



DIOCESE OF COLUMBUS

CATHOLIC TIMES

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**OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE:
PATRONESS OF THE AMERICAS**

Editor's reflections by Doug Bean

Away with a manger?

It's fairly obvious to most people that keeping Christ in Christmas has become increasingly difficult in today's culture. "Religious people" are free to celebrate the birth of Jesus in their homes and churches, but when it comes to displays of faith in the public square, Christians and others often encounter resistance.

We've all read stories about court rulings that resulted in a nativity scene at a public building or school being taken down. But we now live in a hypersensitive nation, and if one individual is "offended," government officials react.

All religions and ideas should be respected, and all citizens have the right to share their beliefs in public. But, c'mon, how offensive can a scene with a manger, shepherds, animals, a newborn baby and his parents, angels and a star be to anyone?

For the past four years, carolers had sung Christmas music at a manger that a group of Christian men erected on the Worthington Village Green at the corner of High Street and Dublin-Granville Road. This year, unfortunately, the nativity scene and singers won't be there.

"We had always submitted an application to the city of Worthington and for four wonderful years, people have witnessed the manger, bringing joy and acknowledgement to the true meaning of Christmas, the birth of Jesus," said Dan O'Rourke, one of the organizers. "During the application process this year, the city made it almost impossible to have this joyous event."

The issue is the length of time the locally constructed manger could remain at the site. The structure takes time to set up and take down,

and so the group requested five days, as had been allowed in the past. But the city responded this year by saying it does not permit ongoing displays.

Anne Brown, community relations and public information officer for the city of Worthington, said in an email that the city received a special event permit request for caroling and was set to approve the event, but not for five days.

"In this instance, the city asked event organizers to only bring the display out when carolers were present and singing," Brown said.

During the back-and-forth discussions over the manger, O'Rourke said at one point a city official called it a "barn." As to whether the city had an ulterior motive in this case regarding a Christian display, you can draw your own conclusions.

In any case, the Christian men remained undaunted and pressed ahead with an alternative plan.

Choirs from the area will now come together around the manger on Thursday, Dec. 20 at Worthington St. Peter Church, 6899 Smoky Row Road, for an evening of singing in "One Voice" to proclaim the birth of Christ. Twenty churches, including Worthington St. Michael, Powell St. Joan of Arc and the Pontifical College Josephinum, have been invited to participate.

The event will rotate among various churches in the future.

This situation just goes to show that the voice of Christ can never be silenced.

"O come, o come Emmanuel."



Second Week of Advent



Sisters report allegation of misconduct

The Dominican Sisters of Peace reported to the Diocese of Columbus that one of the congregation's members was accused of sexual misconduct and subsequently removed from ministry, the Columbus-based congregation said last week.

"We sadly acknowledge that a credible allegation of sexual misconduct with a minor was made against Sister Lisa Zucarelli, OP, by a former student, at Fisher Catholic High School, Lancaster, Ohio. Sister Lisa was a teacher there and lived at St. Mary Convent in Lancaster at the time," said Sister Patricia Twohill, OP, the congregation's prioress. "We consider this conduct reprehensible, and we are deeply sorry for the pain it has caused. We have approached the situation with as much transparency as possible, while being respectful of the privacy of the victim. We are doing all that we can to support the healing of all involved."

Upon learning of the allegation in July 2018, stemming from an alleged incident that took place in 1982, the congregation immediately reported it to Lancaster police and to the Diocese of Columbus. A police report is on file.

The Sisters of Peace confirmed that an outside investigation was conducted in late October and the allegation was deemed credible. Sister Lisa was removed from ministry and immediately restricted from unsupervised contact

with any minor or former student. She is undergoing psychological assessment at a center that specializes in therapy for religious and clergy.

The Sisters of Peace said the congregation has reached out to the victim.

Sister Lisa most recently served as an educator at Salve Regina University in Newport, Rhode Island, from 2003 to 2018. Her previous assignments included the Georgetown University School of Medicine and the School of Nursing in Washington; New York University in New York City; and Albertus Magnus College in New Haven, Connecticut.

In the Diocese of Columbus, she was a teacher at Fisher Catholic from 1980 to 1985 and at Columbus St. Francis DeSales High School from 1975 to 1977. She also served as a teacher at Steubenville Catholic Central High School from 1978 to 1980.

The Dominican Sisters of Peace encourage anyone who has experienced sexual misconduct by a member of the congregation to contact law enforcement or also Sister Patricia at (614) 416-1963.

The Diocese of Columbus encourages anyone who may have experienced sexual abuse by clergy or others associated with the Church to immediately contact law enforcement and the diocesan victim assistance coordinator at (614) 224-2251, (866) 448-0217, or helpisavailable@columbuscatholic.org.

Holy Day of Obligation - Saturday, December 8, 2018

The solemnity of the immaculate conception of the blessed virgin mary
Check individual parishes for schedule of Holy Day Mass times



Front Page photo:

Our Lady of Guadalupe
A nun holds an image of Our Lady of Guadalupe as Pope Francis leads his general audience in St. Peter's Square at the Vatican on Oct. 24.
CNS photo Paul Haring

CATHOLIC TIMES

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Bishop Frederick F. Campbell, DD, PhD: President & Publisher

Doug Bean: Editor (dbean@columbuscatholic.org)

Tim Puet: Reporter (tpuet@columbuscatholic.org)

David Vance: Graphic Designer

Mailing Address: 197 E. Gay St., Columbus OH 43215

Editorial/Advertising: (614) 224-5195 FAX (614) 241-2518

Subscriptions: (614) 224-6530 FAX (614) 241-2573

(subscriptions@columbuscatholic.org)

#iGive Catholic raises more than \$123,000 for parishes, schools, agencies

By Tim Puet
Catholic Times Reporter

The first year of participation in the national #iGive Catholic crowdfunding program by the Diocese of Columbus raised \$123,155.10 for diocesan parishes, schools and nonprofit ministries on #Giving Tuesday, Nov. 27, the Tuesday after Thanksgiving.

Donations were made by 646 people and benefited 74 ministries. They received amounts ranging from \$33,335.10 for Columbus St. Anthony Church and School to \$25 for four ministries. Most of the money – about \$83,000 from 599 donors – was raised online. Donors also had the option of donating offline throughout November in advance of #Giving Tuesday.

Wendy Piper, who coordinated the effort for the diocesan development office, said the results “knocked my socks off. It was hugely successful, and I’m thoroughly impressed with how eager all the participants were to make a concerted effort to explain their various needs.”

St. Anthony not only raised the largest amount,

ing lots. “Potholes in the lot have made it more and more difficult to have events there,” she said. “It’s dangerous for our students to play on and a challenge for drivers. The lot is important to us because it’s more than just a place to park cars. Everyone uses it. It’s the only entrance and exit to the church and school. It’s also a playground and the site of school gym classes, the parish picnic, the parish corn roast, and our Halloween trunk or treat event.”

She said the key to the parish’s success in this effort was participation by many groups. “Everyone took part,” Hatem said. “We received great support from our large Ghanaian community, as well as students, alumni and staff from the school, and the parish as a whole. This fundraising activity has helped bring us closer together as a parish and renewed a faith we sometimes thought was waning.”

The total raised by St. Anthony ranked 28th among all parishes participating in the program across the nation. The number of donors ranked 34th.

Nationally, the #iGive Catholic campaign collected more than \$5.6 million from more than 23,000 donors. Last year, more than \$3.6 million was raised. The campaign started in 2015 in the Archdiocese of New Orleans. Parishes and programs in Louisiana and Georgia dominated this year’s national list of #iGive Catholic participants raising the largest amounts and having the most donors.

The overall #Giving Tuesday program, now in its seventh year, raised \$300 million from 2.5 million donors for charitable agencies in 150 nations

In the Diocese of Columbus, the campaign was coordinated by the diocesan Office of Development and Planning, which awarded prizes of \$1,000 for first place and \$500 for second to the two parishes, two schools and two nonprofit ministries with the most donors on #Giving Tuesday. Another \$1,000 was awarded to the parish, school or nonprofit with the most advance donors.

St. Anthony did not receive any of those awards because they were not based on the amount raised, but on the number of donors, and because a significant number of the St. Anthony donations were advance gifts.

Prizes were awarded to: schools, Columbus Our Lady of Bethlehem (56 #Giving Tuesday donors) and Columbus St. Andrew (42); parishes, Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral (22) and Granville St. Edward (10); nonprofits, Bethesda Healing Ministry (7) and the Women’s Care Center (6). Gahanna St. Matthew Church had the most advance donors with 26.

Our Lady of Bethlehem raised \$8,720 through the campaign from 74 donors, ranking it third and second, respectively, in the diocese overall in

those categories. Columbus St. Andrew Church and School was second in donations with \$11,630. Our Lady of Bethlehem, which serves children from six weeks old to kindergarten age, will use the money for enhancements including safety barriers, signage and other structural modifications.

“We wrote a letter to parents about our plans, but



Columbus St. Anthony parishioners (from left) Judy and Adam Bangert and Pat O'Neill enjoy an #iGive Catholic fundraiser. Photo/St. Anthony Church



Our Lady of Bethlehem staff (from left): first row, Janelle Obergfell, Courtney Johnson, Katie Speed; second row, Joan Wiederman, Abigail Munoz. Photo/Our Lady of Bethlehem

but also had the most donors, with 103 participants. Much of the money came from offline donations.

“Many of our parishioners are older and are hesitant to donate online, but were enthusiastic about the campaign and donated early,” said Claire Hatem, a teacher at St. Anthony School who was the parish’s campaign coordinator. “We also had a wine and cheese party on Saturday, Nov. 17 that raised more than \$5,000 in advance gifts.”

Hatem said the money will be used for repaving and restriping the parish’s front and back park-

beyond that, we posted reminders on social media as #Giving Tuesday got closer, and we had yard signs available for families,” said Lauren Harrington, the school’s marketing coordinator. “It wasn’t a case of ‘me telling you,’ but of getting everyone involved. There was extra work involved, but it was worth the effort.”

The \$5,505 raised by the cathedral will be used for two purposes: its “back door ministry,” which distributes food and other basic needs to people who line up at its back entrance twice every day (Sundays and holidays included), and proposed accessibility improvements to the 140-year-old building, including motorized doors and related upgrades.

“Father Mike (Lumpe, cathedral rector) and I got the word out throughout November via Facebook, our website, emails, letters and the bulletin,” said Carol Stollenwerk, cathedral administrative assistant. “I think the response was so great because of what we were asking for – filling people’s physical needs by providing food and their spiritual needs by trying to make it easier for the disabled to come here.”

See #iGIVE, Page 4

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Faith in Action

By Erin Cordle

Christmas door buster idea – shop for ethical and fair trade gifts



Understanding the impact of our purchases and consumption helps ensure our choices do no harm to our neighbors or our world. Shopping for ethical/fair trade items for Christmas helps us respect the dignity of work, God's people here and abroad and His creation – our environment. Remember also that ethical/fair trade starts at home with locally sourced food and community artisan-made gifts.

The roots of fair trade come from projects initiated by churches in North America and Europe in the late 1940s. Their goal was to provide relief to refugees and poverty-stricken communities by selling their handicrafts to northern markets. Compared to conventional trading structures, these alternative trade organizations (ATOs) offered higher returns to producers in the developing world through direct trade and fair prices. In the United States, ATOs such as Ten Thousand Villages, SERRV, and Equal Exchange offer fair trade handicrafts, coffees and shelf-stable foods produced here and abroad.

Focusing on ethical/fair trade can bring us closer to our faith through education, advocacy and access to ethically produced products. One faith-filled approach would be to buy only ethically produced products you truly need. Here are some questions to ask yourself:

- *Am I fulfilling a need or a want with my purchase?*
- *Will my purchase affect positive change?*
- *Did making the product cause undue harm to the environment?*
- *Will the product make a positive contribution to my life or society as a whole?*
- *Where was this product made and who made it? What are their lives like?*
- *How can I keep from overindulging?*

The focus of Catholic Relief Services' ethical trade program is to help find (church) door buster items that support partner companies in the United States and around the world that uphold the highest standards of ethical/fair trade. CRS partners bring fair prices, safer working conditions and environmentally sustainable practices to poor and disadvantaged communities.

The CRS partner vetting process employs the principles of the world's leading fair trade organizations. However, CRS goes a step further to ensure these partners' business practices are not in conflict with Catholic social teaching. Companies featured in the CRS ethical trade catalog (<https://ethicaltrade.crs.org/guide>) are not involved in supporting, producing or providing access to procedures or materials in conflict with Catholic social and moral teaching related to abortions, abortifacients, contraceptives, fetal stem cell research, adult entertainment, military weapons, nuclear arms or land mines.

CRS also respects: workers to ensure fair and prompt payment to workers, protection for women and children and safe working conditions with third-party verification; communities that support outreach efforts where products are sourced and that honor producers' cultural norms and practices; and the environment through the good stewardship of sustainable production practices, materials and methods.

With every purchase through CRS, a donation is made to the agency's fair trade fund. For more than 20 years, the fund has invested in CRS projects here and around the world. Those projects are helping farmers adapt to climate change, improving access to markets, and supporting critical education and advocacy initiatives.

Examples of the fund's impact include:

- In northern Ghana, the fund helped women procure straw during their harvest season so that weavers could have access to straw during the lean season, when straw becomes more expensive.
- After Hurricane Matthew hit Haiti, artisans were especially hit hard and lost their workshops and much of their stock and supplies. CRS rebuilt three fair trade workshops and provided funding that supported the recovery of 35 people.
- CRS renovated 18 olive-wood carving workshops in the Holy Land that support the legacy of this traditional art form, creating workplaces that are safe for workers and the environment.

What gifts will you offer this year to honor the birth of Christ?

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

#iGIVE, continued from Page 3

The estimated cost of the accessibility improvements is \$40,000. "The cathedral belongs to the diocese. Making it more accessible gives everyone in the diocese a greater opportunity to participate in events here," Father Lumpe said. More information on contributing to the improvements is available at www.saintjosephcathedral.org.

"The contributions we received through #iGive Catholic (totaling \$1,200) were extremely beneficial because they came when our finances were at a really low point," said Tim Welsh, Bethesda executive director. "It gave us a great opportunity to remind people that Bethesda has been here for 25 years to support women and men who need healing after having been traumatized by an abortion experience.

"This is the giving season, and we hope more people find it in their hearts at this time to go to www.bethesdahealing.org and help what's been a fantastic ministry that's turned around many lives."

St. Matthew raised \$8,365, fourth overall in the diocese, through #iGive Catholic. The money will be used for improvements and ongoing upkeep of the parish adoration chapel.

"We've just finished our annual holiday collection for the parish Charitable Works Ministry, which provides food for parish families in need," said Jenna Zins, parish mission manager. "We wanted to complement that by raising funds for the chapel, which feeds people spiritually through the 24-hour presence of Jesus in the Eucharist.

"The chapel has space for plants, but because of its location in the church basement, it's been hard to keep the plants fresh. Some of the money raised through #iGive Catholic will allow us to replace the plants with sturdy, well-crafted statues of adoring angels. We hope this will add to the chapel's atmosphere of contemplation and help draw those who come here deeper into the faith," she said.

Piper said the development office will use this year's efforts to make the campaign more effective in the diocese next year. "This was a learning year. Now that all of us in the office know how the program works, we'll be able to build on that knowledge as we continue our mission of helping all our agencies do God's work," she said.

Besides those already mentioned, other diocesan organizations that raised the most money through #iGive Catholic included: fifth, Delaware St. Mary School, \$6,730; seventh through 10th, Grove City Our Lady of Perpetual Help School, \$4,000; Newark Blessed Sacrament Church and School, \$2,810; Worthington St. Michael Church and School, \$2,550; and New Lexington St. Rose Church, \$2,325.

Besides St. Anthony and Our Lady of Bethlehem, those with the most donors were St. Matthew, 62; St. Andrew, 53; Delaware St. Mary 50; St. Joseph Cathedral, 35; Blessed Sacrament, 32; Westerville St. Paul Church and School, 25; Granville St. Edward Church, 21; and Columbus St. Timothy School, 19.

Have Faith in Education

By Adam Dufault

A veteran teacher reflects on Catholic education

I've always appreciated how the Thanksgiving holiday leads right into the season of Advent in the Church. A day spent with family and turkey and appreciating God's gifts is a wonderful lead into the Church's season of preparation for the birth of Jesus. This year, my thoughts turned to an appreciation for the men and women who make Catholic education possible in the Diocese of Columbus — our teachers.

Teaching in a Catholic school is far more than a job. It is unquestionably a vocation. God calls men and women into service in our Catholic schools, asking them to enter the critically important teaching ministry of our Church. It is a call I am familiar with, as I heard it years ago when I began

my teaching career, and it hasn't left me as I've moved into administration. Very simply, I can't *not* be working in Catholic education — it is too much a part of my life.

Donna Doody exemplifies this same idea of dedication to Catholic education. She has the distinction of being the longest continuously serving teacher within the Diocese of Columbus, having started working in diocesan elementary schools 45 years ago. She is a lifelong resident of Columbus, attending St. James the Less School, St. Francis DeSales High School and Ohio Dominican University before starting her teaching career at the now-closed St. Gabriel School in 1973. She taught second grade for a few years before moving to first grade. In 1978, she began teaching first grade at Hilliard St. Brendan School, and that is where I found her on a recent day.

In a brightly decorated classroom

filled with adoring students, she is right at home. As she and I spoke about her life of service in our Catholic schools, it was apparent that the idea of teaching as a vocation shines through her. "I'm very thankful for my Catholic education. I had the gift of a Catholic education all the way through," she reflected. "It was a wonderful gift to me and it was



Teacher Donna Doody with her first-grade class at Hilliard St. Brendan School. Photo courtesy Adam Dufault

something that I wanted to do. As a teacher, I feel like I'm paying back something that was given to me by my parents, my grandparents and the (religious) sisters and the priests."

Will Gruber, principal at St. Brendan, sees how Doody is living out this calling each day. "Donna Doody is one of the most dedicated teachers I have ever had the pleasure of working with, and she embodies the values of Catholic education," he said. "Every student that she teaches grows academically and, more importantly, in the Catholic faith."

I asked Doody about why parents should choose Catholic schools today. Why are our schools still relevant and why are they still needed? "I think, in my own life, I appreciate my Catholic education as I've gotten older," she responded. "Here, the students aren't learning their



Overman retiring as retreat center director

Bob Overman is retiring as director of the Sts. Peter and Paul Retreat Center in Newark after 10 years at the center and 13 years as an employee of the Diocese of Columbus. He will be honored on Thursday, Dec. 13 at the 12:05 p.m. Mass at Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral, followed by a reception in the Catholic Center.

"All of my life, I've been 'rushing to the fires,' but now I can't do that as fast as I should, so it's time to let someone else take over," said Overman, 80. "I have a son in New Jersey and a daughter in Vermont and friends and relatives in Arizona and Florida, so I hope to spend a good bit of time traveling."

Overman and his wife of 53 years, Kathy, are members of Columbus Immaculate Conception Church and live in the city's Clintonville neighborhood. He said they plan to move to a smaller house, but anticipate remaining in Clintonville.

"Working for Bishop (Frederick) Campbell and the diocesan staff has been the best 10 years of my life," he said. "That has been a pleasant surprise. I used to be involved in corporate hospitality. Here, everyone is so much more gentlemanly and friendly."

The Overmans had spent 13 years operating the Meadowbrook Inn and Restaurant, a 16-room, 150-year-old resort in Pennsylvania's Pocono Mountains, before they came to Columbus, where Overman served as head of the diocesan Chancery's housekeeping staff for three years.

He came to the retreat center as director in 2008, replacing Deacon Mickey Hawkins, who had been in

charge of the center since it became diocesan property in 2003. It had been built in 1956 as a seminary by the PIME order of missionary priests.

The center is located on 500 wooded acres outside Newark. It has a main banquet hall, two smaller conference areas, a chapel, and indoor and outdoor recreation areas, as well as 21 private guest rooms and two dormitories, both with room for as many as 55 overnight guests.

It is used for a variety of events, including retreats, conferences, wedding receptions, and banquets. Overman said it has been booked for almost every weekend this year and into the first half of 2019. It also is used frequently during the week by groups for activities and by individuals who can make private retreats there from Monday through Thursday each week.

"We have expanded our business greatly by doing more with local parishes," he said. "That was one of my goals when I came here. It has brought great satisfaction to see more people realizing what an outstanding facility this is. I've received many comments on the excellence of our meals and especially how clean everything is. Everybody appreciates that. We're very service-oriented, and it's gratifying to have people notice."

Overman graduated with an engineering degree from the University of Notre Dame and was employed for many years as an engineer by Owens-Illinois in Columbus and elsewhere and by an aluminum extrusion company. He was working for Owens-Illinois in Pittston, Pennsylvania, when he decided to become an innkeeper.

PRAYER TO THE VIRGIN

(Never known to fail)

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

Confessing a murder; homilist limited in English



QUESTION & ANSWER
Father Kenneth Doyle
Catholic News Service

QI am an old-time Catholic. We were taught that, to be forgiven in confession, we had to: 1) be truly sorry; 2) resolve firmly never to commit the sin again; and 3) make it right (e.g., give the money back, tell people that the gossip was a lie, etc.).

On television and in the movies, sometimes a murderer confesses to a priest who is unable then to break the seal of confession. My question is this: Are murderers forgiven if they do not turn themselves in to the police and serve prison time for the crime? Or is the sin forgiven with no strings attached? (Milwaukee)

AWith regard to the conditions for forgiveness, you learned your catechism well. In fact, the present-day *Catechism of the Catholic Church* says “Many sins wrong our neighbor. One must do what is possible in order to repair the harm (e.g., return stolen goods, restore the reputation of someone slandered, pay compensation for injuries)” (No. 1459).

You are right, too, about the seal of confession; a priest is bound to absolute secrecy. The church’s *Code of Canon Law* could not be more clear: “The sacramental seal is inviolable; therefore it is absolutely forbidden for a confessor to betray in any way a penitent in words or in any manner and for any reason” (Canon 983).

A later canon stipulates that a priest who would violate the seal is to be excommunicated (Canon 1388). (In 2017, when an Australian government commission recommended that Catholic priests become mandatory reporters of child sexual abuse, the Catholic Church strongly objected as applied to the sacrament of penance.)

As to your specific question, forgiveness in the sacrament is contingent on a person’s genuine sorrow and sincere resolve not to commit the sin again; those are the “strings attached.” Beyond that, a priest has no power to condition absolution on the sinner’s turning himself in to the police.

The confessor can encourage, plead with, urge the penitent to do exactly that – he might even offer to accompany the penitent to the police station – but having judged the penitent to be truly sorry, the absolving priest has no authority to impose this further step as a prerequisite to absolution.

QRecently in your column, you answered a parishioner who had an overseas priest with less-than-suitable English skills doing the homilies. An approach that was used in our own parish was to have the homily printed and left in the pews, so that parishioners could read along as the celebrant spoke.

I believe that the nominal cost of this was far outweighed by what the congregation was able to retain. I was also wondering – although this was not done in our parish – whether it would be permissible in a case like this for a parishioner to read the priest’s homily from the lectern in place of the priest. (I do think that our parish has benefited greatly from the cultural diversity of our priests and deacons.) (Greensburg, Indiana)

AA printed homily in the pews, in that situation, strikes me as a good idea. It would fill out and reinforce the bits and pieces the congregation might be able to understand from the pulpit.

As to your question, I shouldn’t think it a problem to have a parishioner read aloud the priest’s written words; it is, after all, the celebrant’s own homily. (Liturgical regulations call for a homily to be given by a priest or deacon.)

I might add that some parishes print on their website the text of Sunday homilies. This not only permits shut-ins to benefit, but allows churchgoers to reflect on the homily at their leisure once they return home.

Questions may be sent to Father Kenneth Doyle at askfatherdoyle@gmail.com and 30 Columbia Circle Drive, Albany NY 12203.

Meyer to retire as Ohio State football coach

By Doug Bean, *Catholic Times* Editor

Dublin St. Brigid of Kildare parishioner Urban Meyer announced Tuesday that he is stepping down as Ohio State football coach after the Rose Bowl game against Washington on Jan. 1, 2019, in Pasadena, California.

Meyer, 54, leaves behind a legacy

as honorary chairs of the 2015 Bishop’s Annual Appeal in the Diocese of Columbus. Their son, Nate, attended St. Brigid School and graduated in 2018 from Columbus Bishop Watterson High School. The Meyers donated a new baseball and softball batting cage at Watterson that was dedicated in 2018.



The Meyer family donated a batting cage facility at Bishop Watterson High School that was dedicated on Feb. 25. Pictured from left are Deacon Frank Iannarino, the school’s chaplain; Shelley and Urban Meyer; their son, 2018 Watterson graduate Nate Meyer, and Deacon Chris Campbell, Watterson’s principal. Photo courtesy Bishop Watterson High School

as one of the most successful coaches in college football history. He has compiled a 186-32 record as a head coach at Bowling Green, Utah, Florida and Ohio State. His final team at Ohio State is 12-1 after winning the Big Ten Conference championship game last week in Indianapolis.

In seven seasons at Ohio State, Meyer’s teams have gone 82-9 overall and 54-4 in Big Ten regular-season games, including a 7-0 mark against rival Michigan. The Buckeyes won the national championship in 2014 and three Big Ten titles under Meyer, who also won two national titles while at Florida. His 90.1 winning percentage is unequalled in school history, better than Jim Tressel (82.8), Woody Hayes (76.1) and Earle Bruce (75.5).

Meyer, who grew up in Ashtabula and graduated from St. John High School there, was hired at Ohio State in November 2011 after Luke Fickell, a former St. Brigid parishioner, took over as interim head coach for a year following Tressel’s resignation. Fickell is now head coach at the University of Cincinnati.

Meyer and his wife, Shelley, served

“We appreciate what is accomplished by the Bishop’s Annual Appeal,” the Meyers said in 2015 in announcing their support for the BAA. “We can think of no better way to serve our Church, and we are deeply grateful for the work of our volunteers, and the generosity of our parishioners. Together, our gifts will assist our less fortunate brothers and sisters in Christ throughout the Diocese.”

While Ohio State enjoyed success on the field, Meyer experienced a difficult season in 2018. He was suspended for three games for his handling of an alleged domestic situation involving a former assistant coach. He also has been affected by health issues stemming from a congenital arachnoid cyst in his brain.

Meyer will be replaced by 39-year-old Ryan Day, the team’s offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach for the past two seasons. Day was the acting coach when Meyer served his suspension at the start of the season. He is a former NFL assistant, but never has been a head coach.

At press time, Meyer’s future plans were unclear.

THE EVERYDAY CATHOLIC

By Rick Jeric

Words cannot describe



There is no need to explain the topic of this column. We have all heard and even used the phrase “words cannot describe.” At the risk of sounding too corny, I am going to attempt a blend of real-life events, people and occurrences that would do this phrase justice. And pardon me if I get too

personal. Words cannot describe how blessed and fortunate all of us are, even those of us struggling with great personal or family challenges. We still enjoy the life and love of Our Lord Jesus Christ, His Heavenly Father, and His Holy Spirit. The fact that you and I exist began with God choosing us, naming us and loving us. We are the products of His love. Words cannot describe the instruments of God’s love who allowed us into the world – our parents. Yes, there are so many unique situations, but we love our parents. Words cannot describe the assuming of that role when we become parents ourselves. It is such an unforgettable experience; we know that God plays a major role. It is a joyous event every time, especially for us dads as observers and coaches. And when all of your children reach milestones in their lives, there is so much love and joy that pours forth from God. You know what I mean, and I know my experiences are not unique. Let us be sure that we take the time to thank God for those special times. And what better way than to celebrate a weekday Mass and the Eucharist, which is Thanksgiving itself.

Words cannot describe how old I feel right now. Our oldest son turns 30 on Saturday, Dec. 8. It seems like only yesterday when he was born looking very blue, with the umbilical cord wrapped around his neck three times. Words cannot describe my transition from horror to joy within seconds as the doctor unraveled the cord, and he took his first breath. Words cannot describe how proud we are of him and his tremendous example as a great Catholic Christian young man. Our middle son just turned 26 in September. Words cannot describe the concern when he suddenly dropped into the birth canal and was feet-first breech. An emergency C-section and a few prayers later, there he was. And, yes, words cannot describe how proud we are of him and his living example. Our daughter turned 21 this year. Words cannot describe how straightforward and relatively easy her birth was. We knew it would be a girl. Words cannot describe her wonderful ongoing witness to her faith in all that she does. Well, except for keeping her room clean. So why do I feel so old? In 2019, both of our sons will be married to wonderful young women, and our daughter will graduate from college. Words cannot describe the thankfulness and pride. And to top it off, their dad will turn 60.

Words cannot describe what it must have been like to be the Blessed Virgin Mary. Not only was she conceived without sin, she led the model life of someone totally committed to whatever God asked of her. And that included bearing His Son, thereby granting us all redemption and eternal life. Whenever things are really tough, and when words cannot describe our angst and stress, put yourself in Mary’s position. She simply said “Yes” and then trusted in God. Words cannot describe her love and faith. Remember her Son’s Divine Mercy, “Jesus, I Trust in You.” Words cannot describe the anticipation of Advent. Our children and grandchildren really do get it as they anticipate the joy of Christmas. Let us be sure they understand the real joy and love of the season that words cannot describe. Finally, our lives should reflect our faith. Join me with your own witnesses, as words cannot describe the love that forces me into humility for my God, my parents, my wife and my children. Come, Lord Jesus!



GRACE IN THE MOMENT

Mary Van Balen

Thoughts on the American bishops’ letter against racism

On Wednesday, Nov. 14, the U.S. Council of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) released *Open Wide Our Hearts: The Enduring Call to Love*, a pastoral letter against racism. It’s the first pastoral letter to address this topic in 40 years. Why now? Bishop Shelton J. Fabre, chairman of the bishops’ ad hoc committee against racism, explained: “The entire body of bishops felt the *need to address the topic of racism once again, after witnessing the deterioration of the public discourse, and episodes of violence and animosity, with racial and xenophobic overtones, that have re-emerged in American society in the last few years.*”

The letter includes sections on the meaning of racism and justice, and the history and experience of Native Americans, African Americans and Hispanics in our nation. Other themes that weave throughout the letter include God’s love shared, how all people are created in God’s image, and the necessity to act in love to heal the wounds inflicted by racism.

Some of us remember images on television or in newspapers of Roman Catholic clergy, religious, and laypersons marching alongside Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. or participating in sit-ins and demonstrations during the civil rights era of the ’50s and ’60s. Certainly, progress has been made. The bishops recognize the work of many good people who spent their lives combatting such injustice.

While acknowledging this, the bishops confront the uncomfortable truth that “racism still infects our nation” (page 3 of the letter). It exists in individuals and their actions, as well as in our culture and institutions. The call is for transformation of hearts and of society. The hard work of addressing racism has been going on for decades, but is far from over.

Open Wide Our Hearts also recognizes the complicity in this sin of racism by “... sons and daughters of the Catholic Church ...” at all levels. Looking back in history for example, the bishops cite Pope Nicholas V’s Pa-

pal Bull *Dum Diversas* (1452), which gave permission for the sovereigns of Spain and Portugal to buy and sell Africans (page 21).

(This decree, along with others issued between 1095 and 1493, informed what became known as the Doctrine of Discovery, an international legal concept that basically proclaimed the right of European explorers not only to enslave Africans, but also to seize land from non-Christians. Its influence was embedded in laws and policies worldwide and continues today.)

Of course, such blatant misuse of the gospel – and using God’s name to “bless” such oppression and dehumanization of others – met with immediate opposition from many Christians and Church leaders and continues today. But you can see why racism is so difficult to root out. It was planted deeply long ago.

In addition to calling us to honest reflection on the history and effects of racism in our nation and to humbly examine complicity, this pastoral letter also calls us forward in hope. We do not work alone, but draw on the love and presence of God who dwells within each of us. It is God’s love that will transform hearts and heal wounds. But it must flow through us.

We are called to work for justice with humility: “To press forward without fear also means cooperating with God’s grace by taking direct and deliberate steps for change. It means opening doorways where once only walls stood” (page 21)

The Columbus St. Thomas More Newman Center recently invited people to gather, reflect on excerpts from this pastoral letter, and share thoughts and stories. It was an opportunity to, as the bishops instructed, “... engage the world and encounter others ... invite into dialogue those we ordinarily would not seek out ... go beyond ourselves, opening our minds and hearts to value and respect the experiences

Reading by flashlight at St. Anthony



First-grade students at Columbus St. Anthony School and their sixth-grade buddies had a glimpse of what life was like before electric lighting as they read by flashlight. Shown are first-grader Ralphie Gebregziabher (left) and buddy Vanessa Ohene.

Photo courtesy St. Anthony School

Mayor visits Holy Spirit class



Whitehall Mayor Kim Maggard visited first-grade students at Columbus Holy Spirit School, who have been learning in social studies classes about government leaders. The mayor explained the duties of her office and patiently answered every student's question. She is pictured (left) in the back of the classroom with teacher Susan Butler.

Photo courtesy Holy Spirit School

St. Andrew School hosts author



Author Alan St. Jean visited Columbus St. Andrew School to talk with students about the process of writing. He spoke about getting an idea, developing a storyline and plot, building characters, and all the other elements of writing a story and publishing a book. He encouraged students in all grades to use their gifts and to have a positive attitude, as everyone is a creator and author in a special way. Pictured with St. Jean are (from left) kindergarten students Juliana Pardi, Joe Kaleta, Davis Hansberry, Griffin Ezell and Charlotte Riedl.

Photo courtesy St. Andrew School

Byzantine pastor speaks to latchkey students



Father Robert Stash, pastor of St. John Chrysostom Byzantine Catholic Church, spoke to students in Reynoldsburg St. Pius X School's latchkey program as part of their "Priest or Deacon of the Day" program. He is shown with student Emerson Forshey, who invited him to visit the group.

Photo courtesy Beth Antomarchi

OPEN POSITION

Job Vacancy for a Pre-K to 6th Grade Principal exists at St. Peter Catholic School Transfiguration of the Lord Parish, Upper Sandusky, OH.

Candidates may inquire by calling the rectory at (419) 294-1268.

*Applicants should submit a letter of interest no later than January 15, 2019 and 3 letters of reference.

*Early applications will be viewed favorably by the Search Committee

St. Pius latchkey students and staff are using the monthly calendar found on the Face Forward website, an on-line community created by the diocesan Office of Vocations, to pray for the priests and deacons of the diocese, one of whom is listed each day on the calendar. One of the students writes to the featured clergy member of the day to let him know the group prayed for him. Several priests and deacons have written responses saying how much

they appreciate the prayers.

Father Stash came to St. Pius X to talk about the Byzantine rite of the Catholic Church and presented the students with an icon of Mary as a "thank you" gift. He showed them the way that Eastern-rite Catholics make the Sign of the Cross, touching their right shoulder first rather than their left one, and told the story of how an icon of Mary protected Constantinople from an attack in the ninth century.

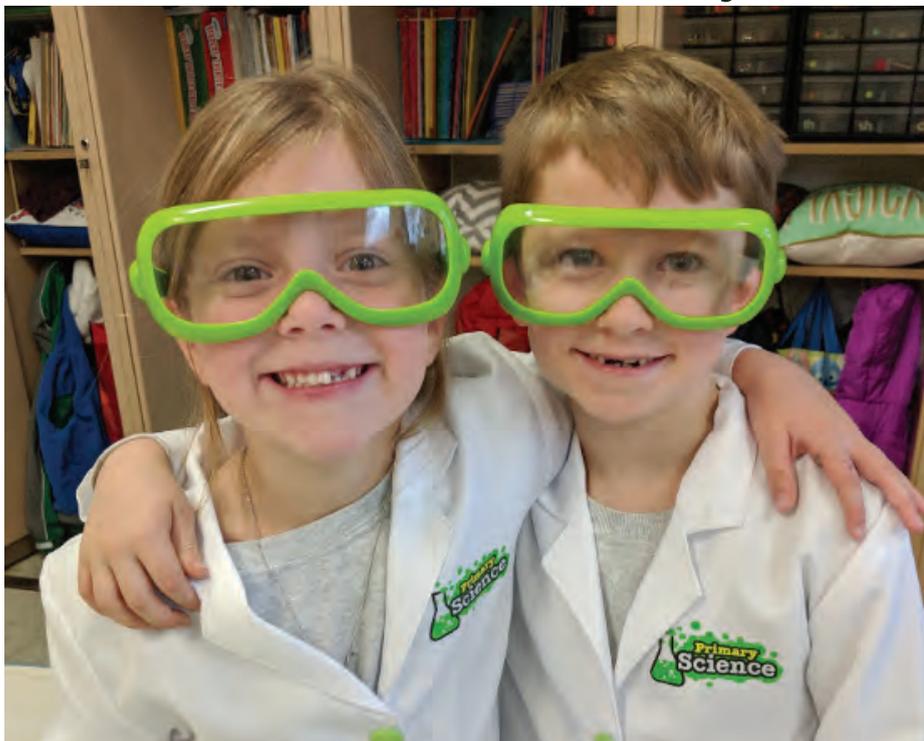
Claver auxiliary distributes pencils



St. Cyprian Court 298 of the Knights of St. Peter Claver Ladies Auxiliary distributed pencils with the message “We Are Praying for You” to students of Columbus All Saints, St. Anthony, St. Catharine, St. James the Less, St. Joseph Montessori and St. Mary schools. Linda Cotter (left), a teacher at St. Mary School, is shown receiving pencils from Amanda Herndon-Walker of Court 298. The pencil distribution was part of the 27th annual national observance of Children’s Sabbath Weekend, which is celebrated by the Children’s Defense Fund and brings together multifaith communities to lift up children in need and answer the call of their individual faith traditions to pursue justice, mercy and compassion.

Photo courtesy Knights of St. Peter Claver Ladies Auxiliary Court 298

‘Mad science’ at Trinity



Lyla Scott (left) and Colton Smith are among Columbus Trinity Elementary School kindergarten students taking part in “Mad Science Mondays.” Each week, teacher Monica Murnane asks a different student to present an experiment. This is a home-based project, with students bringing details of the experiment to their parents and having a week to prepare it. Children are involved in each step of the process, which includes gathering needed materials, reviewing the instructions, practicing the experiment, filling out a lab report, and performing the experiment in front of their classmates. Photo/Trinity School

Ready Castle Crew continues to grow



Brady Fischer, a fourth-grader at Columbus St. Mary German Village School, with an image keyed over the green screen from a viewer’s perspective at a technology and robotics evening sponsored by Columbus Bishop Ready High School’s Castle Crew.

Photo courtesy Bishop Ready High School

The Columbus Bishop Ready High School Castle Crew continues to grow and provide a “sneak peek” of life at Ready for students in grades four through eight.

Now in its fifth year, the Castle Crew enables elementary-school students and Ready students to work on projects together. Crew events, ranging from athletics to a technology and robotics evening and an “In the Know” competition, take place at Bishop Ready, with Ready students participating in leadership roles and supervision given by Ready faculty and staff members.

The Crew’s opening tailgate party

included admission to a Ready football game. The second event of the year was a technology and robotics extravaganza in which participants played Kahoot!, tried coding and Photoshop, and practiced broadcasting with a green screen, all in Ready’s communications center.

Three events are scheduled for the rest of the academic year, beginning with a pizza party and basketball game on Friday, Jan. 18. Membership is open throughout the year. More information is available by calling Jennifer Gramlich at (614) 276-5263, extension 227, or sending an email to jgramlic@cdeducation.org.

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OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE: EVANGELIZER OF AMERICA

By Alma Ciriello

Associate Director, Diocesan Catholic Ethnic Ministries

It was on Dec. 9, 1531, a few years after the Spanish colonization of Mexico, when a converted, humble, indigenous man named Juan Diego – his baptismal name – was going to the church in Tenochtitlan (now Mexico City) for the Mass of the day. The weather was cold and he was wearing his *tilma* (a kind of poncho) to protect himself from the low temperatures.

When he was by the hill of Tepeyac, he heard a soft music coming from the top of the hill. Feeling curious about it, he went there and he saw a resplendent light. There appeared before him a woman speaking his own language (Nahuatl). She was pronouncing his name softly. She told him that she was the Immaculate Virgin Mary, mother of the true God.

The virgin told him it was her desire that a temple be built for her so she could show her mercy to the city. She told him to see Bishop Juan de Zumarraga and tell him what he saw and heard. The bishop received Juan Diego, but doubted his words. He told Juan Diego to come back the following day.

That same day, Juan Diego was returning to his home when he saw the Virgin for a second time. He sadly told her that he was not successful on his mission. The Virgin asked him to go the following day to see the bishop.

Juan Diego did return to see the bishop, and this time, the bishop, who still doubted his words, told him to bring proof of what he had seen and heard.

Juan Diego went back to the hill and told the Virgin what the bishop told him. The Virgin asked him to come back to the hill the following day. Juan Diego could not return the following day because his uncle Juan Bernardino, who was living with him, was seriously ill.

On Dec. 12, 1531, seeing the seriousness of his uncle's illness, Juan Diego went to the city to look for a priest. On his way there, he felt ashamed for not having been at the hill the day before, as the Virgin asked him. He wanted to avoid seeing her, so he took a different path.

The Virgin came down to encounter him, and when he told her what was happening, she said to him, "Do not be worried about your uncle's illness. He will not die of it now. Be sure that he has healed." Then she asked him to go to the top of the hill, cut some flowers that he would find there, and bring the flowers back to her.

Juan Diego went there and he put the flowers on his *tilma*. He returned to where the Virgin was. She arranged the flowers on the *tilma* and told him to take them to the bishop. She advised him not to open the *tilma* until he was in front of the bishop.

When Juan Diego arrived to see the bishop, he told the bishop that he had



Indigenous folk dancers perform during a celebration honoring Our Lady of Guadalupe in Houston's city center on Dec. 3, 2017. CNS photo/James Ramos, Texas Catholic Herald

the sign the bishop was asking for. He opened his *tilma*; the flowers fell to the floor, and to everyone's amazement, printed on the *tilma* was the image of Our Blessed Lady of Guadalupe.

Our Lady of Guadalupe facts:

- Juan Bernardino, Juan Diego's uncle, healed from his illness after the Virgin appeared to him on his deathbed on the morning of Dec. 12, 1531.
- Juan Bernardino called the Virgin *Te-coa-tla-xo-pe*, which in the Nahuatl language means "The one that crushes the stone serpent."

• To the Spaniards, it sounded something like *De Guadalupe*. Since then, this has been her name.

• The *tilma* displaying the image is made of cactus fiber. The durability of the image on this fabric for almost 500 years is a miracle.

• The image was placed in the first temple to Our Lady, a hastily erected structure, on Dec. 26, 1531.

• Juan Diego died on May 30, 1548 at the age of 74.

• Pope St. John Paul II canonized him on July 31, 2002.

PARISHES CELEBRATE FEAST OF OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

By Tim Puet, Catholic Times Reporter

Parishes throughout the Diocese of Columbus will be celebrating the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe with Masses and other events, mainly on Sunday, Dec. 9 and the feast day itself, Wednesday, Dec. 12. That day is the anniversary of the third and final apparition of the Blessed Virgin to St. Juan Diego in 1531 at Tepeyac Hill, near Mexico City.

Some parish programs will include the "Happy Birthday" serenades to Mary that are known as *mananitas*. The schedule for activities throughout the diocese is as follows:

Parroquia Santa Cruz, Columbus – Procession starting at the COTA Park and Ride stop, 4939 N. High St., traveling 3.9 miles down High Street and Patterson Avenue to Holy Name Church, 154 E. Patterson Ave., Columbus, 8 a.m. Dec. 9, with *mananitas* upon arrival at the church, followed by Mass and refreshments. *Mananitas* at the church, 9 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 11. Rosary, 6:30 p.m. Dec. 12, with Mass at 7, followed by refreshments.

Columbus Christ the King – *Mananitas* and rosary, 6 a.m. Dec. 9, followed by breakfast at 7. Procession, 11:30 a.m. Dec. 9, starting at Columbus St. Philip Church and traveling to church for 12:30 p.m. Mass, followed

by a celebration at 1:30 p.m. in All Saints Academy gym.

Columbus St. Agnes – Mass, 7 p.m. Dec. 12, followed by a procession around the parish grounds and a fiesta in the social hall.

Columbus St. James the Less – Rosary and *mananitas*, 11 p.m. Dec. 11. Mass, 7 p.m. Dec. 12, followed by a procession around the property and food and fellowship in the school cafeteria.

Columbus St. Ladislav – Procession, 5:30 p.m. Dec. 12, followed by Mass at 6 and music program and potluck dinner at 7.

Columbus St. Peter – *Mananitas* and rosary, 5 a.m. Dec. 12, church; breakfast, 6 a.m. Dec. 12, Blue Room; Mass in Spanish, 9 p.m. Dec. 12, church, followed by dances in the gathering space.

Columbus St. Stephen – Procession starting at 9 a.m. Dec. 9 from church's upper parking lot to corner of Sullivant Avenue and Georgesville Road and back, followed by Mass at noon. Dramatization of Mary's appearance to St. Juan Diego, 8 p.m. Dec. 11, followed by dancing at 9:30, Vigil Mass in Spanish at 10 and *mananitas* at 11. *Mananitas*, 5 a.m. Dec. 12, followed by Mass in Spanish at 5:30 a.m., Mass in English at 8:30 a.m. and Mass in Spanish at 7 p.m.

Columbus St. Thomas – Procession from back entrance of Mann's Trailer Park and Sixth Avenue to church, 10:30 a.m. Dec. 10, followed by bilingual Mass at 11:30.

Delaware St. Mary – Mass in English, 8:15 a.m. Dec. 12. Mass in Spanish, 5 p.m. Dec. 12, including *mananitas* and mariachi music, followed by social gathering in Beitel Commons from 6 to 8 p.m.

Dover St. Joseph – *Mananitas*, 8 to 9 p.m. Dec. 11, beginning with traditional meal and procession. Eucharistic Adoration follows at 9 p.m. and continues until 5:45 a.m. Dec. 12, followed by Mass at 6 a.m.

Marion St. Mary – Two-mile procession from Crescent Heights Road to church, 11 a.m. Dec. 9, followed by traditional dancing in Moira Hall at 12:30 p.m., Mass in Spanish at 1, and dinner and music at 2:30. *Mananitas* and rosary, with coffee and doughnuts afterward, 5 a.m. Dec. 12. Mass in Spanish, 7 p.m. Dec. 12, followed in Moira Hall by a re-enactment of Mary's appearance to St. Juan Diego.

Newark St. Francis de Sales – Mass, 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 13, followed by fiesta in Johnson Hall. Confessions starting at 5:30.

Portsmouth Holy Redeemer and St. Mary – Re-enactment of Mary's ap-

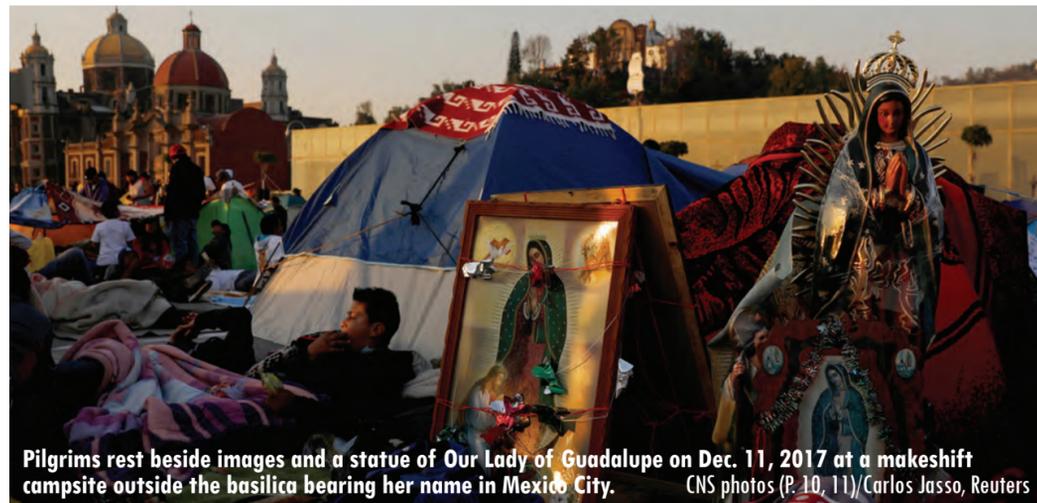


2017 Guadalupe feast in Mexico City.

pearance, 6 p.m. Dec. 12, with bilingual Mass at 7, followed by potluck dinner, all at St. Mary. *Posada* event with lay missionaries from the Missionary Servants of the Word, recalling Mary and Joseph's difficulty in finding shelter in Bethlehem before Jesus was born, 6:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 22, Holy Redeemer. Begins with rosary, followed by potluck dinner.

Waverly St. Mary – Mass, 5:30 p.m. Dec. 12, followed by Eucharistic Adoration, with Benediction at 7.

GUADALUPE: EVANGELIZADORA DE LAS AMERICAS



Pilgrims rest beside images and a statue of Our Lady of Guadalupe on Dec. 11, 2017 at a makeshift campsite outside the basilica bearing her name in Mexico City. CNS photos (P. 10, 11)/Carlos Jasso, Reuters

Era el 9 de diciembre de 1531, pocos años después de la Colonización Española en México, cuando un humilde indígena convertido se dirigía hacia la Iglesia en Tenochtitlan (Hoy Ciudad de México) para la Misa del día. Hacía frío y él llevaba puesta su tilma para protegerse un poco del clima.

Cuando iba pasando por el Cerro del Tepeyac escuchó una música suave en la cima del cerro. Por curiosidad se dirigió hacia allá y miró una luz resplandeciente. Entonces se le apareció una mujer hablándole en su propio idioma, el náhuatl. Le hablaba dulcemente por su nombre. Ella le dijo que era la Inmaculada Virgen María, Madre del verdadero Dios.

La Virgen le dijo que era su deseo que se le construyera un templo en el llano para atender y mostrar su misericordia al pueblo indígena.

Le dijo que fuera ante el Obispo Juan de Zumárraga y le contara lo que había visto y oído. El Obispo lo recibió pero dudaba de sus palabras, le dijo que regresara otro día.

Ese mismo día Juan Diego al regresar a su casa miró de Nuevo a la Santísima Virgen y le contó tristemente que no había tenido éxito con su misión. La Virgen le pidió que regresara al día siguiente a ver al Obispo. Juan Diego así lo hizo y esta vez el Obispo, que aun dudaba de sus palabras le pidió que le llevara una prueba de lo que había visto y oído.

Juan Diego fue a contarle a la Virgen lo que el Obispo le había dicho. La virgen le pidió que regresara al día siguiente por la prueba que el

Obispo le había pedido. Juan Diego no pudo regresar al día siguiente porque su tío Juan Bernardino que vivía con él se había enfermado gravemente.

El 12 de diciembre, viendo la gravedad de su tío, Juan Diego fue a buscar un sacerdote. Al pasar por el cerro del Tepeyac sintió vergüenza de no haber cumplido con el mandato de la Virgen y decidió rodear el cerro para no encontrarse con ella.

La virgen bajó a su encuentro y cuando él le contara lo que sucedía, ella le dijo, "No te aflija la enfermedad de tu tío, que no morirá ahora de ella; te aseguro que ya sanó." Entonces ella le pidió que subiera a la cumbre del cerro y que cortara unas

flores que estaban allá.

Juan Diego puso las flores en su tilma y bajó de nuevo a encontrarse con a la virgen. Ella arregló las flores, y luego le dijo que fuera a llevarlas ante el Obispo, y solamente ante él desplegara la Tilma.

Al llegar Juan Diego ante el Obispo, le dijo que llevaba la señal que había pedido. Desplegó su tilma y para asombro de todos, la Imagen de la Santísima Virgen estaba impresa en la Tilma.

Hechos Guadalupanos:

• Juan Bernardino, tío de Juan Diego, sanó de su enfermedad después de que se le apareciera la Virgen de Guadalupe en su lecho de muerte el 12 de Diciembre por la mañana.

• Juan Bernardino la llamó "Te-coa-tla-xo-pe," que en la lengua náhuatl quiere decir "La que aplasta la serpiente de piedra."

• A los españoles les sonó como "De Guadalupe." Nombre que se le quedó hasta la fecha.

• La tilma con la Imagen grabada está fabricada con fibra de maguey. La duración de la Imagen de la virgen sobre esta tela por casi 500 años es un milagro.

• La imagen se colocó en el primer templo de la Virgen el 26 de diciembre de 1531.

• Juan Diego murió el 30 de mayo de 1548 a los 74 años de edad.

• Fue canonizado el 31 de julio del 2002 por el Papa Juan Pablo II

A BRIEF HISTORY OF SIMBANG GABI

By Pam Harris,
Director, Diocesan Catholic Ethnic Ministries

A pilgrim carries an image of Our Lady of Guadalupe Dec. 12 during the annual pilgrimage in her honor in Mexico City. (CNS/Carlos Jasso, Reuters) is a long-treasured Philippine tradition in which “dawn Masses” are celebrated for nine consecutive days before Christmas Day. *Simbang Gabi* is a phrase of the Tagalog language of the Philippines which translates to “dawn Mass” in English.

Its liturgical significance emanates from the season of Advent, the time for spiritual preparation and purification so we can worthily welcome and receive the Child Jesus in our midst. The Mass at dawn, *Simbang Gabi*, is a novena to the Blessed Mother which starts every Dec. 16 and is one of the longest and most important religious celebrations in the Philippines.

The tradition goes back to a time when missionary friars celebrated pre-dawn Masses for nine consecutive days in preparation for the event of Jesus’ birth. The Masses took place very early, usually at 4 a.m., since

they occurred during the harvest season, when farmers had to be in the fields at the crack of dawn. Such a Mass was known as a *Missa del Gallo*, a Spanish phrase for “rooster’s Mass.” This is because at the first sound of dawn, at the crowing of the rooster, the entire family would get up and walk to the nearest church.

Simbang Gabi is a time when Catholic churches across the Philippines celebrate Mass outdoors to accommodate the faithful. This goes back to a practice that began in Mexico in 1587, when Diego de Soria, a Mexican friar, received permission for outdoor Masses to accommodate the huge number of worshipers that came to celebrate Christmas. At times when Mass is not celebrated outside, the doors of the church are wide open to allow people who remain outdoors to share in the atmosphere of the Mass.

During this time, colorful lanterns are hung in every door, window, tree branch and street corner. Bands play native carols while families, couples and individuals make their way to the nearest church.

The novena culminates on the ninth day with the

Mass of the Gifts, which celebrates the birth of Jesus and became a spiritual tradition in the late 17th century, during the early years of Christianity in the Philippines.

Shortly after the Mass, people gather in their homes to celebrate *Noche Buena*, the feast before Christmas Day, and to enjoy local delicacies made of rice flour, coconut milk, and other traditional desserts.

In the United States, Filipino immigrants brought with them this distinct tradition, which is observed in the evening and outside of the regular Advent liturgy. This spiritual and cultural tradition has grown significantly in this country, and it invites all people of faith to prepare for the birth of Christ through prayer and fellowship.

In the Diocese of Columbus, there will be *Simbang Gabi* Masses at 7:30 p.m. from Saturday, Dec. 15 to Saturday, Dec. 22 at Columbus St. Elizabeth Church, 6077 Sharon Woods Blvd., with a closing Mass at 7 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 23, followed by a celebration in the parish hall.

Halina Hesus, Halina! (Tagalog for “O come, O come, Emmanuel!”)

THEOLOGY TALK TO EXAMINE OUR CALL AS MISSIONARIES

By Diocesan Catholic Ethnic Ministries Office

The month of December is important because we begin anew with Advent and the new liturgical year. As we end the previous year of faith, we look forward to new beginnings and opportunities to rekindle our spirit. How appropriate to end each Church year with the Solemnity of Christ the King and the reminder that, in the words of St. Augustine of Hippo, “Our hearts are restless until they can find rest in you.”

During Advent, we consider our bap-

tismal call to live a life of holiness by growing in faith, hope and charity. We are a strong Christian community seeking to be imitators of Christ, to love one another and to express our faith.

As we start the new liturgical year, let’s intentionally seek opportunities to grow in friendship with one another. Find opportunities to visit other parishes and to support and participate in spiritual and cultural celebrations.

This month, the Catholic Church celebrates the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Many parishes include a procession of the Virgin Mother to

celebrate her role as patroness of the Americas and Mexico. We continue to look to her to accompany and encourage us as we work together to strengthen our communities.

In addition, Catholics from throughout the diocese will have a chance to share their diverse faith experiences on Saturday, Dec. 15, when the diocesan Catholic Ethnic Ministries Office sponsors the first of a series of Theology Talk: Community programs from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Martin de Porres Center, 2330 Airport Drive, Columbus.

This session will explore the understanding of our role as “catholic” or universal and our call to be missionaries. It also will seek to rekindle cultural experiences in parish and community life. Presenters will be Pam Harris, Alma Ciriello and Devin Jones of the Catholic Ethnic Ministries office. Lunch will be provided.

To register for this free event, visit the office’s website, <https://columbus-catholic.org/cem>, send an email message to ethnicministries@columbus-catholic.org, or call (614) 221-7990. Space is limited.

KERNS HONORED FOR GIFT TO GUADALUPE CENTER

The central Ohio chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals presented R. Kevin Kerns with the Leave a Legacy Award for his contribution to Catholic Social Services’ Our Lady of Guadalupe Center, which serves the largest population of Hispanics in central Ohio. Kerns was honored at the association’s National Philanthropy Day award luncheon last month.

Continuing a family commitment to social justice and philanthropy, Kerns’ legacy gift to the center will fund a bilingual case manager and connect the center’s clients with individualized resources to help them move toward self-sufficiency.

It also will empower the center to make an exponentially greater impact in the community. It is the only resource center aimed specifically at Franklin County’s growing immigrant Hispanic population.

“This impact would not be possible without the forward thinking and vision of Mr. Kerns,” said Rachel Lustig, president and chief executive officer of Catholic Social Services. “Because of his generosity, CSS will be able to leverage this gift into even more resources to help the growing immigrant Latino community, and in so doing; we will be able to continue extending the Kerns family’s legacy of service.”



Phoenix Bishop Thomas J. Olmsted accepts the gifts during a Mass on Dec. 2, 2017 that was part of the annual diocesan “Honor Your Mother” event.

CNS photo/Billy Hardiman, The Catholic Sun

BYZANTINE CATHOLICS HAVE ADDED GUADALUPE FEAST TO THEIR CALENDAR

By Father Andrew Summerson,
Catholic News Service

CHICAGO -- Renowned for its reverence for ancient tradition, the Byzantine Catholic Church is rather unhurried to add new feasts to its liturgical calendar.

However, in the past 20 years, the Byzantine-Ruthenian Catholic Church in the United States has added at least four new feast days, namely for three 20th-century martyred bishops – Blessed Paul Gojdich, July 17, Basil Hopko, July 23, and Theodore Romzha, Oct. 31 – and one feast dedicated to the mother of God, Our Lady of Guadalupe, Dec. 12. (*Columbus St. John Chrysostom Byzantine Catholic Church will celebrate the feast at its 9 a.m. Divine Liturgy for that date.*)



While Our Lady of Guadalupe has been on the Byzantine Catholic calendar since 1999, many Byzantine Catholics still are unaware that this feast, largely perceived as a devotion of Latin-American Roman Catholics, also is theirs to celebrate.

Mary appeared to St. Juan Diego at dawn Dec. 9, 1531, on Tepeyac Hill, in what is now northern Mexico City. She appeared to Juan Diego twice more, and the last time, on Dec. 12, filled his *tilma*, or cloak, with roses. When he emptied his cloak of the roses, he found that it bore her image. The cloak is enshrined in the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico City.

St. Mary Parish in Whiting, Indiana, has taken the lead in the Eparchy of Parma in promoting this Marian devotion. The parish commissioned a mural of Our Lady of Guadalupe last year.

The eparchy includes Byzantine-Ruthenian Catholic parishes in Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota and Wisconsin and most of Ohio.

The story that led to the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe being added to the Byzantine Catholic calendar is one of an American archbishop's awakening

to the need for the Byzantine Catholic Church to be engaged in the evangelizing mission of the church in North America.

During a pastoral visit to Mexico in January 1999, St. John Paul II named Our Lady of Guadalupe as the patroness of the Americas and declared that Dec. 12 would be celebrated as the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe in all the dioceses of the Americas.

In this context, St. John Paul declared her the patroness of the new evangelization, calling the church in the Americas to a deeper commitment to proclaiming the Gospel and to the conversion of nonbelievers.

Archbishop Judson Procyk of Pittsburgh, then head of the Byzantine Catholic Church in the United States,

traveled to Mexico for the pope's visit and attended the papal Mass at the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

One of the archbishop's theological advisers later recounted that, upon Archbishop Procyk's return from Mexico, he excitedly remarked, "The *Guadalupe* is ours."

He added her feast day to the Byzantine Catholic calendar by circulating the related decree sent to all the bishops from the Congregation for Divine Worship.

Archbishop Procyk reportedly encountered something strangely familiar in Mexico City in the image on the *tilma*: In the mother of Americas, he found the mother of all Byzantine Catholics.

The mother of God appearing to St. Juan Diego has much in common with the Byzantine tradition of a miraculous icon coming to the lowly, such as the Icon Not Made by Human Hands – an icon of Christ – and the icon of Our Lady of Mariapoch.

In appearing as Our Lady of Guadalupe, Mary is with child – represented by her belt worn high on her abdomen. It is the only recognized Marian apparition in which she is pregnant. The detail is particularly significant in the

Byzantine tradition, which emphasizes Mary's maternity as *Theotokos*, a term which means "she who bore God."

As devotions go hand-in-hand with liturgical expression in the Christian East, Father Maximos Davies of Holy Resurrection Monastery in St. Nazianz, Wisconsin, wrote a Byzantine Catholic office for Our Lady of Guadalupe which draws heavily on Byzantine tradition to cast a new light on the miracle of Guadalupe.

For instance, one of the hymns in the *aposticha*, or set of hymns, for the feast takes up the traditional vespers reading for the mother of God, in Chapter 9, verses 1-11, of Proverbs, that depicts Mary as Lady Wisdom, calling all people to feast on her Son at the eucharistic liturgy.

At the same time, the office honors the particular message of hope that the mother of God conveys specifically to the people of the Americas:

"Know all my smallest and most humble children that I am the Virgin who gave birth to God, The Word through whom everything has the breath of life! He has given you to me as your mother; all you peoples of the Americas; I will hear all your weeping and your complaints; I will heal all your sorrows, hardships and sufferings. Repent and believe in the Gospel! And together we will worship the Lord and lover of mankind!"

Byzantine Catholics in North America, who have adopted this feast and include this devotion in their common life of prayer, can contemplate a timely question: How does this miraculous icon of Our Lady of Guadalupe call us to engage in the new evangelization on this continent?

Father Summerson is pastor of St. Mary Byzantine Catholic Church in Whiting, Indiana.



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Second Sunday of Advent (Cycle C)

Expectations

By Kevin Perrotta
Catholic News Service

Baruch 5:1-9

Psalms 126:1-6

Philemon 1:4-6, 8-11

Gospel: Luke 3:1-6

In today's Gospel, John the Baptist preaches to his fellow Jews. They shared expectations about what God was going to do when he came to set things right in the world.

Today's first reading gives a sample of the prophecies that fed their expectations. Baruch declares that when God brings his people together, they will be "borne aloft in glory as on

royal thrones."

As they proceed toward salvation, "God has commanded that every lofty mountain be made low, and that the age-old depths and gorges be filled to level ground, that Israel may advance secure in the glory of God." It will be splendid!

John aroused people's hopes that these promises were going to be fulfilled. Yet, when Jesus – the one for whom John was preparing the way – appeared, he didn't lead people on a triumphal march to Jerusalem to overthrow enemies and miraculously restore justice and prosperity.

After his baptism by John in the Jordan, Jesus returned to the villages of Galilee to heal the sick, forgive people's sins and teach them how to live in God's kingdom.

His listeners needed to let go of their picture of how God was going to fulfill his promises. They need-

ed to focus their attention on Jesus, trust that he knew what he was doing, humble themselves, and learn from him how to cooperate with the way God's kingdom was actually coming into the world.

What about us? Don't we too have expectations for how God will move obstacles out of the way, give us success, protect us and fill our lives with blessings?

But then we lose a parent, or a child, or a spouse. We make some mistakes and suffer hard consequences. We lose our job. We lose our health. We begin to lose our mind. We and those close to us suffer in one way or another.

The gap between our expectations for how God is going to work in our lives and what is actually happening can become huge. This puts us right back there with the people who first encountered Jesus in Galilee.

We have the opportunity to discover more

deeply, or perhaps for the first time, who he really is and what he has come to do in our lives. If we pay attention, we will experience what the psalmist proclaims today: "Those who sow in tears shall reap rejoicing."

Reflection Question: When has God surpassed your expectations?

Perrotta is the editor and an author of the "Six Weeks With the Bible" series, teaches part time at Siena Heights University and leads Holy Land pilgrimages. He lives in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

SPEAK TO ME



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D

Living 'I Do' – Weekly Marriage Tips

Do you and your spouse have a special song? Maybe it is the one from your first dance? Surprise your spouse by playing it when your spouse gets home or comes down for coffee. Bonus points if you sing along and serenade your spouse! Besides reliving one of your special moments, this moment is a gift of thoughtfulness to reconnect you in the midst of daily life.

Diocese of Columbus Marriage and Family Life Office

THE WEEKDAY BIBLE READINGS

MONDAY

Isaiah 35:1-10
Psalm 85:9ab-14
Luke 5:17-26

TUESDAY

Isaiah 40:1-11
Psalm 96:1-3, 10a-c, 11-13
Matthew 18:12-14

WEDNESDAY

Zachariah 2:14-17 or
Revelation 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab
Judith 13:18b-19 (Ps)
Luke 1:26-38 or Luke 1:39-47

THURSDAY

Isaiah 41:13-20
Psalm 145:1, 9-13b
Matthew 11:11-15

FRIDAY

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

SATURDAY

Sirach 48:1-4, 9-11
Psalm 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19
Matthew 17:9a, 10-13

DIOCESAN WEEKLY RADIO AND TELEVISION MASS SCHEDULE: DEC. 9, 2018

SUNDAY MASS

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

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. 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 in Ada, Logan, Millersburg, Murray City and Washington C.H.; Channel 125 in Marion, Newark, Newcomerstown and New Philadelphia; and Channel 207 in Zanesville);

8 p.m., St. Gabriel Radio (AM 820), Columbus, and at www.stgabrielradio.com. We pray Week II, Seasonal Proper of the Liturgy of the Hours.

Do You Feel Called?



We are a part of the Society of St. Vincent

De Paul, a Catholic lay organization focused on transforming our member's lives through service to the poor. We are looking for two

self-motivated, service oriented, hard-working, and mission-driven individuals who will put big love into the little things of life. Both our homeless shelter (St. Vincent Haven) and our Transitional Living Program (The Gardens on 6th) need new Program Directors.

An ideal candidate for this position would exemplify virtue, have a bachelor's degree in social work from an accredited university, possess a current license to practice social work, and have management experience. This candidate must possess a great, but humble courage to face a myriad of challenging situations on a day to day basis.

If you feel you are called to serve the poor, encouraging them to improve their lives, and improve your own through that service, please submit a resume, with a cover letter, and references pertaining to your previous place(s) of employment to johnpaul@SVDPhaven.org.

This position will pay \$30,000 to \$50,000 salary per year depending on qualifications.

Avoiding another Roman fiasco in February

By peremptorily ordering the American bishops not to vote on local remedies for today's Catholic crisis of abusive clergy and malfeasant bishops, the Vatican dramatically raised the stakes for the February 2019 meeting that Pope Francis has called to discuss the crisis in a global perspective. How the Americans taking decisive action last month would have impeded Roman deliberations in February – the strange explanation offered by the Vatican for its edict – will remain an open question. Now, the most urgent matter is to define correctly the issues that global gathering will address. As there are disturbing signs that Those Who Just Don't Get It are still not getting it, I'd like to flag some pitfalls the February meeting should avoid.

1. The crisis cannot be blamed primarily on "clericalism." If "clericalism" means a wicked distortion of the powerful influence priests exercise by virtue of their office, then "clericalism" was and is a factor in the sexual abuse of young people, who are particularly vulnerable to that influence. If "clericalism" means that some bishops, faced with

VAN BALEN, *continued from Page 7* of those who have been harmed by racism ... " (page 23).

We are God's children. The season of Advent and Christmas celebrate Jesus, Emmanuel, God-with-us. All of us. No exceptions. Each of us can strive to receive Christ in the "other," to love as we are loved.

Open Wide Your Hearts (available on the USCCB website) would make thoughtful Advent reading. How do we welcome not only God within us, but also those who suffer from racism and marginalization? How do we face the sin of racism and grow in love? How do we participate now in the ongoing Incarnation of God, who came to dwell among us?



THE CATHOLIC DIFFERENCE George Weigel

clerical sexual abuse, reacted as institutional crisis managers rather than shepherds protecting their flocks, then "clericalism" has certainly been a factor in the abuse crises in Chile, Ireland, Germany, the U.K. and Poland, and in the McCarrick case (and others) in the United States. There are more basic factors involved in the epidemiology of this crisis, however. And "clericalism" cannot be a one-size-fits-all diagnosis of the crisis or a dodge to avoid confronting more basic causes like infidelity and sexual dysfunction. "Clericalism" may facilitate abuse and malfeasance; it doesn't cause them.

2. The language describing the crisis must reflect the empirical evidence.

"Protecting children" is absolutely essential; that is the ultimate no-brainer. But the mantra that this entire crisis – and the February meeting — is about "child protection" avoids the hard fact that in the United States and Germany (the two situations for which there is the largest body of data), the overwhelming majority of clerical sexual abuse has involved sexually dysfunctional priests preying on adolescent boys and young men. In terms of vic-

tim-demographics, this has never been a "pedophilia" crisis, although that language has been cemented into much of the world media's storyline since 2002. If the Rome meeting ignores data and traffics in media "narratives," it will fail.

3. Don't ignore the devastating impact of a culture of dissent.

Ireland and Quebec demonstrate that sexual abuse occurred in the pre-conciliar Church. Still, the data suggest that there was a large spike in abuse in the late 1960s, 1970s and much of the 1980s: decades when dissent from Catholicism's settled moral teaching was rampant among priests, tacit among too many bishops, and tolerated for the sake of keeping the peace. That appeasement strategy was disastrous. February meeting planners have said that the Church needs a change of culture. Does that include changing the culture of dissent that seems to have been involved in spiking the number of abusive clergy and malfeasant bishops? Then let the bishops gathered in Rome in February issue a clarion call to fidelity to the Church's teaching on the ethics of human love, as explained in the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* and St. John Paul

II's Theology of the Body. And let them affirm that ethic as a pathway to happiness and human flourishing, rather than treating it a noble but impossible ideal.

4. Forget bogus "solutions."

How many times have we heard that changing the Church's discipline of celibacy would reduce the incidence of clerical sexual abuse? It's just not true. Marriage is not a crime-prevention program. And the data on the society-wide plague of sexual abuse suggests that most of these horrors take place within families. Celibacy is not the issue. The issues are effective seminary formation for living celibate love prior to ordination, and ongoing support for priests afterwards.

5. Resist playing the hierarchy card.

Drawing on lay expertise does not diminish episcopal authority; it enhances it. Bringing lay expertise to bear on this crisis is essential in getting at the facts and to restoring the badly eroded credibility of too many bishops – and the Vatican. The leadership of the U.S. bishops' conference understood that, and the majority of American bishops were prepared to act on that understanding with serious remedies. The February meeting must be informed of those remedies – and it should consider how Roman autocracy made a very bad situation worse.

George Weigel is distinguished senior fellow of the Ethics and Public Policy Center in Washington.

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PRAY FOR OUR DEAD

BASS, Marie (Gagna), 95, Nov. 29
St. Paul Church, Westerville

BERRY, Lillian (Rathouz), 90, Nov. 27
St. Paul Church, Westerville

BIENKO, Dan, 60, Nov. 25
St. Joseph Church, Dover

BROWN, Pauline (Powers), 98, Nov. 30
St. Bernadette Church, Lancaster

COBURN, Michael P., 27, Nov. 30
St. John Neumann Church, Sunbury

DAVIS, Doris M., 93, Nov. 26
St. Paul Church, Westerville

D'SOUZA, Joseph D. "Jose," 92, Nov. 29
St. Brendan Church, Hilliard

ENGLEHART, Eric D., 61, Nov. 25
Our Lady of Victory Church, Columbus

ERSKINE, Dorothy M. (Dougherty), 97, Nov. 29
Resurrection Cemetery Chapel, Lewis Center

FALLON, Patrick L., 84, Nov. 26
St. Patrick Church, Columbus

GREATHOUSE, Mary "Peg" (Cassady), 81, Nov. 16
St. Timothy Church, Columbus

HAVENER, Shirley, 82, Nov. 26
St. Paul Church, Westerville

HEINZMAN, Nathan G., 27, Nov. 29
Church of the Resurrection, New Albany

HOPKINS, Adeline C. (Tkacz), 91, Nov. 28
St. Mary Church, Delaware

KEFFER, Richard E., 88, Dec. 2
St. Leo Church, Columbus

LEY, Arlene R. (Bennett), 93, Nov. 25
St. Brendan Church, Hilliard

MARCHETTI, Theodore H., 75, Nov. 16
Our Lady of Victory Church, Columbus

MAVKO, Dorothy L., 94, formerly of Columbus, Nov. 17
Immaculate Conception Church, Madison

MIGLEY, Robert G., 94, Nov. 30
St. Mark Church, Lancaster

NIGGEMEYER, Harold, 84, Nov. 27
St. Bernadette Church, Lancaster

OBERHOLZER, Scott, 60, Nov. 19
Immaculate Conception Church, Dennison

PLATEL, Rita L. (Gonzalez), 80, Nov. 17
St. John XXIII Church, Canal Winchester

POTTER, Mark J., 28, Nov. 29
St. John Church, Logan

SPARKS, Susan K. (Bowman), 62, Nov. 30
St. Paul Church, Westerville

TINIRELLO, Frederick, 72, Nov. 28
St. Joseph Church, Dover

VanFOSSEN, Mary L. (Hess), 89, Nov. 26
St. Joseph Church, Dover

WARTHER, Joanne (Carl), 89, Nov. 25
St. Joseph Church, Dover

WOHRLE, Annalouise C. (Kropp), 94, Nov. 27
Corpus Christi Church, Columbus

ZELLI, Robert J., 72, Nov. 21
St. Matthew Church, Gahanna

'A man of faith and humility': Catholics remember President George H.W. Bush

Catholic News Agency

WASHINGTON — George H.W. Bush, who died late Friday, Nov. 30, served as a fighter pilot in World War II, head of the CIA, vice president under Ronald Reagan, and as the 41st president of the United States. But he maintained throughout his last years that his most important role was that of a father of six children.

"I can honestly say that the three most rewarding titles bestowed upon me are the three that I've got left: a husband, a father and a granddad," Bush said in 1997 at the opening of his presidential library in Houston.

In the days following his death, Catholics around the country remembered the 41st president for his character and family values.

Cardinal Daniel DiNardo, president of the U.S. bishops' conference and Archbishop of Galveston-Houston, offered prayers for the former president and for his family, and praised Bush as a "courageous man, dedicated leader and selfless public servant."

As a congressman, Bush represented Texas' Seventh Congressional District, which is within Cardinal DiNardo's archdiocese.

"President Bush's career in the public eye — from the Lone Star State to the global stage — was marked by incredible statesmanship and honor," the cardinal said in a statement released by the archdiocese.

"His strong faith in God, devotion to his wife of 73 years, the late First Lady Barbara Bush, and his boundless love for the covenant of family served



President George H.W. Bush applauds Pope St. John Paul II after a welcoming ceremony before their audience at the Vatican in 1991.

CNS photo/Rick Wilking, Reuters

as a model for all to follow. The City of Houston was very proud to call him one of our own and one of our brightest points of light. We will forever be grateful for his presence and commitment to our community and to the people of Houston," he said.

Bush's marriage to Barbara, who died earlier this year, was the longest marriage in the history of the American presidency.

In a speech at the 1992 Knights of Columbus convention, Bush, an Episcopalian, spoke of the importance of character and morality in American society.

"I think my parents were like yours: They brought me up to understand that our fundamental moral standards were established by Almighty God.

They taught me that if you have something for yourself, you should give half to a friend. They taught me to take the blame when things go wrong and share the credit when things go right. These ideas were supported by society," he told the Knights.

Joseph Cullen, a spokesman for the Knights of Columbus, told CNA that Bush had "a wonderful feel for what makes America great: her people and their individual communities, including faith communities."

"He knew that religious liberty produced varied and wonderful fruits, especially in the areas of charity and service. He knew us at the Knights. He encouraged us and did so personally at two of our conventions, including in 1992 as president. We are grateful to have known him and now pray for him and his family," Cullen said.

Bush noted in 1992 that there was a "disturbing trend" in "the rise of legal theories and practices that reject our Judeo-Christian tradition."

"The president should set the moral tone for this nation," Bush said.

Other bishops and Catholic voices have issued their own tributes to the 41st president.

"A gracious and humble man who lived a life of service to others, President George H.W. Bush is remembered as a man of character, a husband and father who did his best to bring about a kinder and

See BUSH, Page 20

H A P P E N I N G S

DECEMBER

7, FRIDAY

St. Cecilia Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
St. Cecilia Church, 434 Norton Road, Columbus.
Begins after 8:15 a.m. Mass; continues to 5 p.m.
Saturday.

Eucharistic Adoration at Columbus St. Peter
9 a.m. to 8 p.m., St. Peter Church, 6899 Smoky
Row Road, Columbus. First Friday Eucharistic
adoration in day chapel.

First Friday Masses at Holy Family
9 a.m., 12:15 and 7 p.m., Holy Family Church,
584 W. Broad St., Columbus. First Friday
Masses in honor of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.
614-221-4323

Monthly Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal Church, 5225
Refugee Road, Columbus. Begins after 9 a.m.
Mass; continues through 6 p.m. Holy Hour.

Catholic Men's Luncheon Club
12:15 p.m., St. Patrick Church, 280 N. Grant
Ave., Columbus. Catholic Men's Luncheon Club
meeting, with talk by Father T.J. Lehigh, parochial
vicar at Columbus St. Andrew Church, about his
first six months as a priest.

Eucharistic Vigil at Holy Cross
Holy Cross Church, 205 S. 5th St., Columbus.
7:30 p.m. Mass, followed by Exposition of the
Blessed Sacrament with various prayers, ending
with Benediction around 11.

All-Night Exposition at Our Lady of Victory
Our Lady of Victory Church, 1559 Roxbury Road,
Columbus. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
from 8 p.m. until Mass at 8 a.m. Saturday.

8, SATURDAY

Priests Renew Vows at St. Elizabeth
8:30 a.m., St. Elizabeth Church, 6077 Sharon
Woods Blvd., Columbus. Mass for the Feast of the
Immaculate Conception includes renewal of vows
of the Congregation of the Immaculate Conception
by the parish's priests. **614-891-0150**

Women's Retreat at Holy Family
9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Holy Family Church, 584 W.
Broad St., Columbus. "To Jesus Through Mary"
women's retreat, featuring three conferences with
Sister Joseph Andrew Bogdanowicz, OP, plus
Eucharistic Adoration, meditation, breakfast and
lunch. Participants will receive a surprise gift.
Contact holyfamilyccm@gmail.com.

De Porres Center Advent Retreat
9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Martin de Porres Center, 2330
Airport Drive, Columbus. Retreat led by Sister
Louis Mary Passeri, OP, featuring reflection and
conversation about Mary and her importance
in the Advent season. Includes Mass with the
Dominican Sisters of Peace. Cost \$20, including
lunch. **614-416-1910**

St. John Chrysostom Christmas Cookie Sale
10 a.m. to 2 p.m., St. John Chrysostom Byzantine
Catholic Church, 5858 Cleveland Ave., Columbus.
Church's 14th annual sale of Christmas cookies,
baked goods and gifts. **614-882-6103**

Labyrinth Walk at Shepherd's Corner
2 to 3:30 p.m., Shepherd's Corner Ecology Center,
987 N. Waggoner Road, Blacklick. Labyrinth walk
with theme "Prepare Ye the Way," led by Dominican
Associate Donna Doone. Suggested donation \$5.
Minimum five participants. **614-866-4302**

Church Tour in Lancaster
6 to 9:30 p.m., St. Mary Church, 132 S. High
St., Lancaster is final stop of Fairfield Heritage
Association's annual candlelight tour of eight
downtown churches, with music at each stop.
Tickets \$12 (\$10 advance), \$4 children 5 to 12.
740-654-9923

9, SUNDAY

Exposition at Our Lady of Mount Carmel

9:30 to 10:30 a.m., Our Lady of Mount Carmel
Church, 5133 Walnut Road S.E., Buckeye Lake.
Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament every
Sunday during Advent.

St. Christopher Adult Religious Education
10 to 11:20 a.m., Library, Trinity Catholic School,
1440 Grandview Ave., Columbus. "Exploring
the Proto-Gospel of James" with David Brakke,
Ohio State University professor of the history of
Christianity.

Cols. St. Patrick Frassati Society Mass, Brunch
10:30 a.m., St. Patrick Church, 280 N. Grant Ave.,
Columbus. Parish Frassati Society for young
adults attends Mass, followed by lunch at Cafe
Phenix, 39 E. Gay St. **614-224-9522**

Blessing of St. Pius X Family Center
1:30 to 3:30 p.m., St. Pius X Church, 1051 S.
Waggoner Road, Reynoldsburg. Dedication and
blessing of parish's new Msgr. David R. Funk
Parish Family Center, followed by reception and
tours. **614-866-2859**

Lay Fraternities of St. Dominic Meeting
1:30 p.m., St. Patrick Church, 280 N. Grant Ave.,
Columbus. Meeting of St. Catherine of Siena
chapter, Lay Fraternities of St. Dominic.

Women's Chorus at de Porres Center
3 to 4:30 p.m., Martin de Porres Center, 2330
Airport Drive, Columbus. Seasonal concert with
Columbus Women's Chorus. **614-416-1910**

Lessons and Carols at Cathedral
3 p.m., St. Joseph Cathedral, 212 E. Broad St.,
Columbus. Lessons and carols with cathedral
choir and brass ensemble. **614-241-2526**

Choir Concert at St. Elizabeth
3 p.m., St. Elizabeth Church, 6077 Sharon Woods
Blvd., Columbus. Christmas concert with the
parish choir. **614-891-0150**

Advent Concert at Our Lady of Victory
3 p.m., Our Lady of Victory Church, 1559 Roxbury
Road, Columbus. Ninth annual Advent concert,
featuring parish choir and an orchestra, with
Advent and Christmas music of several traditions
and styles. **614-488-2428**

Lessons and Carols at St. Ladislav
4 p.m., St. Ladislav Church, 277 Reeb Ave.,
Columbus. Lessons and carols program for St.
Ladislav and Columbus Corpus Christi churches.
614-443-2828

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

Nativity Pageant at St. Peter in Chains
5:30 p.m., St. Peter in Chains Church, 2167 Lick
Run Lyra Road, Wheelersburg. Nativity pageant
with children from St. Peter in Chains and New
Boston St. Monica churches. **740-574-5486**

Silent Night in Sugar Grove
6 p.m., St. Joseph Church, 306 Elm St., Sugar
Grove. 27th annual "Silent Night in Sugar Grove"
program at all three of the town's churches. **614-
416-1910**

Lessons and Carols at Dover St. Joseph
6 p.m., St. Joseph Church, 613 N. Tuscarawas
Ave., Dover. Parish's eighth annual ecumenical
lessons and carols service, with choirs from parish
and four other area churches and Dover High
School Ars Nova choir, preceded by handbell
prelude music. **330-364-6661**

Ohio Dominican Chorus at St. John XXIII
7 p.m., St. John XXIII Church, 5170 Winchester
Southern Road, Columbus. Christmas concert with
Ohio Dominican University chorus. **614-920-1563**

Solemn Vespers at Columbus St. Patrick
7 p.m., St. Patrick Church, 280 N. Grant Ave.,
Columbus. Sung Advent solemn Evening Vespers.
614-224-9522

Spanish Mass at Columbus St. Peter
7 p.m., St. Peter Church, 6899 Smoky Row Road,

Columbus. Mass in Spanish. **706-761-4054**

10, MONDAY

Bethesda Post-Abortion Healing Ministry
6:30 p.m., support group meeting, 2744 Dover
Road, Columbus (Christ the King convent, first
building west of church). 614-718-0227, 614-309-
2651, **614-309-0157**

Our Lady of Peace Men's Bible Study
7 p.m., Our Lady of Peace Church, 20 E. Dominion
Blvd., Columbus. Bible study of Sunday's readings.

11, TUESDAY

Calix Society Meeting
6 p.m., Panera restaurant, 4519 N. High St.,
Columbus. Monthly meeting of the Calix Society,
an association of Catholic alcoholics. Preceded
by 5:30 p.m. Mass at Our Lady of Peace Church,
across street from meeting site.

Holy Hour at Columbus St. Francis of Assisi
St. Francis of Assisi Church, 386 Buttes Ave.,
Columbus. Monthly Holy Hour following 6 p.m.
Mass. **614-299-5781**

Rosary for Life at St. Joan of Arc
Following 6:15 p.m. Mass, St. Joan of Arc Church,
10700 Liberty Road, Powell. Recital of Rosary for
Life, sponsored by church's respect life committee.

EnCourage Ministry Monthly Meeting
6:30 p.m., EnCourage, an approved diocesan
ministry for families and friends of persons who
experience same-sex attraction. EnCourage
respects the dignity of every person, promotes the
truth of God's plan for each of us, and focuses on
sharing our love. Confidentiality is maintained. Call
for site. **614-296-7404**

12, WEDNESDAY

Center for Dominican Studies Lecture Series
Noon to 12:30 p.m., St. Catherine of Siena Room,
Erskine Hall, Ohio Dominican University, 1215
Sunbury Road, Columbus. Sister Carol Ann
Spencer, OP speaks on "Advent -- I Am the Light
of the World" as part of Center for Dominican
Studies series on justice. Lunch provided. **614-
251-4722**

Turning Leaves and Tea Leaves
2 to 3:30 p.m., Martin de Porres Center, 2330
Airport Drive, Columbus. Turning Leaves and
Tea Leaves book club with Dominican Sisters
Marialein Anzenberger and Colleen Gallagher.
614-416-1910

13, THURSDAY

Advent By Candlelight at Delaware St. Mary
7 p.m., Beitel Commons, St. Mary School, 66
E. William St., Delaware. Annual Advent By
Candlelight program sponsored by parish women's
organization, with talk by parish religious education
director Tina White on "Angels: Heavenly Helpers."
740-363-4641

Cenacle at Holy Name
6 p.m., Holy Name Church, 154 E. Patterson Ave.,
Columbus. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament,
with prayers in the Cenacle format of the Marian
Movement of Priests.

Theology on Tap Meeting
7 p.m., El Vaquero restaurant, 3230 Olentangy
River Road, Columbus. Theology on Tap
discussion and social group for young Catholics,
with Laura Lewis, assistant director of The Ohio
State University's suicide prevention program.
RSVP to cbustheologyontap@gmail.com or
Columbus Theology on Tap Facebook page.

Christmas Concert at Sacred Heart
7:30 p.m., Sacred Heart Church, 893 Hamlet St.,
Columbus. Christmas concert with Worthington
Kilbourne High School singers. **614-299-4191**

Vespers, Benediction at St. Margaret
7 p.m., St. Margaret of Cortona Church, 1600 N.
Hague Ave., Columbus. Parish's regular Thursday
Eucharistic Adoration concludes with sung Vespers

and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. **614-
279-1690**

14, FRIDAY

Church Tour in Portsmouth
6 to 8 p.m., Scioto County Courthouse, 602 7th
St., Portsmouth. Annual holiday tour of churches
in Boneyfiddle historic district, including St. Mary
Church. Tours every half-hour. **740-354-4551**

15, SATURDAY

Theology Talk Program at de Porres Center
8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., Martin de Porres Center,
2330 Airport Drive, Columbus. "Theology Talk:
Community" program looking at our role as
"catholic" or universal, with presentations by
Pam Harris, Alma Ciriello and Devin Jones of the
diocesan Catholic Ethnic Ministries office. **614-
221-7990**

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

Centering Prayer Group Meeting
10:30 a.m. to noon, Corpus Christi Center of
Peace, 1111 E. Stewart Ave., Columbus. Centering
prayer group meeting, beginning with silent prayer,
followed by Contemplative Outreach DVD and
discussion. **614-512-3731**

Ohio Dominican University Commencement
11 a.m., Alumni Hall, Ohio Dominican University,
1216 Sunbury Road, Columbus. ODU winter
commencement ceremony. Speaker: Dr. Jim
Strode, university's dean of graduate studies.
Preceded by Baccalaureate Mass at 9 a.m. in
Christ the King Chapel. **614-251-4453**

Anointing of the Sick at St. Pius X
5 p.m., St. Pius X Church, 1051 S. Waggoner
Road, Reynoldsburg. Communal Anointing of the
Sick at Mass. **614-866-2859**

Singalong at Delaware St. Mary
7 p.m., St. Mary Church, 82 E. William St.,
Delaware. Parish singalong of Christmas and
Advent hymns. **740-363-4641**

15-23, SATURDAY-SUNDAY

Simbang Gabi Celebration at St. Elizabeth
7:30 p.m., St. Elizabeth Church, 6077 Sharon
Woods Blvd., Columbus. Simbang Gabi, a Filipino
Christmas tradition, featuring celebration of Mass
for nine consecutive nights. Dec. 23 closing
celebration begins with Mass at 7, followed by
celebration dinner in Pastors' Hall.

Exposition at Our Lady of Mount Carmel
9:30 to 10:30 a.m., Our Lady of Mount Carmel
Church, 5133 Walnut Road S.E., Buckeye Lake.
Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament every
Sunday during Advent.

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

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

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

National appeal supports elderly Catholic sisters, brothers, religious order priests

The annual Retirement Fund for Religious collection will take place on Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 8 and 9 in the Diocese of Columbus. Coordinated by the National Religious Retirement Office (NRRO) in Washington, the appeal benefits 31,000 elderly Catholic sisters, brothers and religious order priests.

The Diocese of Columbus donated \$120,851.19 to last year's collection. Almost 94 percent of donations aid senior religious and their communities, with the remaining funds used for administration and promotion of the national appeal.

The 2017 collection raised a little more than \$28 million. The NRRO disbursed \$25 million to 360 religious

communities for the direct care of elderly members. Communities combine these funds with their own income and savings to help furnish necessities such as medications and nursing care. Throughout the year, additional funding is allocated for congregations with critical needs and for retirement planning and educational resources.

Religious communities apply annually for financial support from the national collection, and distributions are sent to each eligible community's central house. Although women and men religious often min-



– served for little to no pay. Today, hundreds of orders lack sufficient retirement savings. Of 547 communities providing data to the NRRO, only four percent are adequately funded for retirement. Compounding the financial crisis are the rising cost of care and the increasing number of those needing care.

The Catholic bishops of the United States initiated the national collection in 1988 to help address the deficit in retirement

funding among U.S. religious communities. Since the collection was launched, U.S. Catholics have donated \$844 million to the appeal, helping many communities stabilize their retirement outlook.

“We are overwhelmed by the ongoing generosity toward the annual appeal and by the love and thanksgiving for the service of our elder religious,” Sister Stephanie said. “Our office is committed to stewarding these funds in ways that help religious communities care for older members while continuing to serve the People of God.”

Visit retiredreligious.org to learn more.

ister outside their home dioceses, they may benefit from the allocations disbursed to their individual orders.

“Donations to the Retirement Fund for Religious have a far-reaching impact,” said Sister Stephanie Still, PBVM, the NRRO's executive director. “Most importantly, they help communities care for aging members, but they also underwrite initiatives aimed at addressing the underlying causes of the funding shortages.”

Religious orders are financially autonomous and thus responsible for the support of all members. Traditionally, Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests – known collectively as women and men religious

Music for Advent

Vespers

Dec. 2nd, 9th and 23rd at 7:00PM

Lessons and Carols

Dec. 16th at 7:00PM

Strings, Brass, & Choir

St. Patrick Church

280 N. Grant Ave., Columbus, OH 43215



St. Peter to host 'One Voice' gathering

Columbus St. Peter Church will host “One Voice,” an interdenominational gathering of Christians sharing fellowship and caroling, at 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 20.

The event will take place in front of a manger scene on the front lawn

of the church at 6899 Smoky Row Road. The St. Peter choir will lead participants in a singalong of Christmas carols. The program also will include prayer and storytelling, and hot chocolate will be available for everyone.

EDUCATION, continued from Page 5

faith in just the half-hour or 45 minutes of religion class. It's in everything and it's everywhere. It's there in science class when we talk about all that God has made. It's in other subjects when we talk about the gifts that God has given us. We talk about how the Holy Spirit guides us and helps us through things all the time. We talk about our guardian angels, who are there to protect us physically and mentally, and who guide us every day.” Those lessons provide a truly complete and well-rounded education, allowing students to engage their mind, body and spirit in all that they do.

Doody continued, “I love being in a Catholic school. You can talk about your faith. It's just fundamental to a person's life. Without God in your life and faith, life doesn't have the same meaning, especially now. Catholic schools are wonderful. They're great places.”

To Donna Doody and to all of our dedicated Catholic school teachers who make this possible, thank you for your service to our children and to our Church.

Adam J. Dufault is diocesan episcopal moderator for education and superintendent of Catholic schools.

Saving lives through Project DAWN training



Mount Carmel Foundation representatives (from left) Nancy Whetstone, Denise Wible and Ellen Weilbacher and Mount Carmel Church Partnerships faith community nurse Kate Whitman distribute Narcan kits to participants during a Project DAWN training session in Columbus Our Lady of Victory Church.

Photos by Denise Wible, Mount Carmel Foundation

As part of the Diocese of Columbus' continued response to the opiate addiction epidemic, the diocesan Hope Task Force partnered with Mount Carmel Church Partnerships to offer Project DAWN (Deaths Avoided with Naloxone), a community-based overdose education and Narcan (naloxone) distribution program.

Narcan is a safe medication that can reverse an overdose caused by prescription pain medication or heroin. An overdose can happen anywhere, including on parish and school grounds, and Narcan saves lives.



Project DAWN trainer Steve Roth holds a Narcan nasal spray as he trains parish and school representatives from across the diocese at Columbus Our Lady of Victory Church.

Parishes, schools and charities across the diocese have designated representatives to complete Project DAWN training and to receive a free Narcan kit, donated through the generosity of the Mount Carmel Foundation. Two-hour training sessions on use of the kits were offered at Columbus Our Lady of Victory Church, Zanesville Bishop Rosecrans High School, Chill-

icothe St. Mary Church and Mount Vernon St. Vincent de Paul Church.

Training introductions and opening prayers were led by Kitty Quinn, assistant superintendent of diocesan Catholic schools, and Jerry Freewalt, director of the diocesan Office for Social Concerns. Steve Roth, Alicia Tomblin and Brian Pierson of Mount Carmel Health System were Project DAWN trainers. Kate Whitman of Mount Carmel Church Partnerships and representatives of the Mount Carmel Foundation staffed a resource table and distributed Narcan kits, training DVDs, literature about the drug addiction epidemic, and items for proper prescription medication disposal.

The diocesan Hope Task Force consists of representatives from diocesan offices and charities and several state government agencies. For a copy of Bishop Frederick Campbell's pastoral letter on drug addiction and a listing of related resources for families, parishes and schools, visit www.columbuscatholic.org/drug-awareness.

An Evening of Hope shows solidarity with the incarcerated

By Peter Harb

When the term "hope" is used, it usually means an aspiration or desire for something more, such as hoping that your hard work will earn

something more – the love that our Father so freely gives.

During An Evening of Hope at the Columbus St. Thomas More Newman Center on Thursday, Oct.



Wendy Tarr, director of the diocesan ARCH program, speaks during An Evening of Hope at the Columbus St. Thomas More Newman Center. Ohio State University student Cella Masso-Rivetti (seated, left) was moderator for the event.

Photo by Jerry Freewalt

you a promotion, or hoping to go on a monthlong trip to Europe, or even hoping that the Cleveland Browns might make it to the Super Bowl one day in the near future. However, for millions of people locked up in prisons in the United States, spending most of their time alone, hope becomes much more about the little things. They want to encounter

18, people from across the diocese came together to pray in solidarity for our incarcerated brothers and sisters and learn more about how to share the gifts the Lord has so abundantly given us. A few hymns and a beautiful prayer of solidarity kicked off this intimate evening,

See HOPE, Page 20

St. Francis Center requests donations for Christmas

The diocesan St. Francis Center in Portsmouth is in the midst of its Giving Tree Christmas donation drive to help an area hit hard by economic decline and the U.S. opioid epidemic.

The center is asking for new sleeping bags (unwrapped) and Walmart gift cards of any amount through Dec. 21 to support children and families during the Christmas season. As many as 1,000 children from infants to age 17 are in need during the holidays.

Gift cards may be dropped off at

Catholic Social Services, in care of Julie Naporano, 197 E. Gay St., Columbus OH 43215.

Online ordering is available through the Amazon wish list for unwrapped donations delivered directly to the center. To order, visit www.amazon.com/registry/search and search for "St. Francis Center."

Mail donations will be accepted at St. Francis Center, in care of Barbara McKenzie, 2311 Stockham Lane, Portsmouth OH 45662.

HOPE, continued from Page 19

followed by two very inspiring speakers. Brittany, a returning citizen, spoke about her past and what led her to become incarcerated. This had many people in the room wiping tears away. Rose, a prison chaplain for decades, reminded everyone about the human dignity that our incarcerated brothers and sisters have, no matter what their past entails. We are all sinners, and we are all loved by our Creator.

Both speakers shared how prison and re-entry ministry have shed a light on an otherwise dark place for our brothers and sisters, giving them and many other inmates and returning citizens the hope that most people take for granted.

Several ministries were featured during the evening. ARCH (Accompanying Returning Citizens with Hope), a re-entry ministry of the diocesan Office for Social Concerns and the St. Vincent de Paul Society, welcomes the formerly incarcerated back into the community and helps ease them back by connecting them to people, jobs, housing and transportation. Kindway EMBARK

also ministers to returning citizens. The Kairos Prison Ministry bakes cookies for inmates and organizes spiritual retreats for them. Representatives of these and many other ministries were present at An Evening of Hope to connect with those who feel called to prison ministry and to help them learn more about the work it involves.

As a follow-up, the Newman Center on Saturday, Nov. 17 sponsored a “taste and see” service fair which featured several prison and re-entry ministries, assisting participants in discerning whether they wish to be involved in prison ministry. This event was broadcast live on Facebook for those who could not attend.

If you are interested in providing hope to prisoners or to the formerly incarcerated who are just returning to the community, visit the ARCH website at www.svdpcolumbus.org/arch and learn how you can get involved.

Peter Harb is an Ohio State University student, Newman Center member, and Campaign for Human Development intern for the diocesan Office for Social Concerns.



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BUSH, continued from Page 16

gentler nation. He guided our country during difficult times with grace, dignity and courage,” Bishop Nelson Perez of Cleveland said on Dec. 1.

His presidency from 1988 to 1992 included the fall of the Soviet Union. In Bush's last State of the Union Address in 1992, he said, “By the grace of God, America won the Cold War.”

Later that year, he went on to say, “St. Ignatius said, ‘Work as though all depended upon yourself, and pray as though all depended on God.’ The practice of that motto conquered communism. Ceaseless prayer and tireless work halted the cold war and spared us from the catastrophe of a third world war. Believers behind the Iron Curtain defied persecution; believers in the West defied indifference.”

Bush met with Pope St. John Paul II in Rome twice during his presidency. Though the two leaders disagreed

over the U.S. military intervention in the Gulf War, Bush described his last presidential meeting with John Paul as a “major *tour d’horizon*, touching on all the trouble spots” in the world.

When Bush first entered politics as a Republican congressman, he supported funding for Planned Parenthood. However, he went on to be an effective pro-life president. Bush used his power of veto to stop 10 bills with pro-abortion provisions, according to the National Right to Life Committee.

“President George H.W. Bush dedicated his administration to advancing pro-life policies to protect mothers and their unborn children,” National Right to Life President Carol Tobias said on Dec. 1. “He used his presidency to stop enactment of pro-abortion laws and promote life-affirming solutions.”

Bush's funeral was held on Wednesday, Dec. 5 at Washington's National Cathedral.



CATHOLIC SOCIAL SERVICES
St. Francis Center



GIVING TREE

CHRISTMAS DONATION DRIVE

Thursday, November 1st — Friday, December 21st

The **St. Francis Center** is located in Portsmouth, Ohio. The area has been hit especially hard by the area's economic decline and US opioid epidemic. Due to the community's desperate need, the St. Francis Center fills a vital role. You can help us serve the many families we see each Christmas by providing **NEW sleeping bags** (unwrapped) and **Walmart gift cards** (any \$ amount) to the Center.

ORDER ONLINE

Use our **Amazon Wish List** to have your UNWRAPPED donation delivered directly to the Center!

To order, simply visit:
www.amazon.com/registry/search and search “**St. Francis Center**.”

DROP OFF GIFT CARDS TO:

Catholic Social Services
c/o Julie Naporano
197 E. Gay St., 2nd Fl, Columbus, OH 43215

MAIL DONATIONS TO:

St. Francis Center
c/o Barbara McKenzie
2311 Stockham Ln., Portsmouth, OH 45662

We are expecting as many as **1,000 children (infants to age 17)** who need your help this holiday season!