I will be love.' This is why we are here: as brothers and sisters, as God's children united in the Son, to receive the affection of Mary and to learn from her how to be bearers of love and joy.

"As in the past, God continues looking for allies, for men and women capable of believing, capable of remembering, of recognizing themselves as part of his people in order to cooperate with the creativity of the Spirit."

Before the Mass, a keynote speech was delivered by Roberto Navarro, senior director of U.S. church engagement for Catholic Relief Services. He grew up in Mexico and has been in the United States for the past 34 years.

Navarro said he spent his childhood in the Mexican city of Reynosa, just across the Rio Grande from Texas, in a place that was without paved streets or drinkable water and was located a short distance from one of the city's dumpsters.

His father usually was working two or three jobs, while he and his mother and three brothers provided additional income by selling clothes, cheese and other products in the colony and on the street. He said the family never thought it was missing anything because his neighbors were in the same circumstances.

He and his wife moved to the United States in 1987 and had three children between 1989 and 1992. Four more of their children died in the womb before the couple had two more children.

Navarro said he had a successful



Archbishop Christophe Pierre, the papal representative to the United States, delivers the homily during the Mass honoring Our Lady of Guadalupe at St. Joseph Cathedral.



Two men pray the rosary during the feast day celebration of Our Lady of Guadalupe on Saturday, Dec. 12 at the Cathedral.
CT photos by Ken Snow

business career, becoming operations manager for his company, but thought he was missing God's presence in his life, so he left his job in 2003 to become a lay missionary. "I decided to get closer to the Church and focus again on using the talents God has given me to serve," he said. "God reminded me of the call to serve and not to be hidden in my own world but to go out to meet others and serve as a missionary disciple."

He said he came to realize that, as with St. Juan Diego, God had a specific mission for him. "I know I have been put on this earth for one purpose: to serve God and others," he said. "I'm not on earth just to breathe, eat, take

up a space and have fun. God trained me individually to make a singular contribution with my life, and this same purpose is also your purpose."

Navarro challenged his listeners to discern their future, telling them, "Remember that the struggles along the way and the obstacles we encounter are only destined to shape us to fulfill the purpose we have in our lives. When God has something for you, no matter who opposes it, God will move the obstacles you encounter along the way and open doors for you with the opportunities that are for you."

GUADALUPE, continued from Page 14

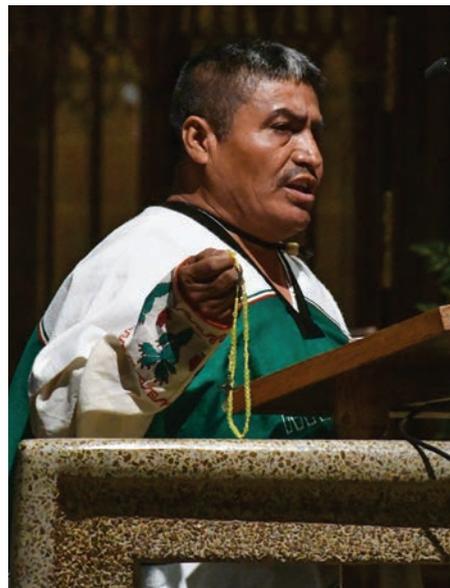


Sister Maria Ecclesiae, HSMCJ, speaks during the Our Lady of Guadalupe celebration at St. Joseph Cathedral.

"I don't know what your future is, but if you're willing to take the hardest, most-complicated path, the one that at first has more failures than successes, the one that has ultimately proven to make more sense, more victory, more glory, then you won't regret it.

"The life story of St. Juan Diego is a perfect example of how God's plans require lay apostles," Navarro concluded. "Our Mother promises, 'I will make you worthy of the problem you have.' Are you willing to answer the call?"

The master of ceremonies for the



Participants led the recitation of a rosary dedicated to Our Lady of Guadalupe.

CT photos by Ken Snow

event was Sister Maria Ecclesiae, HSMCJ, who grew up attending Dover St. Joseph Church and is a member of the Daughters of Holy Mary of the Heart of Jesus, living in their convent in Steubenville.

She said she came from a strong Catholic family but took Catholicism for granted until having a personal encounter with Jesus, with the help of the Scriptures.

"We believe we know Christ because we know His story, but to meet Him is something quite different," she said. "Scripture helped me fall in love



Roberto Navarro, senior director of U.S. church engagement for Catholic Relief Services, gives the keynote speech.

with God and discover that He loved me, so I could leave everything I knew 11 years ago and become a sister."

Sister Maria Ecclesiae described the rosary as a strong weapon for good, saying it is "one powerful way to get in touch with God and has changed the world. It may seem repetitive, but it's a wonderful way to contemplate the mysteries of Christ and paints a beautiful picture of His love for all of us.

"I can testify that the Lord is never outdone in generosity," she said. "The Church needs you, God needs you and you need Him."

The program began with a selection of mananitas, the traditional songs of celebration sung to the Virgin Mary on the morning of the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. They were performed by a seven-member choir with members from Columbus Christ the King and St. Peter churches and the Parroquia Santa Cruz. It also included two pre-recorded folk dances with groups wearing traditional Mexican costumes and consisting of 16 and 18 people, respectively.

Bishop Robert Brennan gave a welcoming message, and brief remarks were given by Lisset Mendoza, manager for the diocesan Office of the Vicar for Hispanic Ministry. The rosary was recited, with a different person leading each of the five decades.

Other clergy participating were Father David Schalk, diocesan vicar for Hispanic ministry and pastor of Christ the King Church; Father Brett Garland, parochial vicar of Delaware St. Mary Church; Deacon Jesus Figueroa of Columbus St. Mary Magdalene Church; and Deacon Jeff Carpenter of Lancaster St. Bernadette Church.

Also attending were members of the Missionary Servants of the Word, a congregation of Spanish-speaking sisters with convents at Christ the King and Columbus St. Stephen the Martyr churches and a formation house at Columbus Corpus Christi Church.

Altar servers were Carlos Zurita, Angel Garcia and Damian Bobadilla of Parroquia Santa Cruz. Rosalba Pedrosa of Christ the King Church was the lector.

DISPLAY, continued from Page 12

circled before landing at the Columbus airport to allow passengers to view the display.

Through the war years and again from 1946 through 1953 while three floors were added to the building, the decorations were suspended. In 1954, the tradition was renewed with a roof scene of Bethlehem and a 12-foot shining star.

When Pein died in 1956, the company extended the display in his memory.

Pein was known for his benevolence and his flair for showmanship. Anderson recounted one story of Pein's generosity, explaining that Pein bought thousands of eggs during the Depression and handed them out to people in need from the entrance of the State Auto building on multiple Saturdays.

"He became the city's closest thing to Santa Claus, as one of the papers said," Anderson noted. "I would say our associates are very protective of the tradition and bringing the holiday spirit to the community.

"He was quite a showman. He was described as kind of a P.T. Barnum character. He created opportunities to get attention. Christmas Corner was pretty clearly a passion for him."

After State Auto added two wings to its headquarters, a Nativity with 25 life-size figures was set up in front of the building on East Broad in 1966, and the rooftop was no longer used. In the early 1980s, the manger scene became the focal point.

Restoration of the pieces began in 1993 and continued through 1995. In 1995 and 1996, the Journey scene and the Annunciation were added to the Three Kings, Old Town and Nativity scenes.

In 2007, lights and other decorations, which had been scaled back in the 1980s, returned to the building to enhance the grandeur of the spectacle. The 2009 relocation of the display to a grassy park area named after Pein resulted in a new configuration that had six scenes: Angel Speaks to Mary, Journey, Holy Family, Field of Shepherds, King Herod and the Wise Men.

Up until about 10 years ago, State Auto employees were involved in the labor-intensive setup, which takes approximately two months, and maintenance of the display, which begins after it is taken down, before the company decided to contract with outside sources for upkeep.

"I've spoken with many who associate

(Christmas Corner) with the windows of Lazarus (downtown department store) that go back for decades," Anderson said. "Some of those traditions are gone, and we've got new traditions that will continue for years, but I think Christmas Corner is one of the few that you can point to that's been in existence this long."

Let's pray that many generations to come can experience the beautiful representation of Christ's birth and be inspired by the Holy Family.



Fourth Sunday of Advent Year B

Build a house for God

Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16
Psalm 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29
Romans 16:25-27
Luke 1:26-38

God is worth our time. What time do Brothers and sisters, we are one! In Christ, there is a connection that gathers us all in. No one is left out. God is with us, in us, among us, between us, and beyond us, beckoning us to MORE and BETTER, indeed to the BEST, the HIGHEST GOOD. God calls us simply to know this and to live in response to it.

Old-time Catholics learned this: *Who made me? God made me. Why did God make me? To know Him, to love Him, to serve Him in this life and to be happy with Him forever in the next.* This is the purpose for which we have been created. The culture can try to deny it. It won't succeed. COVID may have served to drive us into isolation and quarantine, but it cannot separate us from God Who is revealed to us in the Mystery of Jesus Christ.

Holy is in the heart of "Happy Holidays!" Christmas is Christmas and the Spirit is at work even in the most secular of human beings. Scrooge and the Grinch may live among us. But there are spirits that are longing for us to see more clearly. God Himself is in charge of the universe. And God Himself so loved the world that He came into it through Jesus.

Notice that there is a pattern at work as to just how God accomplishes His plans for us. He invites us into relationship. Little by little we learn to cooperate with His grace. Then we begin to get a glimpse of where He is going with all of this and we try to take charge.

That is what happens for David. He is made king. He builds a house for himself, a palace. Then he looks toward God and makes plans to build a house for God. At first, the prophet Nathan tells him to go for it. It is easy

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Father Timothy Hayes

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



even for a prophet to get hyped up when the king is involved and seems to be heading the right direction. But then God puts on the breaks. He is the One Who will accomplish His plans, not us. But notice the delicacy of what He does. He sends the prophet to put on the breaks but also to make a promise that is unexpected. The trajectory of God's action is shaped by David's desire to build the house for God.

So what is the House God is asking you to allow Him to build in you? What is the House God is asking you to build around you? Will you and your House serve the Lord?

Mary, a daughter of the household of David, gets it right from the start. She lets God accomplish His purposes in her. And what a triumph for God and for all of us! Mary said, "*Behold, I am the servant of the Lord. Let it be done.*" Joseph obeyed the command of the angel and took Mary into his home. Together, they built a house for God. It is really that simple. The virgin conceived and bore a Son. They welcomed Jesus into the House of David.

God is with us! We are invited to welcome others into the household – at church, at home and out "there." Let us complete our journey to Christmas and come let us adore Him.

St. Francis of Assisi heard the call to rebuild the Church, and so he did – both physically and spiritually. Pope Francis sends out the call to rebuild the Church and the world beyond COVID, mindful of the poor, and he is seeking both a spiritual and a material response.

What do you want to build for God? May it be done to us according to His Word.

THE WEEKDAY BIBLE READINGS

12/21-12/26

MONDAY

Songs 2:8-14 or
 Zephaniah 3:14-18a
 Psalm 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21
 Luke 1:39-45

TUESDAY

1 Samuel 1:24-28
 1 Samuel 2:1, 4-7, 8abcd
 (Ps)
 Luke 1:46-56

WEDNESDAY

Malachi 3:1-4, 23-24
 Psalm 25:4bc-5ab, 8-10, 14
 Luke 1:57-66

THURSDAY

Isaiah 41:13-20
 P2 Samuel
 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16
 Psalm 89:2-5, 27, 29
 Luke 1:67-79

FRIDAY

Isaiah 48:17-19
 Psalm 1:1-4, 6
 Matthew 11:16-19

FRIDAY (Midnight)

Isaiah 9:1-6
 Psalm 96:1-3, 11-13
 Titus 2:11-14
 Luke 2:1-14

SATURDAY

Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59
 Psalm 31:3cd, 4, 6-8b, 16bc, 17
 Matthew 10:17-22

12/28-1/2

MONDAY

1 John 1:5-2:2
 Psalm 124:2-5, 7c-8
 Matthew 2:13-18

TUESDAY

1 John 2:3-11
 Psalm 96:1-3, 5b, 6
 Luke 2:22-35

WEDNESDAY

1 John 2:12-17
 Psalm 96:7-10
 Luke 2:36-40

THURSDAY

Genesis 49:2, 8-10
 Psalm 72:1-4ab, 7-8, 17
 Matthew 1:1-17

FRIDAY

Numbers 6:22-27
 Psalm 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8
 Galatians 4:4-7
 Luke 2:16-21

SATURDAY

1 John 2:22-28
 Psalm 98:1-4
 John 1:19-28

DIOCESAN WEEKLY RADIO AND TELEVISION

MASS SCHEDULE: WEEKS OF DEC. 20 & 27, 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 and diocesan website, www.columbuscatholic.org.

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

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

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

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

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

DAILY MASS

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

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

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

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

We pray Week IV and the Christmas seasonal propers of the Liturgy of the Hours.

Christmas Vigil Mass Year B

Isaiah 62:1-5
Psalm 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29
Acts 13:16-17, 22-25
Matthew 1:1-25

For most families with children, the first Vigil Mass on Christmas Eve is the only experience of the Christmas Liturgy. There are four distinct Masses of Christmas – the Vigil, Mass at

Christ's birth brings joy to the world

Night (the traditional Midnight Mass), Mass at Dawn and Mass at Day. Each has its own readings. The Vigil Mass highlights the story of "how the birth of Jesus Christ came about."

The Vigil Mass reminds us that we are a family. When times are normal, we gather in great numbers throughout this season, and we have to admit that we are a big family. It is time for

us to grow in our awareness of our belonging to one another as a family. The world is shrinking. When a butterfly flaps its wings in one part of the world, a hurricane is created elsewhere. COVID-19 has shown us that we are more interdependent than we ever realized. Our faith reminds us that God is with us in the mess we call our world.

Here is the irony: The world is still trying to do it alone. We are not meant to be forsaken or desolate. We are not meant to be alone. God calls us "My Delight" and "My Bride." We are espoused to Him, that is, in as intimate a relationship as possible. He has designs and plans for us. God has made

Holy Family Year B

Holy Family reminds the world to become wholly a family

**Genesis 15:1-6; 21:1-3
or Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14
Psalm 105:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9
or Psalm 128:1-2, 3, 4-5
Colossians 3:12-21
or Hebrews 11:8, 11-12, 17-19
Luke 2:22-40**

As we celebrate Holy Family Sunday, we are reminded that family life is intended to include: “*heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.*” That is precisely why your husband/wife/son/daughter/mother/father is impossible, mean, overbearing, cruel beyond measure, and always stepping on your last nerve. Family life is not meant to be perfect, but is rather, the school of perfection. It teaches us, not simply to get things right, but to be righteous and holy with the very holiness of God. It stretches us beyond the self and draws us away from selfishness.

Whatever happens to us in the

family can serve to teach heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. It allows us to exercise the virtues of perseverance and forgiveness. This doesn't mean we become a doormat; each person is entitled to dignity and respect. But it does mean not to discount the dignity of the one who may be troubling us.

God came to Abram to offer him the promise of a progeny. He will have a son who will carry forward the covenant. Abram tries to do things in ways he understands. He first decides to follow the law of his own day and choose an heir not related by blood. Later, as you may recall, he and Sara come up with a scheme that involves Hagar, Sara's maidservant. Ishmael comes from those efforts, but he too is not to be the heir. Ultimately, Isaac is born and Abraham learns to put his trust in God to fulfill His promises in His way.

Joseph follows the pattern of Abraham with one major difference: He

cooperates with grace and obeys God, taking Mary as his wife, naming Jesus and serving as His earthly father, fulfilling all the prescriptions of the law.

Jesus entered our world in its brokenness. He lived in a family that knew struggles. You know the story of His early childhood: birth in a barn, time as a political refugee, lost for three days (though He didn't know He was considered missing), the only child of a foster father who died while He was young. You know how it all turned out: baptism, temptation, preaching and teaching, rejection, suffering, death on a cross, and Resurrection, all with His mother participating in His joys and in His anguish.

All of that is part of our life as a family of families. We are called to respond in the same way as the Holy Family did: with acceptance and faith, and with confidence that God will see us through. The invitation of the Holy Family of Nazareth is to live more

simply, to hear God's Word and to put it into practice. When we do things as God prescribes, we discover that God is faithful and that He will accomplish all that He has promised.

God is coming to each of us, seeking a response. If we, like Abraham and Joseph will respond with faith, then great things will happen for us. God seeks a place in our hearts. Jesus, the Son of God, is among us. He asks for us to cooperate with grace and to be the instrument by which God gathers all the world into His family.

May we be full of heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience with one another, so that the world may come to know the love of Christ and so that our human family may become one in Him. May we be loving and forgiving, always open to the grace of Jesus Christ Who is God with Us.

SCRIPTURE, continued from Page 16

us for Himself. We are made by God for God. God is speaking to each one of us personally. Are we listening? Have we allowed what He has to say to make a difference in the way we live? How do you stand in your relationship to God? Do you need a little help? Welcome to the human race!

Have a look at the family tree of Jesus as Matthew records it. (This is meant to be proclaimed at the Vigil Mass of Christmas, though often due to the complexity of the names and the numbers of children parishes decide to jump to the end of the passage.) The lineup of characters that make up the family of Jesus is not too great. If you know their stories, you will realize that God writes straight with crooked lines. In Jesus, we see the beginnings of God's plans as they unfold in the salvation history of the people of Israel. From Abraham to David to Exile to Return, from promise to fulfillment, to an invitation be-

yond our wildest dreams, we are given to know the truth. He came into our world in circumstances less than ideal. And yet, He is God. He is the Word made flesh. He is Emmanuel, God with Us.

The simple truth taught by the Gospel is that we are loved by God as we are. There is no part of us, no circumstance or situation that can put us beyond God's love except refusal to be loved, the rejection of God's invitation to find Him everywhere.

May we welcome Christ here and now. And may we bring the Good News of His presence to the world by our lives. When the world looks at us, may all see that we truly do believe in Jesus, the baby in the manger, the child born to us in Bethlehem. The birth of Jesus came about as part of God's plan. Just as Mary and Joseph found joy in the birth of their Son, God's Son in our flesh, so we can find joy whatever our circumstances.

Plain City parish deacon tells his story in recently released book

Deacon Tony Bonacci of Plain City St. Joseph Church has written his first book, titled Faith, Family and Formation, telling the story of his physical and spiritual journey from age 4 to his current age of 77.

For nearly 24 years, he has been deacon at Plain City in a parish that has grown from a small country church to a much larger congregation as metropolitan Columbus has extended into neighboring Madison and Union counties.

It includes a forward by Bishop Emeritus James Griffin and comments from Father Rod Damico, Deacon Phil Paulucci and parishioner Gloria Butler and is an easy read for people of all ages.

It is available at the Generations

Catholic supply store, 1095 Dublin Road, Columbus, and online at www.amazon.com and www.barnesandnoble.com. Copies also may be purchased at Deacon Bonacci's home. Call (614) 578-3957 for details.

The cost is \$12.95, with all net proceeds going to local charities. Amazon and Barnes and Noble keep 40 percent of the purchase price plus printing cost, so more will be donated if the book is purchased at Generations or through Deacon Bonacci.

There will be a book signing after all Masses at St. Joseph on Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 19 and 20. Mass times are 4:30 p.m. Saturday and 11 a.m. Sunday at the parish activity center, 670 W. Main St., and 8:30 a.m. Sunday at the church, 140 West Ave.



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Eileen M. Noble

Funeral Mass for Eileen M. Noble, 96, who died Friday, Dec. 4 and was the mother of Father Paul Noble, a priest of the Diocese of Columbus, was celebrated Monday, Dec. 7 at Our Lady of Victory Church in Northville, Michigan. Burial was at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery in Southfield, Michigan.

She and her husband, Ken, raised their family at St. Mary Church in Redford, Michigan. She was a graduate of Holy Redeemer High School in Detroit, was employed as a secretary

at General Motors, Mercy College of Detroit and JoAnn Fabrics and was a volunteer at St. John Providence Park Hospital in Novi, Michigan, for 26 years.

She was preceded in death by her husband and two grandchildren. Survivors include sons, Father Paul, Dan (Cheri) and Pete (Laura); daughters, Kathy Picano, Barbara (Bob) Bochy, Mary (Pat) Dudding and Joan (Phil) Cox of Galloway; 17 grandchildren; and 30 great-grandchildren.

Mark D. Plescia

Funeral Mass for Mark D. Plescia, 66, who died Tuesday, Dec. 1, was celebrated Monday, Dec. 7 at Circleville St. Joseph Church,

He was born on Sept. 23, 1954 to Frank and Nancy Plescia in East Cleveland, was a graduate of Circleville High School and attended the Pontifical College Josephinum.

He was an organist at Columbus Holy Family Church for several years and belonged to the American Guild of Organists. He was employed in Columbus by the U.S. Postal Service for 30 years until his retirement

Survivors include his parents; brothers, Frank (Carly) and Chris (Renee); and sister, Marcia Huff.

Michael H. Quinn

A memorial Mass will be celebrated for Michael H. Quinn, 92, who died Tuesday, Dec. 1, when the COVID-19 pandemic is controlled enough to allow for large public gatherings.

He was a longtime member of Columbus Our Lady of Victory and Danville St. Luke churches, a retired employee of State Farm Insurance, a former major in the U.S. Army Reserve and a member of many service

organizations.

Survivors include his wife, Regina "Jeanne"; daughters, Regina, director of the diocesan Safe Environment Office; Eileen (Rick) Blankenburg, Theresa Coughlin, Gretchen, Kathleen Chatfield, Mary, Bridget Tyznik, and Jennifer (Michael) Lastuka; sons, Michael (Elaine), Kevin, Brian (Beth) and Patrick; brother, Richard (Patti); 22 grandchildren; and 19 great-grandchildren.

PRAY FOR OUR DEAD

BOEHM, Allen "Rusty," 74, Nov. 24
St. Elizabeth Seton Parish, Pickerington

CLARK, Sandra K. (Wildermuth), 73, Nov. 25
St. Bernadette Church, Lancaster

COMER, Anna M. (Shillingburg), 92, Dec. 3
St. Francis de Sales Church, Newark

CONKLIN, Richard F., 76, Dec. 5
St. Mary, Mother of God Church, Columbus

COPELAND, Letha L. (Gabriel), 87, Nov. 26
St. John Church, Logan

DAVIS, Virginia "Penny" (Cunningham), 82, Dec. 1
St. Matthew Church, Gahanna

DiBLASIO, Carl L., 91, Dec. 4
St. Francis de Sales Church, Newark

DOSCH, Linda (Tague), 80, Dec. 1
St. Pius X Church, Reynoldsburg

DRAKE, William F. Jr., 86, Nov. 24
Our Lady of Peace Church, Columbus

ESHELMAN, Bernard M. "Mike," 96, Nov. 30
Christ the King Church, Columbus

FETTER, Thomas J., 81, Nov. 30
St. Matthew Church, Gahanna

FLAHERTY, Michael F., 67, Dec. 8
Immaculate Conception Church, Columbus

FRANK, Evelyn J. (Verholtz), 90, Dec. 6
St. Mary Church, Groveport

GRILLI, Antoinette (Cervi), 99, Nov. 30
Christ the King Church, Columbus

HABING, Michael A., 74, Dec. 9
St. Paul Church, Westerville

HANDY, Gabriel, 92, Nov. 27
St. Francis de Sales Church, Newark

HAWKINS, Ethel L. (Starcher), 81, Nov. 21
Sacred Heart Church, Coshocton

HERRIDGE, Ann (Happich), 81, Dec. 5
St. Andrew Church, Columbus

HISER, Esther (Lahna), 98, Dec. 7
Sacred Heart Church, Columbus

JONES, Barbara P. (Phenegar), 88, Nov. 24
St. Bernadette Church, Lancaster

KALIKER, Thomas J., 77, Nov. 29
St. Andrew Church, Columbus

KARSHNER, Donna J., (Rings), 96, Dec. 9
St. Paul Church, Westerville

KURTZ, David A., 77, Nov. 22
St. Leonard Church, Heath

LAHNA, Howard "Hod," 93, Nov. 27
Sacred Heart Church, Coshocton

LALLY, Margaret M., 84, Dec. 6
Church of the Resurrection, New Albany

LaPENNA, Daniel, 95, Nov. 29
St. John the Baptist Church, Columbus

LONG, John P., 85, Dec. 7
St. Paul Church, Westerville

McCANN, Richard F., 92, Dec. 4
Immaculate Conception Church, Columbus

McGONAGLE, James V., 96, Oct. 24
St. Francis de Sales Church, Newark

MERNA, Michael W., 78, Nov. 27
St. Christopher Church, Columbus

MERTEN, Marianna D. (Leskanic), 84, of Hilliard, Nov. 29
St. Ferdinand Church, Cranberry Township, Pa.

MILLER, Evelyn J., 96, Nov. 28
St. Mary Church, Bremen

MILLER, Mary M. (Mueller), 96, Dec. 4
St. Agatha Church, Columbus

MULLER, Edwin J. Jr., 83, Dec. 2
St. Paul Church, Westerville

O'BRIEN, Therese A. (Link), 63, of Dublin, Dec. 9
St. Rose Church, Lima

PROTO, Francis J., 77, formerly of Upper Arlington, Nov. 28
St. Peter Church, Charlotte, N.C.

REISS, Evelyn M. (Whittenberg), 93, Dec. 3
St. Elizabeth Seton Parish, Pickerington

SCHMITTAUER, Nancy J. (Wise), 80, Dec. 4
Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church, Buckeye Lake

STEVENSON, Gene L., 81, Nov. 29
St. Leonard Church, Heath

WHITE, Charles R., 88, Dec. 7
St. Paul Church, Westerville

WOLF, Marian F., 89, Dec. 6
Our Mother of Sorrows Chapel, Columbus



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Father Anthony Lonzo's funeral homily for Father Raymond Larussa

"I first met Ray around 24 years ago through his best friend, Father Ted Thomas, my hometown pastor. Hearing the stories from Ted, I imagined quite a character. Needless to say, when I first met Ray, those expectations were realized.

"When I was informed earlier this week that Ray had requested me to preach this homily, I inquired, "And what readings did Ray choose?" The response was "There's a note here that says 'Let Tony pick the readings.'" Thanks, Ray! And how characteristic of him.

"I chose these readings because I feel they both express a central message of hope and a surrender to God's will, which leads to freedom, peace and joy, which Ray not only preached in his priestly ministry but also was able to experience in a profound way in his personal life.

"It is ultimately the message of hope which we find here today which gives us strength in the midst of our brother Ray's passing. My condolences and prayers to Ray's sisters, family, brother priests and friends gathered here today.

"The first reading from Isaiah, which the Church proclaims during this season of Advent, speaks to us of beholding the God who comes to save us, who destroys death and who wipes our tears away. I believe that Ray in his priestly ministry brought hope to so many, reminding countless parishioners that God was with them and that he comforts us in the midst of the sadness of death.

"The Gospel is a reminder that Ray was a vessel which Christ used to invite others about coming to him in the midst of the trials of life to find rest and peace. I'm sure so many of you were able to experience this grace in Ray's ministry, and we who gather here today need that same hope that we hear proclaimed in the Scriptures.

"I think it can be said that Ray was a person that was very private and liked to keep things close. But in Ray's personal life, especially during these past several years, there is a profound and wonderful story of the action of God's grace.

"I don't think it was by accident that Ray was called from this earthly life around Thanksgiving; in fact, I think it was indeed providence. These past years, Ray was filled with gratitude, grateful for being able to live in a new way, a newness of life, as St. Paul reminds us in his letter to the Romans, and a new reliance and understanding of God's grace in his life.

"This gratitude didn't come by accident; instead, it came through a very personal surrender in which he came to know God's will in his life, leading to freedom.

Ray, like everyone, had his own unique burdens. At times in the past, he would hold on to these and try to carry them himself. But for the grace of God, Ray came to know that act of surrender, in offering his entire self, the good and the bad, to God who he grew to know in a deeper and more concrete way of goodness and compassion.

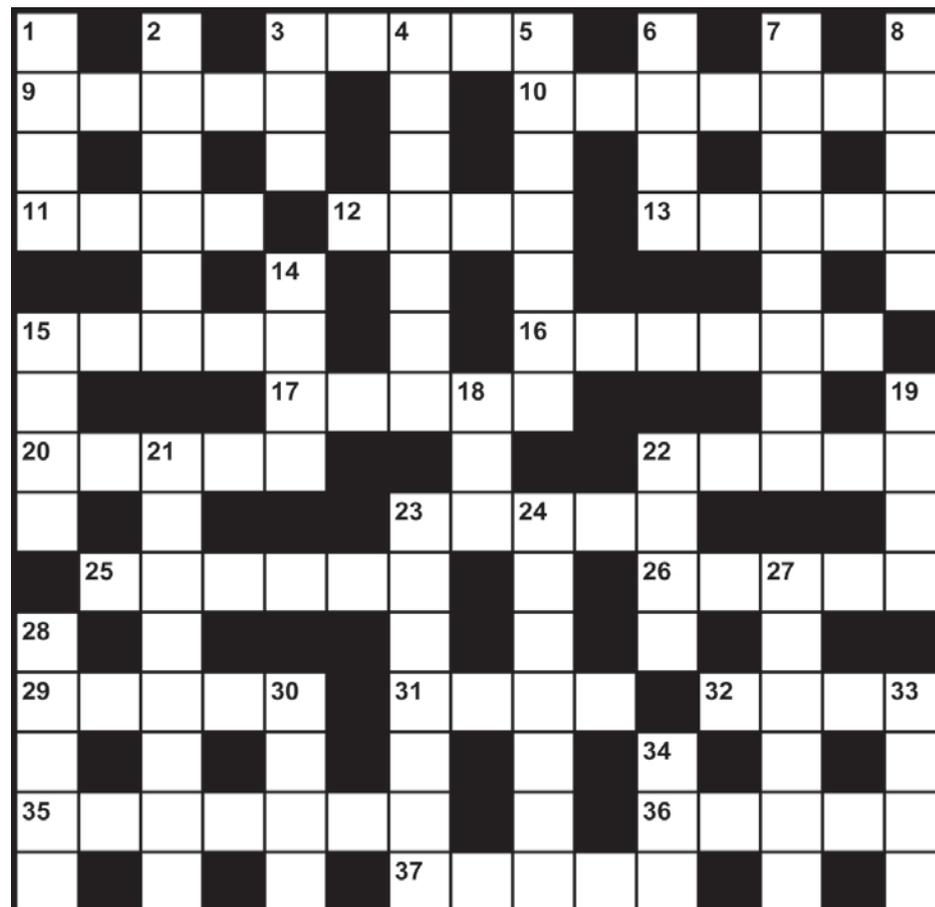
"Ray knew he was far from perfect, but he sought to progress in knowing God's will in his life and of being of service to others. He was blessed to have grown in humility over the years, and it's with this growth in humility that he developed that gratitude in his heart. For he came to realize that every day was a gift from God and that God truly provided the blessings of others in fellowship and friendship in his life.

"Ray would not want us to leave here today in sadness, but with hope, with gratitude in our hearts for the blessings God has given us – to go enjoy life and have fun, knowing we are in the hands of a loving God who, as Isaiah reminds us, provides for all of our needs.

"May God our Father, who Ray came to know as compassionate and merciful in this life, welcome him to that lasting happiness, joy and freedom.

And we who walked along that broad highway through the journey of life with Ray may be consoled in faith, hope and love in the person of Jesus Christ, who comes to save us and gives us rest."

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| ACROSS | DOWN |
| 3 Wages of sin, as described in Romans | 1 Biblical "kill" |
| 9 President Johnson's daughter who converted to Catholicism | 2 Eight days of a holy season |
| 10 One of the prophets | 3 Opus ____ |
| 11 In the ____ of the Lord | 4 First patriarch |
| 12 Lenten foliage | 5 Types of monks |
| 13 Monks' cowls | 6 Fourth man |
| 15 A queen from this country came to hear Solomon speak | 7 Chalice |
| 16 Biblical river | 8 "____ us, O Lord..." |
| 17 Biblical animals | 14 "There is a ____ in Gilead" |
| 20 "____ in terris" | 15 Birth month of Mary (abbr.) |
| 22 The ____ at the Well | 18 Hebrew for "son of" |
| 23 Judah, for example | 19 One of the 7 deadly sins |
| 25 Diocese unit | 21 Certain vow |
| 26 Non-ordained members of the Church | 22 Catholic bandleader and accordion player |
| 29 First word in the Lord's Prayer, in Paris | 23 Jesus was crucified between two |
| 31 OT prophetic bk. | 24 Hell |
| 32 Rib-giver | 27 A papal dispensation permitting a deviation from church law |
| 35 ____ unction | 28 The ____ of Forbidden Books |
| 36 Saint item | 30 Home of Adam and Eve |
| 37 A deacon wears this over his left shoulder | 33 Abbr. for two OT books |
| | 34 Medieval Christian emp. |

St. Agatha begins Eucharistic Adoration

Columbus St. Agatha Church has begun Eucharistic Adoration every Wednesday and Thursday.

The Blessed Sacrament will be exposed every Wednesday from the con-

clusion of the 9 a.m. Mass until 11 a.m., ending with simple reposi-tion. A more extended exposition of will take place Thursdays from 4 to 8 p.m., ending with Benediction.

Seasons of Hope grief ministry to begin meeting on Jan. 24

The Seasons of Hope bereavement ministry, sponsored by the parishes of the North High Deanery, will begin its next set of six-week sessions via Zoom teleconference from 2 to 4 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 24.

Anyone grieving the loss of a loved one is welcome to take part in all or some of the sessions, as each lesson is self-contained. Registration is necessary to guarantee the security of all participants. To register, contact Karen Droll at (614) 582-8848 or ksdroll@gmail.com.

Seasons of Hope is a Christ-centered support group designed to help people deal with grief and find healing and spiritual growth. It helps explore mourning through Scripture, prayer, reflection and faith sharing, grounded in the healing, wisdom, traditions and practices of the Catholic Church.

The program is based on the book *Seasons of Hope* by M. Donna MacLeod, a Massachusetts nurse who was inspired by the response of her parish to the death of her youngest daughter in 1988. For those searching for hope, a Seasons of Hope group is a nurturing link to God, the Church and other people of faith who also are mourning.

Seasons of Hope sessions take place four times a year. The first such program in the Diocese of Columbus began in January 2018, and they continued quarterly through winter 2020.

Sessions had been hosted in a rotation by the churches of the North High Deanery – Worthington St. Michael and Columbus Holy Name, Immaculate Conception, Our Lady of Peace, Sacred Heart, St. Francis of Assisi, St. John the Baptist, the St. Thomas More Newman Center and Parroquia Santa Cruz – until the COVID-19 pandemic halted all in-person diocesan activities in mid-March.

A spring set of programs took place via Zoom, and this will be the first group of sessions since then. The sessions will continue quarterly online until further notice. The ministry also recently sponsored a one-day program on coping with grief during the Christmas holidays.

Seasons of Hope is led locally by three facilitators – Droll, a retired hospice and palliative care nurse who attends the Newman Center; Rose Daiga of Our Lady of Peace, who has a master's degree in guidance and counseling; and Michael Julian of Immaculate Conception, who is involved

in several parish groups.

"Mike's strength is that he's an active, compassionate listener," Daiga said. "Most of our groups have drawn more men than women because of him, which is unusual for this kind of activity." Daiga said the number of people taking part in local Seasons of Hope groups has ranged from two at the first set of sessions to a maximum of 15, with the average being six to eight. At least two, and usually all three, of the leaders are present each week.

Daiga said that when her husband died in 2008, she was unable to find any groups in the diocese to help her deal with her grief but did discover such programs at hospices. She became her parish's representative to the North High Deanery in 2017 and found that other representatives shared her concerns about grief ministry.

They looked into programs on the subject, decided Seasons of Hope was the best available and obtained a grant from The Catholic Foundation that has provided funds to enable program participants to receive guidebooks and journals at no cost.

"Being able to provide these materials without charge has been very

important in encouraging people to take part," Daiga said. "We have been working closely with the diocese to make sure we can continue this policy."

"As someone who didn't have access to this kind of program when I was first grieving, I was really blown away by the way it has helped me focus on my grief journey, even after 12 years," she said. "Seasons of Hope has helped dispel the myth that after the first year you're done with grief. People have been so open to me and told me this has provided a lifeline and fulfilled a need not previously addressed. They say it feels so good to feel they're not alone."

Participants shared similar sentiments when asked to describe their experience with Seasons of Hope.

"I know from experience that stages of grief do not come in an order but in a flow of occurrence and a variety of intensity," said Tricia Sharkey. "I have experienced great comfort and healing with the Seasons of Hope team. It is caring, compassionate, accepting and gentle with all participants. It also is helpful that participants can come to any session, even if they do not come

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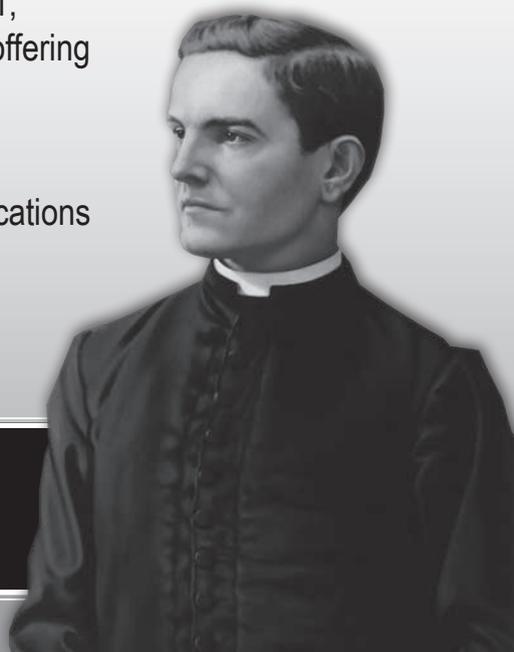
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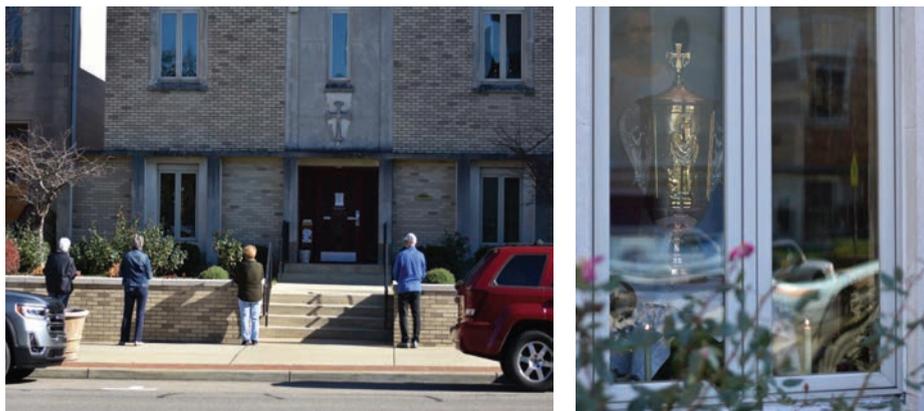
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Adorers pray before the Blessed Sacrament in the office window of Father Jan Sullivan at Zanesville St. Thomas Aquinas Church. Photo courtesy St. Thomas Aquinas Parish

Christ in the window: Adoration amid Zanesville church repairs

Zanesville St. Thomas Aquinas Church is under repair, but parishioners have “taken to the street” so Eucharistic Adoration can continue.

Every Wednesday from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m., the Blessed Sacrament is displayed in a repository placed in the office window of Father Jan Sullivan, the parish’s pastor. This offers parish members and passers-by a chance to park or stand in front of the building, pray and contemplate the Body of Christ, as displayed in the form of a consecrated host.

Father Sullivan said the outdoor Adoration began shortly after Easter and was inspired by what Columbus Our Lady of Victory Church had done to allow Eucharistic Adoration to continue during the COVID-19 pandemic. A monstrance with the Eucharist is displayed at that parish inside an iron gate that people can view from outside.

St. Thomas Aquinas Church was closed in late February to undergo repairs required by Muskingum County’s building inspection agency. Those repairs are continuing, with Masses and other activities that would have taken place in the church being moved to the parish activity center.

The onset of the pandemic in mid-March halted public events in all diocesan parishes for 2 ½ months. Bishop Robert Brennan permitted public Masses to resume in late May with attendance limited by safe-distancing guidelines.

“We have a chapel in the activity center but decided not to have Adoration there because the chapel’s small size limits the number of people the guidelines would permit in that space. Placing the repository in the window allows more people to have visual access to the Blessed Sacrament than the chapel could safely fit, while protect-

ing the repository from the elements,” Father Sullivan said.

He said as many as 10 to 12 people at a time have come to view the Blessed Sacrament through the window. “It’s a one-way street, and I’ve seen people and cars stop on either side of the street for prayer,” Father Sullivan said. “One car will stop for a few minutes, then pull away and another will take its place.

“In warmer weather, people brought lawn chairs and sat on the sidewalk or the parish center lawn or the steps to the center. It’s all been spontaneous. There is no schedule of adorers, but the traffic has been pretty constant. It’s also helping us get more use from paschal candles for past years, which are being used as vigil lamps. The outdoor Adoration has resulted in a great opportunity to show Christ in the midst of his people.”

The parish’s weekend Masses are being celebrated in the parish center, with weekday Masses at nearby Zanesville St. Nicholas Church. Once drawings of the proposed repairs, mainly to the roof, are made, they will be taken to the county building inspector for approval.

“After that, we’re not sure what will happen next,” Father Sullivan said. “Representatives of the two Zanesville parishes are working on a long-term strategic plan for the future of the Catholic community in the area.

“There has been great cooperation between the two parishes, with people hearing of the needs here at St. Thomas Aquinas and responding to them. St. Thomas Aquinas’ parishioners donated nearly \$100,000 to the Bishop’s Annual Appeal, which was about \$45,000 above the parish goal, because they knew all the additional money would be coming back to the parish to help pay for the repairs.”

GRIEF, continued from Page 20

to all in a series.”

Dayna Johnson said, “Seasons of Hope brought hope and peace to my heart at the darkest moment of my life after the unexpected passing of my husband. ... I walked in feeling sad and completely broken. I walked out of the meeting feeling like I wasn’t alone, that someday I would be OK. ... The facilitators and participants helped me more than words can properly express.”

Edward Fowle of Our Lady of Peace was mourning the loss of his son Michael in a traffic accident when he learned of Seasons of Hope through his parish bulletin.

“All three wonderful, compassionate souls – our facilitators – have helped me to talk about my loss and the terrible emotional pain that I held inside,” he said. “They taught me that it was OK to move forward with my life, never forgetting the memories while always praying for Michael. The hole in my heart has gotten smaller, but it will never go away, and that’s OK. I have learned that I can cry to release my grief, and that, with God’s help, time will heal.”

For more information about the local Seasons of Hope ministry, go to <https://www.northhighdeanery.org/seasons-of-hope>.

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 Out of the darkness, *Light*
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Local news and events

Cathedral lessons and carols program rescheduled

The annual lessons and carols program at Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral, 212 E. Broad St., scheduled for Sunday, Dec. 6 was postponed and rescheduled to Sunday, Dec. 20 at 3 p.m. because of the elevated public health emergency in Franklin County at the original time of the event.

The Cathedral Choir and Cathedral Brass will present the program, which will include works by various composers and an opportunity for the audience to sing along to familiar carols.

Visit www.stjosephcathedral.org, for the latest information on cathedral concerts and other events.

St. Brigid of Kildare to host virtual open house

Dublin St. Brigid of Kildare School will have a virtual open house for prospective students and their parents on Sunday, Jan. 10, featuring its preschool at 1 p.m. and its program for kindergarten through eighth-grade students at 2 p.m.

The event will feature preschool, kindergarten and some first- to eighth-grade teachers and give parents a

chance to ask questions.

To RSVP, visit www.st-brigidofkildare.com and click "Open House." A Zoom link will be emailed to participants a few days before the event.

Speakers announced for young adult conference

Sarah Kaczmarek and Brad Pierron will be the principal speakers for the Columbus Catholic Young Adult Conference, which will take place from 8 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Saturday, April 17 at Sunbury St. John Neumann Church, 9633 E. State Route 37.

Kaczmarek has served for 15 years as a youth minister, a pastoral director and associate director of Alpha Catholic. She lives in Detroit and is in the process of becoming a certified spiritual director. She believes that knowing who we are in Christ.

Pierron is missionary program director at Damascus Catholic Mission Campus in Knox County. He is passionate about the salvation of souls and the mission of the Church, and he desires every person to know the radi-

cal, transformational love of Jesus. He and his wife, Nina, recently were married and look forward to the ways this vocational call will add to the mission of advancing the Gospel.

The program will conclude with a Mass celebrated by Bishop Robert Brennan, who will be the homilist, followed by a Holy Hour with recital of the Divine Mercy chaplet and the rosary. The day also will include lunch, breakout sessions, Eucharistic Adoration and an opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation. More details are available at www.ccyac.org.

Newark parish is site for two events in February

Newark St. Francis de Sales Church, 40 Granville St., will be the site of a "Healing the Whole Person" retreat from Thursday, Feb. 4 to Saturday, Feb. 6 and a day of equipping on Friday, Feb. 5.

The retreat, led by representatives of the John Paul II Healing Center in Tallahassee, Florida, will feature teaching, worship, prayer, and testimony on the

subjects of "Facing our Brokenness," "Encountering the Father's Love," and "Living in Freedom."

The day of equipping will be led by Bart Schuchts of the John Paul II Healing Center. Participants will learn the foundations of abiding in Christ, hearing his voice and becoming empowered to pray for others as Jesus did.

Both events will be offered in-person or via a private access page and livestream videos. To learn more and register, go to <http://jpiihealingcenter.org>. Both events will be sponsored by St. Gabriel Catholic Radio AM 820. Scholarships are available. Send an email to JPIIRetreatNewarkOH@gmail.com for more information.

Devotion time changed

The Sacred Heart devotion at Columbus Holy Cross Church, 204 S. 5th St., on Friday, Jan. 1 will be from 5 to 6:30 p.m. instead of the usual time of 7:30 p.m. Jan. 1 is the Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God. Mass for the feast day will be at 5 p.m., followed by a Holy Hour from 5:30 to 6:30.

Wishing you every Joy and Blessing at Christmas, and throughout the New Year

THE STAFF AT THE CATHOLIC CEMETERIES OF COLUMBUS

Tim Boggs	Keene Marstrell
Tyler Brown	Sandee Murphy
Rory Cotter	Ann Noble
Brian Everts	Mark Noble
Laura Favret	Mike Redmond
Rich Finn	Steve Skinner
Jan Gerst	Jeremy Sprouse
Julie Gerst	Jim VanHorn
Frank Hall	Deanna Ventura
Ed Jones	Chuck Weiner
Kevin Kelley	Gregg Wright
Matt Locklear	Billy Wright
Kyle McGlone	

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St. Joseph Cemetery



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6440 S. High St./U.S. Rt. 23 S.
Lockbourne, Ohio 43137
614-491-2751

Resurrection Cemetery
9571 N. High St./U.S. Rt. 23 N.
Lewis Center, Ohio 43035
614-888-1805

Holy Cross Cemetery
11539 National Rd. S.W./U.S. Rt. 40 E.
Pataskala, Ohio 43062
740-927-4442

Mount Calvary
c/o St. Joseph Cemetery
614-491-2751





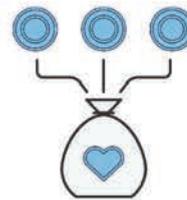
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Please consult your tax advisor for more information about the recently passed CARES Act, which made several significant changes, including up to 100% deductibility of contributions to a public charity for 2020.