

The Catholic **TIMES**

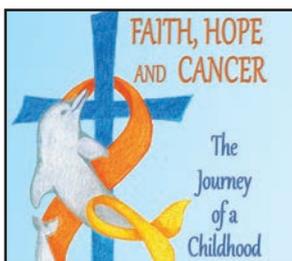
The Diocese of Columbus' News Source

September 27, 2020 • 24TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME • Volume 69:40

Inside this issue



Nurses aid schools' return:
School nurses have played a major role in helping prepare diocesan schools to be able to return to the classroom for in-person learning during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, Page 4



Author describes cancer battle:
A Worthington St. Michael School and Columbus Bishop Watterson High School graduate has authored a new book about her experiences battling leukemia during her teen years, Page 13



Business spotlight:
Joe and Patti Schermer, parishioners at Reynoldsburg St. Pius X Church, give back to their parish and the community as restaurant franchisees, Page 18



THREE MORE ORDERS OF SISTERS ARE COMING TO COLUMBUS DIOCESE

Pages 14-16

Local news and events

2021 Catholic Men's Conference switches to online-only format

Because of the coronavirus pandemic, the 2021 diocesan Catholic Men's Conference will take place online on Saturday, Feb. 27 instead of being in Kasich Hall at the state fairgrounds.

The 24th annual event will be a pre-recorded virtual conference and will last from 9 a.m. to noon, said its director, Peter Krajnak. Bishop Robert Brennan will be one of the speakers; others will be announced soon.

Many parishes will be broadcasting the conference live that morning so that men can gather for fellowship and discussion. More information will be available at www.catholicmensministry.com.

Choral singing resumes at St. Joseph Cathedral

Choral singing resumed at Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral on Sunday, Sept. 6 with the monthly presentation of the Office of Compline, the Catholic Church's evening prayer, by the cathedral's Compline choir.

Members of the cathedral choir and schola resumed singing at the cathedral's 10:30 a.m. Mass on Sunday, Sept. 13. In addition, the Gregorian schola will sing at select Saturday 5:15 p.m. Masses.

Dr. Richard Fitzgerald, music director of the cathedral, said that to ensure the safety of singers and others in attendance at liturgies, the size of the ensembles performing each week will be limited to nine singers or fewer so they may be appropriately distanced for rehearsals and performances. Masks will be worn at all times, in keeping with public safety guidelines.

"We are incredibly fortunate that the musicians of the cathedral choir and schola are able to continue supporting worship at the cathedral," Fitzgerald said. "We are grateful for their talent, diligent practice, and willingness to perform in unusual circumstances. Sacred music has carried on for centuries

thanks to the people that continue to bring it to life in churches week after week."

Information on what the choir and the schola will be singing from now until the end of January 2022 is available at www.cathedralsmusic.org.

Pandemic causes cancellation of ODU commencement

Because of the continuing COVID-19 pandemic, Ohio Dominican University has canceled its commencement ceremony that had been scheduled to take place Sunday, Oct. 4. The pandemic had forced postponement of the event from its original date of May 9.

All graduates who were invited to participate in the October ceremony will have the opportunity to return to campus to take part in the university's spring commencement, which is scheduled for Saturday, May 8, 2021, and is subject to guidelines and directives issued by state and public health officials.

ODU sponsors MBA info session

Ohio Dominican University (ODU) will host a virtual information session for its master of business administration (MBA) program at 11 a.m. Thursday, Oct. 1. To register for the free event, visit www.ohiodominican.edu/MBAinfo.

Those who attend will be able to learn about ODU's MBA program, which can be completed entirely online, on campus, or through a combination of both formats in as few as 16 months.

Students have the option of concentrating in one of six in-demand areas, including data

analytics, risk management, finance, accounting, leadership and sport management. ODU's MBA program is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Business Schools and Programs.

To learn more about earning your

Bishop Brennan at Cleveland installation



Bishop Robert Brennan joined Ohio bishops for the installation of new Diocese of Cleveland Bishop Edward Malesic on Monday, Sept. 14 at St. John the Evangelist Cathedral. Pictured are (from left) Msgr. Robert Siffrin, Diocese of Youngstown administrator and vicar general; Cleveland Auxiliary Bishop Emeritus Roger Gries; Bishop Brennan; Cincinnati Archbishop Dennis Schnurr; Bishop Malesic; Archbishop Christophe Pierre, apostolic nuncio to the United States; Toledo Bishop Daniel Thomas and Steubenville Bishop Jeffrey Monforton. Bishop Malesic, 59, a graduate of the Pontifical College Josephinum in north Columbus, previously served in the Diocese of Greensburg, Pennsylvania. He was appointed in July to replace then-Cleveland Bishop Nelson Perez, who is now the Archbishop of Philadelphia.

Photo courtesy Northeast Ohio Catholic

MBA at ODU, visit www.ohiodominican.edu/MBA or contact the university's office of graduate admission at grad@ohiodominican.edu or (614) 251-4615.

ODU to host seminar on grace

The master of arts in theology program at Ohio Dominican University (ODU) will host a free daylong seminar titled "Grace in the Age of Anxiety" on Saturday, Oct. 24. The seminar will be from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Bishop Griffin Center, 1216 Sunbury Road, Columbus, and will address topics related to faith, recent instances of social unrest, and the COVID-19 global health crisis. There also will be an option for participants to attend virtually.

The seminar will feature presentations by ODU faculty and guests; a special panel discussion; and a question-and-answer session with participants.

Topics will be "Faith, Reason and the

Gift of Doubt" with Dr. Robert Gervasi, ODU president; "The Theology of Anxiety, Fear and Depression" with Dr. Mary Filice, director of OSU's Master of Arts in theology program; "Lamentation in the Age of Anxiety" with Dr. Leo Madden, ODU associate professor of theology; "Grace Period: Resting Place and Wrestling Mat" with Andrea Pannell, development director of the Diocese of Columbus; and "Anxiety Transformed by Grace" with Sister Janice Bachman, OP, of the Dominican Sisters of Peace.

The event will be co-directed by Filice and Dr. David Belcastro, ODU adjunct professor of graduate studies. Free box lunches will be provided. Steps will be taken to help ensure the safety and health of all attendees. All participants will be required to wear face coverings and practice social distancing. The event is subject to future

See LOCAL NEWS, Page 24



Front Page photo:

MORE SISTERS ARE ARRIVING IN AREA

Members of the Sisters of Our Lady of Kilimanjaro gather at the congregation's motherhouse in Tanzania. Two sisters from the order will be living in the Columbus St. Ladislav Church convent. *Photo courtesy Sisters of Our Lady of Kilimanjaro*

Catholic TIMES

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Catholic Times (USPS 967-000) (ISSN 745-6050) is the official newspaper of the Catholic Diocese of Columbus, Ohio. It is published every other week throughout the year. Subscription rate: \$25 per year, or call and make arrangements with your parish. Postage Paid at Columbus OH 43218.

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 (subscriptions@columbuscatholic.org)

Postmaster: Send address changes to Catholic Times, 197 E. Gay St., Columbus OH 43215. Please allow two to four weeks for change of address.

Father Hahn takes over as vocations director

Father William Hahn succeeded Father Paul Noble as vocations director for the Diocese of Columbus on July 1, following a transition period that began early in the year after Bishop Robert Brennan appointed Father Hahn to the position. Father Noble continues as pastor of Sunbury St. John Neumann Church.

While Father Hahn will be taking over the role that Father Noble filled for 10 years, one major difference is that Father Hahn will be residing at the Pontifical College Josephinum, where most of the diocese's seminarians are in formation for the priesthood.

"It is definitely different from parish life," he said. "Getting used to living in an institution is a challenge, but I am enjoying the work and trying to develop relationships with the seminarians."

Father Hahn, 44, was ordained a priest of the diocese on June 26, 2004. He was associate pastor of Powell St. Joan of Arc Church for two years and has been pastor of Chillicothe St. Peter and Waverly St. Mary churches since 2006.

He grew up in Logan and earned a degree in accounting from Ohio University. He said he did not feel called to the priesthood until he attended the 1997 March for Life in Washington and "encountered the church on fire" for the first time. "It was so different than I expected it to be," he said. "This is what I had been looking for – this feeling of being alive."

After the march, he went to confession and embraced a Catholic lifestyle, surrounding himself with people doing the same. He also joined the Knights of Columbus and worked with a group

that went on missions to help people living in poverty.

Another trip to Washington resulted in another moment of significance. While visiting the nation's capital, he encountered a young woman from Malaysia and began talking about his mission work. Father Hahn said that after she asked him, "Is that what you want to do or what God wants you to do?" he began to turn his thoughts toward the priesthood.

He spent a couple of months at a monastery in South Dakota during the summer of 1998 before deciding to call his vocations director on July 1 of that year. After that call, he began the process of entering the seminary. He remembers watching July 4 fireworks across the sky of the Midwest as he drove home.

Father Hahn said he is blessed with a very supportive family. A momentous step in his discernment process occurred when his brother returned to the Catholic Church after a dark period in his life. Father Hahn said that while discerning whether he was being called to the priesthood, he asked God for two things: to have the courage to tell people he was thinking about becoming a priest, and for his brother to come back to the faith. When he prayed, he said, "I felt the Lord tell me that he heard my prayers."

Asked to describe the biggest challenge of his new role, Father Hahn said, "Every call is so unique. Where do you go to find people discerning vocations?" The answer is, "Anywhere necessary."

Renamed St. Leo Oratory will reopen on Oct. 2

St. Leo Church on Columbus' south side will be renamed St. Leo the Great Oratory and placed under the direction of the Institute of Christ the King Sovereign Priest. The 97-year-old church at 221 Hanford St. will serve as the new home for the Columbus Latin Mass community.

Canon David Silvey, who will serve the community, joined by other priests of the institute, will celebrate the first High Mass in the church under its new name at 6:30 p.m. Friday, Oct. 2, with Bishop Robert Brennan delivering the homily and presiding at Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament after Mass.

Since it is the First Friday of the month, special veneration will be given to the Sacred Heart of Jesus at the Mass and Benediction. The Institute of Christ the King is dedicated to the reign of the Sacred Heart, October is a time of prayerful reflection on the rosary, and Catholics throughout the diocese are invited to seek the intercession of Our Lady of the Rosary for the oratory and its priests and parishioners.

Canons of the institute will celebrate Mass in its 1962 Extraordinary Form, also known as the Tridentine Mass or Latin Mass. The institute was founded in 1990 in the African nation of Gabon and is based in Florence, Italy. Columbus will be its first Ohio location. It serves 18 dioceses in 13 states and has about 80 priests and 90 seminarians in 12 nations.

St. Leo Church has not been a parish church since July 1, 1999, but has been well-maintained through the efforts of the St. Leo Preservation Society and is a frequent site for weddings and funerals.



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'Heroic' school nurses ensure schools could reopen

By Tim Puet
Catholic Times Reporter

Because of the coronavirus pandemic, the 2019-20 and 2020-21 academic years have been without precedent in the 190 years since the first Catholic educational institutions were established in the territory covered by the Diocese of Columbus.

School nurses joined teachers and administrators in playing vital roles that enabled students to complete the last 2 ½ months of the past school year at home and assured parents and students that school buildings would be ready for the adjustments required by health protocols this year.

"Our school nurses have been nothing short of heroic during the last six months," said diocesan school Superintendent Adam Dufault. "We have been able to return to school safely because of the valuable and tireless work of our nurses. They have helped us to understand medical guidance, to design safe settings for teachers and students and to monitor the health and safety of everyone in our buildings. Our diocese is truly blessed by the service of our school nurses, and we are all deeply grateful."

Students throughout Ohio had to leave classes abruptly in mid-March when state officials ordered all school buildings to be closed because of COVID-19. The schools remained closed for the rest of the academic year, with students taking the rest of their 2019-20 classes online.

"We sensed something might be happening," said Andrea Ross, nurse at Cristo Rey Columbus High School. "A



Nurse Michele Faehnle conducts a vision screening for a Columbus St. Andrew School student. Nurses played a significant role in helping schools prepare for the changes required for the 2020-21 year because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Photo courtesy Michele Faehnle

few days ahead of the state announcement, the school sent a survey home to all students to find out who would need internet access if we had to switch to distance learning. That information was important because our students come from economically disadvantaged families, some of whom do not have homes with Wi-Fi capability.

"The survey gave us just enough time to prepare a digital learning plan that set up Wi-Fi hotspots and enabled everyone who needed internet access to find a way to obtain it. We learned about 70 percent of our students had internet access at home. We felt we were as prepared as we could be but didn't anticipate being out of school for so long."

"We thought the pandemic would

be short-lived, but it became quickly clear it wouldn't be that way," said Peggy Iannarino, who has been the nurse at Dublin St. Brigid of Kildare School for 23 years. "The first thing we had to do when we realized students wouldn't be coming back to wrap up the year involved dealing with the logistics of having parents pick up their children's school supplies and the medications some of the students take.

"All desks and lockers were cleaned out, and individual packages were put together, with parents picking them up at designated times. Some items had to be returned to school, so the parents sanitized them and brought them back."

Soon after the schools were closed, the nurses joined teachers and administrators in school-specific and diocese-wide gatherings online to discuss how to deal with COVID-19. Nurses were essential participants of many of these gatherings because "as the health care experts, we provided the calming voice," said Regina Hinterschied, who has been nurse at Columbus Bishop Hartley High School since 2005 and has been a nurse for 43 years, 22 of them in schools.

"There was a lot of fear and anxiety in the early days of the pandemic, and nurses provided balance. We also hope we helped those who weren't taking the pandemic seriously to understand the science behind it," she said. This was done in part through weekly "Wellness Wednesday" videos featuring Hinterschied, other Hartley staff members and students.

The closing of schools provided one unexpected benefit for the approximately 45 nurses who serve the diocese's schools. Beginning in mid-April, they formed a 13-member committee, led by Michele Faehnle, nurse at Columbus St. Andrew School, that put together Zoom conferences to discuss common concerns such as guidelines for dealing with ill students and isolating them when necessary; tracking of student illnesses; and rules related to personal protective equipment.

Various nurses gave presentations on specific topics each week. In addition, Dr. Marian Schuda, medical director of patient services for the Ohio-Health system and secretary of the

See NURSES, Page 11

Reopened schools remain places of hope

Our Catholic schools have just completed their first month of being reopen for the 2020-2021 school year.

Schools outside of Franklin County began their "soft" start, with students returning in small groups to learn new safety and health protocols, near the end of August. Franklin County schools did so a week later. Each of our 53 schools opened with either Tier 1 status (full in-person learning with safety protocols) or Tier 2 status (a hybrid of in-person and distance learning.)

Carefully designed re-opening plans guide daily practices and protocols in each building, and those plans continue to evolve as state and local health guidelines and other mandates are updated. The culmination of months of careful planning, continued communication between schools and families and other stakeholders, and the prayers of so many have resulted in our more than 16,300 students being back in our school communities.

HAVE FAITH IN EDUCATION

Adam Dufault

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



Bishop Robert Brennan and I have been fortunate enough to safely visit some of our schools for opening day car line dropoffs, morning prayer and announcements, and other seemingly routine, but now operationally different, processes. In addition, our #PrayersUpMasksOnSchoolsOpen social media postings continue to highlight each community's return through videos and pictures, and the high school fall athletics season is in full swing with solid safety measures in place.

It is abundantly clear that students, parents and staff are incredibly happy to be back in school to worship, learn and compete safely and together.

Even though so many things in our world and in our schools have changed since building closures were mandated last spring, our schools remain places of hope. We know there will be challenges as the pandemic continues, but we are humbly confident in our plans moving forward, and in our ability to pivot as circumstances may change.

In his letter to the Romans, St. Paul tells us "Affliction produces endurance, and endurance, proven character, and proven character, hope, and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us" (Romans 5:3-5). The Catholic schools of the Diocese of Columbus endure every day with joy and continue to form students of character and conscience, all through God's grace. We ask for your continued support and prayers for the safety and well-being of everyone in our communities.

The gift of friendship

HOLY AND HEALTHY

Lori Crock

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



Over the years, I've met a lot of new friends through the strength training program I offered at my gym. I also reconnected with old friends, and it always has been a joyful journey. As you might expect, people come and go at the gym for many different reasons, such as work and family responsibilities. I am sad when people no longer can continue – mainly because we grow close as we share about life, family and work, and I won't get to see them as often or maybe not at all any more.

I was talking with a friend recently and we were sharing about how friends come and go in our lives, and how both of us now see God's hand in these changes and we have more peace with it.

In the past, I felt guilty about losing touch with friends, but now I'm realizing through prayer and reflection that if we are allowing God to lead our lives, the people we interact with, serve and grow close to in our work, at our parish, in our community, in recreation, and in all the varied activities of our lives will change and ebb and flow, and that

God's hand is in this. I more fully appreciate the beauty and mystery of how God reaches out to us and teaches us through our friends. Do we have the eyes to see and ears to hear?

St. Maximilian Kolbe said, "God sends us friends to be our firm support in the whirlpool of struggle. In the company of friends, we will find strength to attain our sublime ideal."

I trust that God sends us the people we need for the time we are in. By continuing to make new friends, reconnecting with old friends, or being conscious of friends who might not be the best in-

fluence on us, I'm thankful for God's grace at work in our friendships.

St. Thomas Aquinas said "There is nothing on earth more to be prized than true friendship."

There always will be those friends who remain steady in our lives. There will be friends who have various roles that may come and go – gym friends, church friends, family friends, work friends, neighbors. I pray to be open and vulnerable, to allow new friendships to grow deep, strong and true, and to be a good friend to others. I desire to be more gentle with myself when time and distance change friendships. I trust that God knows what is best for me and that he will direct me to the people who can help me become the best version of myself. I am thankful for the gift of friends past, present and future.

From Sirach 6:14-16: "A faithful friend is sturdy shelter; he that has found one has found a treasure. There is nothing so precious as a faithful friend, and no scales can measure his excellence."

A man for strengthening others

When the choirs of angels led Father Paul Mankowski, SJ, into the Father's House on September 3, I hope the seraphic choirmaster chose music appropriate to the occasion. Had I been asked, I would have suggested the Latin antiphon *Ecce sacerdos magnus* as arranged by Anton Bruckner. The all-stops-pulled moments in Bruckner's composition, deploying organ, brass, and full choir, would have been a perfect match for Paul Mankowski's rock-solid Catholic faith, his heroic ministry, and his robust literary and oratorical style; the *a capella* sections, softly sung, mirror the gentleness with which he healed souls. Above all, I would have suggested Bruckner's motet because Father Mankowski truly was what the antiphon celebrates: "a great priest who in his days pleased God."

We were friends for some 30 years and I can say without reservation that I have never met anyone like Paul Mankowski. He was off-the-charts brilliant, an extraordinary linguist and scholar; but he wore his learning lightly and was a tremendous wit. He rarely expressed doubts about anything; but he displayed a great sensitivity to the doubts and confusions of those who had the humility to confess that they were at sea. He could be as fierce as Jeremiah in denouncing injustice and dishonesty; but the compassion he displayed to spiritually wounded fellow-priests and laity, who sought healing through the work of grace at his hands, was just as notable a feature of his personality.

His *curriculum vitae* was singular. The son of working-class parents, he put himself through the University of Chicago working summers in a steel mill. He did advanced degrees at Oxford and Harvard, becoming the sparring partner of a future Australian prime minister, Tony Abbott, at the former, and delving deeply into the mysteries of Semitic philology – unfathomable, to most of his friends – at the latter. He taught at the Pontifical Biblical Institute in Rome and was pastor of an English-speaking parish in Amman, Jordan. Wherever he was, he lived like a true ascetic; he was also the best company imaginable at a meal or a party.

He was a writer of genius, although his published bibliography is considerably slimmer than it might have been, thanks to the years when he was silenced

THE CATHOLIC DIFFERENCE

George Weigel

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



or censored by his religious superiors. A good example of his ability to combine keen insight and droll humor is his 1992 dissection of the goings-on at the annual convention of the American Academy of Religion (available here: <https://www.firstthings.com/article/1992/03/what-i-saw-at-the-american-academy-of-religion>). More recently, Father Mankowski drew on his extensive experience as a confessor and spiritual director to pen, with his superiors' permission, a respectful but sharp critique of his fellow Jesuit James Martin's book, *Building a Bridge* (available here: <https://www.firstthings.com/article/2017/08/pontifex-minimus>). In the decades between those two pieces, and when permitted to do so, he published essays and reviews on a wide range of topics, including literature, politics, Church affairs, biblical translations and the priesthood,

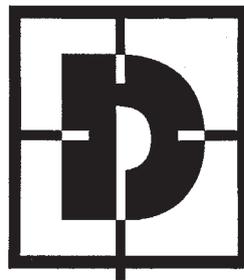
while sharing his private musings with friends in a seemingly endless series of pungent parodies, revised song lyrics and imagined news stories.

Years ago, his friend Father Richard John Neuhaus dubbed Father Mankowski one of the "Papal Bulls:" Jesuits of a certain generation notable for their intellectually sophisticated and unwavering Catholic orthodoxy, which often got them into hot water of various temperatures

(including boiling) with their Ignatian brothers and superiors. Paul Mankowski was no bull, papal or otherwise, in a china shop, though. He relished debate and was courteous in it; what he found off-putting was the unwillingness of Catholic progressives to fight their corner with a frank delineation of their position. This struck him as a form of hypocrisy. And while Father Mankowski, the good shepherd, often brought strays back to the Lord's flock, he was unsparingly candid about what he perceived as intellectual dishonesty, or what he recently deplored as "ignoble timidity" in facing clerical corruption. Paul Mankowski was not a man of the subjunctive, and he paid the price for it.

He is beyond all that now, and I like to imagine St. Ignatius of Loyola welcoming him to the Father's House with a hearty "Well done, my son." In this valley of tears, freshly moistened by those who mourn his untimely death at age 66, Father Paul V. Mankowski, SJ, will be remembered by those of us who loved him as a man and a priest who, remaining faithful to his Jesuit and sacerdotal vocations, became a tower of strength for others. This was a man of God. This was a man whose courageous manliness reflected his godliness.

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Hurricanes and wildfires – back to normal news

There still are old normals in these new normal times! Remember years and years ago when life was “normal?” Wait, that may just have been six months ago.

We can understand that change is the normal progression of growing up. As we develop, our world expands, our interests grow, our awareness of those outside our family also emerges. We develop a desire to help others – pretending to mow the grass with dad, trying to teach our little sister to read (See Dick. See Jane. Run, Spot, run.), helping mom bake cookies. As we grow older, we start to participate in the “good works” that reflect our family values in community.

I have relayed our nightly family dinner talks in previous missives. Every night we had such fun. First by sharing our day’s adventures with each other and then listening to our parents’ review of what was going on in Centerburg. Evenings then transformed into finding out what was going on in the state, country and world with the evening news. We had no problem believing Walter Cronkite or Huntley and Brinkley.

Today, I fear we should not believe most of what is being purported as unbiased news on TV and hardly anything we find on the internet. We have become too polarized and unwilling to engage in civil discourse to demand the facts. However, some facts cannot be disputed. Hurricanes and wildfires are as real now as they were then. Once again, our country is being assaulted by nature.

FAITH IN ACTION

Erin Cordle

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



The Gulf Coast has taken a beating this hurricane season with the one-two punch of tropical storm Marco and the monster Hurricane Laura. Laura was one of the strongest hurricanes to ever hit the Gulf Coast, striking as a category four with winds of up to 150 mph. As I write this article, Hurricane Sally is strengthening in the Gulf of Mexico and is expected to make landfall, threatening people living on the Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama coastlines.

During the past three years, California has witnessed its two worst fires on record. Currently, nearly 3 million acres have been destroyed in 28 different locations. As always, the immediate response needs include shelter, food, evacuation support, family reconnection, wage replacements, health care and case management. Due to COVID-19, evacuation supports requires additional resources to accommodate non-congregate housing.

The long-term recovery needs for wildfire areas vary, but basic support will include rehousing, income recovery, agricultural needs and additional preparedness support to vulnerable populations. Many of the areas with fires are critical agricultur-

al communities where laborers are often migrant workers. Support and information needs to be provided in the appropriate languages and with cultural competency.

Due to the continuing threat of fire combined with the stress of the pandemic, there will be a significant demand for mental health and counseling services.

As with most disasters, cash donations are recommended as they allow for on-the-ground agencies to direct funds to the greatest area of need, support economic recovery and ensure donation management does not detract from disaster recovery needs.

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) has requested that donations be made to the Bishops Emergency Disaster Fund to support the efforts of Catholic Charities USA and/or Catholic Relief Services, the official relief agencies of the U.S. Catholic Church.

Please pray for and donate as you can to the relief efforts for these storms and fires. Donations can be made through your parish’s second collection or sent directly to the diocesan Finance Office (197 East Gay St, Columbus, OH 43215 – with Bishops Emergency Disaster Fund (BEDF) in the memo line).

For more information, contact the diocesan Office for Social Concerns at socmailbox@columbus-catholic.org, 614-241-2540, or go to our website (<https://columbuscatholic.org/disaster-response>).

Grieving an abortion

I may not be the brightest bulb in the box, but I am in the middle of a mental exploration of Plato’s Forms. Fasten your seat belt!

Plato supposed that all things have a form that is transcendent to space and time. For instance, there are five major rivers in the United States. Each of them is different in length, depth, width, and amount of water flowing along its banks, but they all take the form of a river. Indeed, all rivers change every minute as the flowing water brings newness as it passes, but they still are rivers.

Every year on St. Patrick’s Day, my father would wear a hideous combination of green clothing that made me cringe. His pants were a different shade of green than his shirt, his sweater, his socks and his jacket. He even put green food coloring in his martini (which was a different shade of green, too!).

Odd as this may sound, (and after I threw up a little in my mouth at the sight of my dad’s disharmonious choice of clothing), I thought of the Platonic Form at those times. Because even though each piece of clothing was different, made of different fabric and embracing different textures, they were all still green, just like grass, frogs, leaves or guacamole. There is no spatial or time determination of the color green. It just is.

And so it is with Plato’s Forms. A form is constant, enduring and persistent with no interruption. It is never monotonous because the underlying form is always there, while being represented by a physical, dynamic representation.

Feelings and concepts can have a form, too.

TIM WELSH

Tim Welsh is executive director of the Bethesda Healing Ministry for postabortive women and men.



I love my wife, Jo, differently than I love Oreos, for instance. I still love them both, but in a different way. The form of love still exists.

Grieving a loss can be formatic to Plato, too, but decidedly unique to each individual experiencing the stress of grief.

When my mother passed away 30 years ago, the grief I experienced was intense. We had a nephew die of a drug overdose six years ago and the grief was nearly unbearable. Jo and I each have lost both of our parents, and my grief at the loss of her parents, even as I loved them dearly, was different from what she experienced. It was all the form of grief, nonetheless.

Grieving the loss of an infant child, whether by way of fetal demise beyond the mother’s control or by the hand of an abortionist, is especially devastating for the mother. The very genius of womanhood is her creation. It’s her capacity to shelter another person within her womb and nurture the child within her from conception to birth. Anything that ignores that womanhood or disrupts her natural inclination to be a mother is tragic.

So grieving has a form, too.

Even though the form of grief is a constant, the representation of it is dynamic. When we were dat-

ing and Jo came to me with the news that she was pregnant, her decision to have an abortion felt to me as though it came easily. Nothing could have been further from the truth. In fact, I think she began to grieve the loss of Daniel at the very moment she decided to have the abortion.

She has told me that after the procedure, she was directed into a recovery room with other women who also had just undergone an abortion. Some were crying; some were sitting there with blank stares on their faces. Jo was throwing up. And even though each of those postures were different, they were all manifestations representing grief in the beginning stages. No one in that room knew the women were grieving. Some never would realize it. The lucky ones, like Jo, understood the imbalance in her life and sought help.

With the kind support of Bethesda Healing Ministry, Jo was able to confront and fully experience the grieving process without embarrassment or apprehension. Grief has its own time and cadence. It has a rhythm that’s stubborn and insistent.

So, as infantile as my understanding of the Platonic Forms is, there is great comfort in knowing that blue is always blue, whether it’s a blue sky or faded blue jeans. It’s just the form of blue in all its representations.

And grief is grief in all its representations. With that understanding, we can find safety and consolation, and those who are grieving have a place for their tears to dry without shame.

The challenge of this special time

In a recent letter, a Trappist monk who has been my friend for decades, wrote this to me: “It is a special time to be living and praying ...” This simple phrase immediately went to my heart. It seemed true, with a depth of meaning I would lean into in the days ahead.

My friend is right. These are difficult times with crises on multiple fronts: coronavirus, political upheaval, racism laid bare, climate change, anger, fear, distrust, hatred.

He could have written that these are terrible times to be living through, dangerous and scary — also true. But he didn’t. He said they were special times to be living and praying. The power of that phrase lies in its implication of responsibility. We are living now, in the midst of national and global turmoil and a once in a century pandemic. And because we are here, we are the ones who must do something about it. Living and praying deeply.

The author of Ecclesiastes writes that all is vanity. That there is nothing new under the sun. That what is now has been before and will be again. It’s the long view of human history, and in many ways, it is true. Strife and struggle have always been part of life. Our time on the earth is short. When death comes, the world continues to turn, as impossible as that seems in the midst of fresh, anguished grief.

Yet, here we are. Living. With choices to make, in this particular time in history. Choices, big and

GRACE IN THE MOMENT

Mary Van Balen



small, that will, for good or ill, make a difference. The fate of humanity, of this earth, is not written in the stars, something predetermined that we watch come around and go away and come around again. The incarnational aspect of our faith says differently. We are not bystanders; we are partners in bringing the kingdom.

Every person makes a difference. Each one has the call, the gift, to transform the world in some way by being faithful to and sharing the bit of divinity that lives within. Every act or omission matters.

Ecclesiastes also says there is a time for everything under the heavens: to be born, to die; to plant, to harvest; to weep, to laugh. The list is long.

What is it time for, now? What do these days demand? What cries out from that biblical list? A time to heal, a time to build, a time to gather stones together. It is a time to discern what to keep and what to cast away — there is much that needs to be cast away. It is not a time to be silent. It is a time to speak. And surely it is time to love in the midst of hate.

And how will we help these things happen?

My friend’s deceptively simple words suggest

living and praying. Not in a superficial way. Living actively in the moment. Praying with our actions. But also finding strength in prayer that connects us to the presence of love within that sustains and does the heavy lifting.

To authentically live and to pray in these times is challenging. Again, some biblical wisdom:

Paul writes to the community of Corinth about eating meat that had been sacrificed to idols. In the United States, not something we deal with every day. (Though what modern “idols” do we worship that demand the sacrifice of lives and health of “essential workers” who harvest our food and process our meat?)

Paul says, “I will never eat meat again, so that I may not cause my brother to sin.” It’s not his response to a dilemma of his age that speaks to me; it’s his reason — a profound love and concern for the other and his willingness to sacrifice some part of his own comfort for them.

Again, this time to the Philippians, Paul writes of putting others first: “Do nothing out of selfishness or out of vainglory; rather humbly regard others as more important than yourselves, each looking out not only for their own interest, but also for those of others.”

And, of course, the life of Jesus, who gave everything he had, even his life, showing us what love looks like.

My friend’s words have become questions: How will I live? How will I pray in this special time?

COVID-19 vaccine myths

Several popular myths about COVID-19 vaccines have been gaining traction on social media in recent months, particularly in regard to messenger RNA (mRNA) vaccines being developed by Moderna, Sanofi, Pfizer and a handful of other companies. I would like to consider five of these myths.

Myth 1: *For vaccines that rely on injecting patients with mRNA, the possible incorporation of these genes into our genetic makeup will fundamentally alter who we are as humans, moving us into a project of transhumanism, the production of a “Human 2.0,” etc.*

Reply: Any incorporation of new genes into our chromosomes from a COVID-19 mRNA vaccine would be an exceedingly rare occurrence, if it were to occur at all. It is very difficult to get the genetic information of mRNA to integrate into our chromosomes, partly because this would mean a reverse directional flow of the so-called central dogma of molecular biology: Our DNA or chromosomes are read (“transcribed”) to produce mRNA, which is then read (“translated”) to make proteins. Even if the accidental and unintentional incorporation of an mRNA message into our chromosomes were to occur following vaccination, this would not mean that we were creating “Human 2.0,” since those genetic changes would not be expected to affect our sex cells, and therefore would not be transmitted to the next generation. Vaccinating people with an mRNA vaccine for COVID-19, therefore, does not imply that we are “remaking man” or heading down the path of transhumanism.

Myth 2: *The rapid pace of clinical trials means that vaccines will be unsafe and/or ineffective.*

Reply: This could be a legitimate concern if proper testing were to be curtailed, or approval for public vaccination campaigns were to be granted ahead of conclusive safety and efficacy testing. Such approval, however, appears highly unlikely when it comes to any of the major national regulatory agencies such

MAKING SENSE OUT OF BIOETHICS

Father Tad Pacholczyk



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

as the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, the European Medicines Agency or Australia’s Therapeutic Goods Administration (with the possible exception of regulatory agencies in China and/or Russia).

Myth 3: *Luciferase is the name of the bioluminescent enzyme contained in the vaccine, which seems connected to the “forces of evil.”*

Reply: Luciferase, an enzyme involved in firefly illumination, is being used in various testing and development stages ahead of the production of a COVID-19 vaccine, but is not itself part of the injected material included in human vaccinations. Luciferase is a commonly used biomedical research tool and has been used, for example, in lab animals to study the most effective way to deliver mRNA vaccines, whether by an injection into the skin, muscle or a vein.

Myth 4: *Vaccine manufacturers have no legal repercussions for any bad effects from their vaccines.*

Reply: Dr. John Grabenstein, retired global executive director of medical affairs for Merck Vaccines, offers the following corrective: “Manufacturers are indemnified for unforeseeable adverse events. They are not indemnified for negligence. This is standard practice.” With pharmaceutical companies getting ready to immunize hundreds of millions of people, the question of who will cover claims for damages in case of unanticipated future side effects is quite

important. Ruud Dobber, a member of the senior executive team at the pharmaceutical giant AstraZeneca, recently said, “This is a unique situation where we as a company simply cannot take the risk if in ... four years the vaccine is showing side effects. ... In the contracts we have in place, we are asking for indemnification. For most countries it is acceptable to take that risk on their shoulders because it is in their national interest.” In the U.S., for example, a 2005 law known as the Public Readiness and Emergency Preparedness (PREP) Act provides immunity from liability, apart from any willful misconduct, for products such as vaccines that are developed to address a public-health emergency.

Myth 5: *Using hydrogel nanotechnology to deliver an mRNA vaccine means there will be “big brother” monitoring and the introduction of microchips into the human body.*

Reply: No microchips are present in vaccines. Hydrogel nanotechnology refers to the “lipid nanoparticles” that encase the mRNA. This is a glorified way of saying “very small oil droplet.” Lipids are what our cell membranes are composed of, so when the mRNA vaccine is injected, the lipid of the vaccine particle merges with the lipid of the cell (like two oil droplets merging) and the piece of mRNA is delivered to the inside of the cell (“transfection”). These “lipid nanoparticles” could theoretically be misused to deliver other controversial substances into the body like microchips, but this does not mean they should not be used for valid purposes, like delivering life-saving mRNA vaccines during a pandemic.

Debunking these various myths does not mean that there aren’t still questions and concerns about proposed COVID-19 vaccines. But we shouldn’t argue against vaccines in ways that make neither ethical nor scientific sense.

Listen up, parents: Study says teens turning away from faith

It's uplifting to read positive stories, but there are occasions when you have to report news items for the edification of the public that aren't as encouraging.

The truth hurts sometimes, and such is the case with a national study released this month by the Pew Research Center. Anyone who cares about our youth maturing into good and faithful Catholics should take a close look.

The Sept. 10 report's headline, "U.S. Teens Take After Their Parents Religiously, Attend Services Together and Enjoy Family Rituals," sounds innocuous enough, but a deeper dive into the survey, particularly as it pertains to Catholics, should be cause for concern.

For the past few decades, we've seen an alarming decline in young people embracing their Catholic faith. Bishop Robert Barron, the auxiliary bishop of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles and the creator of Word on Fire Ministries, and other members of the clergy have addressed the defections from Catholic to religiously unaffiliated "nones." You might have heard this increasingly common phrase, "I'm spiritual but not religious."

Ask faith-filled college students about spiritual life on campus at public and even Catholic universities, and they'll likely tell you that many of their peers don't go to Sunday Mass or even know the Church's basic teachings. And some of these students were educated at Catholic elementary and secondary schools.

The Pew study indicated that teens are more in tune with Catholic social teaching than the Church's moral precepts, which isn't surprising when you consider the emphasis placed on environmental issues in the past five or more years. It also makes

EDITOR'S REFLECTIONS

Doug Bean



sense when you hear that teens are often quick to embrace a service project (which is great) but shy away from spending an hour in silent prayer before the Blessed Sacrament.

Here are some of the findings from the survey of 1,811 teens ages 13-17 that was conducted from March 29 to April 14:

- 27 percent of Catholic teens said religion was "very" important to them, and 46 percent considered religion "somewhat" important.
- 45 percent of Catholic teens believe in God "with absolute certainty," compared with 71 percent of Evangelical Christians.
- 40 percent of Catholic teens attend religious services weekly (64 percent for Evangelical Christians).
- 41 percent of Catholic teens think it's necessary to believe in God to be moral.
- 31 percent of Catholic teens said only one religion is true (66 percent for Evangelical Christians), 54 percent said many religions are true, and 12 percent stated there is little truth in any religion.
- 27 percent of Catholic teens pray daily (51 percent for Evangelical Christians).
- 45 percent of Catholic teens whose parents said religion is "very important" to them felt the same.
- 72 percent of Catholic teens indicated they had participated in a religious education program, but only 43 percent said they rarely or no longer attend.
- 31 percent of non-white teens and 47 percent of Hispanic teens identified as Catholic.

The results also make it clear that parents, as the

primary educators of their children, play a serious role in their teens' religious practices and faith:

- 51 percent of Catholic parents considered it "very important" to raise their child in the faith, but larger numbers (83 percent) said it was "very important" to go to college or to be financially successful (75 percent).
- 55 percent of Catholic teens said they attend religious services mainly because their parents want them to go, and 34 percent said mainly because they want to go themselves.
- 49 percent of Catholic teens attend religious services with two parents and 34 percent with one parent.
- 20 percent of Catholic teens enjoy doing "a lot" of religious activities with their families (34 percent for Evangelicals).

Pew also reported that political affiliation impacts church attendance. Teens whose parents identify with the Republican Party (70 percent) "seem to be more religiously engaged by some measures than those whose parent is a Democrat or Democratic-leaning (61 percent)."

So what do all of those statistics mean? Basically, it comes down to asking this question of parents: What do you want for you children? Ideally, the answer would be for them "to know, love and serve God, and to one day be with Him in Heaven."

In our homes and schools, strong emphasis is placed on grades and activities, awards, ACT/SAT scores and getting a scholarship to a prestigious college. Again, these are important elements during the formative years that, God willing, lead to a productive career.

See EDITOR'S REFLECTIONS, Page 9

Rest for the weary looks different for everyone

Our family was gifted with time away recently in Orange Beach, Alabama. Gifted by time, the place and each other.

It's not easy to find a place for 10, including two people with wheelchairs. Ours came with a view of an inlet bay and the gulf sand less than a mile's walk away. The home was comfortable and provided a much-needed break. Our initial goal: time away and time together. The hidden gift: learning that every family member finds rest in a different way.

As a mother, I prepared activities but also "planned" for just time. We have a diverse bunch of kids and wanted to lay the foundation for time together and time away from our norm. From therapies, doctor's appointments, hospital stays, the everyday pace of running a family of 10, we all needed a break.

God created day and night and gifted us with a Sabbath, and yet we often push through. I saw my family getting caught up in "the busy" and was delighted to see them quickly find their own ways to relax during our week away. For example, our oldest, upon entering the house, went immediately to the screened-in porch and claimed the couch as his bed. My husband could often be found in the mornings on the porch or down on the dock.

Some of the kids made sandcastles on the beach. Some looked for shells and jumped waves. Some spread out their blanket and fell asleep. Footballs were thrown, books were read and stories were told

ALL THAT WE HAVE

MaryBeth Eberhard

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



and created. As Hurricane Laura approached, we made sure we were safe and spent more time inside. We shared meals, preparing them side by side.

It's amazing to see where everyone finds rest. I sat at the dining room table and felt rest within my mother's soul. I counted minutes, breathed them in as we sat and talked and laughed. Nothing fancy was served: pasta and meat sauce, chicken and broccoli, pancakes. It was simple fare, but grateful hearts and good company transform the simple into divine. Perhaps maturity and wisdom do the same.

While the beach held an attraction for many of us, it was freedom that my kids in wheelchairs sought. They love to explore. We were blessed to stay in a home with lots of sidewalks and trails to state parks and neighborhoods as well as breathtaking views. Off on their own, it was my kids in wheelchairs who often reported back on the cool things they'd seen. It was hard for me to let them go. As a family, however, we have placed the value of living life boldly over the crippling effect of living in fear. The result continues to be children who seek out experiences and challenge the boundaries of what they can do,

finding peace, and in that peace is rest.

Rest does not have to be eight hours of sleep. We can find rest when we recognize that God is with us. Some have the ability to do that in an office, at home or at school. The interconnectedness between them and God allows for that. We share that with our beloved at times. A look that communicates a recognition that this moment we are experiencing is holy. That connection with the Holy Spirit is what we seek. It's where we find our rest.

Sometimes we need to step away to reboot. But rest can be found anywhere as we pray for eyes to see the simple made divine.

We are a Eucharistic people who experience the divine transformation of bread and wine into the Body and Blood of our savior at Mass. Therefore, seeing the simple made divine should not be new. Whenever I am struggling with one of my children, I am praying for eyes to seek the divine. When the pace of the day seems too fast, may I step outside and breathe in the rest already provided. In a world where so much is demanded of our children, may our example of seeking rest be their freedom to pursue it.

Thank you, Lord, for the gift of rest, for the gift of learning to love my family like you do. May we seek to provide each other with continued ways to rest and recharge. For in those moments of pause, we encounter you and are filled with the peace, grace and energy to go back on mission to serve you more fully.

'Gentle nudges' prompted priestly vocation

By Tim Puet
Catholic Times Reporter

Father Jeffrey Rimelspach never had a dramatic revelation that God was calling him to the priesthood. "It was more like a series of gentle nudges," he said.

Father Rimelspach, pastor of Columbus St. Margaret of Cortona Church, said he was familiar from a young age with what a priest does because one of his mother's brothers was the late Msgr. Edward Kessler. "Father Ed and mom were very close," he said.

"He spent a lot of time at our house, and I went fishing and hiking with him and got to admire him and his work. Because of him, I knew priests were normal people and never viewed them with awe. He planted the seeds of my vocation, but it took a long time for them to sprout."

Father Rimelspach, 63, grew up in Logan and is the only child of James Rimelspach, who was a Nationwide Insurance agent in Logan for 35 years, and his wife, Florence, who was secretary for his agency. "Logan doesn't have many Catholics, so I had a very ecumenical experience while growing up, and the Catholic Church always made the most sense to me," he said.

"I went to Logan St. John Church, and it had only two pastors while I was growing up – Father Charles Foy, who was there from 1946 to 1969, and Father James Geiger, who was there from 1969 to 1987 and was my CCD teacher while I attended Logan High School. He was very informed on what was going on in the Catholic Church, and his openness, his willingness to explain Catholic teachings and his love for the Church influenced me greatly," Father Rimelspach said.

"I had developed a great love for science and math, and when it came time for college, I had to choose between going to Ohio State's pharmacy school or the (Pontifical College) Josephinum. I went to the Josephinum for four years and received a bachelor's degree in philosophy in 1979, but at that point, I wasn't completely convinced the priesthood was what God wanted me to do, so I dropped out of the seminary and got a job with Nationwide as a medical claims examiner.

"I had that job for two years and had a nice apartment, a comfortable life, and things were going well. But then I got one of those little nudges from God. It seemed he was saying, 'Maybe you should think again about being a priest,'" he said. "I had stayed in contact with Father Jerry Stluka, who was diocesan vocations director at the time and who had been very supportive of me while I was at Nationwide.

"He never pushed me toward the priesthood, but those nudges from God kept getting stronger, so about 2 ½ years after I dropped out of the Josephi-

ANSWERING GOD'S CALL

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

num, I began studying theology at Mount St. Mary Seminary in Cincinnati, and things worked out well." He was ordained to the priesthood on June 22, 1985, at Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral by Bishop James Griffin, so this year is his 35th as a priest.

Father Rimelspach's first priestly assignment was at Marion St. Mary Church from mid-1985 to early 1988. During that time, he also taught at Marion Catholic High School. "One thing I remember from that first year is that one Sunday afternoon, the thought hit that I hadn't gone to Mass that day. I had celebrated two Masses, but I had to get used to that transformation from being in the congregation to being a presider," he said. "We still had a sufficient number of priests 35 years ago that I was able to start out as one of three associate pastors, in addition to a pastor, in Marion, living a communal life and having the support of some of my brother priests. That isn't able to occur today because of the great decrease in the number of priests."

Father Rimelspach was an associate pastor at Columbus St. Agatha Church from early 1988 to the middle of 1992, and then spent one year as an associate at Powell St. Joan of Arc Church. For 10 years beginning in late 1987, he also was part of a three-judge panel for some marriage cases that went before the diocesan Tribunal. Priests on the Tribunal usually have a degree in canon law, but Father Rimelspach does not. He had to obtain a document known as an "indult" from the Roman Rota, the Vatican's highest court, to be part of the Tribunal.

He was appointed pastor at Bremen St. Mary Church in 1993. "I asked for that pastorate when it came open because it's only 10 miles from Logan and being there enabled me to visit home frequently and help my parents as they got older," he said. "Dad and I did a lot of fishing, and I enjoyed that time with him, and I got to know a lot of the parishioners pretty well.

"One of the parish's great traditions is its weekly summertime square dances at Schmelzer's Grove," a 60-acre wooded property where its original church was located, Father Rimelspach said. The tradition is more than a century old, but it had to be halted this year because of COVID-19. "The grove is a great place for young people to come and, in many cases, to meet their future husband or wife," he said.

After four years at Bremen St. Mary, a parish with 160 families, Father Rimelspach became pastor of Powell St. Joan of Arc Church, which, at the time, had 1,800 families and still is growing. "We had 3,350 families when I left in 2009, and there would have been more if not for the recession during that

time," he said. "Now the number is up to about 4,200.

"Going directly from one of the diocese's smallest parishes to one of the largest was a huge change, but Bishop Griffin was confident I could handle it," he said. "The church building was sufficient, but we didn't have enough space for Parish School of Religion classes, so my first goal in terms of facilities was doubling the number of PSR rooms and building a social hall. We built 10 classrooms and the hall and were able to pay off the remaining debt for the church.

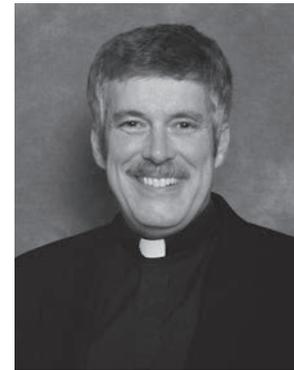
"By 2005, we had to expand again and added 300 seats to the church, plus six classrooms and office space. We also considered the possibility of a parish school, but a Delaware County ordinance said 20 acres were needed for a school, and we had 19. Our only possibility to expand was to purchase an 11-acre farm on the north end of the parish property. It took 10 years to persuade the farmer to sell the land, but he eventually did, and now the parish has 30 acres to work with," Father Rimelspach said.

After 12 years at a constantly growing parish, Father Rimelspach was assigned to his current position at St. Margaret of Cortona in 2009. "I was happy to move to a smaller parish where it was easier to get to know people," he said. "St. Margaret's has been a very stable parish for years, with the number of families never going below 620 or above 670.

"One of the most enjoyable things about this parish is the customs that go back to its Italian roots, like the annual parish festival and the procession with statues that goes about three-quarters of a mile through the San Margherita neighborhood to the intersection of Trabue Road and McKinley Avenue. It's a very communal, prayerful event.

"What always attracted me to the priesthood, and still does, is the variety of what priests do," Father Rimelspach said. "No two days are ever the same, even after 35-plus years. I'm always curious to see what the day is going to be like, and that keeps things interesting.

"If a young man told me he was thinking about being a priest and asked me if he should consider entering the seminary, I would tell him that I and most priests are happy in what we do and that it gives us a sense of great joy. I would hope such a young man was involved with parish activities, and I would remind him that 'God doesn't shove us into the priesthood. He nudges us. Be open to that nudge.'"



Father Jeffrey Rimelspach

EDITOR'S REFLECTIONS, continued from Page 8

But what about a young person's Catholic faith? What about the salvation of one's soul and striving to live a life of virtue? Shouldn't that be – without question – the mission of every parent, parish and school?

Sad to say, it might be the intention, but the execution is falling short.

Success in today's culture is measured by the status of one's job, income, material possessions, college degrees, activities and honors, and number of

followers on social media. That's not to say these things should be condemned, but they must be put in their proper place.

Is that harsh? Yes. But it's a cold, hard reality, and everyone needs to wake up to that fact.

Little Sisters of the Poor debunk the myths in religious liberty

By Sister Constance Veit

As Little Sisters of the Poor, we find our joy in sharing our lives with those whom many in our society would prefer to forget – the elderly poor.

Our mission calls us to live far from the spotlight, but in the last seven years we have found ourselves in the public square more times than we could have ever imagined or desired.

Despite three wins at the Supreme Court, an Executive Order and a new rule that protects us and other non-profit religious groups from the unconstitutional HHS contraceptive mandate, our legal saga is not yet completely over. Several states and many politicians have promised not to rest until they succeed in stealing our hard-won exemption from the HHS mandate away from us.

For many of our Sisters, this time in the public eye has been a source of anxiety and a chronic distraction from our mission of caring for the elderly. We are grateful for the many people who have reached out to support us and assure us of their prayers.

However, we have also been subjected to criticism, derision and even death threats. We'd like nothing better than to return to our mission unhindered by the fear of millions of dollars in fines. But our name still appears in the daily news cycle and much of what is said about us is inaccurate.

To clarify the confusion, I would like to respond to some of the most common questions and criticisms we face, including the following: 1) You shouldn't be involved in politics; 2) You seek to impose your religious be-



The Little Sisters of the Poor speak with the media outside the Supreme Court in March 2016 after oral arguments were heard in the *Zubik v. Burwell* case against the HHS Mandate.
Photo by Addie Mena, Catholic News Agency

liefs on people who do not share your faith; 3) You do not care about women who are prescribed hormonal contraceptives for a variety of health issues; 4) Your religious liberty claims are really nothing more than a cover for discrimination.

First. We are, and always have been, apolitical. We have been very distressed by the politicization of our case. We never wanted this fight and after our victory at the Supreme Court in 2016 we thought it was over.

We were relieved beyond measure to retreat from the limelight and return to our mission of caring for the elderly without the threat of multi-million dollar fines hanging over our heads. But then a number of states sued to take away our hard-earned exemption. Faced with the possibility of huge fines once again, we had no choice but to return to Court.

Second. We are not trying to impose anything on anyone. We feel that others have repeatedly tried to impose their values on us by insisting that we cooperate in the provision of services that are incompatible with our Catholic faith. We wish only to remain faithful to our own deeply held beliefs.

Our employees come from many different religious backgrounds and they are free to use contraceptives. These are readily available through many channels, often at no cost, without our involvement.

Third. We understand that many women are prescribed hormonal contraceptives to treat serious health issues. Catholic teaching has always allowed the use of "contraceptives" for legitimate therapeutic purposes. So our employee health plans have always covered them in this context.

Fourth. The accusations of discrim-

ination have been particularly hurtful to us. Throughout our 181-year history, we Little Sisters of the Poor have cared for needy elderly persons of every race or religion, even in a number of predominantly non-Christian countries.

We employ individuals regardless of race or religion and welcome the collaboration of people from diverse walks of life.

We believe that our willingness to care for and work with anyone is one of the truest ways to live out the religious faith that animates our ministry.

As we near the election, religious liberty matters will likely be at the forefront of political discussions. The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops has released a document entitled *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship* (<https://www.usccb.org/offices/justice-peace-human-development/forming-consciences-faithful-citizenship>). In the document, the USCCB states: "As Catholics, we are part of a community with a rich heritage that helps us consider the challenges in public life and contribute to greater justice and peace for all people."

The COVID-19 pandemic has made us all more aware of our interdependence as brothers and sisters in one human family. We pray that this heightened sense of solidarity will foster a stronger sense of civility and mutual respect so that all Americans can freely live according to their sincerely held religious beliefs.

Sister Constance Veit is the director of communications for the Little Sisters of the Poor.

The world is in desperate need of kindness

By Leandro M. Tapay

Not long ago, I read an article by Kera M. Newman titled "World Happiness Report Finds That People Are Feeling Worse." Newman is the managing editor of the *Greater Good* publications. She says that according to the 2019 World Happiness Report, negative feeling are rising around the world and the United States is particularly hard-hit. According to a Harris poll, only one-third of Americans are happy. Clinical depression is rampant.

How can this be? People are more educated. We have made advancements in medicine and technology, yet 66 percent of the population is not happy. Some people say heredity may influence 50

percent of our disposition. Even if this number is accurate, that would leave 50 percent under our control.

What is up? How can we explain why so many people are unhappy? While the answers to the question are many, varied and complex, among them must be the idea that we are using the wrong path to happiness.

The world teaches that we are happy when we acquire the best things in life, such as a large house in a nice neighborhood, designer clothes, and an expensive car. Advertising agencies capitalize on what the world teaches. But there is a big problem with the world's teaching. It fails to deliver its promises.

Jesus teaches that it is more blessed to give than to receive (Acts 20:35).

When you do this, it has a boomerang effect. We are happy when we make others happy. This is great news. We cannot control our genetics. We are not in charge of traffic or the weather. We cannot completely control who our president is. But we always can increase the smiles in our world. We can lower the anger level of our city.

You. Yes, you ... You can help people sleep better, laugh more, hum instead of grumble, walk instead of stumble. You can lighten the load and brighten the day of another human being. Do not be surprised to discover that when you make others happy, you also will become happy.

Jesus was accused of many things. But He never was described as a grump, a sourpuss or a self-centered

jerk. People did not moan or groan in His presence. They did not duck for cover when He entered the room. He called people by name. He listened to their stories. He answered their questions. He visited their sick relatives. He helped their sick friends.

Jesus fished with fishermen and ate with the little guy and spoke words of resounding affirmation. He went to weddings. He even turned water into wine to protect the groom from the embarrassment of not having enough wine to serve. He went to so many parties that He was criticized for hanging out with rowdy people and questionable crowds.

Watterson students back at school



Columbus Bishop Watterson students have returned to classrooms along with other Catholic schoolchildren throughout the diocese. Physical distancing and masks are the new norm in an attempt to provide safe environments amid the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic that forced schools to close their doors in March. *Photo courtesy Bishop Watterson*

NURSES, continued from Page 4

local guild of the Catholic Medical Association, presented an overview of the virus and its effects.

Dr. Dave Stukus of the pediatrics division at Nationwide Children's Hospital who also is a professor at the Ohio State University College of Medicine, discussed the impact of COVID-19 on children with food allergies or asthma and talked to the nurses about precautions necessary for safe eating in classrooms. To keep too many students from gathering in one place, many school lunchrooms are not being used for meals for the time being. Some of the lunchrooms have been converted to classrooms.

Trying to learn all the new procedures related to COVID-19 and to share this information with colleagues meant this was a hectic summer for school nurses, as it was for everyone in education.

"A typical week involved online meetings with all the parochial school nurses on Tuesday, with public school nurses on Wednesday and with Franklin County health officials on Thursday," said Julia Redmond, nurse at Columbus St. Agatha School. "Then I'd be watching Gov. (Mike) DeWine's televised briefings and receiving regular email advice on COVID from the city, county and state health departments and the Centers for Disease Control. It's definitely the busiest summer I've ever had."

"This summer was the first time all of the diocese's school nurses were connected and united," Faehnle said. "The diocese created an email list for us, so now all of us can connect easily, share best practices and ask questions."

"We created a wonderful support system this summer," said nurse Sally

Selmek of Delaware St. Mary School. "Getting to know other nurses increased our respect for, and our confidence in, each other and enabled us to learn our various strengths. I always knew I could call on my colleagues for help. These meetings reinforced that. We plan to continue the meetings after the current danger is past."

Some public schools, including those in Columbus and several other central Ohio districts, remain closed and are presenting distance learning, but all diocesan schools and many public school districts have resumed in-person classes.

Because of social distancing requirements related to COVID-19, the reopened schools either had to add classroom space where they could find it or adopt a hybrid learning program, with students divided into groups that would attend classes on some school days and take part in online learning on others.

Each school had its own way of dealing with distancing. Selmek said that at Delaware St. Mary, the square footage of each room was measured during the summer and divided by six, with tape being placed on the floor to show the location of desks.

At St. Brigid of Kildare, each grade was divided into three pods, with 36 square feet per student in each classroom. St. Brigid has a large campus, and every inch of available space was put to use, with two large meeting rooms being used for the upper grades.

Movement was limited, with teachers, rather than students, doing most of the moving among classrooms. The exceptions were for recess and physical education.

Watterson senior wins space academy award

Columbus Bishop Watterson High School senior Christina Rose received the Right Stuff Award at the conclusion of a week at the Advanced Space Academy in Huntsville, Alabama. The program explored college and career preparation through an immersive experience in science, technology, engineering and math. Participants trained as astronauts in low-gravity environments, simulated several missions on NASA's space shuttle, and learned about the future of space travel. The Right Stuff Award is given to the outstanding trainee who best exemplifies the courage, integrity and excellence of early space explorers and test pilots. Rose's team also earned the Commander's Cup as the highest achieving team. *Photo courtesy Bishop Watterson High School*



Several other schools began the year with a system in which students were split into groups and alternated between attending classes in the school building on one or two days of the week and attending classes online on the others.

Students throughout the diocese had the option to continue full-time online learning, but most returned to the classroom, where wearing of masks, washing of hands and leaving sufficient distance have become as important as the traditional aspects of education. Hand sanitizers are everywhere.

Nurses said closer attention is being paid to student health concerns that once might have seemed minor. Selmek said that any student with symptoms such as a cough, a sore throat or a runny nose that could be connected to COVID is now sent home.

"In the past, if a student wasn't feeling well but we could keep him or her comfortable in class, that's what we would do," Redmond said. "Now the emphasis is on sending the student out rather than keeping the student here."

This is usually a busy season for school nurses because they have to check student immunization records and perform hearing, dental or vision screenings for various grades. The COVID protocols are making it busier. Hinterschied said that at Hartley, the screenings are being delayed because no more than half of the students are in the school at any given time.

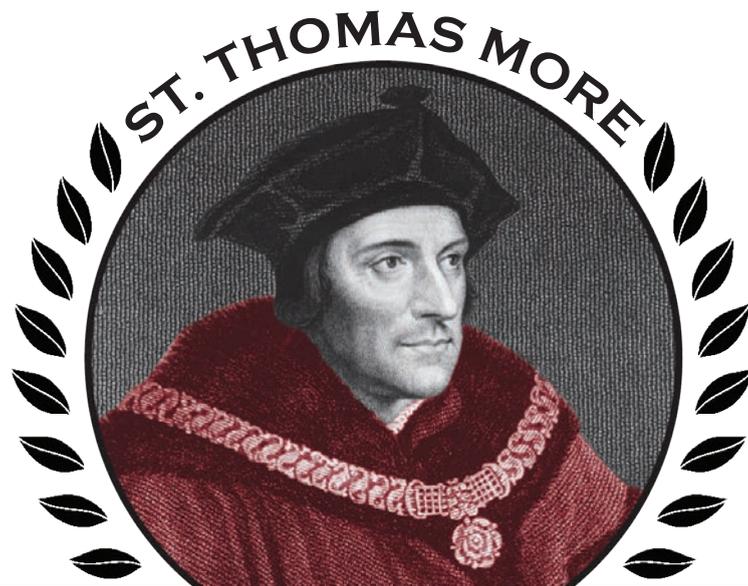
Ross said that at Cristo Rey, more attention is being paid to students' overall health as a result of the virus. "Because of their situations, their needs are more complex," she said.

"It doesn't start and end with health problems. In our reopening plans, we tried to think in terms of the whole child and about concerns such as food security and mental health issues, as well as well as the potential for illness. We had to determine whether the benefits of reopening outweighed the risks, and we decided they did. We know our kids and know that for many of them, this is the best place they can be."

Nurses said students have adjusted well to changes related to the pandemic. "They're very comfortable wearing masks, following protocols and paying attention to the signage we've put up related to COVID," Hinterschied said. "There have been some technical glitches, but overall, I'm very satisfied."

"The kids have been great," Selmek said. "Their masks are in place all day except for recess. In fact, they have to be reminded to let the masks down every once in a while. One benefit of COVID is that we now have phones in each room, so if a child has a reason to come to the nurse's office, the teacher can call me, and I can call back when I'm available. This gives the child more privacy. Until now, I'd have to call the child on the intercom, and everyone would know it."

"Parents have been good in doing health checks before school, and that's important," Iannarino said. "If they do their job, it's so much easier for us to do ours. It's been nice to see that the preparation we went through to get ready for school is working so far. Now we just have to keep everyone healthy and safe."



THE
RED
MASS

OCTOBER 7, 2020
5:30 P.M.

CELEBRANT: BISHOP ROBERT J. BRENNAN
HOMILIST: MONSIGNOR STEPHAN J. MOLONEY

SAINT JOSEPH CATHEDRAL

MASS WILL BE LIVESTREAMED AT WWW.COLUMBUSCATHOLIC.ORG
AND AVAILABLE FOR LATER VIEWING ON THE DIOCESE'S YOUTUBE CHANNEL.

Faith helped Watterson graduate beat childhood cancer

By Elizabeth Pardi

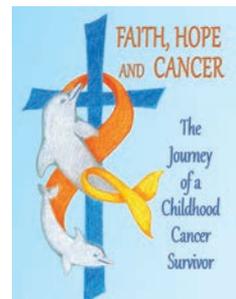
Fighting cancer is fraught with emotions and physical changes. But when it happens to a 13-year-old, it can be even more traumatic. It's with acceptance, peace and even gratitude, however, that Carolyn Koncal Breinich, now 40, recalls her adolescent experience with leukemia.

"I've always believed everything happens for a reason," she said. "Having been diagnosed with cancer was no different."

Carolyn was an eighth-grader at Worthington St. Michael School when she was diagnosed with acute lymphocytic leukemia. It was five days before her 14th birthday. Amazingly, she wasn't particularly shaken by the news. "I went straight to the acceptance stage of, 'OK, I have cancer. It's in God's hands now. Let's just pray for the doctors. Pray for the nurses. Pray for the chemo to work.'"

Carolyn was actually excited about losing her hair, which is a common side effect of chemotherapy. "I hated my hair, and I was excited to be bald," she said.

In her book, *Faith, Hope and Can-*



Carolyn Koncal Breinich, pictured as a freshman at Bishop Watterson High School (left) and in a recent photo (center), is the author of "Faith, Hope and Cancer: The Journey of a Childhood Cancer Survivor." Photos courtesy Carolyn Koncal Breinich

cer: The Journey of a Childhood Cancer Survivor, Carolyn writes that her mother, Mary Ann Koncal, believed her daughter's excitement about baldness was a grace from God making her more fit to handle leukemia. That's just one of the many examples of how the Koncals viewed Carolyn's cancer in a positive light. "From the beginning, I saw the positives in my diagnosis," Carolyn writes in her book. "(That was) because of my Catholic upbringing."

According to Mary Ann, Carolyn possessed a childlike faith throughout her treatment. "She would think of the crowning with thorns every time

she had to get her finger pricked," she said, "and that was daily."

Carolyn also managed to be one of the happiest, giggliest patients at Nationwide Children's Hospital, acquiring the nickname "Pollyanna" from the staff, as she says in her book.

Still, the journey was incredibly trying, especially for her father, Ron Koncal. "Dad was known as the fixer, and this was something that couldn't (just) be fixed," Mary Ann said.

"Things are beyond your control," Ron said. "You're totally reliant on the doctors. You're in reactive mode. It's a real life trial."

Mary Ann said her "mother bear

instinct came out" during Carolyn's treatment. "We didn't let too many people in. We were appreciative when people brought meals and did things for us, (but) everyone reacts differently."

Reactions from friends and family members varied as well, Carolyn said. "Don't be surprised if the people you expect to be by your side disappear, and the people you'd never expect ... are the ones who step up. You have to meet people where they are and not fault people for leaving."

Someone who did step up was the hospital chaplain, Father Martin Ralko. "He understood me," she writes in her book. "He brought me Communion, talked to me and laughed with me."

Carolyn finished chemotherapy treatments during April of her sophomore year at Columbus Bishop Watterson High School. She graduated in 1998, and by 1999, was considered cured. "That doesn't necessarily mean I can't relapse or have secondary cancer," she said. "I do have to get an-

See **CANCER**, Page 19

In YouTube's 'Rome Boys,' Texas friends talk Catholicism

By Elizabeth Pardi

Catholic influencers on major social media platforms increasingly are attempting to reach and evangelize an audience. Following this example by harnessing the power of YouTube, three friends in west Texas have started a channel called "Rome Boys."

"'Evangelization' is the key word," director Tony Frasco said. "Spreading the gospel of Jesus Christ and the Church's teaching. We want people to have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and to be a disciple of him and to love the Catholic faith."

Each "Rome Boys" episode consists of Frasco; his brother-in-law, Chris Martin; and their friend Joe Matthiesen seated casually around a table discussing a topic as it pertains to Catholicism. One of their more popular episodes, "Is Jesus coming BACK this year?!?", opens with Frasco reading a relevant scripture verse. In an interview, he explained, "When I was a teacher, the Bible and the catechism were the main books we used in my classroom. We try to include those in the (videos)."

What continues in the episode is a candid, honest but humorous conver-



The "Rome Boys" are (from left) Tony Frasco, Joe Matthiesen and Chris Martin.

Photo courtesy Rome Boys

sation about the reality of Christ's second coming. "It is a glorious thing," Martin said. "It's not something that we're to be afraid of. ... The message that we really want to give today is, if we're doing what we're supposed to do, we shouldn't be worried."

The length of the episodes varies, some lasting more than 45 minutes while others, such as their "Did you know?" series, are only a few minutes. The men aim to reach all ages. "We're hoping to make it good-humored enough to where kids can watch it as well," Matthiesen said.

Frasco said that the men's children, which total 18 among the three families, are their biggest fans. "They watch

the episodes and like them and share them," he said. Their children belong to the same home-school co-op, so the men see each other frequently and are close friends. "Our wives are together all the time," Martin said. "Our kids are together all the time, plus we live in a very small community, and we all go to the same church." It was while the families were gathered for dinner one evening that the idea for "Rome Boys" was born.

"We were just sitting around the dining room table saying, 'We wish we could do more (to evangelize).' We all teach RCIA, and we're very active in the church, (but) we all just wanted to do something more," Matthiesen said. "We have so many people that need (the gospel), and it's so hard in our busy lives these days to settle on a time where everybody can (meet). We thought, 'Why not do videos where (people) can watch at their leisure?'"

Matthiesen, one in a long line of Texas farmers, edits the videos. As a result, each episode contains a title sequence, captions and even occasional movie clips that comically emphasize certain statements the hosts make. "I'm the tech editor," Matthiesen said. "Tony is the director. Chris is our producer."

Each man also brings a unique perspective and his experiences to the conversation. "Tony is a theologian," Martin said. "He was in the seminary for three years, so he's got that religious (perspective)." Because Frasco currently works as a pilgrimage coordinator, he "deals with things all around the world," Martin said. "Joe's a farmer, (so) he's local in everything that he does."

For his own part, Martin is a convert to Catholicism and owns nursing homes. He said both aspects allow him to contribute a real-world outlook to "Rome Boys."

"Watching some of the videos, I feel like my natural response is always a real-world response," he said.

As for the future of "Rome Boys," Frasco said, "It's going to evolve. We need to improve. We always said that when we don't enjoy the process anymore, it's not worth it. But we love to teach and engage with people."

"We're just going to be joyful about our faith and share it and speak the truth and let God do the rest."

"Rome Boys" videos are available on YouTube. They can be followed on Facebook, on Instagram @RomeBoysTV, and on Twitter @BoysRome.

Three orders of sisters coming to Columbus

By Tim Puet
Catholic Times Reporter

Members of three orders of religious sisters have either arrived in the Diocese of Columbus this month or will be in the area soon.

All 12 members of the Dominican Nuns of the Perpetual Rosary, a cloistered congregation, have been living at the former Sts. Peter and Paul Retreat Center in Newark since earlier in September. The congregation, which had been based in Buffalo, New York since 1905, has established a temporary monastery at the site in rural Licking County while considering options for location of a permanent monastery in the diocese.

Two members of the Sister Servants of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus will be residing in the convent at Columbus Sacred Heart Church beginning Sunday, Sept. 27. They will be engaged in works of charity among those who are most vulnerable.

Three days later, on Wednesday, Sept. 30, two members of the Sisters of Our Lady of Kilimanjaro will be arriving at the Columbus St. Ladislav Church convent. They will be involved in health care and pastoral work.

In addition, the sisters of the Missionary Servants of the Word, who have convents at Columbus St. Stephen the Martyr and Christ the King churches, have just opened a formation house in the former Columbus Corpus Christi Church convent for young women considering the reli-

gious life.

Dominican Nuns of the Perpetual Rosary

The arrival of the Dominican Nuns of the Perpetual Rosary means the diocese has a monastery of cloistered nuns for the first time since 2010, when the Poor Clares of Perpetual Adoration left a monastery they had established more than 50 years earlier in Portsmouth and relocated to Charlotte, North Carolina. They merged with the Poor Clares of Our Lady of the Angels Monastery in Hanceville, Alabama and moved there in 2016.

Arrival of the Dominicans of the Perpetual Rosary in Columbus completed a process that has taken the nuns more than a decade, said Mother Mary Dominic, OP, the congregation's prioress.

"For several years, we had been discerning a call to relocate to a diocese which did not have an order of contemplative nuns within its boundaries," she said. "Our Buffalo monastery had become too large and too costly to maintain, but that in itself would not have been enough to make us go elsewhere. We were looking for a bishop and a group of people who wanted to welcome a contemplative order.

"About a year ago, we received a letter from Bishop Robert Brennan of Columbus asking if we would consider coming to his diocese. We got in touch with him and began praying about it. Around Easter of this year, we decided to come to Columbus and have been working since then with the

bishop and Father Stash Dailey (diocesan vicar for religious) to plan the relocation.

"It's a great blessing to come to Columbus and to have been welcomed with enthusiasm by the people with whom we have come in contact. We're eager to have the retreat center serve as a house of prayer and spiritual life for the diocese," said Mother Mary Dominic, a native of Scotland. She said most of the congregation's members are from the United States, with one from Switzerland and one from Canada.

The sisters do not yet have a telephone number or email address for the center but will inform people through the diocesan website and The Catholic Times once those methods of contact are set up.

The Perpetual Rosary movement within the larger Dominican order dates to the 19th century, and this particular congregation came to the United States in 1891. Its former monastery in Buffalo has been sold for use as a charter school, with the congregation's members living temporarily with the Sisters of St. Francis of Penance and Christian Charity in Stella Niagara, New York, for the past three months before coming to Newark.

Its charism is to seek God according to the norms of the purely contemplative life. The nuns maintain their withdrawal from the world by enclosure and silence, work, penance and intercessory prayer.

Sister Servants of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus

The Sister Servants of the Most Sacred Heart were founded in 1894 in Poland by St. Joseph Sebastian Pelczar and Blessed Klara Ludwika Szczesna. The Sept. 27 date they have chosen for establishment of their Columbus convent, which will be known as St. Joseph's Filial House, is the date when Blessed Klara was beatified and is the Feast of St. Vincent de Paul, patron of charities.

Members of the congregation coming to Columbus will be Sister Maria Anna Melody, SSCJ, an Akron native, and Sister Margaret Mary Hill, SSCJ, who grew up in Chicago. They are coming to Ohio from the sisters' convent in Portage, Pennsylvania.

The sisters have 23 members in the United States, mainly in the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown in Pennsylvania and also in the dioceses of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania; Grand Rapids, Michi-



The Sister Servants of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus pray in one of their chapels. Two members of the congregation will be coming to the Diocese of Columbus from Pennsylvania.



Sister Margaret Mary Hill, SSCJ



The Sister Servants of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, pictured in one of their chapels, will take up residence in the diocese at Columbus Sacred Heart Church, "living a life of prayer and reparation for the people and priests of Sacred Heart Church and the diocese," said Sister Margaret Mary Hill, SSCJ.

gan; and Buffalo. The congregation's American province also includes sisters in the Diocese of Mandeville, Jamaica. Its motherhouse is in Krakow, Poland. It has about 550 sisters worldwide, mostly in Poland, but also in France, the United Kingdom, Argentina and Bolivia, said Sister Mary Joseph Calore, SSCJ, provincial secretary.

"The Sacred Heart convent is an appropriate place for a congregation whose source of spiritual life comes from the contemplation of God's love revealed in the Sacred Heart of Jesus," she said. The external sign of the congregation's spirituality is the symbol of the Sacred Heart, which every sister wears on her scapular. The sisters greet one another with the words

SISTERS, *continued from Page 14*

“Glory be to the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus. Glory forever.”

“In Columbus, we will be living a life of prayer and reparation for the people and priests of Sacred Heart Church and the diocese,” Sister Mary Joseph said. “Our ministry will be largely a hidden ministry. People may not see us, but our presence will always be here.”

“We hope this will enable Sacred Heart Church to be open more often for individual and group prayer. Many college students live not far from the church, and we encourage them to visit. We also will be assisting with preparation and distribution of meals at the Holy Family Soup Kitchen and with the backdoor ministry of Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral.”

Sister Tobiana Sobotka, SSCJ, was personal secretary to Pope St. John Paul II. She and other sisters from the congregation served him from the time he was archbishop of Krakow. The sisters followed behind his casket at his funeral.

The congregation was founded to minister to the domestic servants who worked in the homes of the wealthy of Krakow in the late 19th century and always has identified with those on the margins of society. Its patron is St. Zita of Lucca, Italy, who was a domestic servant in the 13th century. The congregation’s website is www.sacredheartsisters.org.

Sisters of Our Lady of Kilimanjaro

The Sisters of Our Lady of Kilimanjaro take their name from Mount Kilimanjaro, the tallest peak in Africa. Their motherhouse is located in Tanzania on the slopes of the mountain. The congregation was founded in 1931 by Bishop Henry Gogarty, CSSp, a member of the Spiritan order of priests.

“The sisters’ main mission is evangelization for salvation and total liberation of humans, freeing them spiritually, intellectually and physically,” says its website, www.sistersofkili-majaro.org. Its focus is on evangelization, education and health services.

Sister Rita Mary Tibangayuka, CDNK, will be coming to Columbus to work with the Carmelite Sisters for the Aged and Infirm at the Mother Angeline McCrory Manor skilled nursing care facility and the Villas at St. Therese. She will be joined by another sister from the congregation, said Sister Rosamunda Massawe, CDNK, its national superior.

“We’re eventually hoping to bring six sisters to Columbus, but we’re



Women being trained to be sisters at the formation house of the Missionary Servants of the Word in Palmdale, California take a basketball break. The sisters have just opened a second formation house in Columbus. Photo courtesy Missionary Servants of the Word

going to start with two,” she said. “Bishop Brennan wrote an official letter to our superior general in Tanzania, Mother Theresia Burette, CDNK, inviting us to Columbus and said he would welcome six sisters – four to work in nursing homes and two for pastoral work.”

The St. Ladislav convent will be the congregation’s second convent in the United States. “It’s a miracle that we’re coming to your city,” Sister Rosamunda said from St. Catherine of Siena Church in Clearwater, Florida.

“We didn’t know about Columbus until we received an email from Father Stash, who was searching for congregations to come to the diocese. We started exchanging emails, then I wrote our superior, who said Sister Rita and I could come to Columbus and visit the bishop and the convent,” she said.

“I came with Sister Rita, and we spent two nights in the city about two months ago. We visited the bishop, the cathedral and four parishes, and I was impressed with the devotion and enthusiasm of the people we saw. Bishop Brennan sent his invitation to Mother Theresia, she approved his request, and we’ve been getting ready to come to Columbus ever since.

“Our charism is one of simplicity and readiness to do the will of God for his glory and for the salvation of humanity, according to the needs of the Church and the people wherever we are,” Sister Rosamunda said. “We are open to the will of God. We have convents in Clearwater and at St. John Vianney Church at St. Pete Beach, both in the Diocese of St. Petersburg, Florida, where we are involved with

outreach ministries to the poor and the homebound, teaching religion in Catholic schools and doing pastoral work. We anticipate doing the same things in Columbus.”

The congregation has 876 sisters in 90 communities in Tanzania, three in Kenya, two in Zambia, three in Italy and the two in Florida.

Missionary Servants of the Word

Sisters of the Missionary Servants of the Word, based in Mexico, came to Columbus in 2009 to serve St. Stephen the Martyr Church. The parish has been under the administration of priests of the Missionary Servants since their arrival in Columbus in 2013. The sisters established a second Columbus convent at Christ the King Church in 2013. Two sisters are stationed at each convent.

Sister Karla Archundia, MSP, and Sister Marilu Ayala, MSP, will be living in the new formation house at Corpus Christi Church, where two young women from the Boston area are starting the process that might lead to their becoming sisters.

The Missionary Servants require that the women first be trained as lay missionaries for eight months. During this time, they join the sisters in their ministry, mainly to the Latino population of the parishes where the sisters are stationed. Much of the sisters’ work involves going house-to-house to knock on doors and visit people, then conducting Bible classes at homes where they are welcomed. During those classes, laypersons are

trained so they can aid the sisters in their evangelization work. The congregation’s motto is “Evangelizing the laity to evangelize with the laity.”

Women being trained at the formation house must be between 18 and 30 years old and must have previously worked with the sisters in home evangelization. During their training, they also take part in a Holy Hour and the Liturgy of the Hours with the sisters daily and assist with the sisters’ programs for families, young people, married couples, the elderly, the poor and the ill at the parishes they serve.

After the eight-month program is complete, the young women determine whether they wish to continue the discernment process that eventually might conclude with their taking vows as sisters.

The formation house is the congregation’s second in this country. The other house is in Palmdale, California. The order has about 400 sisters serving in the United States, Mexico and 11 other nations in South America, Central America and Africa. Its other U.S. locations are in California, Rhode Island, New Hampshire, Illinois, New York, Massachusetts and West Virginia. Its website is www.campomision.org.mx.

Sister Karla said the Columbus house fulfills a dream of Father Luis Butera, MSP, who founded the Missionary Servants of the Word in 1984.

“Father Butera began praying and searching five or 10 years ago for a formation house for sisters in the eastern half of the country because he didn’t want women from here who were interested in discerning a vocation to our order to have to go all the way to California,” she said. “As we became more established in Ohio, the opportunity opened up to come to Corpus Christi parish, and this answered the need.”

She said the order also is making plans to open a formation house for priests at Columbus St. Agnes Church.

Other orders

The Dominican Sisters of Peace, known as the Dominican Sisters of St. Mary of the Springs until uniting with seven other Dominican congregations in 2009, have served the diocese for 190 years, since a group of Dominican sisters came to Somerset to join the pioneer Dominican priests there in 1830. The sisters moved in 1868 to Columbus, where land that now includes their motherhouse, Ohio Dominican University, the Mohun

SISTERS, *continued from Page 15*

Health Care Center and the Martin de Porres Center was donated to them after a fire destroyed their academy in Somerset.

They are the diocese's most prominent order, with 139 sisters serving in pastoral ministry, health care, evangelization and hospitality. They are the only congregation of women religious with a motherhouse and congregational headquarters in the diocese. They also have a house of welcome in Columbus for women discerning whether God is calling them to the religious life.

The Sisters of St. Francis of Penance and Christian Charity has 13 members, most of them retired, who live in the St. Leo Convent on Columbus' south side. That congregation is commonly known as the Stella Niagara Franciscans in honor of the name of its motherhouse near Niagara Falls, New York. The motherhouse recently hosted the Dominican Nuns of the Perpetual Rosary while they were awaiting their move to Newark after leaving their convent in Buffalo.

The Carmelite Sisters for the Aged and Infirm came to Columbus in 1948 to operate the former St. Raphael's and St. Rita's homes for the aged and have been in the diocese ever since. The sisters closed those facilities about 20 years ago and replaced them with the Villas at St. Therese, which include areas for assisted living and independent living.



Women being trained at the formation house of the Missionary Servants of the Word in Palmdale, California till the fields of a garden at the site. Photo courtesy Missionary Servants of the Word

The sisters also operate Mother Angeline McCrory Manor, which is adjacent to the villas. There are seven members of the order serving in the diocese.

The Franciscan Sisters of Christian Charity have served in the diocese since 1893 and have been associated with the Genesis HealthCare System in Zanesville and its predecessors since 1900. Four congregation members currently are with the system. The sisters are known as the Manitowoc Franciscans for the location of their motherhouse in Wisconsin.

Other orders with a longtime presence in the diocese include the Sisters of St. Agnes; the Sisters of the Holy Cross; the Sisters of St. Francis of



Members of the Sisters of Our Lady of Kilimanjaro. Two sisters from the order, which is based in Tanzania, will be living at the Columbus St. Ladislav convent. Photo courtesy Sisters of Our Lady of Kilimanjaro

Mary Immaculate, known as the Joliet Franciscans for the location of their motherhouse in Illinois; the Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati; the Sisters of Charity of Nazareth, Kentucky; and the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur. Each of these orders has one to three sisters living in the diocese.

The Missionary Servants of the Word were the first of several orders of sisters who have come to the diocese in the past 11 years.

They were followed in 2011 by the Dominican Sisters of Mary, Mother of the Eucharist, based in Ann Arbor, Michigan, who have four members teaching and a fifth serving as principal at Worthington St. Michael

School. Two years later, the Dominican Sisters, Immaculate Conception Province, who are based in Poland, arrived in the diocese. Three members of the congregation live in a convent on Columbus' east side and serve in various positions at Columbus St. Patrick and Gahanna St. Matthew churches and with the Holy Family Soup Kitchen in Columbus.

Sister Laboure Okoroafor, DMMM, a member of the Nigerian-based Daughters of Mary, Mother of Mercy, is a physician and has lived in Columbus since 2013. Another sister from her order is a social worker who attends classes at Walsh University in North Canton during the week and returns to Columbus on weekends.

Since 2014, three more orders have established convents in the diocese. They are the Franciscan Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, based in India, with three sisters in Chillicothe and two in Columbus; the Little Servant Sisters of the Immaculate Conception, with four members serving in the St. John Paul II Early Childhood Education Center in Columbus and at Holy Family Church and its soup kitchen; and the Order of the Most Holy Savior of St. Bridget of Sweden (the Bridgettines), with three members who have established a convent and a house of hospitality near Holy Family Church.

Culture of faith attracts sisters to diocese

By Tim Puet
Catholic Times Reporter

It's no surprise that three more orders of sisters will be serving the Diocese of Columbus by the end of the month or that several other orders have established convents in the area in recent years, says Father Stash Dailey, who as diocesan vicar for religious is the liaison between Bishop Robert Brennan and the sisters.

"The diocese has a very strong and well-known culture of fidelity to the Catholic Church. With that comes a spirit of joy and commitment to prayer, resulting in many religious vocations," Father Dailey said.

"Sisters know this, and it's one of the reasons they're happy to come here. We don't ask sisters what they can give us, and we offer them many

opportunities to take part in the faith life of the diocese. There's something special and beautiful about the faith of Catholics in central and southern Ohio."

The arrival of the Dominican Nuns of the Perpetual Rosary, the Sister Servants of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Sisters of Our Lady of Kilimanjaro will mean that the diocese is being served by about 210 sisters representing 19 orders. (More about these religious congregations can be found elsewhere in this week's Catholic Times.)

Since his installation as bishop in March 2019, Bishop Brennan has been encouraging groups of sisters to come to the diocese and see what it has to offer. He appointed Father Dailey, pastor of Columbus Holy Family Church, as vicar for religious in July 2019.

"Since my first visit to the Diocese of Columbus and

then my Installation as bishop, I have been truly excited and grateful for the strong presence of consecrated religious here in the diocese," the bishop said. "The presence of the many men and women who live the consecrated life through their vows of poverty, chastity and obedience strengthens the whole Church. In our diocese, this is wonderfully confirmed.

"The arrival of more congregations of sisters complements the good and hard work accomplished by the communities already present in the diocese. In the Church, we strive for the fullness of complementarity and unity. The variety of charisms lived out by the different communities of religious reminds us of the beauty of unity that is to be lived by the Church," the bishop said.

"I would like to draw special attention to the strong culture

of vocations. On my visits to parishes and schools and various apostolates and ministries, I am just in awe of how many times I hear about the young people who have entered religious life – young people who were raised in the faith here in the diocese.

"The number of vocations to the religious life from within the diocese is incred-

ibly high and something for which we must all be grateful and continue to pray. The Church here in the Diocese of Columbus is very much alive. One of the proofs is in the number of vocations. One can never have enough joy and gratitude over such a reality."

See **DIOCESE**, Page 19

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Teachers wear scrubs to school



Because of the extra duties related to cleaning and increased outdoor activities as a result of the coronavirus pandemic, and to provide an extra measure of safety, Columbus St. Anthony School teachers and staff members have been given the option of wearing medical scrubs to school. Pictured are (from left) Kathy McBride, Stephanie Hopson, Amy Kish, Kelly Buzenski, Claire Hoffman, Amy Moonis and Monica Landis. Scrubs are sanitary and designed to be simple, with few places for contaminants to hide. They hold up after many washes under high temperatures and are inexpensive to replace.

Photo courtesy St. Anthony School

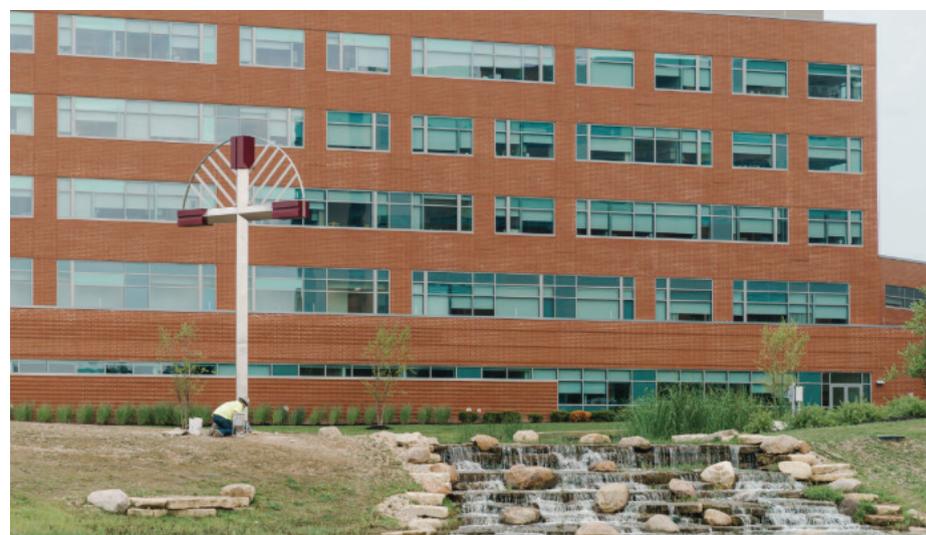
Socially distancing at lunch



Columbus St. Anthony School fifth-graders have been eating lunch outside in good weather, sitting in hula hoops to remind them to stay 6 feet from each other.

Photo courtesy St. Anthony School

Mount Carmel cross moved to Grove City



The cross that stood for 60 years as a beacon of hope atop the original Mount Carmel Hospital in Columbus' Franklinton neighborhood has a new home at Mount Carmel Grove City. The Mount Carmel Health system ended inpatient services at the Franklinton site and opened the Grove City hospital in April 2019. The system's leadership team looked at many options and discussed the situation with Bishop Robert Brennan before finding a way to remove the cross in one piece. At the new hospital, the cross is surrounded by a waterfall, ponds and landscaping.

Photo courtesy Mount Carmel Health

Waverly parish receives health supplies grant



Waverly St. Mary Church received a grant from The Catholic Foundation for several health-related items. These included 10 hand sanitizer dispensers, as well as touchless soap and towel dispensers, to be used in the church and the church hall and by Pike County Outreach, which operates the county's only food pantry and homeless shelter. The grant also allowed first aid kits at those sites to be updated. Blood pressure monitors and oxygen saturation monitors were purchased by the parish health and wellness committee, which also received replacement pads for a defibrillator. In addition, face masks were purchased for the church and the shelter. Pike County Outreach, which has served the county since 1959, has a staff of about 20 people, most of whom are St. Mary parishioners. Pictured with some of the items obtained through the grant are (from left) Elisabeth Howard, Pike County Outreach executive director; Donna Higgins, health and wellness committee chair and faith community nurse at St. Mary Church; and Jeri Lagnese, Outreach board member and St. Mary parishioner. *Photo courtesy St. Mary Church*

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Couple's restaurant gives back to parish, community

By Tim Puet
Catholic Times Reporter

Joe and Patti Schermer had what appeared to be a good life. They were successfully raising four children, had secure, well-paying jobs and were involved in church and community affairs. But something was missing. The Schermers felt their work was keeping them from spending enough time with their children, and Minnesota, where they were living, was far from Joe's family in Ohio and farther still from Patti's family in Florida.

So, as Joe put it, "We took a leap of faith." They moved to central Ohio in 2007, at the start of the worst recession in years, and opened a Reynoldsburg outlet for a Wisconsin-based casual fast-food restaurant that few people in the Columbus area had heard of. They endured some difficult times but became known for their outreach to Reynoldsburg St. Pius X Church and other community organizations and eventually built a base of steady customers.

"The restaurant keeps us from being active in more activities, but we do what we can do well," Joe said. "We make and deliver good food for a fair price and always have set aside a portion of our earnings or the food we make to help benefit worthwhile causes."

For several years, Culver's in Reynoldsburg has donated the food for St. Pius X Church's annual dinner for volunteers and has provided meals for the parish's priests and treats for classes at the parish school and latch-key program. Since the COVID pandemic began, it has offered free meals to first responders.

It also has made food donations to organizations including Scout groups, vacation Bible schools, the Upward Christian basketball program, National Night Out and Nationwide Children's Hospital and to first Communion celebrations and other individual events. In addition, the restaurant serves as a collection point for the Firefighters 4 Kids toy drive sponsored by NBC4 television in Columbus.

Until the coronavirus pandemic canceled church activities throughout the diocese, Culver's brought its food truck to the St. Pius X parish festival every year, with all proceeds from sales at the festival going to the parish. It also has hosted frequent fundraisers in which a percentage of the restaurant's sales for a particular period are donated to a school or com-

CATHOLIC BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

A monthly feature highlighting Catholic business owners and entrepreneurs working to share their faith in the marketplace.

munity group.

Since it opened in July 2007, the restaurant has given a 10 percent discount to anyone who brings in a bulletin from any church. "We've been threatened with lawsuits over this by the Freedom from Religion Foundation and others, but that never bothered us," Joe said. "We felt it was the right thing to do." The restaurant also plays Christian music over its sound system each Sunday.

Joe, whose father is retired Deacon Joseph Schermer Sr., grew up in Worthington and had a job repairing chemistry analyzers in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, when he met Patti, a medical technician. "I was breaking machines, and he was fixing them," Patti said with a smile. They married in 1989 and then lived in Charlotte, North Carolina, after Joe was transferred there.

The couple's four children – Joe III, 29; Mary Elizabeth, 27; Mary Shannon, 26; and Mary Allison, 22 – all were born in Charlotte. All have worked at the Reynoldsburg restaurant at some point. Joe and Mary Elizabeth are managers there. Mary Elizabeth also is a taekwon do teacher, Mary Shannon works for Chase Bank and Mary Allison is a recent graduate of the University of Cincinnati, where she majored in political science and minored in communications.

She also has raised money and then served as a lay missionary for the Village Mountain Mission, which builds houses and schools and provides health care and aid to remote villages in the Dominican Republic. "Through the encouragement of my parents and support from St. Pius parishioners, I was able to help build seven houses and learn about another culture," she said. "After graduating from college, I now focus on helping the people and the environment immediately around me to make a lasting change each day."

After 10 years in Charlotte, where Patti was a youth minister and on the parish council of the church the couple attended, another job transfer resulted in a move to Waconia, Minnesota, a city of about 12,000 people about 35 miles west of Minneapolis.

Joe at that point was a technical support person for Beckman Coulter,



The Culver's restaurant in Reynoldsburg is operated by Patti and Joe Schermer (second and third from left), pictured with daughter Mary Elizabeth and son Joe III. All four of the Schermer children have worked at the restaurant. Photo courtesy Schermer family

a company that makes and markets biomedical testing products. Patti began working for the company there as well, and the couple also became more involved with church and community work and became acquainted with Culver's, which had about 15 locations in southern Wisconsin and had just begun expanding into nearby states.

"I was a youth minister at St. Joseph Church in Waconia, and Joe helped wrangle six churches – two Lutheran, one Catholic, one Methodist, one Nazarene and one other – together to build a food bank that's known as the Waconia United Food Shelf and remains in operation today," Patti said.

"Culver's had a location there where we often had lunch because we enjoyed their hamburgers, custard and milkshakes. We were starting to consider ways in which we could spend more family time together and be closer to Joe's family and one day said casually to the store manager, 'We're thinking about moving to Ohio, so if Culver's ever decides to expand there, give us a call.'

"We forgot all about that conversation, but a few months later, someone from Culver's corporate office in Wisconsin called and asked if we'd be interested in opening a location around Columbus. It wasn't an easy decision, but we felt ready for the move," Patti said.

"We looked at a bunch of places in the Columbus area and liked the Interstate 70 exit at Route 256 in Reynoldsburg because we felt we could draw from both Reynoldsburg and Pickerington there," Joe said. "It's turned out to be mostly Reynoldsburg, where Culver's has become a strong part of the community. Our first five years here were a struggle, but in time

we gained a good reputation as people began coming back and telling friends about us."

The Schermers began going to Mass at St. Pius X because it's the closest Catholic church to the restaurant and continued to be parishioners there after they moved to southeast Columbus a few years ago.

"It's a prayerful, caring church," Patti said. "The first time we went to Mass there, we were greeted by an older couple who asked us where we were from, what we liked to do and how old our kids were, then said they'd help us find where our talents would be most useful for the parish. They did that, and we got to know other people quickly. It's a large church, but it doesn't feel that way."

Besides the couple's involvement with the festival and other parish programs at St. Pius X, Patti has been a Parish Council member, sung in the parish choir and been part of the Walking with Purpose women's Bible study program and the parish's twice-weekly Liturgy of the Hours, while Joe has taken part in the That Man Is You! program.

The Reynoldsburg Culver's employs about 35 people, about half of whom are full-time employees, with the other half being mostly students. Like all Ohio restaurants, it was affected by the state-mandated two-month shutdown of in-person dining resulting from the coronavirus pandemic.

Since March, it has offered drive-thru and carryout service only, but even though its dining room remains

DIOCESE, continued from Page 16

Bishop Brennan said.

“The timing of having three groups of sisters arriving here in a short period is something I have to credit to the Lord’s providence,” Father Dailey said. “The bishop and I have been in contact with the Dominicans of the Perpetual Rosary for about a year. I also asked them for help several years ago in spreading devotion to Blessed Margaret of Castello, a Dominican who has a shrine at Columbus St. Patrick Church.

“I was parochial vicar at Worthington St. Michael Church at the time, and they provided relics of Blessed Margaret to the Dominican Sisters of Mary, Mother of the Eucharist who teach at St. Michael School and to the Dominican Sisters of St. Dominic, Immaculate Conception Province, who have a convent on the east side of Columbus.

“One of the bishop’s priorities was to again have an order of cloistered nuns here because we’d been without one since the Poor Clares of Perpetual Adoration left Portsmouth for North Carolina, so we’re delighted to welcome the Nuns of the Perpetual Rosary,” he said.

“I first met the Sisters of Kilimanjaro five years ago when I visited an or-

CANCER, continued from Page 13

nual checkups and things like EKGs, blood work, MRIs and the fun gamut of things.” But for all practical purposes, Carolyn is a survivor.

“I want people to realize that even if you’re diagnosed with cancer, there’s still hope for you,” she said. “Having a faith in God really got me through it because I knew he was with me, and he had a plan for me.”

Mary Ann later became a hospital chaplain at Mount Carmel West, a path she said she never would have discovered if not for Carolyn’s leukemia.

Carolyn went on to earn a bache-

KINDNESS, continued from Page 10

Thousands came to hear Jesus. Hundreds chose to follow Him. They shut down their businesses and walked away from careers to be with Him. He lived up to His statement of purpose: “I came to give life with joy and abundance” (John 10:10). Jesus was happy and He wants us to be the same.

When the angels announced Jesus’ birth, they proclaimed “good news of great joy” (Luke 2:10). Scripture is replete with words such as joy, happiness, gladness, merriment, pleasure, celebration, cheer, laughter, delight,

phanage in Tanzania for children with AIDS. I realized about six months ago that they had a presence in Florida, so we began reaching out to them.

“I’ve known about the Servants of the Most Sacred Heart since they came to a Youth 2000 event at the Pontifical College Josephinum about 20 years ago. Sisters from their order cared for Pope St. John Paul II since he was archbishop of Krakow, Poland. The sisters have several ministries around Johnstown and Altoona in Pennsylvania, near Mount St. Mary’s Seminary in Maryland, where I completed my theology studies. I’ve seen them there and in Rome and Krakow, where they have their motherhouse,” Father Dailey said.

“It’s great to serve Bishop Brennan as vicar for religious because he’s a strong believer that religious sisters don’t provide a side note but are essential to the life of the Church,” he said.

“Pope St. John Paul II expressed this in his 1996 apostolic exhortation *Vita Consecrata*, which begins with these words: ‘The consecrated life, deeply rooted in the example and teaching of Christ the Lord, is a gift of God the Father to his Church through the Holy Spirit. By the profession of the evangelical counsels, the charac-

lor’s degree in zoology from Ohio State University and a master’s degree in recreational therapy from the University of Toledo, working in animal-assisted therapy, pediatric oncology and nursing homes. “I’ve always had a desire to help people just because of ... all the people who helped me,” she said. Eventually, she stepped away from her job to write her book, which was published this year.

She and her husband live in a motorhome traveling the country while he works remotely in the IT industry and she promotes her book, which is available on Amazon. She also blogs at leukemiagirl.com.

jubilation, feasting, blessing and exultation. Our joy level matters to God.

It is true that Jesus spoke about bad things in the world. He spoke candidly about sin, death and the needs of the human heart. Yet He did so with hope. He brought joy to the people of His time. He wants to bring joy to our own generation and He enlisted some special agents to do the job – you and me.

We live in a lonely world. Many hearts are broken. Many people are discouraged. The world is desperate – yes, desperate for kind people. We

teristic features of Jesus — the chaste, poor and obedient one — are made constantly visible in the midst of the world and the eyes of the faithful are directed towards the mystery of the Kingdom of God.’

“My own vocation to the priesthood was nourished and protected by several sisters, especially Sister Josephine King, OP, who prepared me for the Sacraments and taught me how to pray during religious education classes at Columbus St. Thomas School, which I attended through fifth grade because I was going to public school,” Father Dailey said.

“It’s impossible to say how much love came from Sister Josephine to my sister and I. We felt at ease with her and could ask her anything about the Church. Two of my teachers at (Columbus St. Francis) DeSales High School, Sister Helen Flowers, OSF, and Sister Sharon Goodburn, OSF, both Stella Niagara Franciscans, also nurtured my vocation.”

Father Dailey said one more order of sisters may arrive in the diocese before the end of the year. He doesn’t expect any additional groups to be coming during the 2020-21 school year.

“There’s no shortage of places sisters can serve in the diocese,” he said.

BUSINESS, continued from Page 18

closed, business has been good. On many occasions, cars filled with customers awaiting orders extend in a line wrapped around the building and into the parking lot.

“Our inside dining area is so small that social distancing wouldn’t work here,” Patti said. “I think we’re the only Culver’s in Ohio that hasn’t reopened its building. But so many St. Pius parishioners and other Reynoldsburg residents have supported us that we’ve been able to break sales records we set last year. So many people have gotten to know us over the years, and I’m not sure we realized this until now.

cannot solve every problem in society, but we can bring a smile to a few faces. If all of us do it, who knows? A quiet

“Many pastors have expressed the needs of their parishes to the bishop and me, and as they share those needs, I present them. When sisters visit the diocese and see the faith of the people for themselves, it doesn’t take anything more to persuade them to come here.”

Father Dailey said the diocese currently has 14 young women discerning whether they are being called to the religious life and 20 seminarians studying for the priesthood. “Having these young people answering God’s call to a way of life they’ve never experienced is a reason for wonder and awe,” he said.

“They are looking for something more, for the peace that only God can give them. They have a strong identity rooted in prayer. In this era of isolation and technology, there’s a lot of burnout, and young people are responding to the emphasis on fraternity and community that is part of a religious vocation.

“The whole Church is stronger when active religious life is present,” Father Dailey said. “With the addition of new communities of religious, that strength is growing in the Diocese of Columbus.”

Many people have told us they’ve taken the time and effort to come here because they appreciate what we do for the parish and the city.”

“We’ve been blessed with this restaurant,” Joe said. “We never thought of our work with the community as something to increase our business. We just wanted to give back to people for the way they’ve supported us. We’re happy that we’ve been able to do this for 13 years and are extremely grateful that so many people continue to stop by and enable us to keep going.”

revolution of joy might break out.

Leandro M. Tapay is the recently retired director of the diocesan Missions Office.

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Birthright office open, sets virtual fundraiser

Birthright of Columbus, a pro-life pregnancy help center, wants its clients to know that it is open to help them during their pregnancies.

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, the Birthright of Columbus office at 2453 W. Mound St. is still offering understanding, listening and love to the women in need of such services. The agency's north office and In Review Thrift Shop on North High Street have closed, but the west side office still helps clients with clothes, diapers, referrals and listening. Clients can call (614) 221-0844 to make an appointment, and volunteers are masked and ready to help them.

Although the annual Birthright Luncheon fundraiser at Mozart's Bakery and Piano Café was cancelled this year, a Virtual Birthright Luncheon will be held from 11 a.m. to noon on Saturday, Oct. 17, on Facebook at Birthright of Columbus, Ohio. The event will include a virtual tour of the West Mound

Street office; a viewing of silent auction baskets on which to bid; and a raffle of a 32-inch TV, a handmade afghan, a Christmas cross wall hanging and a \$50 Kohl's gift card.

For information or tickets, call Mary Jo Mayhan at (614) 235-7465 or text (614) 668-6421.

Birthright International, the world's first pro-life pregnancy help center, was founded in 1968 by Louise Summerhill of Toronto. As legalized abortion loomed in both Canada and the United States, Summerhill recognized the need to help women in crisis pregnancies with positive support and life affirming alternatives. Also, she believed strongly in the dignity of motherhood. Today, more than 450 Birthright centers exist in North America.

Each Birthright center is chartered separately under Birthright International, but all follow the same mission statement: "It is the right of every woman to give birth and the right of

every child to be born."

Each Birthright center is responsible for its own nonprofit funding, management and training of volunteers according to the Birthright Charter.

Birthright of Columbus was founded in 1972 by women who believed in Summerhill's philosophy. Today, Birthright of Columbus has one center where trained volunteers answer questions and concerns from callers or visitors who are worried about their pregnancies and babies. Birthright provides compassionate care for individual needs, exercises charity and, most important, maintains a confidential, non-judgmental attitude.

Shortly after Birthright was founded, Summerhill said, "The essence of Birthright is love. We should not underestimate the power of love. We do not need professional training in order to listen, to understand, to love. True compassion recognizes no boundaries nor lays down any conditions



when one listens to another with their heart."

To learn more about Birthright or to volunteer, call (614) 221-0844.

At Blue Mass, bishop lauds first responders, law enforcement, firefighters

Bishop Robert Brennan told representatives of law enforcement, firefighters and first responders at the annual diocesan Blue Mass that in performing their duties they provide an inspiring example of holiness to all.

Bishop Brennan was the celebrant and homilist for the Mass on Friday, Sept. 11, which was celebrated for the 10th straight year at Columbus St. Timothy Church and sponsored by St. Timothy Knights of Columbus Council 14345. The Mass takes place every year on the anniversary of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks to honor those who put their lives at risk to preserve the community's safety.

Readings for the day's Mass included a passage from the First Letter to the Corinthians in which St. Paul says he has an obligation to preach the Gospel, "and woe to me if I do not preach it."

"The call to preach the Gospel was so ingrained in St. Paul it was likened to the beating of his heart," Bishop Brennan said. In the same way, the bishop said, we are called to holiness, which he described as "not like running away from our lives. It's not something out there, but it's in here."

"For you in law enforcement and as first responders, holiness consists of the way you live out your calling ... being true to who you are and living it out with generosity, courage, authenticity and integrity. Today, we think of how you live out your vocation, and, boy, are we glad that you do! I speak



Honor guards representing law enforcement, firefighters and first responders are pictured after the Blue Mass on Sept. 11 with Bishop Robert Brennan, clergy members and Logan Knapp (center), who received a special altar server award.

Photo courtesy Larry Pishitelli

for so many who feel a sense of confidence knowing that you're around," said Bishop Brennan, whose father served with the New York Police Department and the FBI and who has a brother in each of those agencies.

"Your daily sacrifices are so important to the well-being of the community. Your integrity, goodness and generosity reflect from you into the goodness of our community. Your courage keeps us all alive and safe," he said.

"All summer, many things had to be postponed (because of the coronavirus pandemic), but I said this Mass could not be postponed. It's important for us to be able to honor you."

The Mass included honor guards from the Columbus police and fire departments, the Franklin County sheriff's office and the Ohio State Highway Patrol. Those in attendance

included the city police and fire chiefs, the sheriff, the superintendent

of the patrol, the city attorney, the county prosecutor, Pontifical College Josephinum seminarians and priests and deacons of the diocese.

Because of the pandemic, Mass attendance was limited, but the Mass was broadcast on St. Gabriel Radio and livestreamed on the diocesan website.

The Blue Mass is dedicated to all active, retired and deceased police, firefighters and emergency personnel and to the 2,973 people killed in the Sept. 11 attacks. The Mass originated in Washington, D.C. in 1934 for police and firefighters, who then dressed mainly in blue uniforms. It has expanded throughout the nation since then, especially after 9/11.

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26th Sunday of Ordinary Time Year A

Give glory to God in His kingdom by living our faith in Christ

Ezekiel 18:25–28
Ps. 25:4–5, 6–7, 8–9
Philippians 2:1–11
Matthew 21:28–32

Mom, he's looking at me! Tell him to stop! This is my side! You stay over there! How come she got some and I didn't? It's not fair!

Whenever my siblings and I would say things like this, my Mom always had the perfect answer: "Do you want us to treat you all the same?" At first, we might want to say "yes," but then we would recall privileges we had received, having to acknowledge that perhaps the balance was a little more in our favor than we thought.

Which do you say? "*Life is difficult*" or "*Life is unfair*"? What is your attitude toward whatever happens to you? Do you say, "*If someone else would do it right, I would have what I want/need/hope for!*" Or do you say, "*How am I to respond to this situation to be of help to others?*"

Do you spend most of your time in mourning losses or in blissful ignorance of what is going on? Or do you respond to each situation with an appropriate chosen demeanor: fasting and prayer or dancing and singing and celebrating? Are you open to what God asks of you?

These times are certainly challenging times. But we have the capacity to choose our attitude. We are invited to be part of the solution. The answer is threefold: Pray. Pay attention. Choose a response enlightened by truth, following the example of Christ, who emptied Himself to receive God's fullness in our human nature.

What does prayer do?

- It takes us out of ourselves, moves us beyond reaction to response, from selfishness to genuine concern for others.

- It offers us insight and inspiration that free us to be more than we have been, to move in a realm more in accord with who we are, who God calls us to be.

- It forms in us the one mind of Jesus Christ.

- Where and how are we to pray?

- Anywhere we are.

- At Mass – especially on the Lord's day.

- In silence – at home, in church in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament To what should we pay attention?

- Our own attitudes.

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.



- Invitations to participation in community life.
- Possibilities in our own sphere of influence.
- The challenge of forming a true community with one another, right where we are.

The kingdom is ours. Are our hearts ready to enter it? God has a world in mind, a world shaped according to His own design, for a purpose that lies beyond our understanding. He invites us into His way of thinking, a way that above us, a way that leads us to a life beyond all that this life has to offer.

The only way for us to get to where God wants us to be is to allow Him to form us, to stretch us beyond where we would go on our own. We are invited to think "outside the box," that is, the box of this world and our own selfishness. We are invited to allow God to gather in those who think differently than we do.

The kingdom is available to all. When we have an image of the kingdom that is too exclusive, we can be sure that our image is not God's. There is room for conversion and for growth in all of us. We are called to be welcoming, to build up the kingdom in practical ways, setting achievable goals:

- We can review our history, inviting those who have shared our journey to help us renew the vision of our beginnings.

- We can promote awareness of God's call to serve one another.

- We can work together to develop a ministry of outreach to those in need. Each person can be proactive, organizing ways of serving others who are homebound, working together to renew a sense of "neighborhood" in our respective communities.

Each of us is called to take responsibility for our faith. With an eye always on the kingdom, we can create an atmosphere of hospitality and welcome that allows us to be God's own people. We give God glory by living the truth of our faith in Jesus Christ the Lord. When life seems unfair, we can work on behalf of justice for all.

THE WEEKDAY BIBLE READINGS

9/28-10/3

MONDAY
Job 1:6-22
Psalm 17:1b-3,6-7
Luke 9:46-50

TUESDAY
Daniel 7:9-10,13-14
or Revelation 12:7-12a:
Psalm 138:1-5
John 1:47-51

WEDNESDAY
Job 9:1-12,14-16
Psalm 88:10b-15
Luke 9:57-62

THURSDAY
Job 19:21-27
Psalm 27:7-9c,13-14
Luke 10:1-12

FRIDAY
Job 38:1,12-21; 40:3-5

Psalm 139:1-3,7-10,13-14b
Matthew 18:1-5,10

SATURDAY
Job 42:1-3,5-6,12-17
Psalm 119:66,71,75,91,125,130
Luke 10:17-24

10/5-10/10

MONDAY
Galatians 1:6-12
Psalm 111:1b-2,7-9,10c
Luke 10:25-37

TUESDAY
Galatians 1:13-24
Psalm 139:1b-3,13-15
Luke 10:38-42

WEDNESDAY
Galatians 2:1-2,7-14
Psalm 117:1bc,2
Luke 11:1-4

THURSDAY
Galatians 3:1-5
Luke 1:69-75 (Ps)
Luke 11:5-13

FRIDAY
Galatians 3:7-14
Psalm 111:1b-6
Luke 11:15-26

SATURDAY
Galatians 3:22-29
Psalm 105:2-7
Luke 11:27-28

DIOCESAN WEEKLY RADIO AND TELEVISION MASS SCHEDULE: WEEKS OF SEPT. 27 & OCT. 4, 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 II and III, Seasonal Prayer, Liturgy of the Hours.

27th Sunday of Ordinary Time Year A

Strive to be one of the branches in God's vineyard

Isaiah 5:1–7
Ps. 80:9, 12, 13–14, 15–16, 19–20
Philippians 4:6–9
Matthew 21:33–43

God wants to be our friend. What does friendship with God look like? God's own image, according to Isaiah the Prophet and Jesus, is that of a vineyard. We are God's vineyard.

There is the ground in which it is planted. There is the vine. There are the grapes, the fruit of the vine. There is the destiny for which the grapes have been cultivated. Friendship with God involves ground that is open to His efforts to till. It is the reality of our lives, our world, our involvement

with creation, the society in which we live, and the whole human family.

What is our fruit? How does God see our activities? What is the song God sings about us?

What do we say and do as a whole people: On behalf of each child conceived in the womb? On behalf of those who are most vulnerable and marginalized – refugees, immigrants, the unemployed, the imprisoned and the ill? On behalf of the goals and purposes of our labor? On behalf of each life at the end of its journey? On behalf of the wisdom given to us by the Church in complex matters?

SCRIPTURE, continued from Page 21

Are we a vineyard that works on behalf of the most vulnerable at the beginning and end of life as well as at every stage between? Do we seek to understand what the Church teaches and why? Are we as aware of the Church's wisdom as we are of the details of our hobbies and pastimes? Do we conform to the thinking of this age without much reflection, or do we seek to see as God sees? What are the true, honorable, just, pure, lovely, gracious, excellent and praiseworthy things we think about?

Jesus reveals that He is the vine and we are the branches. The vine is the whole living organism. Each of us is a part of the whole. Word and sacrament are the source of our growth. Planted deeply in the mysteries of faith, the Incarnation and the Paschal Mystery, we are able to flourish.

The grapes, the fruit of the vine, are the results of our encounters with Christ in the sacramental life we share.

Virtues, graces, tastes of eternity in the midst of life's struggles, moments of awareness of our relationship with the Trinity remind us of our destiny, the very purpose for which we have been created.

When this approach to life works, it is glorious. But our Scriptures today remind us that it does not always flow as God has intended. We are embedded in ground that is hard, that will not accept the tilling that God offers. We rebel against God's commands and His revelation of the way things are.

We separate ourselves from the vine through sin and selfishness, through the narrow vision of our wants and desires, our willfulness concerning the use of our time and our earthly possessions, our talents and our treasure. We eat sour grapes and we lose our taste for eternal realities. We are not satisfied, but we fail to look beyond what is right in front of us. We

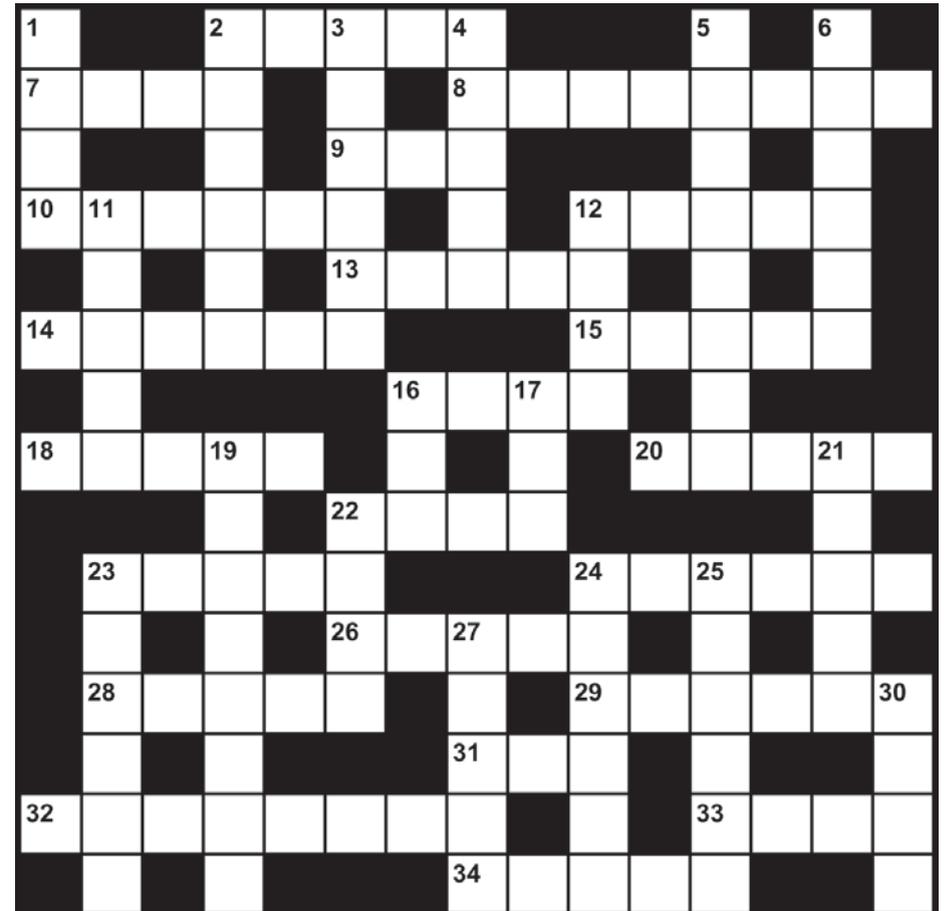
fail to acknowledge God's prior right in our lives, His judgment and His design for who we are to be and what we are to do during our limited time on this Earth.

In the face of all this, God sings of His desire for friendship with us and His plan for us, if only we would re-

spond. We are to think about "whatever is true, honorable, just, pure, lovely, gracious, any excellence and anything worthy of praise," and there, we discover God's plan for us.

God longs to be our friend. Will we open our hearts to Him? Will we join in His song?

CATHOLIC CROSSWORD PUZZLE



ACCOUNTING MANAGER

The Pontifical College Josephinum, a Roman Catholic Seminary located in Columbus, Ohio is in need of an Accounting Manager to replace a retiring employee. The Accounting Manager is responsible for providing financial information to department managers and reports to the Treasurer. Responsibilities include:

- Processing monthly financial statements and departmental reports for managers
- Data entry of journal entries, cash receipts; performing bank reconciliations
- Financial Analysis of general ledger accounts—preparing supporting schedules
- Maintaining property and equipment schedules
- Processing semi-monthly payroll
- Preparing schedules for annual audit, budget and tax returns

The successful candidate must be able to support the mission of the Josephinum and should have three or more years of related experience, an undergraduate degree in accounting, proficiency in working with Microsoft Excel and Word software. Familiarity with Quickbooks and Blackbaud software is a plus. The Accounting Manager must display a strong work ethic, attention to detail and ability to meet deadlines. Please respond with a resume, letter of interest and salary history by October 10, 2020 to: The Pontifical College Josephinum, 7625 N. High Street, Columbus, Ohio 43235, Attention: Treasurer. Alternatively, you can email the information to: jerwin@pcj.edu

The Pontifical College Josephinum is an EEO Employer.

- | ACROSS | DOWN |
|---|---|
| 2 Scripture | 1 Where Jesus met the Samaritan woman |
| 7 Land of Sts. Brendan and Brigid | 2 "___ the handmaid of the Lord..." |
| 8 Not Sodom | 3 Gentile prophet of the Old Testament |
| 9 ___ Minister | 4 Land where Moses grew up |
| 10 Ignatius of ___ | 5 Certain monastic order |
| 12 Eden fruit? | 6 Communion plates |
| 13 St. Juan Diego, for example | 11 The dove brought this kind of branch back to Noah |
| 14 Old Testament book | 12 Bible book about the early Christians |
| 15 Offspring of Judah and Tamar | 16 The ___ of Galilee |
| 16 Ishmael and Isaac, to Abraham | 17 "Thou shalt ___..." |
| 18 Sign of ___ | 19 Long sleeveless vestment |
| 20 Vestment made of a narrow strip of cloth | 21 St. ___ Bertrand |
| 22 "You are the ___ of the earth" (Mt 5:13) | 22 ___ of Confession |
| 23 Friend of St. Francis of Assisi | 23 Partner of Damian |
| 24 The Road to ___ | 24 She saved the Jews |
| 26 Lenten markers | 25 Pertaining to the Blessed Mother |
| 28 Place of the ___, site in Matthew | 27 "... with their ___ they will support you, lest you dash your foot against a stone" (Mt 4:6) |
| 29 Saint of Avila | 30 Certain corner |
| 31 OT prophetic bk. | |
| 32 "... ___ be thy name" | |
| 33 An end to repent? | |
| 34 This priest established Notre Dame | |



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PRAY FOR OUR DEAD

ARNOLD, Cynthia A. (Ford), 66, Aug. 24
St. Elizabeth Seton Parish, Pickerington

BARRY, Patrick, 63, Sept. 10
St. Thomas Aquinas Church, Zanesville

BENNETT, Margaret A. (O'Leary), 79,
Sept. 15
St. John the Baptist Church, Columbus

BERGER, Richard E., 91, Sept. 8
Holy Spirit Church, Columbus

BLUBAUGH, Patricia M. (Brown), 87,
Sept. 9
St. Matthew Church, Gahanna

CASEY, Marjorie (Kewley), 98, Aug. 29
St. Mary Magdalene Church, Columbus

CLAYTON-SAYLOR, Barbara S. (Waish-
nora), 74, Sept. 14
Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal Church, Columbus

DUNNINGTON, Mary "Mimi" (Kennedy),
74, Sept. 8
St. Mary Church, Lancaster

FEDECZKO, Julia (Khomyk), 95, Sept. 11
St. John Chrysostom Byzantine Catholic
Church, Columbus

FONDRIEST, Jean, 99, Sept. 4
St. Joseph Church, Dover

GANGLUFF, Ann L. (Weinberger), 77,
Sept. 7
Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Marysville

HALL, Mary V. (Arnold), 71, Sept. 5
St. Nicholas Church, Zanesville

HANDWERK, Helmut W., 87, Sept. 9
Christ the King Church, Columbus

LARSON, Joan (Anderson), 91, Sept. 9
St. Joseph Church, Dover

MANDEL, Donald E., 83, Sept. 8
St. Margaret of Cortona Church, Columbus

McDONALD, Mary A. (Lasure), 75, Sept. 4
St. Thomas Aquinas Church, Zanesville

McGRATH, Timothy M., 69, Sept. 6
St. Michael Church, Worthington

McCOMISH, Mary E. (Bogan), 82, Sept. 15
St. Andrew Church, Columbus

MILLER, Dulcene (Hardin), 104, Aug. 28
St. Timothy Church, Columbus

MORBITZER, Imogene (Davis), 90, Sept. 13
St. Elizabeth Seton Parish, Pickerington

MOUNTAIN, Megan V. (Jones), 91, Sept. 9
Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, Grove City

MOYER, William E., 87, Sept. 8
St. Nicholas Church, Zanesville

NEMITZ, Joyce (Fabini), 94, Sept. 12
St. Pius X Church, Reynoldsburg

OSSEGE, Jane A., 70, Aug. 28
Immaculate Conception Church, Columbus

REIK, Ellen R. (Gerhardstein), 89, Sept. 8
St. Michael Church, Worthington

REOCH, Barbara J. (Bonanno), 80, Sept. 10
St. Paul Church, Westerville

RICHARDS, Mary P. (Smeltzer), 96, Sept. 10
St. Rose Church, New Lexington

RITZ, John, 91, Sept. 7
St. Patrick Church, Junction City

RUMORA, John G., 93, Aug. 31
St. Anthony Church, Columbus

SUSI, Anna L. (Wachinger), 88, Sept. 2.
St. Leo Church, Columbus

TARANTELLI, Tina C. (Trombetta), 96,
Sept. 6
St. John the Baptist Church, Columbus

UHL, Gloria J. (Smith), 89, Sept. 14
St. Joseph Church, Sugar Grove

WALLACE, Jack L., 84, Sept. 14
St. Agatha Church, Columbus

WEILAND, Joe, 64, Sept. 10
St. Bernadette Church, Lancaster

Danna J. Baker

Funeral Mass for Danna J. Baker, 81, who died Tuesday, Sept. 8, was celebrated Monday, Sept. 14 at Columbus Christ the King Church. Burial was at Queen of Heaven Cemetery in Hillside, Illinois.

She was born in Racine, Wisconsin to John and Bernice (Brehm) Ryan on Oct. 6, 1938 and received a Bachelor of Arts degree in music with a minor in mathematics from the University of Illinois.

She was a math teacher and choral director at Columbus Bishop Hartley High School, where she taught from 1981-1988 and 1990-2003.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Robert; and sister, Kathleen. Survivors include sons, Robert and John (Theresa); daughter, Kathleen; sister, Suzanne (Brad) Nelson; five grandsons; and three great-grandchildren.

CATHOLIC CROSSWORD ANSWERS



To have an obituary printed in The Catholic Times, send it to: tpuet@columbuscatholic.org

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EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY FOR SITE ASSISTANT

St. Vincent de Paul St. Lawrence Haven, Columbus, OH

The Site Assistant will work with the Site Manager daily. The assistant is responsible for all intake, separation and inventory of donations. Daily set up for meal distribution along with occasional pickup of product in required.

Description of Job Duties:

- Intake donations.
- Interact with and direct volunteers.
- Collaborate with peers.
- Sort and inventory donations and supplies.
- Over-see community service volunteers.
- Drive box truck to obtain product.

Skills & Requirements:

- Ability to lift 25+ pounds.
- Able to work well with others.
- Exceptional communication skills.
- Adjusts well to change.
- Compassionate about the mission of the St. Vincent de Paul.
- Current driver's license required.

Salary Range: \$15 per hour, Monday-Friday 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

Job Benefits:

- Casual work environment.
- Paid time off.

Company Info:

The SVdP Haven is a ministry that assists those in need of food in Columbus. The Haven has been in operations for 75+ years. At the Haven, anyone can receive a meal, no questions asked. "For I was hungry and you fed me."

Send resumes to Heather Siger (hswiger@columbuscatholic.org) by Oct. 15.



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LOCAL NEWS, continued from Page 2

directives from state and public health officials.

“This seminar is for anyone who is struggling with their faith during the coronavirus pandemic and other recent events, which have caused tremendous stress and anxiety in many individuals,” Filice said. “Participants will have an opportunity to explore and discover ways in which the Catholic tradition cultivates a life of faith that transforms despair into hope and fear into love.”

To register for the seminar, visit ohiodominican.edu/FaithSeminar.

Butler honored by newspaper

Gloria Butler of Plain City St. Joseph Church was recognized by *The Columbus Dispatch* as one of 25 Everyday Heroes who work to improve the community and lives of those who live in it, but don't seek credit for what they do.

Stories about the honorees were featured in a special section of the newspaper on Sunday, Sept. 7. Butler was honored for her 25 years with the St. Martin de Porres Outreach Mission in Plain City, which provides home furnishings to people who have experienced a loss such as a house fire or unemployment.

Referrals from social service agencies, other churches, health departments and others bring in most of those the center helps, but it also accepts walk-ins. People without referrals are asked to first undergo a background check by the Plain City Police Department.

Butler, 78; her husband Jim, 77, and other volunteers help 80 to 100 families a year, with money for the center coming from donations, grants and fundraising events.

In the center's early days, church members stored items donated to it at their homes. In 2009, it received a grant from The Catholic Foundation, allowing it to build a one-story structure which the center now uses for storage and distribution.

Butler received the 2010 Catholic Woman of the Year award from the Diocesan Council of Catholic Women for her work with the center.

Everyday Heroes is sponsored by AEP, The Columbus Foundation, the CME Federal Credit Union, COSI and the United Way of Central Ohio.

October Men's Luncheon Club meeting canceled

The Catholic Men's Luncheon Club meeting scheduled for Friday, Oct. 2 at Columbus St. Patrick Church has been canceled because of the continued restrictions resulting from the coronavirus pandemic.

rus pandemic.

Vocations office starts discernment groups

The diocesan Vocations Office is starting three discernment groups known as the Melchizedek Project for high-school and college-aged men considering whether they are being called to the priesthood.

One group has begun meeting in Lancaster. It is being led by Father Ty Tomson, pastor of Lancaster St. Bernadette Church, 1343 Wheeling Road, and meets there after the 6 p.m. Mass on the first Thursday of each month. The meetings include supper and discussion until 8 p.m. Call (740) 654-1893 or email fathertomson@me.com to RSVP.

A group specifically for high-school students will meet at Columbus St. Catharine Church, 500 S. Gould Road. It will be led by Father William Hahn, diocesan vocations director, and Father Dan Dury, pastor at St. Catharine. It will meet on the third Thursday of each month, beginning at 6 p.m. with dinner and discussion, followed by the opportunity to take part in the parish's weekly Holy Hour and confessions from 7 to 8 p.m.

Plans are being made for a third group, for men of college age and older. Father Hahn said this probably will start later this fall near the Ohio State University campus.

Wilderness Outreach, vocations office to host father-son weekend

The diocesan Vocations Office will be working with Wilderness Outreach on a father-son discernment weekend from Friday to Sunday, Oct. 9 to 11 at Tar Hollow State Park, 16396 Tar Hollow Road, Laurelville. Similar to the Wilderness Outreach expeditions, it will include camping, hiking, trail work and discussions around the campfire. The theme will be “Priesthood is Manhood and Manhood is Priesthood.”

This weekend is open to fathers, and their sons ages 14 to 17, as well as young men in that age range whose fathers are unable to attend. All adult men taking part must have Protecting God's Children certification. Space is limited. For information, go to www.wildernessoutreach.net or contact Father William Hahn at whahn@columbuscatholic.org or (614) 221-5565.

Bereavement ministry meets through Zoom

The Seasons of Hope Bereavement Ministry, sponsored by the North High Deanery, will be conducting its second six-week session of programs via Zoom each Sunday from Oct. 11 to Nov. 15 from 2 to 4 p.m.

Anyone suffering from the loss of a loved one and looking for friends to share in the grief and healing process is invited to take part.

Those interested in attending must register in advance to guarantee the security of all who participate in the Zoom group. To register, call Karen Droll at (614) 582-8848.

Walsh completes plaza

Walsh University has completed construction of a new plaza on its North Canton campus honoring the university's founders, the Brothers of Christian Instruction (FIC).

Founders Plaza has been completed in time for the university's 60th anniversary in November. It will provide a walkway entrance to campus with a clock tower, historical markers and installation of the newly restored Brothers of Christian Instruction statue donated by the FIC Canadian province.

The statue depicts the educational foundation of the FIC and shows the order's founder, Father Jean-Marie de la Mennais, an FIC brother/teacher, and a young student standing together. It was made possible through gifts specifically earmarked for the commemorative project.

Red Mass set for Oct. 7

The 36th annual diocesan Red Mass will be celebrated at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 7 at Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral, 212 E. Broad St.

Msgr. Stephan Moloney, pastor of Columbus St. Andrew Church and diocesan vicar general, will be the homilist. It will be livestreamed on the diocesan website, www.columbuscatholic.org.

The Mass will be sponsored by the St. Thomas More Society, an organization for Catholic lawyers. It is offered for all members of the legal profession, including judges, lawyers and law school professors and students, and for government officials.

It was revived in Columbus in 1985. The Mass has its roots in the Middle Ages and has been celebrated for hundreds of years in cities such as Paris and London, where it signified the annual opening of the courts.

Participating clergy wear red vestments because the judges of the English high courts wore red robes and to honor the martyrdom of St. Thomas More, patron of lawyers, who was beheaded because, as lord chancellor of England, he refused to grant a divorce

to King Henry VIII. In the United States, the first Red Mass took place in New York City in 1928. Dioceses throughout the United States now celebrate a Red Mass each year.

Cathedral to host Rosary Day

The 52nd annual diocesan Family Rosary Day celebration will be at 3 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 11 at Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral, 212 E. Broad St, with Bishop Robert Brennan as presider. It will be livestreamed on the diocesan website, www.columbuscatholic.org.

The event has taken place at several locations over the years since the first Rosary Day in 1969 at Columbus Bishop Hartley High School. It usually occurs on the Sunday closest to Oct. 13, the Feast of Our Lady of Fatima.

NET Ministries receives award

NET (National Evangelization Teams) Ministries, whose missionaries have led more than 34,000 retreats and ministered to more than two million young Catholics, received Franciscan University of Steubenville's highest non-academic award, the Poverello Medal.

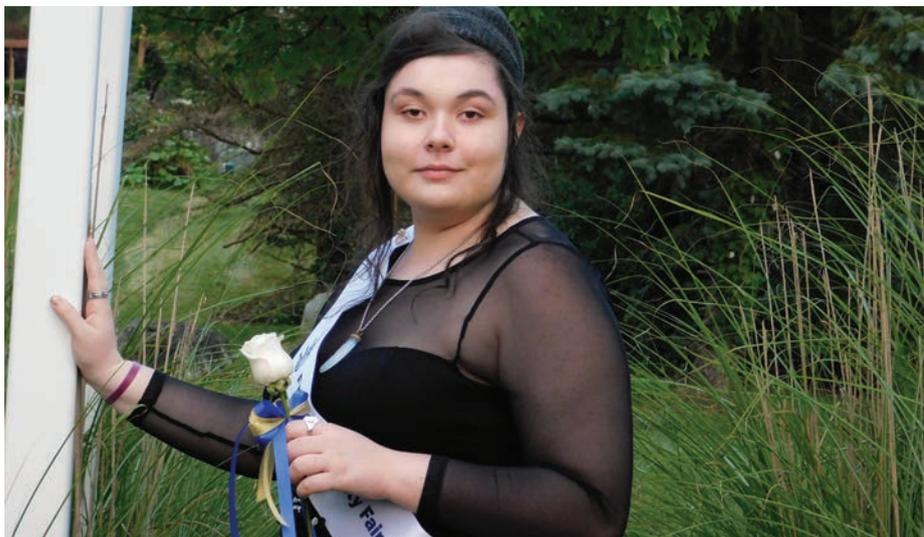
Several men and women from the Diocese of Columbus, including recently ordained Father Seth Keller, have spent one or more nine-month periods as NET lay missionaries, sharing the Gospel with young people and their families. NET was founded in 1981 in the Archdiocese of St. Paul-Minneapolis.

Father Dave Pivonka, TOR, president of the university, said in presenting the award that he experienced “fellowship and the power of the Holy Spirit” as a NET missionary before attending Franciscan.

“Thanks to NET, teenagers who may have never otherwise had a personal encounter with Jesus Christ have come to embrace him as their Savior and make the Catholic Church their spiritual home,” he said. “Amid a culture that often rejects Christian principles, they are emboldened and empowered to live their faith.”

Cast in steel to signify simplicity and poverty, the Poverello Medal honors organizations and individuals who follow in the footsteps of St. Francis of Assisi, Il Poverello (“the little poor man”), through strong Christian character, practical charity, and service to the poor. It was first presented in 1949 to Alcoholics Anonymous. Other recipients include St. Teresa of Calcutta, Dorothy Day, the Little Sisters of the Poor, and Mary's Meals.

Hartley student chosen for fair court



Columbus Bishop Hartley High School senior Melanie Magin was selected as first runner-up in the queen contest for the Franklin County Fair. She and other members of the fair's royalty court will represent and promote the fair and its junior fair organizations at Ohio festivals and county fairs throughout the year. She is a seven-year member of 4-H and entering her 13th year in Girl Scouts and attends Reynoldsburg St. Pius X Church.

Photo courtesy Bishop Hartley High School

Josephinum seminarians receive cassocks



Seminarians entering the Pontifical College Josephinum for the start of the 2020-21 academic year received their pontifical cassocks from Father Steven Beseau, the seminary's rector/president. The cassock is one of many ways in which seminarians express their unique relationship to the pope and the Catholic Church and the history they are part of at the Josephinum. The seminary has been a pontifical college since Pope Leo XIII gave it the distinction in 1893, making it the only pontifical college outside of Italy. It has long been custom, dating at least from the establishment of the Pontifical Gregorian University in 1551, for seminarians in pontifical seminaries to wear cassocks unique to their college, fostering their identity as men formed in such institutions. In 1893, the Josephinum was honored by Pope Leo XIII with the designation Pontifical College. From 1893 until the mid-1970s, Josephinum seminarians wore a cassock identical to that at the seminary for overseas students atop Rome's Janiculum Hill. In 2009, the pontifical cassock was reintroduced and is worn by all Josephinum seminarians for Sunday liturgies and special events. New seminarians and the dioceses and archdioceses they represent are (from left): first row, Andrew Vickery, Birmingham, Alabama; Andrew Feister, Gaylord, Michigan; John Stepnowski, Birmingham; Father Beseau; Caleb Gaier, Cincinnati, and Dennis Ombongi, Ogdensburg, New York; second row, Christopher Hoffmann, Jefferson City, Michigan; Youmarcks Jacques and Venes Laine, Ogdensburg, and Collins Hess, Birmingham.

Photo courtesy Pontifical College Josephinum

Ministering through masks



Columbus St. Aloysius Church parishioners Sandy Bonneville (left) and Margie Toner Thompson have sewn about 1,500 adult and children's face masks since March and donated them to homeless shelters, health care providers, first responders, ministries, outreach organizations and other parishes. Masks also are included with the free lunches the St. Aloysius "Take It to the Streets" ministry team provides weekly on Sullivant Avenue in the city's Hilltop neighborhood. Thompson is the sister of Father Pat Toner, pastor of St. Aloysius and Columbus St. Mary Magdalene Church.

Photo courtesy Sandy Bonneville

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Christ Child Society member honored



Alice Heller (center), a charter member of The Christ Child Society (CCS) of Columbus, received the CCS Honorary Award for her dedication and service to the society. A \$2,000 scholarship will be awarded in her honor to a student attending a diocesan Catholic high school. Pictured with her are society members Kathy Kelly (left) and Michele Bianconi.

Photo courtesy Christ Child Society

Delaware priests greet parishioners



About 70 Delaware St. Mary Church parishioners greeted Father Sylvester Onyeachonam (left), pastor, and Father Brett Garland, newly appointed parochial vicar, at a drive-through celebration on Sunday, Aug. 30. The event had been scheduled for July but was postponed because of the coronavirus pandemic. The celebration marked Father Onyeachonam's 20th anniversary as a priest and Father Garland's arrival at the parish.

Photo courtesy St. Mary Church

Father Swartz assists with burial



Father Daniel Swartz, a military chaplain from the Diocese of Columbus, is shown at the front of a group of Marines escorting the bodies of one of the eight Marines and one sailor who died when their amphibious assault vehicle sank off San Clemente Island in California on July 30. The bodies were transferred to Marine Corps Air Station Miramar in California and eventually to Dover (Delaware) Air Force Base before being returned to the families of the deceased. The transfer of remains is a Marine Corps tradition that occurs when a body or bodies are recovered and prepared for transport. Father Swartz is assigned to the 1st Marine Division at Camp Pendleton, California.

Photo by Lance Cpl. Brendan Mullin, courtesy U.S. Marine Corps



“Grace in the Age of Anxiety”

Saturday, October 24 | 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Join us in person or online for this special daylong seminar as we examine topics, issues and concerns related to faith, recent instances of social unrest, and the current COVID-19 global health crisis.

Register for free at ohiodominican.edu/FaithSeminar.



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FAMILY Rosary Day

A TIME FOR DEVOTION TO OUR BLESSED MOTHER



SUNDAY
OCTOBER 11, 2020, 3 P.M.
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PRESIDER
The Most Reverend
Robert J. Brennan
Bishop of Columbus



Event will be livestreamed at
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BUILDING A CULTURE OF LIFE SERIES

RESPECT LIFE, BIOETHICS, AND LEADERSHIP

RESPECT LIFE MONTH, OCTOBER 2020

Join us for an extraordinary *virtual* series featuring dynamic speakers and offering resources to equip you to build a culture of life.

FEATURED TOPICS:

Raising the Next Pro-Life Generation

(Video link available beginning October 4) Parents, ministry leaders, and health professionals will share tips for what, how, and when parents should have conversations with their children about Pro-Life issues.

Walking with Moms in Need: A Year of Service

(Video link available beginning October 11) The Walking with Moms in Need program provides in-depth materials to equip churches to accompany and support local pregnant/parenting women and their families.

Making End of Life Decisions

(Live and video link available beginning October 20 at 7 p.m.) Learn more about a new resource to help you and your family with end of life decision-making in keeping with our values to respect the sacredness and dignity of human life.

Mass Celebrated by Bishop Robert J. Brennan

(Live and video link available beginning October 25 at 10:30 a.m.) Bishop Brennan will celebrate a Respect Life Month Mass and preach how we are called to accompany those in need and build a culture of life.

For more details about programs and speakers, please visit our website.

REGISTRATION: No Cost

Register online at www.bclc.life

Registrants will receive an email with instructions on how to participate in the virtual series. For questions, call 614-241-2540 or email at socmailbox@columbuscatholic.org.

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