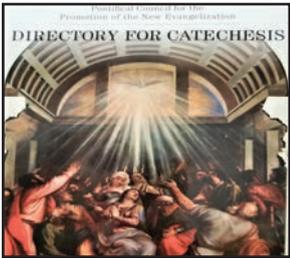


The Catholic TIMES

The Diocese of Columbus' News Source

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Local news and events

Encova commits \$1 million to ODU for risk management

The Encova Foundation of Ohio has committed a \$1 million gift to Ohio Dominican University (ODU) to establish an endowment fund that will provide scholarship support for the university's risk management and insurance (RMI) program.

Encova also has committed additional support to fund creation of a new insurance and risk management academy (IRMA) in the Bishop Griffin Student Center on ODU's campus. The academy, overseen by insurance industry professionals, will enable students to gain experience in the industry through partnerships that will be established with insurance carriers and agencies throughout Ohio.

Through IRMA, students will be introduced to areas of specialty within the insurance industry, including sales, claims and marketing. They will gain relevant work experience on and off campus before graduation to help them prepare for full-time employment. IRMA also will sponsor any professional licenses pursued by its student-employees. To learn more about IRMA, visit ohiodominican.edu/IRMA.

ODU established an RMI major in response to a workforce study conducted by the Insurance Industry Resource Council (IIRC) that identified a significant workforce gap.

According to the U.S Bureau of Labor Statistics, approximately 400,000 people are expected to retire from the insurance industry within the next few years. A 2016 study by Columbus State Community College's Center for Workforce Development says that between 2016 and 2024, the Ohio-based insurance industry will need to fill approximately 29,000 jobs.

In addition to a bachelor's degree in RMI, ODU also offers an RMI concentration and certificate in its Master of Business Administration program. ODU's bachelor's and master's RMI programs also are available online.

DeSales offers open house at high school on Nov. 7 and 8

The annual open house for prospective students of Columbus St. Francis DeSales High School, 4212 Karl Road, and their parents will take place on Saturday and Sunday, Nov. 7 and 8.

To allow safe-distancing requirements to be maintained, families are being given the opportunity to sign up for a scheduled appointment time between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. for both days. Masks must be worn at all times. After completing the registration process online, families will receive an e-ticket to present at check-in. Open house activities will last for approximately two hours.

They will include a welcome session; a tour of the school, led by a student ambassador; opportunities to meet faculty, administrators, coaches and advisers; and an admissions consultation, with assistance in creating an application for the school's Class of 2025.

Any student who begins an application during the event will receive a \$200 tuition credit for the 2021-2022 school year.

All guests must pre-register. A waiting list is anticipated. To register, go to www.sfdstallions.org/join-us.

Bishop to celebrate Mass of Inclusion

Bishop Robert Brennan will celebrate the fourth annual diocesan Mass of Inclusion at 5 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 22 in Columbus St. Catharine Church, 500 S. Gould Road.

The Mass will honor people with special needs, but all are invited and encouraged to attend. Anyone with special needs who would like to participate as an extraordinary minister of the Eucharist, greeter or cantor is asked to contact Lynn Sweeney at (614) 288-5966 or Lynnann9570@yahoo.com, or St. Catharine Church at (614) 231-4509.

Mass for farm families celebrated in Danville



Bishop Robert Brennan and Father Mark Hammond, pastor of Danville St. Luke and Mount Vernon St. Vincent de Paul churches, greet participants after a Mass on Monday evening, Oct. 26 in Danville. The special intention for the Mass was for farm families and rural communities during this time of harvest. The general intercessions at the Mass included prayers of thanksgiving for God's gifts, for farm families and all involved in agriculture, for the life of the rural church and for the needs of those who provide food for God's people. Concelebrating with Bishop Brennan and Father Hammond were Father Daniel Olvera, parochial vicar at Danville and Mount Vernon, and Father Homer Blubaugh, a retired priest of the Diocese of Columbus who lives in Danville. Assisting was Deacon Tim Birie. Photo courtesy Jerry Freewalt, diocesan Office for Social Concerns

The church is fully accessible. An elevator is located in the northeast corner of the church. There will be low-gluten hosts and a sign language interpreter. Ushers will be available to assist.

Masks are required and safe distancing will be practiced. Overflow space and livestreaming will be available in the adjacent and accessible Msgr. Sorohan Center. This Mass also will be livestreamed and will be able to be accessed at www.stcatharine.com.

Record society looks at St. Patrick Church history

Father Stephen Dominic Hayes, OP, will speak about the 179-year history of Columbus St. Patrick Church at the fall quarterly meeting of the Catholic Record Society at 2 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 8 in the parish hall of Columbus St. John the Baptist Church, 168 E. Lincoln St. A short business meeting

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Front Page photo: DEACON CANDIDATES SET FOR ORDINATION

Ten deacon candidates, pictured last year during their ordination to the ministry of acolyte, were to be ordained to the permanent diaconate on Saturday, Nov. 7 at Westerville St. Paul the Apostle Church by Bishop Robert Brennan.

CT file photo by Ken Snow

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Church updates directory for catechetical instruction

By Tim Puet
Catholic Times Reporter

The Catholic Church's teachings have not changed in the nearly 2,000 years of its existence, but the way they are communicated is evolving constantly to meet the needs and the methods of specific times and places.

With this in mind, the Pontifical Council for Promoting the New Evangelization issued a *Directory for Catechesis* in July. As stated on its back cover, the 250-page volume "lays out the how-to guidelines for catechesis and presents universal norms to guide evangelization."

It uses the 1992 *Catechism of the Catholic Church* as its principal reference while also drawing from Scripture and the writings of recent popes, especially Pope Francis' 2013 apostolic exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium* (*The Joy of the Gospel*), to guide religious educators in the practice of teaching Catholic beliefs.

"It continues a process which began in

1971 with the Vatican issuing the *General Catechetical Directory*, which was the first systematic presentation of what was contained in the Second Vatican Council's documents," said Dr. Barbara Romanello-Wichtman, director of the Office of Religious Education and Catechesis (OREC) for the Diocese of Columbus.

"That was followed about a quarter-century later in 1997 by the *General Directory for Catechesis*, which expanded on certain themes of the 1992 catechism and some of the themes emphasized by Pope St. John Paul II. These include the importance of continuing religious education for adults and of adapting methods of bringing the unchanging message of the Gospel to specific cultures.

"Twenty-three years after the *General Directory*, the current directory has been issued to respond to the digitalization and globalization of culture and to Pope Francis' emphasis on missionary discipleship, which is the call of all baptized people to follow Jesus and to share him with others in ways that change individual hearts and, in turn, affect society as a whole."

The directory is divided into three sections of four chapters each, with section themes focusing on catechesis in the Church's universal mission of evangelization, the process of catechesis, and specific challenges to catechesis at the parish, cultural and family levels.

"One of Pope Francis' constant themes has been helping people go deeper in their relationship with Jesus through a four-step process. It begins with personally encountering Jesus Christ and going deeper in that relationship," Romanello-Wichtman said.

"This is followed by accompaniment, which means walking with another person in the journey of faith. This can take the form of attentive listening and being an authentic witness of the faith, with the hope that the other person will grow in discipleship. The directory challenges people to find new ways to encounter others where they are, including in the public square and in digital spaces.

"The two steps of encounter and accompaniment lead to formation of community. The directory describes the Christian community as 'the ordinary environment in which one learns and lives the life of faith.' This leads to the final step – sending people to go and

A PRAYER FOR CATECHISTS

Gracious God, thank you for calling me to share your Word with others. Fill me with your Holy Spirit as I encounter those you place within my path. Help me to welcome them with your love and accompany them on their journey.

Bless my friendships with my brothers and sisters in Christ, and help me stay connected to the larger community of faith together as we proclaim the mystery of Jesus Christ.

May each day bring a new awareness of your mercy and a new opportunity to share it with others.

I pray for the families of those I serve, that they be strengthened to form each member in love. Help me as I work together with parents, the primary catechists of their children.

Remind me of the joy of knowing and loving loved by you. Help me to see and share the truth, beauty and goodness all around us, pointing us to our love.

Help me equip those I serve to serve their faith, both in word and in action. Amen.

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Help Them Be Heard

The Diocese of Columbus is exploring new ways to evangelize by seeking input from those who have moved away from the Faith. To assist, ask those who have fallen away to participate in a brief survey. Participants may be a loved one, a friend, an acquaintance – anyone who is not currently active in the Church.

columbuscatholic.org/survey



John and Connie Deihl (left photo) watch Father David Gwinner at the altar and Deacon Mickey and Patty Hawkins kneel at the Jubilee of Anniversaries Mass. CT photos by Ken Snow



John and Sharon Kuczirka (left photo) pray, Bishop Robert Brennan (middle photo) preaches and Dominic and Carol Oravec, married 62 years, participate in the Mass.

Bishop lauds married couples at Jubilee of Anniversaries Mass

Bishop Robert Brennan recognized married couples for their faithfulness to the sacrament of matrimony at the annual Jubilee of Anniversaries Mass on Sunday, Oct. 25 at Westerville St. Paul Church.

The annual event recognizing couples celebrating milestone anniversaries of 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, 55 and 60 years and more was moved from June to October this year after the coronavirus pandemic prompted Ohio's bishops

to close churches in March.

Attendance at the Mass was limited to the couples being recognized.

Approximately 100 couples were present out of 310 who registered, including 60 husbands and wives with 60 or more years of marriage.

Among the longest-married couples at the Mass were Dominic and Carol Oravec, members of Grove City Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, who celebrated their 62nd anniversary in

2020.

Seventy-two of the diocese's 111 parishes were represented among the registrants, led by Westerville St. Paul Church with 34 couples, followed by Dublin St. Brigid of Kildare with 18, Grove City Our Lady of Perpetual Help with 13, the New Albany Church of the Resurrection with 11 and Lancaster St. Mary with nine.

The Mass was livestreamed for couples who could not attend because of health or travel concerns and for the families who could not be present. The livestream remains available at <https://columbuscatholic.org/marriage-enrichment>.

In his homily, Bishop Brennan connected the Gospel of St. Matthew 22:34-40, which includes Jesus' teaching to love the Lord with all your heart, soul and mind and love your neighbor as yourself, to the commitment required in marriage.

The bishop said the couples were the most eloquent preachers of the Gospels "because you live the Gospel in daily ways. But you also live the marriage vows that you took some 25, 35, 40, 50, 60 – keep going, right? – years ago. And we have a whole collection here. It's a beautiful gift. Beautiful, beautiful witness."

As couples live out their marriage vows daily, he said, "you are inspir-

ing all the rest of us. You are teaching us, in the most eloquent and the most practical of ways, the meaning of the Gospel just proclaimed today by your daily sacrifices, by your daily work, by your rolling with the punches as life goes by, by your working things out, by your showing of mercy, by your love for each other and your love for your family. All of these things.

"I could just go down the list of everything you do that may not seem like a big deal to you, but it's the everyday living, those everyday things, they just announce more eloquently than any priest could from the pulpit: You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and you shall love your neighbor as yourself."

The bishop concluded his homily by thanking the couples for their faithful witness to "one another and for your families ... and to all the Church, to me and to all of us.

"Today, we're going to celebrate your marriage and your family life in the context of the Eucharist, God's gift of his own life for us," he said.

"We celebrate your gift of your lives for each other and for God so many years ago. And like your homes, it's not quite done. You're still renewing it every single day."

Couples Celebrating Significant Anniversaries

The following couples are additional honorees to the listing that appeared in the Oct. 25 edition:

Greg & Janet Garber	St. Paul, Westerville	25
John & Missy Weithman	St. Paul, Westerville	25
Paul & Theresa Mascia	St. Joseph Cathedral, Columbus	35
Joseph & Barbara Smith	St. Edward the Confessor, Granville	40
James & Catherine Lower	Our Lady of Peace, Columbus	40
Ron & Sharon Kendzior	St. Brigid of Kildare, Dublin	50
Timothy A. & Judith A. Paxton	St. Patrick, Junction City	50
James & Margaret Tippet	Immaculate Conception, Columbus	50
Ted & Joyce Markovich	St. Paul, Westerville	55
Duff L. & Rita M. Helvoigt	Church of the Resurrection, New Albany	55
David & Sharon Cattery	St. Anthony, Columbus	60
Vincent & Dolores Perez	St. Brendan, Hilliard	60
Tim & Mary Coll	Holy Trinity, Jackson	62
Donald & Marlene Berling	St. Peter, Chillicothe	63

Dedicated parishioner loved his faith, church, family, two countries

The Church lost one of its unsung, everyday heroes – a man driven by tremendous faith to do so much without recognition or compensation – with the death of Bob Fenlon on Oct. 7 at age 93.

The longtime Columbus St. Patrick Church parishioner was part of the “Greatest Generation” of unselfish World War II veterans who put their lives on the line to defend our freedom. He was a talented artist whose work appeared in Columbus newspapers for several decades. He was a devoted father and husband, a proud Irish-American Catholic who relished his Celtic lineage, and a faithful servant to his beloved parish.

You might know or remember someone like him at your church – one of those inspiring individuals totally dedicated to serving the needs of the parish. For years, Bob was that person at St. Pat’s. Only the priests and staff truly knew everything he did to help as a volunteer.

Bob was a 1945 graduate of the former Columbus Aquinas High School, which closed 55 years ago in a building that’s now part of Columbus State Community College. But he never made it to his graduation ceremony. “His mom ended up getting his diploma,” his daughter, Mary Griffith, of Delaware, Ohio, recalled.

Then just 17 years old, Fenlon wanted to be part of the war effort and received special permission to enlist in the Navy Seabees before turning 18. He was deployed to Guam before World War II ended with Japan.

“He and some of his buddies had kind of made a pledge to go into the Marine Corps,” his oldest son, David, who lives in Columbus, said recently. “But my grandfather wasn’t on board with him going into the Marine Corps or the Army because he had served in World War I in trench warfare, so he agreed to sign off if he went into the Navy.”

After Bob’s tour of duty ended, he enrolled at Ohio State University and earned a fine arts degree. Then it was full speed ahead into a 40-year newspaper career as an editorial artist at the old *Columbus*

EDITOR’S REFLECTIONS Doug Bean



Citizen and the *Cleveland Plain Dealer* and as an advertising artist at the *Ohio State Journal* and *The Columbus Dispatch*. If you read newspapers during the 1950s through the 1980s, you probably saw his work and might not have known it.

Even after he retired from the *Dispatch*, Bob continued to enjoy art. His drawing of St. Patrick Church and its parish hall was featured on the cover of the bulletin for many years. And his creative passion never died. Mary said he was still painting at home until the final years of his life.

Bob’s contributions to St. Patrick before and after retirement were numerous. Some of his most visible efforts were as an altar server for many years at the 11:45 a.m. weekday Mass (which he suggested the parish start to serve downtown workers) and as an usher at the 10:30 a.m. Sunday Mass. He trained others to serve at the altar before the parish adopted a formal program that grew to more than 100 boys and young men. And he continued to usher well into his late 80s.

Behind the scenes, he ordered altar and devotional candles and did all kinds of odd jobs around the parish. Bob was a member of the first parish council and an active participant in the former Holy Name Society, which took care of many parish needs, including digging out a basement underneath the rectory to create extra rooms.

“Things were done before you knew they needed done,” said Kay McGovern, a longtime St. Patrick parishioner. She noted that, with parishioners like that, churches never needed to hire outside contractors until recent years because volunteers stepped up to offer their services.

One of Fenlon’s great concerns in the late 1980s and early 1990s was waning parish membership and

the lack of young families attending St. Patrick. The neighborhood had long since evolved from its Irish roots and consisted largely of businesses and Columbus State. At one point, he thought the Dominican Fathers might pull out of Columbus after more than 100 years here and the parish might close.

A traditionalist, Fenlon also feared that the communion rail would be removed from the historic church and the tabernacle relegated to a side altar rather than behind the main altar. Rather than abandon tradition, the parish embraced orthodoxy, and suddenly large young families began coming to St. Patrick. He absolutely loved seeing the transformation and felt relieved to know his cherished church would remain alive well after he was gone.

The parish has maintained many of its Irish traditions, including an annual Mass and Eucharistic procession in honor of patron St. Patrick. Bob was the third generation of the Fenlon clan to call St. Patrick Church home (his grandfather emigrated from Ireland). His children and grandchildren have become fourth- and fifth-generation members.

Bob’s Irish roots were evident right down to the green sports jacket he sometimes wore at Mass. He became an Irish citizen in 1993 and visited the country several times. He maintained close relationships with family on the Emerald Isle that his children have continued.

Fenlon was as fiercely protective of the parish’s Irish heritage. When there were rumblings years ago that the city might rename Naghten Street on the south side of the church, Fenlon supposedly suggested to the pastor at the time to protest any attempts to do so. The street had been named in 1869 after Billy Naghten, a prominent Irish-American city council president in the 1860s. Naghten Street is still Naghten Street today.

Fenlon enjoyed sports and loved staying active. An avid Buckeyes and University of Notre Dame

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Children can teach all of us a lesson in selfless giving

I have grown more and more grateful for the internet creators who use their virtual influence for good. For instance, I remember gleefully waiting for each weekly episode of John Krasinski’s “Some Good News” when the pandemic shutdown began. More frequently, I am stopped in my tracks by good, clean humor shared in memes and am overwhelmed with emotion when someone posts a video of soldiers returning home to their families.

One of the most recent uplifting videos I came across was shot in a Boys and Girls Club in Atlanta. In it, a few children were asked to discuss the gift they most wanted for Christmas and the gift their parents or family would want most. Then, both gifts they mentioned were offered to them. It was fascinating to watch in real time the physical reaction of wonder and incredulity melt into anguish and disappointment as the producer of the video told them, “You can only choose one of these gifts to take home. Either the one you want or the one for your parents.”

STEWARDSHIP, LIVING

OUR FAITH

Jenna Zins

Jenna Zins is events coordinator for the diocesan Office of Development and Planning.



If you ever have made a choice between two good things, this scenario pricks your heart. What a miraculous moment! You are face to face with something you have wanted so badly. And yet, if you choose this thing, someone you love will not get something he or she wants.

I was moved to tears (the ugly kind with lots of heaving and a runny nose, not the sweet kind that roll down your cheeks one at a time) as the video continued, with each child choosing the gift for their parents over the gift for themselves. You could tell that once the decision was made, the pain of selflessly making it disappeared. The children ex-

pressed their gratitude for all their parents have done for them and a genuine desire to make their parents happy. Their understanding of family and their desire to love to the point of sacrifice had me in contemplation for days.

The concept of stewardship is not far from the point of this video: We must examine, in each moment, whether to keep gifts for ourselves or share them with others. We know that “every good and perfect gift is from above” and can choose to do what we want with that. Honoring and glorifying the Lord by turning outward with all we have, including our time, talent, and treasure is the best way to celebrate these gifts.

At the end of the video, because of the children’s generosity, they took both gifts home. Our Father rewards us in ways we do not expect every time we pour ourselves out for others. Truly, only He can return abundance to our lives in response to our selflessness. Like these children, may we experience the unexpected blessings that come from choosing to give.

Three models of priestly goodness

The pandemic of 2020 has been hard on every Catholic. Eucharistic fasting for this length of time may remind us what 20th-century heroes of the faith in underground churches endured, and what 21st century confessors in China and elsewhere endure today, and that is no bad thing. Still, it is very, very hard to be the Catholic Church without being a vibrantly eucharistic Church. That's true for everyone. The people of the Church should realize that it's especially true for priests.

Priests who live out their priesthood as the Catholic Church understands that unique vocation – as an icon of the eternal priesthood of Jesus Christ, the Church's spouse – miss their eucharistic congregations terribly. They have dedicated their lives to nourishing the flock, and to be unable to do so as they did eight months ago is a constant sorrow. Pastors are also bearing heavier financial burdens these days as donations shrink. Then there are the serious challenges involved in keeping parochial schools afloat under today's public health circumstances. No man entering the seminary after the Long Lent of 2002 and the sexual abuse crisis could imagine he was embracing an easy life, but no one expected this.

All the more reason, then, to celebrate the Oct. 31 beatification of an exceptional parish priest, Father Michael McGivney, founder of the Knights of Columbus, who died during the pandemic of 1890.

He was born in 1852 to immigrant parents and his brief life coincided with the greatest period of expansion in U.S. Catholic history. That expansion also helped define his heroic ministry – and his genius. America in the late 19th century had nothing remotely resembling the social safety net created since the

THE CATHOLIC DIFFERENCE

George Weigel

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New Deal. Immigrant and first-generation families who lost their sole wage earner could find themselves in desperate straits. In collaboration with Catholic lay leaders in New Haven, Connecticut, Father McGivney founded the Knights of Columbus in 1882 and created a new model of Catholic pastoral action: a fraternal organization that would provide for the spiritual and material needs of its members while serving the bereft, the indigent, and those foundering in their new homeland. Catholicism has been one of the great integrators of immigrants in American history. No small credit for that is due to the Knights.

McGivney's Knights also anticipated the Second Vatican Council in their teaching that the lay vocation in the world is just that: a vocation, a divine calling to live out the Great Commission given every Catholic in baptism: "Go and make disciples ..." (Matthew 28:19). Following Father McGivney's lead, the Knights have been a force for evangelization as well as charity, even as they have provided major philanthropic support to many Catholic initiatives, including Vatican communications. In the public arena, the Knights' recent robust defense of religious freedom follows the example of their work for racial justice. Knights of Columbus chapters on nominally Catholic college campuses today provide

young men serious about their Catholicism with a means of evangelizing their peers while nurturing their own faith.

Father McGivney's beatification is a blessing for the organization he founded and inspired. It is also a compliment paid by the universal Church to the parish priests of the United States. Two of the finest were called home to the Lord in recent months, and while there is no way of knowing whether they eventually will follow Blessed Michael McGivney into the Church's liturgical calendar, their memory already is lodged firmly in the hearts of the people they served, and they stand as further models of priestly goodness.

One of his admirers told me that, were it not for the pandemic, the entire city of Grand Rapids, Michigan, might have turned out in May for the funeral of Father Dennis Morrow, so beloved was this pastor, police, and fire department chaplain. I knew Den Morrow in college and he remained a rock of Catholic faith for the next 50 years. Father Philip Tighe came to the seminary after a business career, and it was clear from the deacon year he served in my Maryland parish that he would be a superb priest, eager to lead others in the adventure of orthodoxy – which I happily observed him doing when he became my daughter's family's pastor in North Carolina. His Aug. 31 death deprived the Diocese of Raleigh of an exceptional spiritual leader.

There being neither rivalry nor jealousy in the heavenly Jerusalem, it is easy to imagine Fathers Morrow and Tighe celebrating Father McGivney's beatification with him. May these three great American priests intercede for us all.

Life goes on after an election

When this column is published, and by the time we read it, will we have an elected president for the next four years? It may be very clear and a solid victory for one of the candidates. Or it may be so close that it is being contested or still determined. I wrote this column and submitted it before election day. Whatever we are dealing with today, there is a lot of comfort in knowing there are some absolutes that will never change. No matter the outcome of any election, we know that we ourselves can never be defeated. So often in our history, there have been presidential elections that have been deemed "the most important and critical ever." George Washington would initiate the greatest nation in the world with humility and authority, or he just might make himself king. Abraham Lincoln would unite a broken country and a house divided, or he just might give in to a horribly misguided but lucrative part of the economy and let slavery continue. Franklin Roosevelt would lead us through a second world war, or he just might fail, even with a fourth term. John F. Kennedy would inspire so many of us, particularly young people, to do great things like go to the moon, or he just might take direction from the pope as our first Catholic president. Barack Obama never could be elected as an African American. Hillary Clinton never could win the popular vote as a woman. Donald Trump never could be elected,

EVERYDAY CATHOLIC

Rick Jeric



having no political experience. And so it goes. No matter who our next president is, no matter how you feel about him, no matter how much or how little protesting and violence erupts, no matter how the Supreme Court rules on any case, no matter which party controls the House and Senate, and no matter how much worse or better the COVID pandemic has become, we still have the greatest source of comfort that can never change.

The day after election day, the sun came up. Schools were open, whether in person or virtually. Bus drivers smiled at students and welcomed them on board. Teachers delivered lessons and led discussions with the same love and determination as ever. Moms and dads drove their children to wherever they need to be, they did their jobs, and they took care of their families. First responders and those on the front lines continued to do their jobs and care for strangers without fanfare or recognition. Clergy and religious still prayed for us, guided us, counseled us, led us and loved us. Babies were born and people died. Parents struggled and

continued to give of themselves. Couples fought, reconciled and loved. So many people with daily challenges – mental, physical and disease – fought through another day successfully. Innocent people in economically challenged areas were killed. Forgotten elderly people were lonely. Homeless people were cold and hungry.

I got up, looked around, and thought for a moment during morning prayers that I am in a pretty good situation. I live much better than most of the people in the world. I must thank God for another day of life. My wife still loves me. I still have the most wonderful children and family in the world. I have extended family and friends. I have a home, transportation, life savings, a pretty full pantry and refrigerator, and good health. All of this pales miserably in comparison with knowing that God loves us unconditionally. Jesus Christ lives in us. He promises us eternal life and happiness in Heaven. No matter our state in life, no matter our joys and challenges, and no matter who wins any election, our constant consequence remains the love of and our relationship with Jesus Christ. What else do we really need? Let us approach each day and greet everyone we meet with a smile that reflects the love and person of Jesus. May we live our faith loving everyone and everything with which we have been gifted.

What I found after I 'lost' my identity

I didn't ever think about being a mother and losing my identity before it happened, because I never was going to be a mother. But after reading a younger-than-me mom's ponderings a while back about losing her identity, I realized two things:

1. **I am an older mom now.** More than a decade and a half into this adventure means it's not my first mom rodeo anymore. (Nope, sure don't have all the answers. Still. Or ever. And I know it. Also, there is someone to tell me so and remind me, if not in words, then with some incredibly humbling action.)
2. **Maybe I have lost my identity ... and maybe that's not such a bad thing.** In fact, maybe I like my identity much, much better now.

I write to you, younger, newer moms, from this place of experience, from this place of encouragement. I write to you from a place farther down the road of motherhood, holding out my hand to you, with a smile and a cup of coffee and only the very best intention of supporting you on your journey.

Dear New Mom in the Trenches of Young Motherhood,

When I heard you talking about losing your identity, my heart went out to you. You're at the very hardest point of things, the beginning. But the beginning is such an exciting time, too. (Generally, though, no one thinks that until they're looking back on it.)

The road ahead is so long, and the tunnel you're in so dark. It's hard to tell, sometimes, if that glimmer of light is hope or a train barreling down at you.

FINDING FAITH IN EVERYDAY LIFE

Sarah Reinhard

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



Parenting is the hardest important work I've ever done. The hours are grueling, the pay is minimal and the rewards are eternal. Also, there is a whole group of people laughing all the time, and I can't get over the suspicion that they are laughing at me, that they know something I don't know, that I'm failing because of their mirth.

In the midst of the poopy shirt tales, the pukey headbands and the interesting color combinations, this crucible of dying to myself in ways I didn't know I could has done something to me. It's something I didn't see coming, couldn't plan for, and still don't fully understand.

After more than a decade of juggling small people and work and household responsibilities, I've become somewhat unrecognizable.

I have more patience for the jerkwads and donkeywipes in the room, but less ability to ignore a baby gumming a smile at me around a fat fist.

I can tune out all manner of screeching, moaning and whining when it comes from people under a certain age and height requirement.

And suddenly, I can speak to people in phrases and around rabbit trails, picking up pieces of days-old conversations, while typing and folding and driving (though not all at the same time

anymore).

I summarize this as "My brain is fried" on most days, but that's a misrepresentation. The truth is, I'm learning, imperfectly, to prioritize differently.

I now understand why people of a certain age will stop and smile at my children in the store, and I hear the longing in the people who tell me to enjoy them while they're little.

That identity you think you lost was just the beginning of who you are. Your kids aren't ruining you; they're helping you stretch and grow to your full potential.

Imagine the greatest work of art you can imagine. The artist didn't do it all at once. It took layers of paint, hours of work, some mistakes and some diversions.

So it is with us. We have to let go a bit to grab the next rung on the ladder.

Will I ever be the same person again?

No.

And thank God for that!

That person I was? That's not the person I ever wanted to be, though I needed all of this help to realize that.

That person I am now? I'm pretty sure it's but a stop on the way to where I'm going, and I am learning to savor the adventure (kicking and screaming though I may be ...).

Stay strong and lean in, Mama. You are who God made you to be.

*In Christ through Mary,
Sarah*

St. Martin of Tours was a beacon of the early Church

By MaryBeth Eberhard

A faith that moves mountains is a faith that has a deeply rooted sense of who Jesus truly is. I have a daughter who was raised by the Missionaries of Charity for 10 years before she joined our family. She has this type of faith. For her, Jesus is a constant and eternal flame, a truism that is her compass in all internal and external decisions.

I strive for this but have a long way to go to get where her heart is. My daily and worldly concerns can block the path. In seeking to provide lifelong companions from among the saints for my family, St. Martin of Tours is a great one for my Lizzie.

St. Martin is one of our older saints in Church history, and the geography and history during his lifetime can sometimes have people skip over his story. In doing so, however, we would lose the gift of meeting a fellow Christian whose faith stood strong in the epicenter of early Church formation. He was born in the early 4th century in Savaria, Pannonia, which is modern day Hungary. Christianity had been legalized before his birth and began to rapidly spread once the persecutions stopped.

St. Martin became a Christian at age 15. He followed family tradition and became a soldier, serving in Gaul, Milan and Treves, most likely as part of the Roman emperor's guard. He was released from the military after serving for a couple of years due

WALKING WITH THE SAINTS

to his concern that the fighting didn't line up with his Christian conscience. When he objected to entering a battle, his superiors accused him of cowardice and sentenced him to prison. Martin offered to go into battle unarmed, which was accepted as an alternative! This story is the first of Martin's examples of complete faith in the Lord's providence and protection. The battle was called off, and a truce was made.

Released from his service, Martin went to Tours, where he began his deep studies of the faith. He travelled frequently, being moved by the Spirit, and in every encounter brought others to know Jesus Christ more intimately. St. Martin spent his life correcting heresies that directly went against the gospel of Jesus Christ, as well as defending life and believing in the healing power of conversion. St. Martin spoke out about the death penalty almost 2,000 years ago.

In this early Church formation, it's easy to see how heresies and roadblocks can crop up as people begin to own and test their faith. (I am reminded that our own country is younger than the Church was at this time and still needs people to stand up

for what the true gospel of Jesus Christ proclaims.)

About 371, the city of Tours needed a new bishop, but St. Martin did not want that position. He tried to hide but was tricked into coming forth by being told he was needed to bring the anointing of the sick to someone who was ill. He was then ordained, and, in true servant-heartedness, became a holy and beloved bishop.

As a shepherd of his people, Martin strived to visit each parish once a year. He established a monastery where he could retreat and delve more deeply into prayer.

St. Martin teaches us the grace and joy that come with having Christ at the core of our person. From here, our thoughts, words and actions are formed with a joy and knowledge that turn hearts to Jesus. Like a ray of light shining from a lighthouse, our joy draws others to us as they seek its source.

I see this in my daughter. She is a beacon of Christ's joy for me and for others. When I let the concerns of running a family, work, school and everything else overwhelm me, I see her delight in the Lord and patient confidence in His provision, and I am reminded of my Catholic roots, my identity. May we all grow to be such witnesses upon our journey.

St. Martin's feast day is Nov. 11. He is the patron of soldiers, winemakers, tailors and conscientious objectors.

Father Hayes: Priestly vocation 'always there'

By Tim Puet
Catholic Times Reporter

Father Timothy Hayes says the Scriptures provide a bridge connecting today's world with the people of biblical times.

"When I look back at the people of the Old Testament or the early Church, I see them and I see us in the same way – as ordinary people trying to live the Word of God in a difficult period," he said.

"People of the Scriptures were living under a constant threat of death for their beliefs. Today, everyone is living under the pressure brought by the coronavirus. They feel their everyday struggles are heightened. People are dealing with heavy emotions, but these are human emotions, and we can learn from how the people of the Scriptures responded.

"Take St. Paul. He was constantly challenged but was able to respond by prayer and reflection. In the Scriptures, you'll find many instances where politics divides people, as it does today. We're called, as our ancestors were, to find a way to unity. I have to love my enemies, or at least put up with them."

Father Hayes moved to Chillicothe in July and became pastor of St. Mary and St. Peter churches in that city and St. Mary, Queen of the Missions Church in Waverly. The three parishes were linked as a consortium after the retirement of Father Lawrence Hummer as pastor of Chillicothe St. Mary.

Coincidentally, it was the second time Father Hummer was succeeded by Father Hayes in recent years. Father Hummer retired as *The Catholic Times'* longtime Scripture columnist in 2018. Father Hayes took his place in that position last year while serving as pastor of Columbus St. Timothy Church.

Father Hayes said he received an email asking if he would be interested in writing about the Sunday Mass readings for the newspaper and answered affirmatively because "I love the Scriptures. The challenge in preaching or writing about them is to limit myself to a few minutes for a homily or 700 words or so for a *Times* column."

Father Hayes, 61, was born in the Pittsburgh area, but his family moved to Columbus when he was 2 years old. His father, Thomas, 85, who lives in northeast Columbus, was employed by North American Aviation, the Olivetti typewriter and adding machine company and the U.S. Postal Service. His mother, Elaine, who died in August 2019 at age 82, was a secretary and did volunteer work. He is the oldest of seven brothers and two sisters, one of whom died at a young age.

He attended the former Columbus St. Gabriel School for most of his elementary school years, graduated in 1977 from Columbus St. Charles Preparatory School and in 1981 from the University of Notre Dame, and completed his formation as a priest at the North American College and the Gregorian University in Rome. This year, he celebrated the 35th anniversary of his ordination as a priest on June 22, 1985 at Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral by Bishop James Griffin.

"The desire to be a priest was just always there," he said. "My grandmother says I told her in first grade that it was what I wanted to do. Perhaps some of my interest came from seeing priests consoling my family at our sister's funeral. I said in an eighth-grade class newsletter at St. Gabriel School that I

ANSWERING GOD'S CALL

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

wanted to be a priest. I was able to go to St. Charles with the financial assistance of the St. Gabriel parish men's group, then received a Glenna Joyce scholarship to attend Notre Dame.

"I was very fortunate in both instances to benefit from the support of others and to be able to attend Mass every day, as I did in grade school. Throughout my service as a priest, except for 2 ½ years at Powell St. Joan of Arc, I've been at a parish with a school and I really appreciate this, even with all the headaches which can result. I regularly celebrate Mass at Bishop Flaget School, and it brings wonderful memories of the people who taught me to celebrate the practice of the faith. There's nothing better."

He said his influences in the priesthood included the late Father Bill Patterson, who was his pastor at St. Gabriel. "His witness was, 'the priesthood is your whole life,' and he lived that example," Father Hayes said. "Father Bill's last assignment was in Portsmouth, and I was so pleased in the way all of Scioto County embraced him."

Following ordination, Father Hayes spent three years as associate pastor at Lancaster St. Mary Church. "Msgr. Bill Dunn was one of my teachers in high school and was pastor at my first assignment in Lancaster," he said. "We made regular visits to the schools, and this allowed me to learn how there are different ways of learning at different ages and the best ways to communicate with children at their age level."

Father Hayes became assistant diocesan vocations director at the beginning of 1988 and vocations director six months later, leaving Lancaster at that time to live in the SPES (Scholastic Programs for Ecclesiastical Students) House, a former diocesan residence for young men interested in the priesthood.

He remained in that position for four years before spending a year in Rome in graduate studies. "Being vocations director shaped a lot of my understanding of the diocese and of the great variety in its 23 counties," he said. "Once you've had a vocations ministry, it never leaves you. You're always looking for young men and women interested in the possibility of religious life. Whether they become priests or sisters isn't as important as the fact that whatever path in life they choose to take, they have freely chosen it."

He became associate pastor at St. Joan of Arc in July 1993. The late Msgr. Thomas Bender was pastor for most of Father Hayes' 2 ½ years there. "He allowed me to become more involved in every aspect of the parish than most pastors would. Because

I had that involvement, I felt ready to be a pastor," he said.

"On Jan. 1, 1996, I started the day as associate at St. Joan of Arc and ended it as pastor at Newark Blessed Sacrament. Msgr. (Robert) Noon, who died just last month, had been serving there for a short period as parish administrator. He handed me the keys, we said goodbye and I started looking around. After a while, I heard a funny noise. It was a leak above the tabernacle, then another leak, then another. At that point, I said to myself, 'Well, you're a pastor now.'"

Father Hayes spent 12 ½ years as pastor of Blessed Sacrament and another 12 as pastor of St. Timothy before being assigned to Chillicothe. "Blessed Sacrament celebrated its 100th anniversary while I was there. I realized that the building housing the school and parish hall, which was the original church building, was not going to last and began to get parish members to dream about the future and to get the diocese to let those dreams come true," he said. "It was a very satisfying accomplishment to see completion of a new school building and new parish offices while I was there." The current church building was remodeled during the pastorate of Father Jonathan Wilson, his successor.

"A highlight of my time at St. Timothy's was celebrating the 50th anniversary of the parish and school with activities that extended from 2011 to 2014. It was a parish with the Eucharist at the center of its life. That's been true of everywhere I've served as a pastor," Father Hayes said.

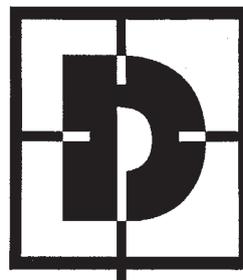
"The challenge of becoming pastor in Chillicothe is helping three parishes, each with its own identity, work together as the Catholic consortium of Ross and Pike counties. As part of a family of eight children, I learned people can have their differences but still get along. It's the same with a faith family.

"Thirty-five years after being ordained, I feel more than ever that it's a privilege to be a priest," he said. "I work every day with people who want to be good, who want to know what God wants them to do. Helping them is a powerful experience."



Father Timothy Hayes

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Religious goods store has variety of Catholic masks available

Parishes and individuals from throughout central Ohio have shopped at the Generations religious goods store in Columbus for 20 years to obtain Eucharistic hosts, altar wine, chalices, priests' vestments, rosaries, prayer cards, first Communion and confirmation gifts and other religious supplies.

Like many other businesses, however, the store has been severely impacted by the coronavirus epidemic. Catholic churches in Ohio were closed for nearly three months, beginning in mid-March, and the number of people allowed to gather for Mass since the churches were reopened has been limited by safe-distancing requirements. Most parish activities not related to parochial school education were canceled or are taking place online. Generations itself was closed from mid-March to May 12.

"Churches were shut for Holy Week and the Easter season, which is one of our busiest times of the year, so we lost all the business we would have done during that period," said Phyllis Nentwich, who, with her husband, Larry, and their son, Andy, are co-owners of the store.

"About half of our business involves providing churches with items needed for Mass, such as hosts, wine and can-



Kayleigh McCarthy (left) and her mother, Pam McCarthy, wear two of the styles of Catholic-themed masks available at the Generations religious goods store in Columbus. Photo courtesy Generations

dles. We lost much of that because of the attendance limits for Masses after the churches reopened.

"But there's a saying (from the classic novel *Don Quixote*) that 'When one door closes, another one opens.' That's what happened with the masks," she said.

"Someone suggested to my son that we sell masks with Catholic themes which could be worn at Masses. He did some designs, and I went to my

distributors and put out the word that we were looking for someone to supply the masks.

"We found a place in England that has a four-day turnaround time from order submission to finished product, and they began making masks for us. The masks are lightweight and made of 3-ply-thick quilted jersey fabric, 95 percent polyester and 5 percent elastic, and are non-medical grade.

"In addition, Gloria Calcara, the wife of Deacon Carl Calcara (of Sunbury St. John Neumann Church) began making fabric masks, which we made available. We've sold more than 2,100 masks to customers from all 50 states since we reopened, including about 1,600 of the masks from England and 500 from Gloria."

The imported masks are \$14.95 apiece and come in 21 adult-size styles, pictured on the Generations website, www.generationsreligious-gifts.com. They also are available in the store, located at 1095 Dublin Road. Gloria Calcara's masks are \$9.95 each. Shipping is \$5.95 per order, regardless of the size of the order.

Images on the masks from England include crosses, a confirmation dove, wedding rings, various titles related to the Virgin Mary, Divine Mercy (the most popular), the Sacred Heart

and the tau (T-shaped) cross, as well as symbols representing St. Benedict, St. Brigid, St. Joan of Arc and other saints. Calcara's masks include words such as "Faith," "Hope" and "Love."

"We have a mask with a deacon's cross, which several deacons have bought," Nentwich said. "At least one priest has worn one of the masks. Father Bob Penhallurick (pastor of Hilliard St. Brendan the Navigator Church) wore it during a Flocknotes online presentation."

Children's masks in some of the designs also are available for \$14.95.

"I wear a mask eight hours a day in the store," Nentwich said. "It's easy to breathe in them, and they're easy to take care of. Just wash them in the permanent press cycle and dry them. I think they're here to stay."

Nentwich said many items that would have been purchased at the store in the spring are being sold now because some postponed events are finally occurring. "We've been nicely busy during October," she said. "Confirmations and first Communions are happening on a delayed basis, and people are getting ready for Advent and Christmas."

For more information, visit the store or the website, or call (614) 451-7155.

Virus has limited music liturgy; what about holidays?

By Lauren Shiman

The return to public worship and sacramental life at diocesan parishes during the pandemic has led to changes, with music liturgy being no exception. Questions have arisen about using worship aids, choirs participating, and what liturgical music will be used for Advent and Christmas.

Parish leaders and music directors are addressing these concerns. Music directors at three diocesan parishes — Washington Court House St. Colman of Cloyne, Marion St. Mary and Newark St. Francis De Sales — discussed their current setups and plans with *The Catholic Times*.

St. Colman parishioners received seasonal missalettes that they can keep for use at Mass. Hymns found in the missalette and those considered familiar to the congregants are being used, said parish music director Craig Jaynes.

The possibility of using take-home or throwaway copies of hymns is also being considered, he said.

At Marion St. Mary, before Mass, a worship aid is placed wherever some-

one is permitted to sit. "The paper includes a directive that it should be taken home after Mass and disposed of there," music director Betsy Iacobucci said. "After each service, we clear the church of any copies that have been left behind."

Previously, worship aids were placed in the pews and used for multiple Masses.

St. Francis De Sales is using a technology program titled *Proclaim* to assist those attending Mass in following along. Song lyrics, prayer responses, readings and announcements are seen on an overhead screen.

Liturgy and music director Matt Munhall said, "We purchased and built two computers with monitors, one for running *Proclaim* and presenting different types of media, and one that is dedicated to livestreaming production."

What about choirs?

The choir at St. Colman of Cloyne resumed singing on Sunday, Oct. 12, but it has been reduced from 19 members to eight for distancing purposes. "We have also ordered specially made 'singers' masks' and choir members

have the choice to use them or their own masks," Jaynes said. "But we are singing fully masked."

The choir at St. Francis De Sales has been reorganized into smaller ensembles. As a result, Munhall said bonds have strengthened among ensemble members and more younger people want to participate. "They have been an inspiration and, through their example continue to encourage others to step forward."

At Marion St. Mary, only a cantor is being used, along with an organist and equipment operator. The cantor sings the responsorial psalm, Gospel acclamation and verses of the Communion antiphon. "At those times," Iacobucci said, "the cantor removes his or her mask and stands 12 feet back from the railing of the loft."

She said the parish temporarily suspended its four choir groups as "we explore the possibility of ways to meet proper safety standards, in order to once again make these groups active."

What about Advent, Christmas?

Marion St. Mary is determining how its music liturgy will be used out

at Advent and Christmas. "We will proceed with caution, keeping everyone's health and safety in mind," Iacobucci said. "As in previous years, we plan to have our Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Masses enhanced with festive organ music, solos sung by choirs, and extra instruments."

Three ensembles will continue to sing at St. Francis De Sales. Two have two to five singers with harmony, guitars, drums and violin. Another ensemble has an organist with one to three singers. "We will use our ensembles that we've pieced together of singers and instrumentalists to provide the best music we can, given the limitations of COVID," Munhall said.

Lessons and carols for Advent, a tradition since 2005 at St. Colman of Cloyne, have been canceled and instrumentation besides the organ is not permitted. Jaynes said the music liturgy for Advent and Christmas is still being worked out. "It is going to be difficult to rebuild, but, with God's help, we will find a way," he said.

Lauren Shiman is a parishioner at Reynoldsburg St. Pius X Church and a freelance writer in central Ohio.

Christmas Mass schedules changing due to virus

By Tim Puet
Catholic Times Reporter

Christmas Eve and Christmas Day usually bring the largest congregations of the year to Masses at parishes in the Diocese of Columbus and throughout the nation.

People come to hear the story of Jesus' birth as told in the Gospels, to sing Christmas carols and to greet friends and family members who have come together to enjoy the holidays. The Catholic Christmas liturgy, particularly the Night Mass celebrated at midnight or late on the evening of Dec. 24, also draws many non-Catholics who are stirred by its traditions.

In recent years, Masses on the afternoon of Dec. 24, especially those featuring children's choirs, have become popular. Parishes sometimes must celebrate Masses simultaneously in both the church building and the parish hall to accommodate the crowds.

This year, safe distancing requirements resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic mean the number of people attending Masses in church buildings will be limited.

Parishes are adapting in several ways. Some are livestreaming Masses to one or more additional sites on the parish campus. Others are adding Masses. In some cases, admission to Mass will be by reserved ticket only, and once a church building's COVID-restricted capacity is reached, no more tickets will be issued. Plans for Christmas Eve and Christmas Masses still are being made at several parishes.

The largest church in the diocese in terms of seating capacity, Westerville St. Paul Church, will seat 350 people in the church building and 180 in its parish hall, the Klinger Center, for Christmas. Normal capacity at those sites is 1,600 and 900, respectively.

Deacon Dean Racine, parish administrator, said Masses will be at 4, 6, 8 and 10 p.m. and midnight Thursday, Dec. 24 and 8 and 10 a.m. and noon Friday, Dec. 25 in the church and 4 and 6 p.m. Dec. 24 in the Klinger

Center. Doors will be locked until 30 minutes before each Mass to allow for cleaning. Deacon Racine said more Masses at the Klinger Center might be added as needs arise.

Reservations for seating at specific Masses have been taken on the parish website, www.stpaulcatholicchurch.org, beginning Wednesday, Nov. 4. People who show up for Mass without reservations will be required to wait in a holding area to see if seating is available.

Masses at Powell St. Joan of Arc Church will be on Dec. 24 at 4 and 6:30 p.m. in both the social hall and the church and 10 p.m. in the church, and Dec. 25 at 9:30 and 11:30 a.m. in the church, said parish secretary Stacey Callahan. She said that as of Oct. 30, it had not been determined whether the Masses would be livestreamed online, and that there were no plans at this time for a reservation system.

Dublin St. Brigid of Kildare Church will livestream all of its Masses for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day online and will have a 4 p.m. Christmas Eve Mass that will be livestream-only. Mass times will be 6:30 and 9 p.m. Dec. 24 and 9 and 11 a.m. Dec. 25, said Katherine Florian, parish music and liturgy director. She said parishioners have been sent a survey asking which of these Masses they would prefer to attend. A reservation system might be used, depending on the survey response.

A note sent to all parish households reminds that "during this time in the pandemic, please know that we still encourage parishioners to participate in the charity of staying home and attending Mass via livestream, as we know this is the most certain way to keep us all healthy. Bishop Robert Brennan has granted dispensation from attending Mass indefinitely."

The Octave of Christmas is celebrated from Christmas Day to Jan. 1, the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God. Florian said her parish has Masses at 5 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 26; 9 and 11 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 27; 5:30 p.m. Monday to Thursday, Dec. 28 to

31; and 11 a.m. Friday, Jan. 1 to give families more chances to go to Mass during the Christmas season. The church normally holds about 1,500 people, but COVID restrictions limit attendance to about 240, depending on the configuration, she said.

The Church of the Resurrection in New Albany will have Masses at 4 p.m. Dec. 24 in the social hall and 4:30, 7:30 and 10 p.m. Dec. 24 and 9 a.m. Dec. 25 in the church. Father Denis Kigozi, pastor, said reservations are being taken and more Masses might be added if there is a need.

Jim McQuaide, business manager at Pickerington St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, said Masses would be at 4 p.m. Dec. 24 in the church and the parish activity center and 6:30 and 11 p.m. Dec. 24 and 9:30 a.m. Dec. 25 in the church.

Reynoldsburg St. Pius X Church might have some Christmas Eve Masses livestreamed to as many as three sites on the parish campus in addition to the church itself. Mass times are 4, 6:30 and 9 p.m. Dec. 24 and 9 a.m. Dec. 25. Parish secretary Michelle Carey said the 4 and 6:30 p.m. Masses will be livestreamed to the parish center, with additional livestreaming to the school gym and cafeteria if needed. There also will be livestreaming for the other Masses if necessary.

A parish mission that was canceled because of the pandemic will take place at 7 p.m. Sunday to Tuesday, Nov. 29 to Dec. 1. It will be presented by Dan Dematte, who grew up in the parish and is executive director of the Damascus Catholic Mission Campus and Catholic Youth Summer Camp.

Washington Court House St. Colman of Cloyne Church will have Masses at 4 and 6:30 p.m. and midnight Dec. 24 and 8:30 and 10:30 a.m. Dec. 25. The church uses a ticketing system for all Masses and will do so for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. The earliest day to obtain a ticket will be Monday, Dec. 21. Tina Garland, business manager, said the parish will

not have a lessons and carols program this year.

Becky Howard, office manager of Zanesville St. Thomas Aquinas Church, said Masses there are at 5 and 10 p.m. Christmas Eve and 9 and 11 a.m. Christmas Day. The parish again will participate in an Angel Tree program, purchasing gifts for children in need in cooperation with the Salvation Army, but has not determined whether it will have an Advent penance service.

Columbus St. Margaret of Cortona Church will have Masses at 4 and 10 p.m. Dec. 24 and 10:30 a.m. Dec. 25, with the 4 p.m. Mass being livestreamed to Kulp Hall and on the parish website. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament will take place from 9 a.m. to noon each Thursday during Advent, with the church remaining open until 8 p.m. There will be sung Vespers and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament from 7 to 8 p.m. on Dec. 3, 10 and 17, the first three Thursdays of Advent.

Buckeye Lake Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church will continue a long-standing tradition of having Eucharistic Adoration from 9:15 to 10:15 a.m. on the Sundays of Advent. Sharon Lieb, office manager for the parish and for Heath St. Leonard Church, said Masses will be at 6 p.m. and midnight Dec. 24 and 9 a.m. Dec. 25 at Buckeye Lake and 4 and 9 p.m. Dec. 24 and 10 a.m. Dec. 25 at Heath. She anticipates that reservations will be necessary to attend Masses at both sites.

Masses at Columbus St. Francis of Assisi Church will be at 5 p.m. Christmas Eve and 10 a.m. Christmas Day. Office manager Andrea Randel said there are no plans to take reservations.

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10 new deacons for diocese

Bishop Robert Brennan was to ordain 10 men as permanent deacons for the Diocese of Columbus at 10 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 7 in Westerville St. Paul Church, 313 N. State St. The ordination was to be livestreamed through the diocesan website, www.columbuscatholic.org, and broadcast on St. Gabriel Radio.

Profiles of candidates Daniel Dowler and Victor Nduaguba of Columbus St. Andrew Church; James Elchert of Marysville Our Lady of Lourdes and Nicholas Klear of Ada Our Lady of Lourdes Church; Jesus Figueroa Jr. of West Jefferson Sts. Simon & Jude Church; Jeffrey Hurdley of Lancaster St. Mark Church; Mark O'Loughlin of Columbus St. Cecilia Church; Christopher Walsh of Columbus St. Margaret of Cortona Church; Eric Wright of Newark St. Francis de Sales Church; and Douglas Yglesias of Sunbury St. John Neumann Church are found on the following pages of this edition. They were written by Colleen Mar, communications director at Columbus Bishop Watterson High School. Photos were provided by Ken Snow.

Full coverage of the ordination and the deacons' parish assignments will be provided in the Nov. 22 issue of *The Catholic Times*.

Diaconate runs in Elchert's family

Jim Elchert is not the first deacon in his family. Or the second. In fact, he's not even the third. He will become the fourth deacon in the Elchert family.

Elchert's father is a deacon for the Fort Wayne/South Bend diocese in Indiana. An older brother was ordained for the Los Angeles archdiocese during Elchert's three years of formation, and he has a cousin who is a deacon in Philadelphia.

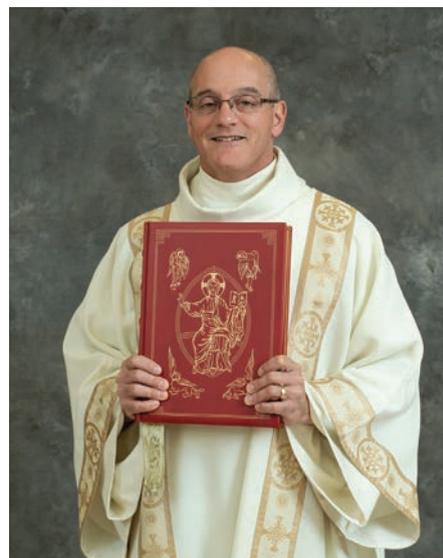
"God is persistent," he said. "It has been a gradual calling.

"I had the first inkling when I was still in my 20s, but just starting out with a young family, I didn't feel it was time. Every now and then that thought would come to my mind, but I never thought it was time.

"Finally, eight years ago, the thought re-entered my mind and, by that time, my father had been ordained as a deacon.

"I thought about it and prayed over it and talked to my wife and decided enough doors had opened in my life that I could pursue this."

Recognizing that deacons tend to have many responsibilities within a parish, Elchert is jumping right in at his home parish, Marysville Our Lady



of Lourdes, and his diaconal internship parish, Powell St. Joan of Arc.

"Having watched Deacon Dave Bezusko and Deacon Steve Petrill, they are boundless energy. I don't know how they get it all done," he said.

"Maybe there's some element to this as to why I received this call to be able to help them do what they do and take some of the burden off."

At St. Joan of Arc, Elchert has been

involved with ministries for older parishioners and for people learning English as a second language and with the parish's St. Teresa's Outreach, which assists food pantries and underprivileged communities and gives direct assistance to those struggling or in need.

"When the stay-at-home orders went into effect this spring, we found that families that were struggling and were used to sending kids to school and receiving lunch and other meals at school were struggling even more, because now they had to feed the children at home," Elchert said. So we initiated a program when Masses were shut down.

"It was a food drop on Sunday mornings where cars would come to St. Joan and pop their trunks and we would unload donations of groceries. Father (James) Black or Father (Stephen) Smith would bless the car on the way out."

Elchert said they would deliver five to seven pickup truck loads of items each week during the height of the shutdown, helping different food pan-

See **ELCHERT**, Page 14

Congratulations to all of our new Deacons and Welcome Deacon Jim Elchert

from the Clergy,
staff and parishioners at Saint Joan of Arc

Grant, O God, we pray, that these your servants, whom You graciously choose for the office of Deacon, be effective in action, gentle in ministry, and constant in prayer.

Wife's faith sparked Dowler

Electrical engineers like Dan Dowler look for ways to harness the power of electricity to make our daily work easier, our lives more efficient and our communication faster.

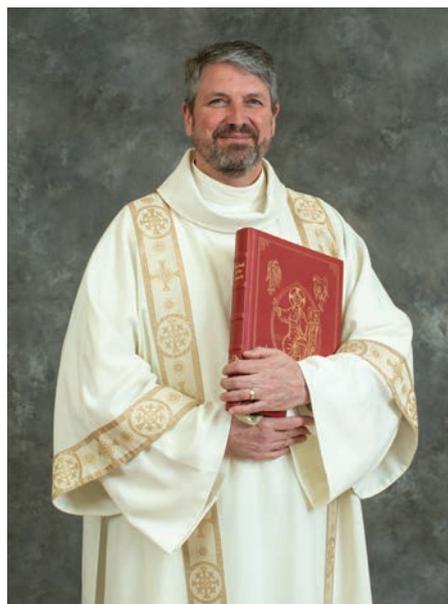
Dowler has spent more than 25 years designing electrical systems for buildings, with safety, reliability and energy efficiency at the forefront. For much of that time, he didn't realize that somewhere deep inside he was hoping for a spark, but not of the electrical variety.

Dowler was born and raised near Chillicothe in a family that, while quite patriotic, was not attached to a particular religion.

"My family didn't really have a deep belief in God," he said. "We lived out in the country and the church bus would come around and pick my brother and I up to go to church in the city, so I did learn about Jesus."

During the middle school years, a friend's family took Dowler to a country Methodist church and, while not actually becoming Methodist, he regularly attended the church's services.

After high school, Dowler felt as



though he was spinning his wheels.

"I was going in circles and not getting anything done. I needed discipline," he said. "The Navy really runs in my family, so I thought, 'My dad did the Navy, so maybe it will help me.' My dad dropped out of high school and went into the Navy. He made something out of his life with

See **DOWLER**, Page 14

Nduaguba gives all to God

Victor Nduaguba was seemingly in a trance on the day in 1992 when he met his wife. That's not to say he didn't know what was happening.

"How I met my wife was something miraculous because when I was looking for a wife, I said a radical prayer where I told God, 'Look, you know I don't know you so well, so I pray that you will give me a wife who will pull me closer to you,'" Nduaguba said.

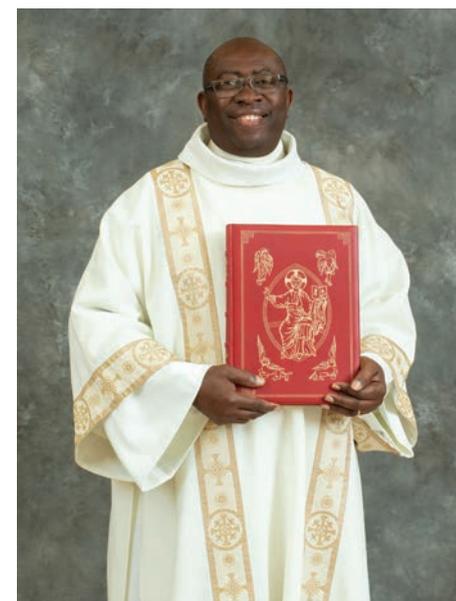
He's still not sure how he ended up in the right place at the right time.

"I couldn't make out what led me to my cousin's house that day," he said. "For no reason, I asked my friend to join me and blindly found myself there, and Chika was also there.

"In all truth, she has brought me closer to the Church."

When he was growing up in his native country of Nigeria, his parents were devout Catholics. Nduaguba, the third youngest of 12 children, declared when he was 6 years old that he would be a priest, which resulted in a new family nickname for him — Father Victor.

He never missed Mass, but when he



had his conversation with God about a wife, his seriousness about the faith had waned.

"My church experience in Nigeria is similar to here, but more in-depth because we spent more time in church activities and the liturgy was more acculturated," Nduaguba said. "Music and songs are part and parcel of every

See **NDUAGUBA**, Page 13

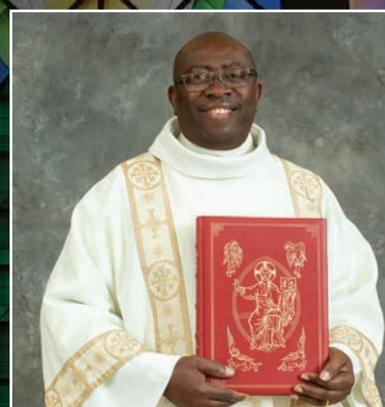
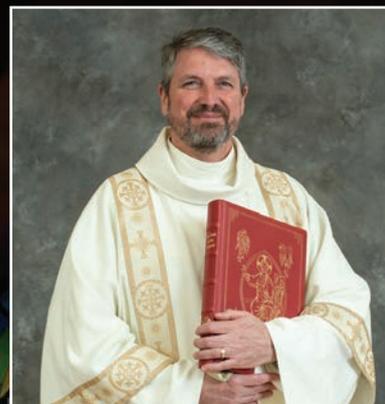
CONGRATULATIONS

to St. Andrew parishioners **Dan Dowler** and **Victor Nduaguba** on their ordination into the diaconate of the Diocese of Columbus. We offer prayers of support and gratitude as you both embark on this new ministry within the Catholic Church.

We also congratulate all the newly ordained deacons who have been called by Christ to serve the Church: James Eichert, Jesus Figueroa, Jeffrey Hurdley, Nicholas Klear, Mark O'Loughlin, Christopher Walsh, Eric Wright and Douglas Yglesias.



SAINT ANDREW PARISH

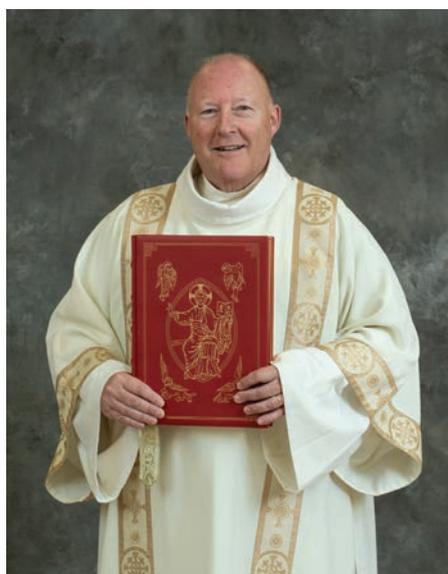


Walsh links law, faith, wilderness trips to draw closer to God

Chris Walsh was in the middle of nowhere, Idaho, in 2008 when an amazing thing happened. He and a group of men on a Wilderness Outreach adventure had backpacked into a remote area and, as part of setting up camp, they were building an altar. On the bottom of a large flat rock was the handwritten inscription, "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him may not die but may have eternal life. — John 3:16."

The group was stunned to find this in such an inaccessible location. They learned after returning to civilization that the quote probably had been written by an Englishman who came to the United States and turned his life to Jesus in the 1800s. The story goes that the man had been very wealthy in England, lost everything, then fell into a life of debauchery fueled by alcohol. When the man came to the United States, he chose to own very little and traveled through Montana and Idaho, leaving crosses in stream beds and writing Bible passages on rocks.

Walsh's experience in Idaho about 100 years after the passage was writ-



ten on the stone was one of 13 Wilderness Outreach trips in which he has participated. On the trips, a small group of men travel to a western location where they backpack and work on trail service. A priest usually joins the group and says Mass and the Liturgy of the Hours each day, with a book discussion scheduled after dinner each evening.

"Doing the Wilderness Outreach,

you get away from everything ... no cell phones, no television, just God and your brothers," said Walsh, who has two daughters with his wife, Deborah. "I just fell deeper and deeper in love with Jesus and God. It just drew me deeper into the church."

Walsh is also an avid skier, having started skiing at Snow Trails in Mansfield when he was in college. He has participated in a Catholic men's ski trip that is similar to the hiking trips, with a small group and a priest traveling out west, usually to Colorado. Mass and the Liturgy of the Hours are said daily and the men often discuss a book.

"Every trip was just better and better," Walsh said. "It was amazing getting away from the world and immersing yourself in nature and seeing God's beauty everywhere."

The trips and the connection with nature allow him to step away from his daily work as a lawyer. Walsh is a partner and trial attorney for a law firm where he specializes in defense litigation.

He tried several majors in college before settling on history, with the

intent of applying to law school — something that one of his high school teachers could have predicted.

"When I was in high school, I had a government teacher who would give us tests with multiple choice and essay questions and I did pretty well," he said. "There were some answers that he'd mark wrong, but I thought I was right, so I had to go argue my point. If I could persuade him, which happened more often than not, he would give me credit for my answer, as well as crediting any other student who chose the same answer. Because of that, my teacher called me his Philadelphia lawyer."

Walsh's reasoning skills will come in handy when he is a deacon.

"As an attorney, I've always been able to make an argument," he said. "As a deacon, I can help people deepen their relationship with God. I have found that if you talk about your own experience and what you have learned about your experience on this planet, people are more open. My own beliefs have changed as I've gotten closer to the truth."

NDUAGUBA, continued from Page 12

liturgy. Living out the liturgy in the local languages and culture makes the spiritual experience more ardent.

"We had chapels of Perpetual Adoration where one can spend time with Jesus any time of the day. We also had at least one hour of Holy Hour in every parish every Sunday evening, ending with Benediction. We also had many pious societies one can belong to. I was a member of the Sacred Heart of Jesus (Society) and still am. I also enthroned my family to the Sacred Heart and Immaculate Heart, as well as consecrated myself to the Immaculate Heart of Mary."

At about the time Victor met Chika in 1992, an older brother who lived in Ohio filed papers for Victor to emigrate to the United States. That process was completed in 2004 and, by then, the Nduaguba family included two sons. The family made the move to Ohio and Victor, who already had a Bachelor of Science degree in engineering from Enugu State University of Science and Technology in Nigeria, earned an Associate degree in en-

vironmental science from Columbus State Community College. He now is a design engineer for the Ohio Department of Health.

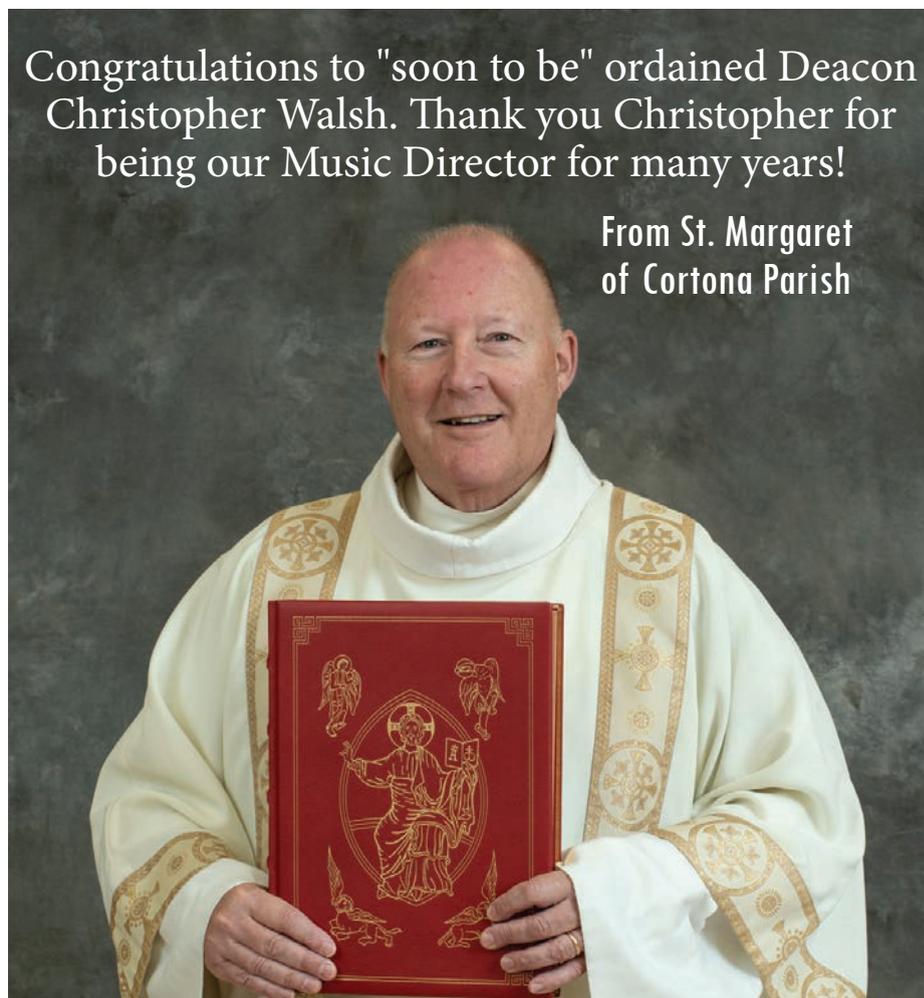
"I continued with my life until one Saturday after morning Mass at (Columbus) St. Andrew (Church), I was in the church and a thought came to me: 'Why don't you become a deacon?'" Nduaguba said. "I wasn't thinking about that. I was thinking about how to take care of my family. I didn't know anything about being a deacon."

Sponsorship by family friends at his parish resulted in Nduaguba's acceptance into the diaconate program "by the grace of God," he said.

"One thing I know of myself is that I always give everything to God, because when we applied to come to the U.S., I told myself, 'Look, I'm not desperate. I give it to God.' I am here for him to use me for whatever he wants. If he calls, I am willing to answer. His will is my peace," Nduaguba said.

Congratulations to "soon to be" ordained Deacon Christopher Walsh. Thank you Christopher for being our Music Director for many years!

From St. Margaret
of Cortona Parish



Hurdley overcomes 'Whopper' of a faith crisis

A Whopper – actually, two Whoppers – led Jeff Hurdley to the diaconate.

It was Good Friday 1996 and Hurdley, who had been deeply impacted by his father's unexpected death and his mother's sense of peace about it, had decided to fast all day in an effort to impress God.

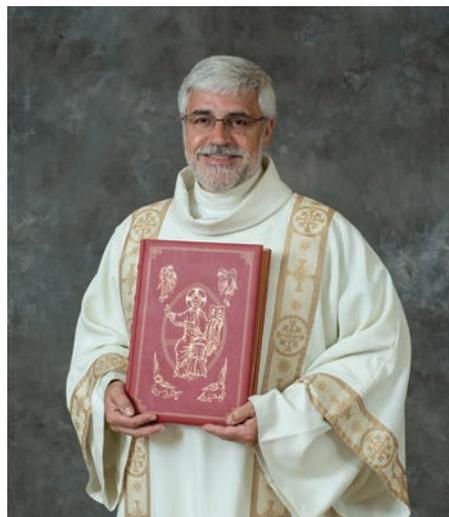
"I was not walking with the Lord and practicing my faith, and losing my father was deeply unsettling for me," he said. "I went to my mother's house and expected her to be devastated, but she had this peace about her. As people came to pay their respects, there was a feeling in the house that was palpable. I remember thinking, 'This is God.'"

So on Good Friday, the fast began. He was going to read the Bible all day.

"I got to 2 o'clock and I couldn't take it any longer," Hurdley said. "I was totally famished, so hungry."

That's where the Whoppers come in.

"I gorged myself and realized how pathetic I was, that I couldn't give a day to the Lord," he said. "I got down prostrate on the floor and asked Jesus to help me find the Father. At that moment, my life took a major course correction. It was instantaneous. It felt like buckets of joy. It overwhelmed



me. I felt like my life was being rearranged. It started the process of coming back to my faith."

Hurdley wasn't a practicing Catholic at the time. He and his wife, Christine, and their three daughters were attending a Protestant church. Feeling like something was missing, Hurdley decided to go through the RCIA program, and that experience began his journey back into the Catholic Church.

The retired lawyer for the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency began leading Bible studies. People would

tell him he should be a deacon. During a retreat at a monastery, he began to have a sense of peace about exploring the diaconate. Once he began studying to be a deacon, he dived into learning, asking difficult questions.

"I wanted to take my hardest issues to God in the midst of having this wonderful opportunity to ask all of the challenging questions on controversial issues," Hurdley said. "You need to take on the hard issues. If you push them to the background, then you're not prepared for them. Jesus is truth. He is truth and love and I want to know the truth. I threw myself at it and I felt more and more called and convinced that, yes, God is calling me to this."

Hurdley said his instructors responded to his questions with great intellect and grace.

"When two or more are gathered in Our Lord's name, he is amongst us," he said. "And in the midst of these conversations, there would be a revelation of something the Lord wanted to share with the group. The Lord used these opportunities to reveal not just fundamentals of the faith but who we are – who we are as a community and what He wants us to know. I began to look for it and love it."

DOWLER,

continued from Page 12

what he learned from that experience, and he did well."

Dowler has more than a half-dozen relatives who served in the military. The Navy, where he learned to be an electrician, seemed like the right choice and gave him the discipline needed to be an adult.

"In the Navy, they had church services in boot camp and I had said I was Methodist, so I went to the services and it wasn't like anything I'd ever experienced," Dowler said. "The preacher was Baptist, so I asked him, 'How does this work, because the Methodists had always taught me it's all about the method. You do things in a certain way or you go to hell.' He said, 'It's OK. You can worship with all of the Protestants for now and return later.'"

That experience set Dowler on an exploration of different faiths.

"The Methodists make a big deal that worship has to be one way, but this other guy is telling me 'Don't worry, it can be different.' I got turned off from Christianity," he said. "so I started looking for something else: Hinduism, Confucianism, Buddhism, Zoroastrianism, Judaism."

After leaving the Navy, Dowler earned a degree in electrical engineering from Ohio University and was working as a controls engineer, still unsettled on a religion, when he met his wife, Kathy.

"I looked at these religions, but nothing hit the spark until Kathy took me to the Catholic church and then everything was crystal clear," Dowler said. "Until I met her, I didn't realize how much God was missing. I had been resisting God and looking for happiness everywhere."

Thanks to the current of faith he saw in his wife, Dowler converted to Catholicism. He and Kathy have one daughter.

Dowler feels the best move he ever made in life was to become Catholic.

"Before I was Catholic I was really lost," he said. "I did everything you're not supposed to do. I was the ultimate sinner. My life took an incredible turn when I became Catholic."

ELCHERT, *continued*

from Page 11

tries.

"It was gratifying to see so much participation," he said.

Elchert, a senior project estimator for Kokosing Construction Co., had previous experience assisting with food drives. For a few years, he has been part of a food collection program for the company.

"Each of our offices and major project sites adopts a food pantry in the area," he said. "We collect donations from employees and the company doubles the donations."

While he is involved with building projects for his career, Elchert, who has three children ages 20 to 30 with his wife of 33 years, Becky, also enjoys working in his wood shop. He has built several pieces of furniture for the family's home.

"At work, I really enjoy being a part of something that you can look at tangibly and say 'Yes, I was a part of that project.' At home, woodwork is a creative outlet for me," Elchert said. "I like seeing the finished product."

We are extremely pleased and honored to congratulate

Jeff Hurdley on his Diaconate Ordination



Praying that God will bless you as you begin your ministry as a deacon. May the Holy Spirit shine brightly in you as you serve the community of God's people.

Congratulations

Time was right for Klear

When Nick Klear was in high school, a military recruiter visited and, as part of the presentation, asked the students if anyone was considering going into ministry. When Klear raised his hand, his classmates gave him a look of astonishment.

While Klear's classmates were surprised, he felt comfortable with the idea of being a priest or a deacon. His grandfather was a deacon and Klear served at many Masses with him. He once took Klear to a dinner event at which the speaker's theme was being open to God's call. That concept stuck with Klear.

"I was always open to what God wanted me to do, but I didn't know what that meant – priest or deacon?" he said. "Then I met Rachel and that question was answered."

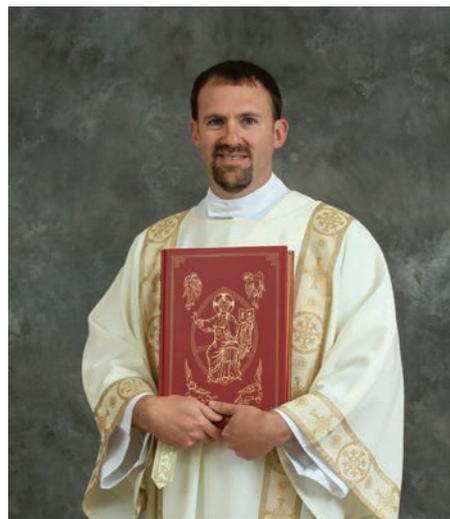
Klear and his wife of 13 years, Rachel, met when they were students at the University of Toledo. They have five children ages 2 to 12.

Rachel saw Klear at a Catholic Student Association activity at the University of Toledo, asked a friend about him and told the friend she was going to marry him.

"That story was part of my grandfather's homily at our wedding," Klear said. "How do a girl from Marietta and a guy from northwest Ohio meet in Toledo? Because of divine providence. God put us in these positions to be able to meet and fall in love."

Marriage was the selected path for Klear, but the diaconate, while not an immediate priority, remained a possibility.

"I felt like I got that tap on my shoulder again after being married a couple of years and I thought, 'What



is this?'" he said.

The Diocese of Toledo decided to start a deacon class, so Klear attended a meeting for anyone interested.

"I went to this meet-and-greet and I really surprised grandpa, because I was living in Fort Wayne, Indiana at the time," Klear said. "I found out I was way too young, so that was a surprise. I was 26 at the time and you have to be 35 (to be a deacon) and so I was a little disappointed, but it turned out God really understood that it wasn't the right time for me."

During the next three years, Klear changed jobs twice, he and Rachel moved, and they welcomed three children to their growing family.

"I could not have prepared for the diaconate at that time in my life, but God watches over us to make sure everything comes through," he said. "After those three years, it was funny because everything felt calm. I felt like I got a tap on the shoulder again and it was like 'Hey, Nick, remember me? It's time to think about this

See KLEAR, Page 16

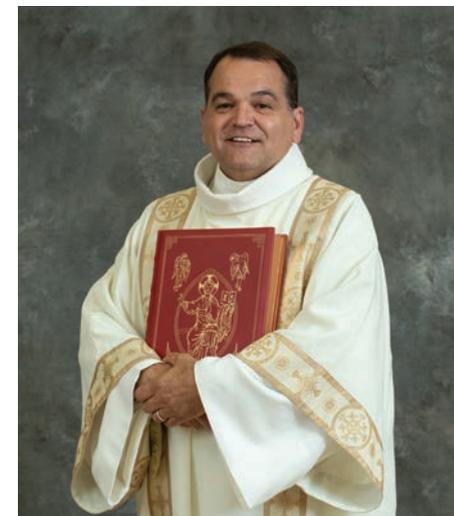
Wright serves the homeless as part of his calling to ministry

Eric Wright was delivering food at a homeless camp in Licking County when he met a young woman of about 30 who poured her heart out to him. She had been on the streets for a couple of years and had nowhere to turn. She was crying, tired of being homeless, and ready to get out.

"I have four daughters, the oldest being 20," Wright said. "When I met this woman, I thought about how that could be my daughter. I asked her what we could do to help. She only had the clothes she was wearing because every time she gets something new it is stolen – underwear, socks, shorts, anything."

Wright's visit to the camp was a part of his volunteer work with the Newark St. Francis de Sales Church outreach ministry. Volunteers load a golf cart with sandwiches and other food and take it to camps that are hidden in the woods.

"It's a privilege to be able to go out there," he said. "They give us their trust because they're hiding. We're not out there to save the world, but to make sure they have something to eat for the day and that they know they



have people praying for them and who love them. Every time I go out to the camps, it tugs at my heartstrings."

Wright and his wife of 28 years, Maggie, have seven children. He said he always has been a server. He was in the U.S. Air Force for seven years before making a career of working in

See WRIGHT, Page 16

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

St. Andrew Parish is seeking a full time Parish Business Administrator who will serve as a staff resource in support of the pastor. This administrative position will have direct responsibility for ensuring that the parish and school needs in finance, payroll and personnel records, facilities, business administration and parish office staffing are fulfilled.

Candidates should have a minimum of a B.A. in accounting and be able to perform general accounting including budgeting, financial reporting, accounts receivable, cash receipts and disbursement, and payroll. This person will also be responsible for the supervision of office staff, overseeing Parish Office operations, monitoring of facilities' management and acquisition of goods and services in support of business operations. Must work well with pastor, staff and volunteers.

Job offer is contingent on the successful passing of the mandatory background screening and completion of the VIRTUS "Protecting God's Children" program. Compensation is commensurate with experience and ability. Benefits are according to Diocesan policy and include a full complement of benefits, including health, dental, vision, life, short & long-term disability, and matching 403(b). Qualified individuals should submit cover letter, resume and references to Msgr. Stephan Moloney, Pastor, at smoloney@columbuscatholic.org by November 30.



**Our Lady of Lourdes,
Ada and Immaculate
Conception, Kenton
parishes congratulate
DEACON NICK KLEAR
on his ordination to
the diaconate!**

Figueroa builds cultural bridge

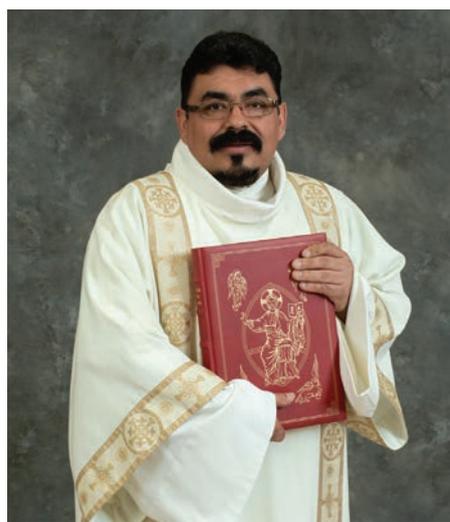
When many Americans hear the word quinceanera, they picture a birthday party for a 15-year-old Latino girl, complete with a princess-like dress and pinatas. While that image is accurate, there is more to the occasion.

Jesus Figueroa is happy to explain that there is a religious component to the event.

"She makes a solemn promise to the Virgin Mary to stay a virgin until she is married to her husband," Figueroa said. "She is given a promise ring from her godparents that she wears on her ring finger and she makes a solemn promise that she is the bride of Christ until she chooses her husband on earth. She says this verbally at Mass."

As a member of the diocesan Hispanic and Latino Ministry Committee, Figueroa is helping to bring greater understanding of the cultural components necessary to increase sacramental life in the Latino community in Columbus.

His involvement in this ministry began when he, along with his wife of 23 years, Maria, and their three chil-



dren moved to Columbus seven years ago.

"Each of the parishes on the west side had different committees that involved the sacraments, social services, non-sacraments like quinceanera, help with marriage counseling and others," he said. "I spent a lot of time helping at (Columbus) St. Agnes (Church) because it had the largest Latino community, and one of the things that I gained from that was that people wanted to be involved in the

See FIGUEROA, Page 17

O'Loughlin looks to the heavens

As a child, Mark O'Loughlin was so fascinated with space that he learned everything he could about NASA's missions and astronauts.

"Growing up watching videos from the moon, I was a walking encyclopedia of the space program," he said.

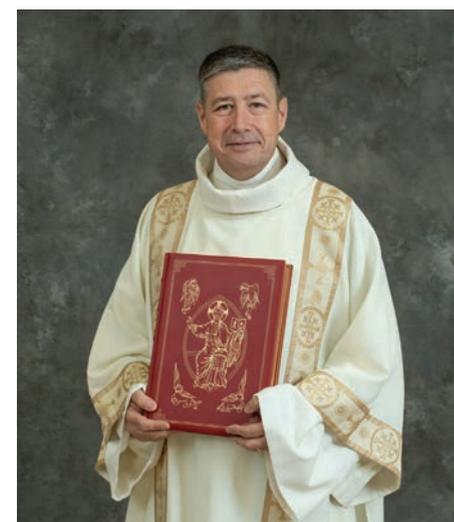
That childhood enthusiasm diminished over the years, but the interest in what lies beyond our atmosphere remained.

O'Loughlin studied physics at Ohio State and later, while working at Battelle as a technician, he found himself programming software and control systems for Battelle's laser lab. That work led to a position designing and installing laser systems with another company, which had him flying to Germany and China to work with customers.

"In China, the grad students I worked with were expected to speak English, so they wanted to practice and speak English with me," he said. "Coaching them was a lot of fun. They would make presentations and ask about specific words."

At about that time, a homily on the diaconate caught his attention. It sat in the back of his head for a while.

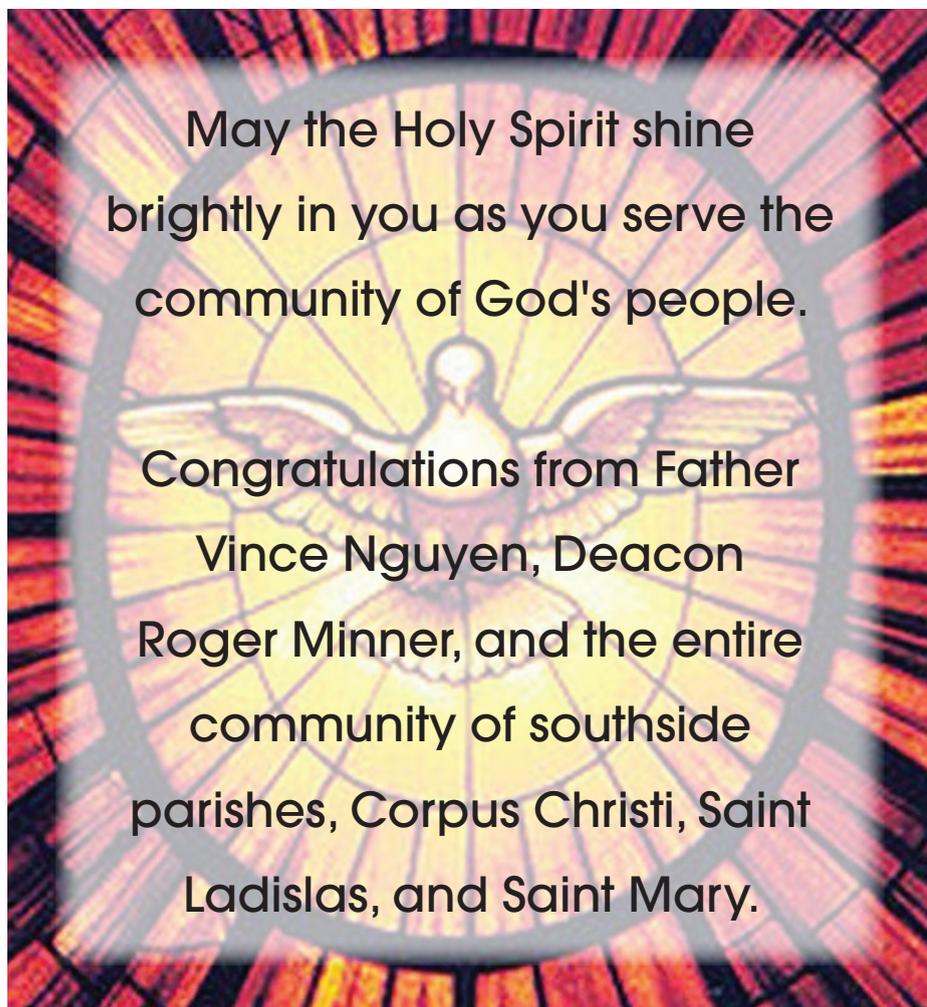
See O'LOUGHLIN, Page 17



"I called Deacon Frank (Iannarino, director of the diocesan Office of the Diaconate) a few times over the next few years," he said. "After a few calls, I said, 'I don't know if I'm being called,' and Deacon Frank said, 'Yes, but you keep calling me, so there's probably something there.'"

O'Loughlin who has been married to his wife, Jane, for 31 years, began studying for the diaconate, adding it to his already-busy work schedule. He also is a fireworks exhibitor, running the Hilliard July 4 fireworks show.

See O'LOUGHLIN, Page 17



WRIGHT, continued from Page 15

civil service for the Air Force, where he is a laboratory production officer. Driving the golf cart out into the woods has been a good fit with his interest in outdoor activities such as camping and hiking.

He said it is difficult for many of the homeless to make the leap out of homelessness.

"It's hard to get into the system. A lot of them have alcohol or drug problems or mental health issues," he said. "There is a waiting list to get into some shelters. Before they go in, they have to test clean, but they're so frustrated they may hit on a joint or something, and then that keeps them out."

The St. Francis crew also visits the camps in the winter. Wright said that when he goes home at night and

KLEAR, continued from Page 15

again."

Klear is a service manager and electrical engineer for APTIM Corp. and volunteers with the youth group and RCIA programs at his home parish of Ada Our Lady of Lourdes. Add five children in various activities and it seems impossible to add the diaconate preparation program to his schedule.

crawls into a warm bed, knowing the homeless are outside in 15-degree weather with a blanket, it concerns him.

"Through my service with the poor I have learned how to serve people better by humbling myself," said Wright, who has served his parish in several other ways, including as an extraordinary minister of the Eucharist, with the Knights of Columbus, and on the liturgy committee and the parish council. "It is very humbling to do this work. It's amazing how blessed we are with what we have, that we should not take a house or a job for granted. We're all one or two steps away from homelessness. All it takes is one catastrophe or pandemic."

But everything fell into place.

"It's not us," he said. "It's what the Lord gives us and you follow the Holy Spirit and you get done with the week and you think 'Wow, that's a lot. I wonder how we did all of that.' The Lord directs you to the things you need."

Yglesias ministers in the streets through running

Running is appealing to people for a variety of reasons. Some run for the health benefits. Others run to relieve stress or bring on the endorphin-induced feeling of wellness. For Doug Yglesias and his wife, Lisa, running had an unusual appeal: ministry.

Yglesias has run more than 30 marathons in locations from Boston to Atlanta, including Columbus.

"Lisa and I weren't fast runners, but what resonated with us was the opportunity we had to minister to other runners," he said. "Running was helping people get off the couch and get healthy. When you're training for a marathon, you have many miles to talk, and a lot of times, we had talks about faith. When we lived in Miami, you had every religion and it was a really neat place to just minister to people who may never go to church.

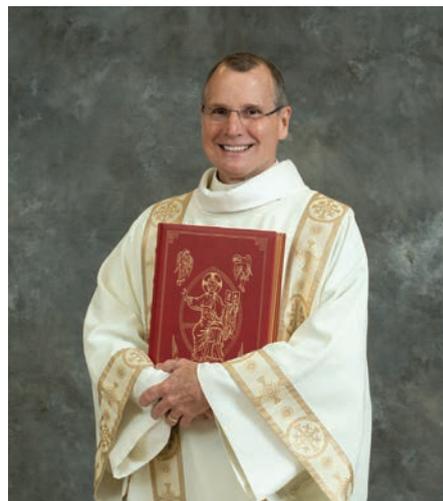
"One time I was out running with a gentleman who had lymphoma. He said he was Jewish and he had a hard time thinking there was anything after

life," Yglesias said. "On another run, we spent half of a marathon discussing whether Jesus existed. Sometimes it's not about talking about Jesus, but it's about loving people where they're at that makes them want to seek more about that faith. We've seen several people end up attending church and getting their kids baptized. It's kind of neat."

While full marathons haven't been on his agenda lately – his most recent race being a half-marathon with one of his four children, a daughter, in Cleveland – he continues to lace up and hit the road.

"With my daughter, running is an incredible time to talk and catch up," Yglesias said. "When I'm out by myself, it's my time to talk with God. I see God in nature."

Yglesias, who has been a parish youth minister and a teacher and assistant principal in Catholic schools, said he realized at age 16 that there is a God who loves him, which resulted



in his attending a seminary for a time. His family was affected by that, with his father becoming a deacon for the Archdiocese of Miami.

"My dad has a passion for Benediction and Exposition that has become a passion of mine," he said. "I have an

incredible love for the Blessed Sacrament and Perpetual Adoration."

That led to Yglesias starting a Eucharistic adoration group, Adoremus, at his parish, Sunbury St. John Neumann.

"The passion to serve the Lord has been planted on my heart since I was 16 and I've been looking to continue to do that ever since," he said. "The parish I went to growing up in Miami had a youth group and Perpetual Adoration, and it was such a neat experience to be able to go as a teenager, when you have super highs and super lows. It was a good place to be at peace.

"There was this tangible experience of being in the presence of God. When we added singing and praise and worship, there's something very powerful about praising God in the presence of the Eucharist. We would pray for people who would stop by. A peace comes over them. You've got to love them where they're at."

O'LOUGHLIN, *continued from Page 16*

An occasional red-eye flight from the West Coast had him arriving in just enough time to get home, shower and get to the Pontifical College Josephinum in time for diaconate classes on Saturdays.

"It's been interesting how things have worked together," he said. "Things have just happened in a way so that becoming a deacon was supposed to happen. When you're in China, you never know when you'll have a connection to the States and can't

even get a phone call through sometimes. There was a time when I had a paper due and I had no connection to be able to send the paper until about 10 minutes before it was due. All of a sudden, it went through. Somebody up there has been watching over me."

Looking to the sky remains an interest for O'Loughlin. This summer, he added an interest in astral photography, capturing images of Comet Neowise.

"As I learned more and more about physics and how things worked, it be-

came more apparent that this all didn't happen by random. There's a plan," he said. "You have to see God when you study physics. You have to understand that there's something behind it

all, to think about what it takes for the earth to spin and be the right distance from the sun for the plants to grow. We don't burn up and we don't freeze. It all didn't happen by random."

FIGUEROA, *continued from Page 16*

parish culturally, but it was not coordinated."

Figueroa and the committee have worked to organize more activities that have cultural significance to the Latino community, such as the upcoming mananitas event, a Diocesan celebration of Our Lady of Guadalupe, on her feast day, Saturday, December 12.

"People can speak the Spanish language, but do they know how the culture works within the parish, what's important to the parishioners?" Figueroa said. "I could speak French, but do I actually understand what is important to the French people? We hope to build a bridge of understanding between two, three or four different cultures."

In addition to his volunteer work with the Latino community, Figueroa, who is director of environmental services at Ohio State University, has assisted five parishes in creating a cleaning process during the pandemic. In his role at OSU, Figueroa oversees the

cleaning processes at the James Cancer Hospital, two additional hospitals and seven outpatient buildings. As parishes were planning to reopen, he was able to provide guidance on how to do it properly, following Centers for Disease Control guidelines.

Using his professional knowledge to assist the parishes was a natural inclination, built by the faith instilled by his parents and the discipline he learned from four years in the U.S. Marine Corps. As a deacon, he is hoping to help attract more minority Catholics to become ordained deacons by building greater understanding of the faith.

"I want to help young men and women grow their life in Christ, but to also help grow the faith community," he said. "Many times we do things just because we do them, but we don't know why. The education piece is important because that's how you can defend your faith with the scripture, the traditions."

God Bless all 10 of
the newly ordained
deacons in the diocese
from the Italian
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DCN. LARRY KOEBEL
DCN. PETE LABITA

35 YEARS

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DCN. RICHARD KRICK
DCN. RALPH PARSONS
DCN. PAT WIGGINS

30 YEARS

DCN. GENE DAWSON
DCN. FRANK DUDA
DCN. PHIL PAULUCCI

15 YEARS

DCN. TOM BERG, JR.
DCN. CHRIS CAMPBELL

DCN. STEVE DEMERS
DCN. ROGER MINNER
DCN. JIM MORRIS
DCN. DON POIRIER
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DCN. CRAIG SMITH
DCN. CHRIS VARACALLI
DCN. PAT WILSON
DCN. MARTIN MUELLER*
DCN. HANK GUNDRUM*



NEWLY ORDAINED

DCN. DANIEL DOWLER
DCN. JAMES ELCHERT
DCN. JESUS FIGUEROA, JR.
DCN. NICHOLAS KLEAR
DCN. VICTOR NDUAGUBA
DCN. MARK O'LOUGHLIN
DCN. CHRISTOPHER WALSH
DCN. ERIC WRIGHT
DCN. DOUGLAS YGLESIAS
DCN. JEFFREY HURDLEY

*incardinated in another diocese

DIRECTORY, continued from Page 3

make disciples. These themes were emphasized by the world's bishops in the synods on the family and on young people, which have occurred during the seven years of Francis' papacy. "One of the portions of the directory which emphasizes the importance of each individual's role in proclaiming the Gospel is Chapter 8, 'Catechesis in the Lives of Persons.' The chapter talks about catechesis in, of and with the family and its specific role with young children, teens, young adults, older adults, the elderly, persons with disabilities, migrants, persons on the margins of society and those in prison," said Jennifer Berryhill, OREC associate director.

"It speaks of the Christian community as 'a family of families,' which 'is itself the family of God,' and how in supporting each other and the expression and growth of the faith in each of its members, the family as domestic church extends its influence to the wider Church and the world at large."

A key theme of the directory is the importance of the ongoing process of *kerygma* – "the proclamation of Christ's death and resurrection which reveals and communicates the Father's infinite mercy." The book's introduction describes the process of catechesis (religious education) as both *kerygmatic* and *mystagogic* – words that usually aren't used in everyday conversation.

Kerygmatic catechesis "manifests the action of the Holy Spirit, who communicates God's saving love in Jesus Christ and continues to give himself so that every human being may have the fullness of life," the directory says.

Mystagogic catechesis is "character-

ized by an ever deeper experience of the mysteries of the faith and incorporation of those mysteries into the life of the community," it says.

The new directory places a much greater emphasis on the field of the arts and the ideal of beauty than its predecessors. "The Church, therefore, bears in mind that in order to reach the human heart, the proclamation of the Risen One must shine forth with goodness, truth and beauty," it says. "Without diminishing the importance of truth and goodness, one of the gifts of this directory is the focus on beauty as a starting point of evangelization," Romanello-Wichtman said.

The directory continues, "All beauty can be a path that helps lead to the encounter with God. Beauty is always and inseparably steeped with goodness and truth. The way of evangelization is the way of beauty, and therefore every form of beauty is a source of catechesis."

The 1997 directory emphasized that catechesis isn't just a stage in the evangelization process; rather, evangelization is an important part of catechesis throughout our lives. The new version expands on those themes.

The OREC is conducting conversations about the new directory virtually at 2 p.m. Mondays and 7 p.m. Thursdays so formation leaders can look deeper at the directory's insights on how we live in this new reality of faith formation.

"It is providential that we have received the directory at this time," said Diana Toth, OREC project consultant. "The Church is giving us explicit instruction on how to adapt and meet the unique needs of the faithful at this time." The religious education office is communicating

with parish catechetical leaders in a variety of ways, including weekly Microsoft Teams videoconferences and a weekly email update titled "Good News Bytes," in which it shares the latest resources and online training available for students and catechists. "This has proven to be an effective way of connecting catechetical leaders with needed information, support from our office and networking with each other," Romanello-Wichtman said.

As a result of these efforts, parishes have shared their unique approaches to continuing faith formation during this time of COVID. This is no small task. In 2019-20, the parishes of the diocese served 14,412 young people through the efforts of 1,774 catechists.

"It's good to be able to listen in and feel a connection," said Andrea Maier, religious education director at Groveport St. Mary Church. "It's good to experience the connection with others so that you do not feel so much that you are on an island by yourself."

During the pandemic, parishes have continued their mission of faith formation in a variety of ways that meet their people's needs. Some are offering a traditional grade-level model on a digital

platform, others are doing a hybrid of in-person and online learning, and still others are emphasizing family-led catechesis.

Jill Turner, director of religious education at Marysville Our Lady of Lourdes Church, said her parish is conducting weekly family faith challenges from September to December and will begin in-person Parish School of Religion classes for elementary school students in January. She also has sent packets on "Parents as First Catechists" to families with children. "There is a lot going on, but it is very different," she said.

Romanello-Wichtman said that while the pandemic continues, families should keep four things in mind in connection with staying strong in the faith: "Pray together, keep it simple, have rituals and don't be afraid to talk to and about Jesus, within and outside the family."

For more information on the new directory, go to the OREC website, www.columbuscatholic.org/religious-education, or call (614) 221-4633. Copies are available for \$24.95 by going to the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' website, www.usccb.org, and clicking the "Store" link.

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Mary van Balen M.A. Theology: Mary has published books on spirituality and written the column *Grace in the Moment* in the Catholic Times for over thirty years. Having completed the spiritual guidance program at the Shalem Institute for Spiritual Formation, Mary offers spiritual direction. Contact her through her website: maryvanbalen.com.



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32nd Sunday of Ordinary Time Year A

Rely on God's holy wisdom, not our own, to see as He sees, discern His ways

Wisdom 6:12-16
Psalm 63:2,3-4,5-6,7-8
1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
Matthew 25:1-13

Wisdom is the gift of God that assists us on our journey of faith to arrive where we are destined to be.

Personified wisdom is depicted in the Book of Wisdom, one of the deuterocanonical books found in Catholic and Orthodox Scriptures, but the gift of Alexandrian Judaism, found in the Septuagint (the Greek version of the Old Testament Scriptures, often represented by the symbols LXX). She is described as “resplendent and unfading,” “readily perceived by those who love her, and found by those who seek her.” She is available to those who are open to her and, in fact, is herself on the watch for anyone who is seeking her: “She hastens to make herself known in anticipation of their desire.” From morning to night, she offers herself to anyone who is awake: “Whoever watches for her at dawn shall not be disappointed, for he shall find her sitting by his gate” and “Whoever for her sake keeps vigil shall quickly be free from care; because she makes her own rounds, seeking those worthy of her, and graciously appears to them in the ways, and meets them with all solicitude.”

Human wisdom is concerned with getting our craftsmanship right. The farmer knows how and when to plant and harvest. The shepherd understands how best to pasture the sheep and the goats. The potter molds his clay with skill as the wheel turns around. The weaver is nimble of finger and gets the silk threads where they need to be as the beauty of the carpet is revealed. The writer minds his p's and q's, crosses the t's and dots the i's.

Hagia Sophia, Holy Wisdom, comes from God and allows us to know and love God with the very love that

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.



comes from God Himself. With Divine Wisdom, we come to understand that all we have and are is destined to be transformed, and that we ourselves are meant for a higher life than this world can offer.

Wisdom assists us in our effort to discern the ways of God concerning life and death. As Hamlet says in Act 5, Scene 2, “the readiness is all.” We must be prepared for the Bridegroom when He returns. Having oil for our lamps means having the capacity to see the signs of the times. We are in a time of great turmoil and transition. This is true throughout the world.

Day by day, we are finding that the world and its approach to things are ever changing. All illusions are wiped away in the face of human mortality. New illusions and false wisdom are presented as if they are built on solid ground when, in fact, they have not been newly invented but are merely the expression of old lies and half-truths. Even these are wiped out by the experience of “pruning away” all that is not real when we experience the death of those we love or face our own limitations.

Wisdom tells us that our house of cards is falling. Our civilization as we have known it is ending. A new world is waiting to be born and we are invited to cooperate with wisdom in its formation. Where will we go from here? Will we try to rely on our own skill and our limited human wisdom, or will we seek to see as God sees, learning from the wisdom that comes from above? “Let us stay awake, for we know neither the day nor the hour.”

33rd Sunday of Ordinary Time Year A

Attaining joy in this life requires following the Lord's plan

Proverbs 31:10-13,19-20,30-31
Psalm 128:1-2,3,4-5
1 Thessalonians 5:1-6
Matthew 25:14-30

Fearing the Lord is not a matter of being afraid of God merely with the emotion of fear. Rather, it is a manner of relating to God as God. We stand

before God in awe and wonder at who God is and how God chooses to relate with us.

What is God's relationship with us? It is like the relationship of a true and lasting marriage. Marriage is, according to Pope St. John Paul II and his Theology of the Body, “the primordial sacrament.” That is, it is the sacra-

THE WEEKDAY BIBLE READINGS

11/9-11/14	FRIDAY 2 John 4:9 Psalm 119:1-2, 10-11,17-18 Luke 17:26-37	WEDNESDAY Revelation 4:1-11 Psalm 150:1b-6 Luke 19:11-28
MONDAY Ezekiel 47:1-2,8-9,12 Psalm 46:2-3,5-6,8-9 John 2:13-22	SATURDAY 3 John 5-8 Psalm 112:1-6 Luke 18:1-8	THURSDAY Revelation 5:1-10 Psalm 149:1b-6a,9b Luke 19:41-44
TUESDAY Titus 2:1-8,11-14 Psalm 37:3-4, 18,23,27,29 Luke 17:7-10	11/16-11/21	FRIDAY Revelation 10:8-11 Psalm 119:14, 24,72,103,111,131 Luke 19:45-48
WEDNESDAY Titus 3:1-7 Psalm 23:1b-6 Luke 17:11-19	MONDAY Revelation 1:1-4;2:1-5 Psalm 1:1-4,6 Luke 18:35-43	SATURDAY Revelation 11:4-12 Psalm 144:1-2,9-10 Luke 20:27-40
THURSDAY Philemon 7-20 Psalm 146:7-10 Luke 17:20-25	TUESDAY Revelation 3:1-6,14-22 Psalm 15:2-5 Luke 19:1-10	

DIOCESAN WEEKLY RADIO AND TELEVISION

MASS SCHEDULE: WEEKS OF NOV. 8 & 15, 2020

SUNDAY MASS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

DAILY MASS

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

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

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

We pray Weeks IV and III, Seasonal Proper, Liturgy of the Hours.

ment that underlies the truth of all the other sacraments, that points out to us the very way things are.

“Thus, in this dimension, a primordial sacrament is constituted, understood as a sign that transmits effectively in the visible world the invisible mystery hidden in God from time immemorial. This is the mystery of truth and love, the mystery of divine life, in which man really participates.” (General Audience of Pope St. John Paul II, Wednesday, Feb. 20, 1980)

Think of a good marriage – your own or someone else's – and notice

what must be part of it: two free persons, two complementary human beings, a man and a woman who are mature enough and ready to choose the other for his or her own sake.

God is infinitely free. We are limited. God chooses to limit Himself by choosing us as a “worthy wife.” He entrusts His heart to us. He gives us a living relationship in Jesus Christ, through the power of the Holy Spirit.

In the Rite of Ordination, the bishop asks a question about the candidate

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| ABEL | CREATION | IMAGE OF GOD |
| ADAM | EDEN | NOAH |
| ARK | EVE | RAINBOW |
| CAIN | FLOOD | SERPENT |
| COVENANT | GOOD AND EVIL | TOWER OF BABEL |

SCRIPTURE, continued from Page 20

for ordination: “Do you judge him to be worthy?”

None of us is worthy in the sense of having earned it or deserving it. Following that understanding, all the priest who is asked that question could honestly say would be “No! And neither am I! And neither are you!” That would be like a wedding interrupted by an objection.

Instead, we must understand the meaning of the words as they are in Latin: “*Dignus*,” translated simply as “worthy,” means “capable of standing under the weight of it.” Those who are married know what that means in relationship to your spouse.

When we receive the gift of relationship, it must grow for the relationship to remain alive. The depth of the trust God places in us is meant to lead us to a deeper awareness of who God is.

God wants us to share in the joy that is relationship. The world is very confused about the nature of relationship. What passes for relationship is often unfortunately little more than mutual selfishness

shared for a time. God calls us to put into practice the wisdom He gives us, through prayer, through experience, through the sacramental life.

Those who are married must live for one another and for those who rely on them. Single persons, who are single “by choice or by providence,” must come to understand that their lives have a purpose that points beyond themselves as well. Those called to celibacy, whether in religious life or through the Church’s discipline, point to the transcendence of the kingdom of God over the things of this world.

Our lives are meaningful only when we are in touch with what God has entrusted to us. Burying God’s gift, refusal to make use of the treasure that God shares with us, leads to isolation, “into the darkness outside, where there will be wailing and grinding of teeth.” Being God’s “worthy wife,” on the other hand, living in accord with His plan, leads to a life of joy that lasts forever. We are called to share in the Master’s joy.

Girl Scouts build, stock little library

Members of Girl Scout Troop 6378 at Reynoldsburg St. Pius X Church have built and stocked a Little Free Library for the community and placed it in Huber Park, near the city’s senior center and new community recreation center.

Little Free Libraries represent the world’s largest book-sharing organization, with more than 100,000 of them around the world. Anyone can start one by building a box and filling it with books to be shared. People using the libraries are encouraged to take books and replace them with other books of all types.

Troop leader Hilary Staten said the 13 girls in the troop decided in late 2019 that they wanted to create a service project to benefit the entire community. They decided on a library because they had seen similar projects elsewhere and knew it was something people of all ages could share. The city Parks and Recreation Department helped them decide on a location.

The arrival of the coronavirus pandemic delayed the project for several months, but it was completed in September and dedicated on Oct. 8 in a ceremony with Mayor Joe Begeny, St. Pius X assistant principal Lisa Ruth and Donna Bauman, city parks and recreation director, in attendance.

The library was filled with more than 50 books, each stamped by the troop.



Troop 6378 members, all in third grade, are Olivia Staten, Corinne Wilson, Megan Silva, Crisalynn Sinicropi, Elizabeth Tetreault, Lauren Gourley, Maggie Mertz, Victoria McDowell, Eva Robinson, Zoey Mellin, Kylie Byers, Faith Hall and Kayden England. Leaders are Hilary Staten, Heather Wilson and Melissa Silva.

Staten said the box is brightly decorated with a landscape that includes the Girl Scout logo, the names of all the troop members, handprints and flowers.

The girls stocked it with books obtained through individual donations and from sales at the Reynoldsburg branch of the Columbus Metropolitan Library. They have a stockpile of books and periodicals available for restocking and make regular visits to place new items in the library. In addition, several people are following the “take a book, leave a book” policy.

More information about the Little Free Library organization may be found at <https://littlefreelibrary.org>.

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PRAY FOR OUR DEAD

BURKHART, Catherine (Nash), 68, Oct. 23
St. Nicholas Church, Zanesville

CLARK, Margie M. (Bowers), 99, Oct. 23
St. Mary Church, Lancaster

DAYTON, David L., 86, Oct. 16
Church of the Resurrection, New Albany

ENGLISH, Antoinette "Netta" (Oddi), 89, Oct. 26
St. Joseph Church, Dover

FOX, Anna M. (Gaglio), 85, Oct. 15
St. Anthony Church, Columbus

HICKMAN, Valerie L., 20, Oct. 18
St. Nicholas Church, Zanesville

HOBBS, Geraldine R. "Jerry," Oct. 19
St. Brigid of Kildare Church, Dublin

ISSENMANN, David, Oct. 10
St. Patrick Church, Columbus

ISSENMANN, Mary P., Oct. 6
St. Patrick Church, Columbus

KUKOR, Dr. George A., 90, Oct. 25
St. John Neumann Church, Columbus

LOCKWOOD, Jane (Sturm), 90, of Hilliard, Oct. 25
St. Charles Borromeo Church, Parma

LOVE, Nancy L. (Hammond), 88, Oct. 18
Church of the Resurrection, New Albany

MARTIN, David D., 58, Oct. 25
St. Andrew Church, Columbus

MORABETO, Janice R., 61, Oct. 22
St. Mary Church, Delaware

PAUL, Margaret A. (Soller), 93, Oct. 26
St. Nicholas Church, Zanesville

PAUL, Richard W., 92, Oct. 14
St. Nicholas Church, Zanesville

RIES, Lenora, 96, Oct. 16
St. Agnes Church, Columbus

RYAN, Nancy J. (Gregor), 82, Oct. 14
St. Brendan Church, Hilliard

SAUTER, Connie L. (Davis), 76, Oct. 17
St. Paul Church, Westerville

SHONK, Bernard L. "Buddy," 88, Oct. 28
St. Mark Church, Lancaster

STEWART, Earl J., 89, Oct. 16
Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, Grove City

TETAK, Myra (Crom), 83, Oct. 15
St. Nicholas Church, Zanesville

WOLLENBERG, Joyce (Brunney), 87, Oct. 20
St. Rose Church, New Lexington

Charles H. Wooten Jr.

A funeral service for Charles H. "Chuck" Wooten Jr., 66, who died Tuesday, Oct. 13, took place Thursday, Oct. 22 at Glen Rest Memorial Estate, Reynoldsburg.

He was a high school coach for more than 40 years, including nearly a quarter-century as offensive and defensive line coach at Columbus Bishop Hartley High School under head football coaches Dick Geyer and Brad Burchfield from 1994 to 2016 and again in 2019 and this year. He was a 1972 graduate of Columbus Linden-McKinley High School, where he began his coaching career in 1977. He was head basketball coach there for three years and an assistant

coach in basketball, football and baseball.

He was employed as a circulation manager at *The Columbus Dispatch* from 1976 to 1983 and *USA Today* from 1994 to 2013.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Charles and Donna Wooten; and wife Elizabeth Morton-Wooten. Survivors include sons, Randy (April) and Douglas; and five grandchildren.



Eight seminarians in the Pontifical College Josephinum theology school, including five from the Diocese of Columbus, publicly expressed on Sunday, Nov. 1 their intention to complete preparation for ordination to the priesthood.

Photo courtesy Pontifical College Josephinum

Groups welcome teens, adults discerning religious vocations

Father William Hahn, diocesan vocations director, invites young men to take part in the Melchizedek Project, a spiritual discernment group designed to help high school- and college-age young men to consider a vocation to the priesthood.

Four groups have been or are being formed to take part in the program, which is based on the book *To Save a Thousand Souls* by Father Brett Brannen, who became head of the spiritual formation program at the Pontifical College Josephinum at the beginning of the current academic year.

A group led by Father Ty Tomson, pastor of Lancaster St. Bernadette Church, was formed in September and meets on the first Thursday of the month in the Mary Good Center of the church, 1343 Wheeling Road, after the 6 p.m. Mass until 8 p.m. More information is available by calling (740) 654-1893 or sending an email to fathertomson@me.com.

Father Dan Dury, pastor of Columbus St. Catharine Church, and Father Hahn lead a group that meets from 6 to 7 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month at the church, 500 S. Gould Road, followed by an opportunity at 7 to join in the parish's Holy Hour and

confessions. This group is aimed mainly at high-school students.

Men of college age and older are invited to a group led by Father Hahn on the first Wednesday of each month in the undercroft of Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral, 212 E. Broad St. The meetings are from noon to 1 p.m., followed by a time of prayer in the cathedral for those who can stay. Its first meeting was Nov. 4.

Beginning Thursday, Nov. 5, Father Frank Brown is leading a group mainly for young men age 16 to the mid-20s at Hilliard St. Brendan Church, 4475 Dublin Road. The meeting time is 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

In addition, a vocations discernment program for young women known as AVOW is meeting on the first Thursday of the month, beginning Nov. 5, at St. Brendan Church from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. It is based on the book *Discerning Religious Life* by Sister Clare Matthiass, CFR. It will be led by members of the Dominican Sisters, Immaculate Conception Province, but will not be limited to that congregation's discernment process.

See **VOCATIONS**, Page 23

In the marriage case styled JANINE MICHEL NOLDER and CLIFFORD RAY TAYLOR, the Tribunal of the Diocese of Columbus, Ohio is currently unaware of the present address of CLIFFORD RAY TAYLOR. The Tribunal herewith informs him of the case and invites him to contact REVEREND MONSIGNOR JOHN JOHNSON, JCD, Presiding and sole Judge, no later than - 23 NOVEMBER 2020, or call phone 241-2500 Extension 3. Anyone who knows of the whereabouts of CLIFFORD RAY TAYLOR, is herewith asked to make this Citation known to him or to inform the Tribunal of his current address.

Given this 23 OCTOBER 2020;

REVEREND MONSIGNOR JOHN JOHNSON, JCD
Presiding Judge

Sue Ulmer
Notary

Look the part at church to merit a second look

By Judy Lorms

Did you ever start to read a book and realize you hadn't known the information? At my age, that came as a shock because I was reading the writings of the popes. I am a cradle Catholic who tries to stay current with developments, but I was surprised by what I read.

It is known to some that Pope Pius XII said, "The greatest sin of our modern generation is that it has lost all sense of sin." He also said, "Many women give in to the tyranny of fashion be it even immodest, in such a way as to appear not even suspect that it is unbecoming. They have lost the very concept of danger: they have lost the instinct of modesty." This was spoken 75-plus years ago!

I began to think about how I dress for church. Most days, it's determined by the weather. Capris when it's hot, slacks when it's cold.

After I read the words of Pius XII, I thought that I should dress more appropriately for church, but my wardrobe is mostly limited to slacks.

VOCATIONS, continued from Page 22

All five gatherings include a meal. Participants will receive free copies of the books on which they are based. More information on the Columbus and Hilliard meetings is available from Father Hahn at (614) 221-5565 or whahn@columbuscatholic.org.

Father Hahn said the ideal size for such groups is eight to 10 people and that seven or eight have come to initial meetings in Lancaster and at St. Catharine Church. The Melchizedek Project goes through Father Brannen's book chapter by chapter and is designed to take about two years to complete, but participants may join at any time.

Father Brannen has been a priest of the Diocese of Savannah, Georgia, for 29 years and was its vocations director for 10 years. He wrote the book in 2010, and a revised version has been

LOCAL NEWS, continued from Page 2

will follow.

The meeting will be conducted under COVID-19 rules set by the Diocese of Columbus and St. John the Baptist Church. Masks will be required and safe distancing will be strictly maintained. No one will be admitted without a mask. No food or beverages will be provided.

Father Hayes is an itinerant preacher assigned to St. Patrick Priory.

Nursing college earns award

Quality Matters (QM) presented its

READERS' REFLECTIONS

I recalled that, as a child, I had read a book on Fatima in which Our Lady, when she appeared in 1917, spoke of the coming style of dress and that it was not pleasing to God: "Certain fashions are being introduced that offend Our Lord very much." Our Lady of Garabandal also warned the young female visionaries that their skirts should fall below the knee.

Further research showed that St. Padre Pio, the stigmatic priest, refused to absolve any woman who did not wear her skirt at least eight inches below the knee. He also insisted that women not wear slacks. The magisterium issued statements on modesty in 1930, 1954 and 1957 but since then has kept silent.

While searching the web to determine proper dress for Holy Mass, I found that we should always wear a top with sleeves, plus long pants for men, knee-length dresses or skirts for women. Shorts are not proper attire, nor is any top that shows flesh above

issued. In recent years, he has been vice rector of Mount St. Mary's Seminary in Emmitsburg, Maryland, and a pastor in Georgia. He has given more than 100 parish missions and retreats to seminarians, priests and religious orders.

The Melchizedek Project is funded by The Foundation for Priestly Vocations and the Our Sunday Visitor Institute.

Father Hahn succeeded Father Paul Noble as diocesan vocations director three months ago and said he is "impressed by the quality of the young men of high-school and college age discerning whether they are being called to the priesthood." He said 20 young men are currently in various stages of the formation process that leads to ordination as a diocesan priest.

2020 "Making a Difference for Students - Outstanding Impact by a Higher Education Organization" award to Mount Carmel College of Nursing (MCCN) virtually during the QM annual conference.

"Adapting our learning environment to continue meeting our students' needs for an exceptional college experience has been challenging in the current health crisis," said Dr. Kathleen Williamson, MCCN president and academic dean. "Our faculty and staff have embraced this as an opportunity to reimagine and advance

the waist. (www.Catholicsstrivingforholiness.org)

So I said a prayer to Our Lady: "If you really want me to wear proper attire such as a skirt, please help me find some." At the time, I owned two skirts, and they were kilts!

Then one day, a friend invited me for lunch and a little shopping. While strolling down Main Street, we saw an interesting resale shop and stepped in. Surprisingly, I found five nice skirts in my size. And, they were just \$5 apiece. I bought all five, enough for daily Mass. Since then, after friends learn I like skirts, I have been gifted with many nice ones.

While visiting a parish outside of our diocese, I picked up that week's bulletin. It had an article titled "Be Sure To Look The Part." It read, "I used to coach my oldest son in soccer when he was younger. As he grew older, he would go to tryouts for select and high school teams. I was no longer the coach, but I always shared with him one piece of advice before any tryout. Be sure to look the part! I told him that

EDITOR, continued from Page 5

football fan, he traveled for many years to Ohio State's Big Ten road games in a friend's small plane except to Wisconsin, Mary said, because he refused to fly across the waters of Lake Michigan. Bob's younger brother, Dick, was a longtime sports columnist for The Dispatch.

Bob's youngest son, Marty, an architect in California, played high school football at Columbus St. Francis DeSales High School with Luke Fickell, who went on to star at Ohio State and is currently the head football coach at the University of Cincinnati.

In an interview when Fickell was an assistant coach at Ohio State, he recalled playing driveway basketball at the Fenlons' house when he was a kid and joked that he never knew the bas-

ket was 10 feet high until he started high school.

Bob took up running after he retired and then started walking when back problems began to slow him down. It frustrated him in later years when he had to start using a cane.

if he showed up looking like a soccer player, there was an increased chance of him being seen as a soccer player. If he showed up looking like a kid that plays soccer in video games as opposed to the real thing, he might not be taken seriously. As he grew older, that same advice was then applied to getting a job. It is advice I have heeded myself all my life. You might even say it is like another common phrase, "Fake it till you make it."

As disciples of Jesus Christ, we don't want to fake it, but we need to look the part. The world looks at those of us who claim to be Christians to see if there is anything to this way of life. If they see us looking and acting like people transformed by Jesus Christ, they might take Christianity seriously. If they look at us and see nothing different, they might conclude there is nothing different about Jesus Christ. He becomes another religious figure of history.

Can the world see the power of Christ in you? How will you look the part?

Fenlon and wife Stephanie, who died in 2013, were able to go to the Holy Land and Rome during their retirement years in addition to visits to Ireland to see relatives.

Those trips should be considered rewards for a lifetime of faithfulness to Christ and His Church. Thank God for men of service like Bob Fenlon. May he inspire men and women of our era and future generations to give to the Church and not count the cost.

QM is a global organization leading quality assurance in online and innovative digital teaching and learning environments. Each year, it recognizes individuals and groups that focus on student success through following QM's standards.

Williamson said the team's commitment to online program quality and to non-traditional students, who attend the program while balancing many personal and professional responsibilities, earned this award.

in nursing in as few as 12 months.

QM is a global organization leading quality assurance in online and innovative digital teaching and learning environments. Each year, it recognizes individuals and groups that focus on student success through following QM's standards.

Father Jan Sullivan's funeral homily for Msgr. Robert L. Noon

"During his time as scholar-in-residence at the North American College, Henri Nouwen gave four public lectures to priests, sisters and seminarians on the topics that he felt were especially important to the Christian spiritual life and essential to the vocation of priests and religious: solitude, celibacy, prayer and contemplation.

"The four lectures were very well received.

"Returning to the United States, these presentations were collected and published in the well-known book *Clowning in Rome*.

"In the introduction to his book, Nouwen writes that his reflections have their origin in daily walks through the cobblestoned stradas and vias of the Eternal City, where the marble 'characters' of Rome's history, sculpted by legendary artists, are scattered – statues of apostles and popes, saints, noble men and women. He describes these sculptures – 'some playful, others fierce, some beautiful, others ugly.'

"What I recalled when rereading Nouwen's introduction was that Henri's passeggiato companion each day on those cobblestoned stradas and vias was Bob Noon, who was pastor-in-residence at the same time Nouwen was scholar-in-residence at the NAC. Then it clicked for me

"As they walked each day, they most certainly discussed the 'characters' they encountered – the monumental sculptures of artistic inspiration, the abundance of native and foreign prelates, the tourists and pilgrims making their uncertain way through those same streets alongside the Romans, who were living the everyday life on the periphery of it all, going about their daily tasks filled with the vitality and exuberance that is the particular charism of Italians.

"As I reread Nouwen's reflections on solitude, celibacy, prayer and contemplation, I began to realize that Bob was in that collection. His presence is palpable in those reflections. He journeyed with Nouwen over the cobblestones of Rome for their daily walk together and, knowing that, you can detect Bob's presence in Nouwen's written insights.

"Imagine their musings and shared insights about the life and ministry of priesthood, sprinkled throughout with Bob's characteristically joyful and distinctive laughter.

"Listen to this, a passage from *Clowning in Rome*: 'Deep and mature friendship does not mean that we keep looking each other in the eyes, constantly impressed or enraptured by each other's beauty, talents and gifts,

but it does mean that together, we look at the One who calls us to a life of service.'

"This is Bob, isn't it? Through his friendship and concern, his mentoring witness and his prayer, always directing our gaze toward the Lord Jesus and the life of service he has called us to.

"The reading from Isaiah this morning is not typical at funerals. It's not listed in the options for Old Testament readings for the funeral Mass. It is always heard proclaimed on Wednesday of the first week of Advent and on the 28th Sunday of Ordinary Time in Year A. We heard it just a week and a half ago in relation to St. Matthew's account of the Lord's parable of the kingdom of God being likened to a king who gave a wedding feast for his son.

"But Bob especially chose this reading for this funeral Mass, with the explicit stipulation that verse 6 in its totality be included. Verse 6 of Isaiah chapter 25, verses 6 through 10, is this: 'On this mountain, the Lord of hosts will provide for all peoples a feast of rich food and choice wines – juicy, rich food and pure, choice wines.'

"The image of the mountain is an important one throughout the sacred Scriptures.

Consider them –

- Ararat, on which it is attributed the ark came to rest after the flood.
- Moriah, where God provided Abra-

ham a substitute sacrifice for Isaac.

- Sinai's height, where Moses receives the law of the covenant.

- Carmel, where the priests of Baal and their pagan sacrifices were obliterated.

- The Mount of the Beatitudes.

- Tabor and the manifestation of God's glory.

- Golgotha and the saving sacrifice of Christ.

- The Mount of Olives, where Our Lord's humanity and divinity ascended into heaven to be seated at the right hand of the Father forever.

"In sacred Scripture, the mountain is the place where God reveals himself.

In sacred Scripture, the mountain is the place where the Lord invites us to draw closer to him.

The mountain is the type of the new heaven and the new earth, which we hear about in the selection from the 21st chapter of the book of Revelation this morning.

"But for our concern today, and to understand why Bob wanted this particular scripture proclaimed for all of us to consider, is that it points to the fulfillment of all mountains, that mountain which is among us and around which we stand – the altar of Christ.

"It may be a bit of midrash, mixed in with a large dose of eisegesis, but if I am understanding Bob correctly, he didn't want our focus to be on him today, but on the altar of Christ.

"For it is here that he stood and directed our gaze through his sacerdotal ministry to that sacrificial banquet which fulfills all other sacrifices – that place where the regenerated people of the Covenant are transformed by the glory of heaven and rejoice in the new law of grace poured out for all peoples in the feast of juicy, rich food and pure, choice wine which is the body and blood of Christ – crucified, poured out and given for us in such abundance.

"Deep and mature friendship does not mean that we keep looking each other in the eyes, constantly impressed or enraptured by each other's beauty, talents and gifts, but it does mean that together, we look at the One who calls us to a life of service."

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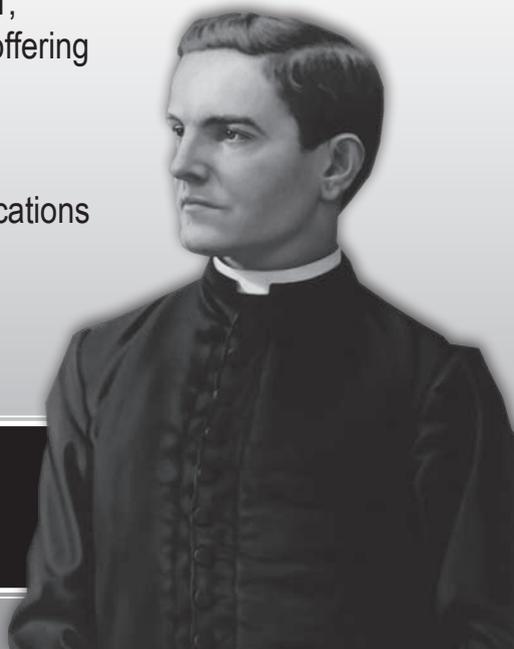
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St. John Chrysostom Byzantine Catholic Church 5858 Cleveland Ave., Columbus 43231 Annual Christmas Cookie Sale December 12, 2020 10:00am until 2:00pm

Due to Covid-19, there are some changes on how this sale will work.

This sale will be PRE-ORDER ONLY. We are offering trays of more than 6 dozen assorted cookies for \$38; nut and poppy-seed rolls for \$12; and pirohi with potato/cheese, sauerkraut, whole prune or sweet cheese fillings for \$6 per package of one dozen. We're also offering 8"x8" pans of baklava for \$19.

You may place your order through our website (preferred way) at www.byzantinecolumbus.com and go to our Cookie Sale page or by phone at 614-882-7578 and leave your order. **The deadline for placing an order is December 6, 2020.**

As in the past, rolls, pirohi, and baklava are available in limited quantities, so order fast! And due to pre-order items only, availability of additional cookies in the hall is not an option this year.

Order pick-up will be handled as a Drive-Thru. We will have parishioners throughout the parking lot directing cars, taking your name and payment (cash or check), and then delivering your order to your vehicle. In keeping with covid-19 guidelines, please wear a mask when in contact with our parishioners and our parishioners will be wearing masks as well.

ONLY Cash or Check is accepted in payment at time of pick-up.

We are looking forward to seeing you at our annual Christmas Cookie Sale and please join us in praying that this pandemic is resolved soon, and we may return to our regular cookie sale next year!

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25+ Vendors, raffles,
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Schmidt's Sausage Truck serving food
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*****MASKS ARE REQUIRED*****

Join us to start your Christmas shopping

Bishop Watterson presents My Man Godfrey

The Columbus Bishop Watterson High School Little Theater will present an online production of the comedy *My Man Godfrey* from Thursday, Nov. 5 to Saturday, Nov. 7 at 7:30 p.m.

The production was recorded live in a 1930s-style radio broadcast at Valley Dale ballroom on Monday, Oct. 19. Tickets are available at <http://bwhs.booktix.com> for \$10 per person, \$25 per family or \$50 for non-family groups. A \$40 party box includes personalized cookies, a photo of the cast and crew and Watterson Little Theater-branded spirit items.

Once a ticket link is purchased, a unique link will be delivered so the play may be viewed over the internet on a computer or mobile device at the specific date and time designated. The entire production will be available only at that date and time, with no rewind option.

Links may not be shared. If a guest



The cast of Bishop Watterson High School's *My Man Godfrey* Photo by Tara Blackstone

purchases a \$50 link, people viewing the play must be together in the same room and watch together on the same device.

My Man Godfrey is based on a novel and was made into a movie in 1936 and again in 1957. It's the story of socialite Irene Bullock, who hires Godfrey Parke, a homeless man, as a butler and falls in love with him.

The show will be directed by Liz O'Dorisio, with Sam Koehler as Godfrey and Natalie Cottrell as Irene. Other cast members in speaking roles are John Agan, Arden Noblitt, Angelo O'Dorisio, Logan Knapp, Molly Rafferty, Anthony Michalski, Emily Davidson, Cole Petrilla, Jack Summanen, Liam Ott and Christian Divierte.

St. Charles presents The Spoon River Project

The Columbus St. Charles Preparatory School drama department will present its fall production, *The Spoon River Project*, at 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday, Nov. 20 and 21 and at 2 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 22 in the Walter Student Commons, 2010 E. Broad St.

Tickets are \$10 per person, with seating limited to 150 people per performance because of safe distancing guidelines. Reservations may be placed by visiting the St. Charles website homepage at www.scprep.org.

In this play based on Edgar Lee Masters' *Spoon River Anthology* col-

lection of short poems and adapted by Tom Andolora, the deceased residents of Spoon River, Illinois, speak from their graves to examine life and the longing for what might have been. As they reflect on the dreams, secrets and regrets of their lives, they paint a gritty and honest portrait of the town as all of their pasts are illuminated.

Cast members are (from left): front, Anna Turek; second row, Alex Smith and Jake Woodruff; third row, Jane Carney and George Ferris; fourth row, Drew Curtin and Mary Cetovich; fifth row, Jake Jonesco and Fiona Sullivan.



Central Catholic League

Girls tennis All-league first team

Sara Goodlive, Caroline Goodlive, Claire Hohlefelder, Bishop Watterson; Evie Brainard, Molly Ballard, St. Francis DeSales; Gia Green, Bishop Hartley; Kayla Thomas, Bishop Ready

All-league second team

Liz Hohlefelder, Reece Borland, Bishop Watterson; Kat Jolley, Ella Dingman, St. Francis DeSales; Emily Thompson, Morgan Liden, Bishop Hartley; Jenna Ruth, Bishop Ready

Final league standings

Bishop Watterson	3-0
St. Francis DeSales	2-1
Bishop Hartley	1-2
Bishop Ready	0-3

Girls golf All-league first team

Sofia Roncone, Anna Stauffer, Bishop Watterson; Faith Corn, Amanda Pancake, Lizzy Gutman, St. Francis DeSales; Nicole Deline, Caroline Berger, Bishop Hartley; Clarissa Bakhelder, Bishop Ready

All-league second team

Katherine McGrath, Fifi Criswell, Bishop Watterson; Melinda McSweeney, Sarah Stevens, Lucy Willis, St. Francis DeSales; CeCe Muraco, Bishop Ready

Religion class goes outdoors



Second-grade students at Columbus Immaculate Conception School went outdoors during pleasant autumn weather to take a religion test. They followed with a prayer walk and finished by going to the parish grotto and praying the Hail Mary together.

Photo courtesy Immaculate Conception School

14 National Merit Semifinalists and Commended Scholars

Steeple, cross replaced at Delaware St. Mary



The top of the steeple at Delaware St. Mary Church and a cross that had hung crookedly upon it for many years have been replaced. A grant from The Catholic Foundation and individual donations from parishioners provided the funding. An inspection of the structure showed that a structural fault in the steeple caused the problem. “The crooked cross had bothered me since I first started coming to Columbus for work in 1988,” said Loren Brown, president and chief executive officer of the foundation. “I am very pleased to know the cross has been fixed and that The Catholic Foundation helped support the project.”

Photo courtesy Bruce Boylan

Our Lady of Fatima honored



Chilly weather and coronavirus restrictions couldn't keep parishioners of Columbus St. Dominic Church from their annual observance of the Feast of Our Lady of Fatima on Saturday, Oct. 10. They bundled up, planted their Fatima banner outside in the grass and spread out in lawn chairs to recite the rosary together. Pictured are (from left) Geneva Peoples, Rosa McElroy and Michael Ransom. McElroy maintains the banner and organized the gathering. About 30 people attended.

Photo courtesy St. Dominic Church

Serra Club presents vocations crucifix



The Downtown Columbus Serra Club presented a vocations crucifix, along with daily vocational prayers, to Columbus St. Timothy School in honor of Vocations Awareness Week in early November. The crucifix was rotated among classrooms to stimulate discussion about religious vocations. Pictured are (from left) Tom Murphy of the Serra Club; Father David Poliafico, St. Timothy pastor; George Mosholder, St. Timothy principal; and Mary Girard of the Serra Club.

Photo courtesy Downtown Serra Club

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Congratulations to Bishop Watterson Boys Cross Country Team & Coach McGowan

State Qualifying team 2nd time in 4 years

All Regional Honors: Will Garey, Max Latshaw

All District Honors: Will Garey, Max Latshaw, Cris Kubatko, Chole Demboski, Lucy Ragiel

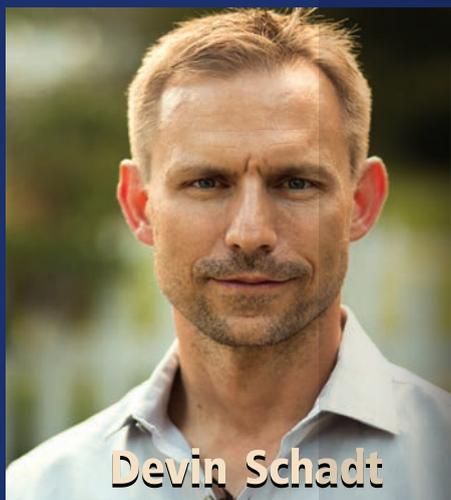


CATHOLIC MEN'S MINISTRY

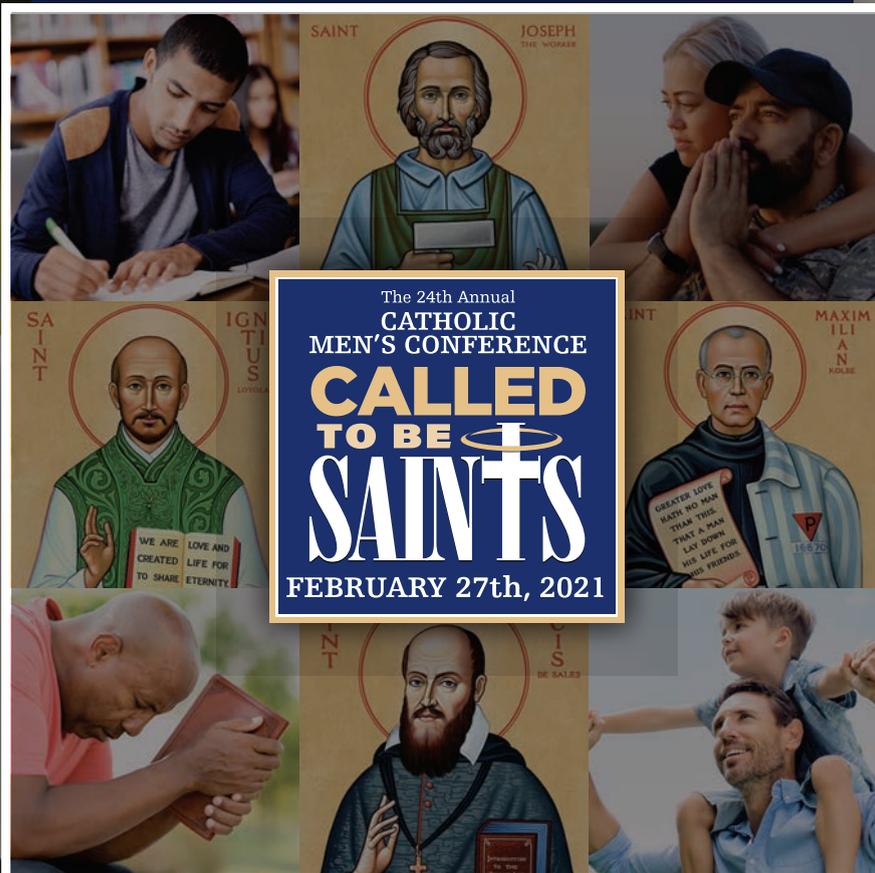
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Devin Schadt



Fr. Donald Calloway



Bishop Robert Brennan



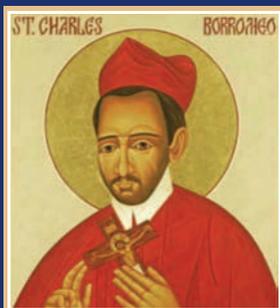
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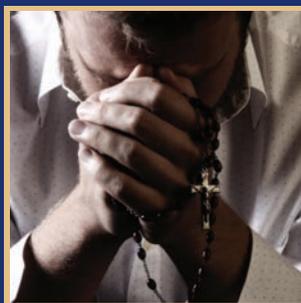
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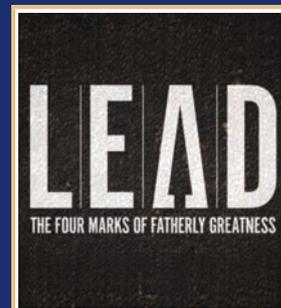
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Bishop's Mass closes events during Respect Life Month

By Doug Bean
Catholic Times Editor

As the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' annual Respect Life Month drew to a close, Bishop Robert Brennan celebrated a Mass on Sunday, Oct. 25 at Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral as the final official observance in the diocese.

The monthlong commemoration included several virtual events spread throughout October in lieu of the annual Respect Life Conference organized by the diocesan Office for Social Concerns that typically takes place on a Saturday in October. The schedule change was necessitated by the COVID-19 pandemic, which has limited in-person gatherings since March.

The virtual series began with "Raising the Next Pro-Life Generation," which featured speakers discussing how parents can converse with children on pro-life issues. It was followed by a presentation on a new diocesan-wide initiative, "Walking with Moms in Need: A Year of Service," which will equip parishes to support pregnant women and mothers and their families. "Making End of Life Decisions," the third seminar in the series, was designed to give families resources to make choices that respect and value the dignity and sacredness of human life.

In his homily at the Respect Life Mass, Bishop Brennan mentioned young people, specifically the recently beatified Carlo Acutis, an Italian Catholic schoolboy who died of leukemia at age 15; the Walking with Moms in Need program; and defense of life from conception to natural death.

"In the new millennium, we have Blessed Carlo, a teenager who teaches all the rest of us," the bishop said, noting Acutis' love for computers, video games and soccer.

"But what set him apart was a tremendous love for Jesus Christ and his ability to bring joy to others and build people up. We learn so much from our young people," he said, adding that "we recognize the human dignity of every person at

every moment of life, created in the image and likeness of God."

Bishop Brennan also referenced the 25th anniversary of Pope St. John Paul II's encyclical *Evangelium Vitae* (*The Gospel of Life*).

"It was 25 years ago that the great pope called on us to confront the darkness of the world in what he called the 'culture of death' by proclaiming joyfully the gospel of life," the bishop said. "In taking on human flesh, the pope said, the One who dwelt among us, who sacrificed His very life for our redemption, Christ reveals the profound dignity of every human person."

"This God-given dignity does not change with the stages in life, our abilities or any other area or circumstances. Again, what Jesus does is melds together one commandment – love of God and love of neighbor. It's the same thing."

The diocese's plans to commemorate the encyclical were short-circuited by the coronavirus. Bishop Brennan referred to the resulting unprecedented lockdowns of churches as a pro-life issue to "protect the life, the health and the safety of all people, particularly the most vulnerable, and to safeguard the whole community."

He also spoke about the racial unrest during the past summer, saying it's critical "to see the image of God in every human person, to commit ourselves to eradicating racism and hatred."

Although Bishop Brennan did not refer to abortion during his 13-minute homily, he called on Catholics to use their voices in the election and in politics "to witness to the truth, the dignity of the human person created in the image and likeness of God from conception to natural death and every moment in between."

The bishop applauded parishes and organizations throughout the diocese that help women with unexpected or difficult pregnancies and "hear the call of the gospels and live it in very practical ways."

For more information, or to view the talks in the Respect Life online series or the Respect Life Mass, visit www.bclclife.com.

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