

CATHOLIC

A journal of Catholic life in Ohio

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THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD
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FIVE MEN ORDAINED AS DEACONS

Editor's reflections by Doug Bean

Celebrate ordinations and keep praying for more vocations

Ordinations are a sight to behold.

To see young men follow a calling to the holy priesthood is a tremendous gift for the Catholic Church and for the world.

The Diocese of Columbus was blessed this past weekend to have five men -- Brian Beal, PJ Brandmarti, Bryant Haren, Kyle Tennant and Chris Yakkel -- ordained as transitional deacons by Bishop Frederick Campbell at St. Joseph Cathedral. They now have one year in seminary to go before entering the ranks of the holy priesthood.

Two weeks from now, five other men from this diocese will be ordained as priests at Westerville St. Paul Church. That will be a special moment not just for the five, their parents and their families, but for all of the faithful.

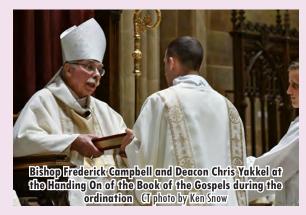
Thank God that He has called men to minister to His people, transmit the faith, offer the sacraments, provide spiritual counsel, assist in saving souls, and perform countless other works of mercy. It can be said there is no more important job this side of heaven. Physicians heal bodies on earth, but priests can help heal souls for eternity while acting in the person of Christ, or *persona Christi*.

And thank God for so many people who pray for seminarians and for the men and women either in formation or discerning religious life. Without question, they appreciate the prayers, and there's no doubt those powerful prayers are being heard.

It's no secret that there's a great need for priests. But don't despair. Our Lord promised to take care of the one holy, catholic and apostolic Church that He established on earth.

You've undoubtedly heard all of the suggestions to make consecrated life more attractive. Remove the celibacy requirement. Allow priests to marry and have children of their own. Ordain women. And so on.

All of that is noise. What we need to do is encourage young people with good spiritual qualities to consider a possible calling from God. A



positive word or suggestion could be the tipping point for someone who needs a final nudge or reassurance to become a priest, nun or brother.

Religious orders are also in need of candidates. And the need is even greater for chaplains to serve in the military.

Yakkel, one of the new deacons, hopes to serve in the U.S. Air Force after he is ordained a priest in 2019 and completes three years of pastoral service in his home diocese. Yakkel's father, Ron, is a retired USAF colonel.

"I'm grateful to God for this incredible gift which He has given me," Yakkel said in an announcement from the Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA. "It is a wonderful vocation, and I feel truly blessed to have been entrusted with such a great responsibility by Our Lord. I am anxious to begin diaconal ministry and I look forward to continued formation in preparation for priestly ordination next year. I would also like to express my gratitude for my family, friends, and the Church universal for their many prayers which have assisted me in getting to this point."

Archbishop Timothy Broglio, J.C.D., a Cleveland native who is head of the Archdiocese for the Military Services, came to Columbus for the deacon ordination last Friday evening to concelebrate with Bishop Campbell.

The Archdiocese for the Military Services is re-

porting a chronic shortage of Catholic chaplains in the Air Force. Since 9/11, the number of active-duty U.S. military chaplains in all branches



of service has fallen from more than 400 to 205. Catholics comprise 25 percent of the armed forces but only six percent of military chaplains.

According to the Air Force, 59 priests currently on active duty minister to 80,000 Catholic airmen, which computes to about one priest for every 1,350 Catholics in the military worldwide, and that figure does not include families of military personnel.

While the numbers sound discouraging, the Archdiocese for the Military Services' vocations office paints a more promising picture. The ranks of co-sponsored seminarians have risen from seven in 2008 to a record 42 this year. To facilitate vocations, the Archdiocese for the Military Services is focusing on active-duty servicemen who express an interest in the priesthood and inviting them to join the co-sponsored seminarian program as part of a partnership with dioceses and religious communities around the country.

In 2018, three of the co-sponsored men will be ordained as priests. Five more, including Yakkel, will join them next year. Another 11 priests in reserve status will phase into active duty during the next three years.

Five men are scheduled to enter the co-sponsored seminarian program in the fall. Others who might be interested in a vocation to the military are invited to reach out to www.milarch.org/vocations or contact the vocations director, Father Aiden Logan, O.C.S.O, by email at vocations@milarch.org or by calling 202-719-3600.

Anyone interested in inquiring about opportunities in the Columbus diocese should contact the Vocations Office here at 614-221-5565 or email the vocations director, Father Paul Noble, at pnoble@columbuscatholic.org.



Five seminarians were ordained as deacons for the Diocese of Columbus on May 4 at St. Joseph Cathedral. Pictured are (from left) Monsignor Christopher Schreck of the Pontifical College Josephinum, Deacon Brian Beal, Archbishop Timothy P. Broglio of the Military Archdiocese USA, Deacon Chris Yakkel, Bishop Frederick Campbell, Deacon Bryant Haren, Deacon Kyle Tennant, Father Paul Noble and Deacon PJ Brandmarti. CT photo by Ken Snow

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Red Mass at the Cathedral



The annual Red Mass for those involved in the legal and justice professions was celebrated on Tuesday, May 1, which was also Law Day, at Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral by Bishop Frederick Campbell. In attendance were justices and magistrates representing the Ohio



Supreme Court, Franklin County Court of Common Pleas and the Franklin County Municipal Court (pictured above). The Columbus Division of Police Color Guard and Pipes & Drums Corps (lower left) led the procession before Mass. Father Robert Kitsmiller (upper left), who served as the homilist, said, "Today we ask God's blessing upon the very important arena of law and government. We recognize that law and government are necessary for peace and justice in our society. They are ordained by God for our benefit, and those who work in this arena answer a noble call and undertake a solemn responsibility to serve God's people with honor and truth. ... We pray to the Holy Spirit that those who serve in this capacity will be inspired by the divine law that God reveals, and that they will be nurtured by a deeply understanding heart to lead and judge accordingly." In a special ceremony, attorney Alphonse P. Cincione, president of the Thomas More Society, presented Bishop Campbell with the Thomas More Award for his service and support (lower right).





Faith in Action

By Mark Huddy

I Shall Not Pass This Way Again, I Hope!

I have become old enough to have my first attack of sciatica, a radiating pain that runs the length of the sciatic nerve, from the lumbar vertebrae through the hips and backside, down the leg and into the foot.



It is a deep and unrelenting pain that has been constant since April 20th when it came without warning. The toes on my left foot are numb and I have a funny gait. It has been very difficult to sleep for more than two or three hours before the pain forces me to get up and try to exhaust myself so that I can go back to sleep.

Until this event occurred, I was a stranger to chronic pain. I do not like it. I have sought help from an orthopedic doctor who has prescribed some oral steroids, muscle relaxants and physical therapy. He says the pain usually resolves in six weeks. I cannot envision soldiering through for six weeks. And the scariest part, is asking the question what happens if it doesn't go away.

Because pain in the early stages makes you more alert, I have become more aware that there are many people who live with unremitting pain. In the last two weeks I have met two people that suffer from fibromyalgia and who described the incredible pain they bear, with the apparent knowledge that medical treatment has its limits and the pain can not be further reduced or relieved. My friend Lloyd has an illness that has left him weak, unsteady and unable to work. He has consulted many doctors to no avail. We all know family members or co-workers who live with painful, debilitating conditions. We also know the importance of offering prayers and our own little sufferings to God on their behalf.

Between 2 and 4 am, I am spending a lot of my time awake, and I have been thinking about people who bear different types of chronic pain, pain inflicted by structural racism, pain suffered as a result of the trauma of growing up poor, or being in a family racked by drug abuse or alcoholism, or having been incarcerated or a host of other things. And I think of how important every action is that can alleviate present suffering or identify its causal elements in order to prevent the future suffering of others.

So in my late night ruminations, I also realize how important are the Church's efforts to accompany those who are suffering. Sometimes that accompaniment can bring an end to the suffering. By helping people see the racial divide that exists in this country, it can be bridged. By our Charities direct service and advocacy work, many of the obstacles of poverty, social isolation, and addiction can be overcome. The mentors of ARCH, Accompanying Returning Citizens with Hope, walk with formerly incarcerated members of our community and help them navigate the challenges associated with housing, employment, and daily life.

Sometimes our accompaniment can not end the suffering. Every day the Church ministers to the homebound, the hospitalized, the imprisoned and the dying, not to end those sufferings but to ease them by the loving presence of someone who cares. So the lesson of my sleepless nights is that there is a lot of pain out there that needs a salve. If we can do something about it, we must not let that opportunity pass us by. To learn more about ways to help, please call the Office for Social Concerns at 614-241-2540.

Mark Huddy/Episcopal Moderator for Columbus Diocese



Obianuju Ekeocha was a presenter at the Columbus Catholic Women's Conference in February at the Cardinal Center on the state fairgrounds.

"Uju" to speak at Greater Columbus Right to Life banquet

Obianuju Ekeocha will present the keynote address at the Greater Columbus Right to Life's annual banquet on Monday, June 11, at the Villa Milano Banquet & Conference Center, 1630 Schrock Road, in Columbus. Doors will open at 6 p.m., and the program and meal will start at 6:30.

There is no cost to attend the banquet. An invitation to support GCRTL will be extended after the program.

Obainuju Ekeocha, or "Uju" for short, is an African woman and founder of Culture of Life Africa, an organization dedicated to the promotion of a Culture of Life in Africa through the dissemination of information and education. She is the author of the recently published book Target Africa, and the producer of the recent documentary, No Strings Attached. She also orchestrated the expose of illegal abortions in the series, Killing Africa.

Uju's message is that "the most precious gift that Africa can give to the world right now is our inherent culture of life. Most Africans understand the inestimable value of human life, the beauty of womanhood, the blessing of married life, and the gift of children." This culture has been increasingly under attack from the West as policy makers, coalitions, non-profit organiza-

Obianuju Ekeocha will present tions, and philanthropists seek to impose acceptance of contraception, abortion, and divorce on African nations in return for much-needed aid.

Ekeocha has quickly become one of the most sought-after Catholic and pro-life voices around the world because of her unique perspective, resolute stance, and loving approach. She has advised legislators, UN Ambassadors and other decision makers on pro-life issues. She has also worked closely with religious leaders from different African countries and has co-authored a number of pro-life declarations with various African Catholic episcopal conferences.

In February, Ekeocha was one of the featured speakers at the Columbus Catholic Women's Conference.

"We are excited to bring Uju back to Columbus where she will share an in-depth look at Africa's Culture of Life, how we can help to protect it, and what we can learn from the people of Africa when it comes to restoring the dignity of the human person here in the U.S.," GCRTL executive director Beth Vanderkooi said. "We are so excited about this event, and hope that many are able to join us."

Advance registration is requested at www.gcrtl.org/banquet or by calling 614-445-8508.

St. Vincent Family Center to honor **legacy of Monsignor Corcoran**

St. Vincent Family Center will honor the life and legacy of Monsignor Lawrence Corcoran and his tireless work for those in need in the central Ohio community at 11:30 a.m. Thursday,



Jennifer Hanes-Dean

May 17 at COSI, 333 W. Broad St., in Columbus.

This year's Corcoran Awards will honor St. Vincent Family Center's longtime corporate partner and 2018 sponsor, Nationwide. presenting with the First Annual Difference Maker Award. Also receiving SVFC Corcoran Awards are Head Start Mental Health Manager and family advocate Jennifer Hanes-Dean and foster care alum and supporter Melissa Roshan Potter.

SVFC's 2018 Corcoran Awards brings to light the remarkable work of the team at St. Vincent Family Center and recognizes the community partners who make that work possible.

St. Vincent Family Center is one of central Ohio's leading experts in pediatric behavioral healthcare, serving the needs of children and families on



Melissa Roshan Potter

the near east side of Columbus for more than 140 years. Since its origin in 1875 as a neighborhood orphanage, St. Vincent Family Center has existed as a safe haven for children to live, to heal, and

to feel loved.

While the needs of the community have evolved over time, the Family Center has remained true to its mission - to make good kids better. With quality treatment, love and care, the team at St. Vincent Family Center lives its mission day in and day out, helping more than 5,000 families each year on their journey toward wellness. Despite poverty, homelessness, hunger, trauma and disadvantage, more than 90 percent of children find hope and success at St. Vincent Family Center.

It is with gratitude that St. Vincent Family Center will thank its neighborhood partners and bring awareness to the significant need for quality behavioral healthcare in the community. To learn more and support the children and families at St. Vincent Family Center, visit www.svfc.org.

London waste company discovers relic of St. Clement in the trash

Catholic News Agency

You know the old saying -- one person's trash is another person's 2,000-year-old sacred bone fragment of an early pope.

An environmental waste company in London, England had a surprise discovery last week when they uncovered a reliquary in the garbage containing a bone of St. Clement, a Church Father and the fourth Pope.

The company, which posted about the discovery on their website April 25, said they could not pinpoint the exact location that the relic cAme from, but they do know that it was collected in the garbage somewhere in central London.

"You can imagine our amazement when we realized our clearance teams had found bone belonging to a Pope – it's not something you expect to see, even in our line of work," James Rubin, owner of Enviro Waste, said in a statement on the company's website.

"We often come across some weird and wonderful things on clearances. but we were definitely not expecting to find a bone fragment of an apostle."

St. Clement was a first-century Christian thought to have been a disciple of Sts. Peter and Paul.

It is believed that St. Clement converted from Judaism to Catholicism. He may have shared in some of the missionary journeys of St. Peter or St. Paul and assisted them in running the Church at the local level.

Around the year 90, he was raised to the position of Pope, following Peter, Linus and Cletus. His writings reveal much about the early Church, but little about his own life.

According to one account, he died in exile during the reign of the Emperor Trajan, who purportedly banished Clement to Crimea and had him killed in retaliation for evangelizing the local people, around the year 100. He is among the saints mentioned in the Roman Canon.

In 868, the Greek missionary St. Cyril claimed to have recovered St. Clement's bones.

So far, no one has reached out to claim the relic. Rubin told the Huffington Post. He added that he is seeking the help of a UK laboratory to have the relic carbon dated to test its authenticity. The bone fragment is in a wax-sealed case and includes an inscription that it is "from the bones of St. Clement, Pope and Martyr."

On their website, Enviro Waste has set up an electronic suggestion box, asking the public where the final resting place of the relic should be.

"We know this is an important piece of history and are keen to find the most appropriate place for its final resting place, which is why we're asking for help from members of the public," Rubin said.

So far, suggestions have included the British Museum or the Church of St. Clement in Rome.

Correction - The Mass for the Solemnity of Corpus Christi on Sunday, June 3, as part of a special celebration at Columbus Corpus Christi Church will begin at 10 a.m. A story in the May 6 Catholic Times listed the start time at 9 a.m. using information provided by the parish.



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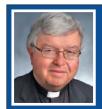
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Pastor's role in visiting sick; Priest difficult to understand



QUESTION & ANSWER by: FATHER KENNETH DOYLE Catholic News Service

O. I read your column every week in our archdiocesan paper, and I have a question for you. What is the role of the parish priest at the time of the serious illness and death of a parish member?

I recently lost my husband after a long illness, the last several months of which he was not able to attend Mass. The priest never inquired about him, called him or came to visit. And he never got in touch with me after my husband's death.

A parishioner had told the priest that my husband's condition was getting worse and that perhaps he should call. According to her, the priest told her that it was not his place to reach out to us, but our place to reach out to him. (Louisville, Kentucky)

. A parish priest's Aduty is to care for the sick. Nothing could be clearer than that. The church's Code of Canon Law says this:

"In order to fulfill his office diligently, a pastor is to strive to know the faithful entrusted to his care. Therefore he is to visit families, sharing especially in the cares, anxieties and griefs of the faithful, strengthening them in the Lord. ... With generous love, he is to help the sick, particularly those close to death, by refreshing them solicitously with the sacraments and commending their souls to God" (Canon 529.1).

So if the priest you speak of actually said that it was not his place to reach out to a parishioner who was seriously ill, I respectfully -- but strongly -- disagree. He may have been concerned about not wanting to "frighten" the person by showing up unannounced, but that issue is resolved simply -- by calling the family ahead of time to ask if the individual might welcome a visit. If yours is a large parish, I am not surprised that the priest did not notice your husband's absence immediately -- but, as you said, he was alerted to the situation.

I do know, from my own experience, that with the shortage of priests (in most U.S. parishes right now a single priest can serve hundreds, even thousands, of parishioners), it is difficult for a priest to get around to see everyone he wants to -- but a seriously ill parishioner would automatically jump to the top of my "must do" list. So I am truly sorry for what happened in your case, and I apologize on the church's behalf.

As for a follow-up visit or call after your husband's death, that is an excellent practice. With some parishes doing upward of 100 funerals a

year, a single priest cannot always do this, but in a number of parishes there is a "bereavement team" that visits a grieving family and can alert the priest to particular situations that need his attention.

Q. I am having a difficult time with the pastor we have here in our parish. He is not a native American, has a strong accent and is very difficult to understand. I feel it is unfair that, because of this, our deacon has to preach so often, and I fear that we may be losing some of our youth as a result. I continue to attend Mass every weekend and am just hoping that something can be resolved. (Virginia)

A. Certainly parishioners have a right to, and expect to, hear often from their pastor. So I agree that it is not appropriate for him to be replaced most of the time by a deacon as the homilist.

What if, instead, your pastor wrote the homily for most Sundays and had it read by the deacon? (That way the congregation would understand it more readily, but it would be explained to them that the message itself came from the pastor.) Also, have you thought about communicating concern to your parish council -- or even to the pastor directly?

Ouestions may be sent to Father Kenneth Doyle at askfatherdoyle@gmail.com and 30 Columbia Circle Dr., Albany, New York

Free legal advice offered at Our Lady of Guadalupe Center

Catholic Social Services and lated to immigration status. Our Lady of Guadalupe Center have partnered in the Diocese of Columbus with Advocates for Basic Legal Equality, Inc. (ABLE) to provide free legal immigration consultations at 10 a.m. Saturday, May 19 at the Center, 409 Industry Drive, Columbus.

The free service will include information about individuals' rights during encounters with police or ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement) and also provide answers to questions re-

This will be an opportunity to receive complimentary legal advice directly from an immigration attorney.

Attendees are asked to bring any immigration documents from the court, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (US-CIS), ICE, or any other documents related to an immigration

For more information, call Our Lady of Guadalupe Center at 614-340-7061.

St. Charles plans sports camps

Columbus St. Charles Preparatory School will offer a number of athletic camps this spring and summer for students from grades two through eight.

Those will include speed and agility camp from June 6-8 for grades 5-8; baseball camp from June 11-13 for boys ages 7-14; lacrosse vouth camp from June 12-14 for boys entering grades 3-9; football youth camp from June 18-21 for boys in grades 2-8; soccer academy from June 25-28 for boys entering grades 4-9; basketball shooting camp from July 2-3 for boys in grades 5-9; basketball camp from July 9-12 for boys in grades 8-9 and July 16-19 for boys in grades 5-7; volleyball camp for boys and girls in two sessions from July 30-August 2: Session I for boys and girls entering grades 4-6; Session II for boys and girls entering grades 7-8.

For details and brochures, see the upcoming camps listing in the news and announcements section at www.stcharlesprep.org.

ODU to hold 109th commencement

Ohio Dominican University's 109th Commencement ceremony is scheduled for 11 a.m. Saturday, May 12, in Alumni Hall on the ODU campus at 1216 Sunbury Road in Columbus.

Baccalaureate will begin at 9 a.m. Saturday in the Christ the King Chapel on campus.

ODU Trustee Ann Gallagher

will deliver the keynote address at the commencement.

In addition to awarding more than 200 student degrees, ODU will confer the degree of Doctor of Humane Letters honoris causa upon outgoing Board of Trustees member Sister Janice Bachman, OP, and outgoing board chair Thomas Mueller.

St. Charles offers summer academic programs

Columbus St. Charles Preparatory School will host summer Enrichment Classes for young men entering seventh and eighth grade next year.

The classes (limited to first 30 students) will run June 11-July 6 and include English readiness for grades 7-8; math readiness for grades 7-8; English readiness

for grades 6-7; and math readiness for grades 6-7.

For more information on classes and times, call the school's Main Office at 614-252-6714 or see the upcoming summer academic programs post in the news and announcement section at www.stcharlesprep.org.

THE EVERYDAY CATHOLIC



By: Rick Jeric

I want to be governer

This past Tuesday was that day we all look forward to. It was election day. We get to exercise our right to vote, being so blessed to live in this republic, and sometimes democracy. Too many of us take it for granted, as we see by the widespread apathy. Of course, this is not all our fault. Candidates, poli-

tics, and what it takes to run for office contributes to the cynicism that breeds indifference. The "what it takes" has become increasingly difficult to define. How incredibly annoying are the telephone polls, the robo-calls, the junk mail, and the television ads! Are we really that impressionable, gullible, and stupid? I guess we are. The many millions of dollars would not be spent by the candidates, parties, and Political Action Committees if it did not work. What a mess! Therefore, I want to run for Governor someday. I am passionate about so many things that are necessary, that are good, and that serve our fellow man. And woman. And people. And animals. And pets. And the earth. And the proper attitude. And certainly not any particular religion or faith. I do not want to offend anyone. I think I might be talking myself out of this already. Then there is the money. Where am I going to get millions of dollars to run ads on radio and television, and mail all those wonderfully informative and honestly presented flyers? The better question is, why do I need to do all that? I wonder how much of the annual deficit, and portion of the growing national debt could be paid down if all the garbage political advertisement spending was applied. A mere drop in the bucket, but it would be something. Back to my run for governor. From what I observe these days, I know exactly what I need to do.

I need to let everyone know that there is nothing more important than my faith. I can certainly make it a bit more generic by embracing the same God for everyone, but Jesus Christ is the Savior of all, and that makes us all one, not all separate and indifferent. I need to let everyone know that my family is the next most important thing. I have been married for 35 years to a wonderful wife, and I have three of the best children one could imagine. I need to let everyone know that my job is incredible. I get to raise funds for the Women's Care Center, and watch these amazing women love, serve, and save moms and babies each and every day. Then, there is me. I need to let everyone know how perfect I am. Well, scratch that one. I need to say how in-tune I am with all the various attitudes, philosophies, attractions, secular desires, and – well, scratch that one too. I need to stay true to my beliefs and convictions. Well, that one could be tough as I need to deliver for those who gave me money. Politics are with us in perpetuity. Politicians will continue to sell their souls as needed. How can we make a difference? Should we even try? Is it good use of our time and energy to know exactly who and what we are voting for? The answer is hidden in our hearts. We are all more similar and like-minded than we think. Our selfishness and egos get in the way. It is not a kumbaya moment, or "can't we all just get along." It is a true awareness of one another, a humble respect for one another and our beliefs, a loving embrace of our enemies, and that elusive forgiveness of all those who cross us - no exceptions. Then, and only then, can we joyfully enter eternal life, and call one another "governor."



Bishop Shelton J. Fabre of Houma-Thibodaux, Louisiana replaces Youngtown Bishop George Murry as chairman of the U.S. bishops' Ad Hoc Committee Against Racism

Ailing Youngstown bishop replaced as head of anti-racism committee

Catholic News Agency

The U.S. bishops Ad Hoc Committee Against Racism will have a new chairman after Youngstown Bishop George Murry resigned from the position while he battles acute leukemia.

"Our most heartfelt prayers are with Bishop Murry and his loved ones," said Cardinal Daniel N. DiNardo of Galveston-Houston, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. "We ask all people of faith to join us in praying for his full recovery."

The cardinal has named Bishop Shelton J. Fabre of Houma-Thibodaux, La. to serve as the chairman until the end of the term, according to the U.S. bishops' conference.

"I am grateful to Bishop Fabre for his dedication and commitment to now lead the work of the Ad Hoc Committee," Cardinal DiNardo said.

The ad hoc committee was established in August 2017. Its work has included a press conference last fall at the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial in Washington, D.C., and the creation of resources for the Sept. 9 Feast Day of St. Peter Claver as an annual day of prayer for peace within communities.

The committee also promotes education, resources, communi-

cations strategies, and care for victims of racism. A pastoral letter from the committee is expected to be released later this year.

Last month, the Diocese of Youngstown announced that Bishop Murry was admitted to the Cleveland Clinic to "undergo intensive chemotherapy for the next four weeks."

Murry also chairs the U.S. bishops' Committee on Catholic Education, which provides guidance for all Catholic educational institutions in the country.

Bishop Shelton Fabre was born October 25, 1963 in New Roads, La. He was ordained a priest in 1989 and became an auxiliary bishop of New Orleans in February 2007. In September 2013 he became Bishop of Houma-Thibodaux in southern Louisiana.

He is current chairman of the U.S. bishops' Subcommittee on African American Affairs, on which he has served since 2010. Since 2013, he has served as a member of the Committee on Cultural Diversity in the Church.

The bishop is a Fourth Degree member of the Knights of Peter Claver, a historically African-American Catholic fraternal organization which he serves as national chaplain. He is also a Fourth Degree member of the Knights of Columbus.

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Telling our stories and knowing for sure

When Oprah Winfrey was first asked the question, the talk-show queen was left tongue-tied.

She was doing a live television interview with the late film critic Gene Siskel to promote her film "Beloved," and he concluded by asking, "Tell me, what do you know for sure?"

"I got all flustered and started stuttering and couldn't come up with an answer," Oprah later wrote. But since that day, she's never stopped posing that question – to others and to herself.

If she can borrow the question from Siskel, so can I.

In my journalism career, I have never ceased to be astounded by the generosity of strangers when I request an interview – a cold call disrupting a hot dinner, a knock on the door on a Saturday morning, a formal sit-down or a quick conversation in the back of a church or the corner of a store or the middle of a long line outside in the wee hours of a blustery Black Friday.



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TWENTY SOMETHING Christina Capecchi

One minute we've never met, the next they're entrusting me with their last name and age and occupation, fielding questions they can't possibly prepare for or predict.

I don't know exactly what to make of this great goodness except to say we crave conversation, connection, and we want to be helpful.

Whatever the reason, it fills me with gratitude and allows me to be – of all things – a student of the human race. What a fountain of youth, a lifelong adventure.

But you don't need a press badge to witness the storytelling. When you give someone your full attention, undergirded by genuine curiosity, it will almost always be rewarded. If you can come up with good questions, you won't be disappointed.

It is the Catholic response, the simplest and surest way to affirm the dignity of another. What's your name? Where are you from? How long have you been here?

Every now and then I encounter a kindred spirit, a fellow interviewer masquerading in scrubs, an apron or tattered gardening jeans. My sister-in-law is among them. She works in palliative care, a difficult field to which she brings a bouquet of compassion, listening with the utmost sensitivity. Just as steadily as she amasses medical knowledge, so

too does she patch together a more complete understanding of humanity.

This spring I've posed Gene Siskel's question to a variety of people, seeking bread crumbs from the communion of future saints here on earth.

What do you know for sure?

I asked a retired bishop, who immediately spoke of service. "It empties the heart of selfishness and then fills it up with love, if you are open to that. You cannot look upon service as a drudgery, you must look upon it as a beautiful opportunity of loving, and that is all there is to it."

I asked a well-traveled, high-profile Catholic sister. "We're called to be God's love in the world," she told me. When you answer that call, she added with a laugh, prepare for "surprises."

I asked my mom and her mom.

"I know that once the heart has stretched, you never quite are the same person," my mom answered.

"I know for sure that through my long life, I have been guided and protected by an amazing God, who has loved and understood and forgiven me every step of my journey," my grandma replied.

I asked a 101-year-old nun, who cast her eyes aside and flashed a half-grin before she spoke. "I know for sure that I'm going to die. That's the only thing I know for sure."

If I may add my own, it would be this: I know for sure we are here to lean on and learn from each other.

Christina Capecchi is a freelance writer from Inver Grove Heights, Minn.





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FIVE DIOCESAN SEMINARIANS ARE ORDAINED AS DEACONS BY BISHOP CAMPBELL

By Doug Bean, Catholic Times Editor

Five diocesan seminarians continued down the path toward the priesthood on Friday, May 4 with their ordination as transitional deacons at Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral.

Bishop Frederick Campbell presided over the Mass and ceremony before a large congregation that gathered to witness the important milestone for the candidates as the Diocese of Columbus celebrates its 150th anniversary in 2018. Concelebrating were Archbishop Timothy Broglio of the Archdiocese of Military Services, USA and priests from the diocese.

Brian Beal, PJ Brandmarti, Bryant Haren, Kyle Tennant, and Chris Yakkel presented themselves before Bishop Campbell at the altar during the election of candidates. Becoming a transitional deacon is one of the last steps before the five men, God willing, are ordained as priests next year.

Brandmarti, Haren, Tennant, and Yakkel will return to the Pontifical College Josephinum in the fall for their final year of classes in theology. Beal will complete his theological studies at Pope St. John XIII National Seminary in Weston, Massachusetts, where men who receive a calling to serve at an older age are typically sent for their formation.

The size of this year's group equaled the 2017 class. Those five deacons from 2017 will become priests on Saturday, May 26 when they are ordained at Westerville St. Paul Church.

The numbers are a positive sign for the diocese to help offset attrition in the clergy ranks and also indicates to the Catholic faithful an upward trajectory in the willingness of young men to dedicate their life's work to the Church.

The nearby Archdiocese of Cincinnati was blessed to have nine men join the ranks of the diaconate last week in another hopeful development for the Church as a whole.

In Bishop Campbell's homily, he spoke directly to the five candidates.

"It is of course a moment of great joy to be with you and to speak to you about the order to which you are to be ordained," he said, "I want to speak not about what about what you will be but



the doing of our activities.

"You may exercise the role of deacon for a comparatively short time, but you must never lose the deaconate sense. For, in fact, as a deacon, manifest the activity of Jesus Christ himself. It is a service that begins in obedience to the Heavenly Father. It is a service marked by acceptance, that is, the offering of it is a service that reveals glory to God. It must act as an invitation to all those who heed it, to recognize God's glory, to give service to God, and to thank him for his many gifts."

The Mass for the Ordination to the Order of the Diaconate included readings from the Acts of the Apostles, the second letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians, and the gospel of St. Luke.

All three scripture passages accentuate the call to service of God. The first reading from Acts describes man as a chosen instrument to carry the Lord's name before the Gentiles. The second reading from Corinthians advised the deacons that we do not preach ourselves but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves is about an expectation, living our life as your slaves for the sake of Jesus. The Gospel proclaims that blessed are those servants whom the master finds awake here, simply not fulfilling them day by upon his arrival.

"The image of the good servant that we heard from the Gospel of Luke is a very interesting description of discipleship but also one of a servant in conformity rather what you will not be. For it is the Campbell said. "The primary work of ble, diocesan vocations director, gave a

The full attention of that servant is that willingness to do what he has called us to do -- not for our own needs but to do the work in which we are called by Our Lord Jesus Christ.

"And to this, I would add, that remember we do not teach ourselves but Jesus Christ is Lord and ourselves as slaves for the sake of Jesus. And I think of the ourselves for our holy purpose. Finally, first reading that we heard about the conversion of St. Paul. It, of course, is very dramatic in its presentation. After having the scales fall from his eyes, his first realization is now I must preach the word of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

> "And it is an important point made most recently by Pope Francis when he was talking to a group of newly ordained priests. He said you must remember this is not an assignment. This is a mission. to be called and sent to replicate the service of the Lord Jesus Christ in all His saving power.

"But you have noticed with the good servant one of the first of his virtues was vigilance, being awake and watching. For obviously this parable, this story, for the second coming of Jesus Christ, doing our work here and those duties day but rather to render them in service to the Lord who is coming."

As part of the Rite of Ordination, the deacon candidates are called forward after the Gospel reading and before with Jesus Christ the servant," Bishop the bishop's homily. Father Paul Nobeing of our reality that always receives the servant is the work of the Master. formal testimony of their readiness for

(Left photo) Bishop Frederick Campbell and Archbishop Timothy Broglio of the Archdiocese for the Military, USA celebrate the Mass of the Ordination to the Order of the Diaconate while assisted by new Deacons PJ Brandmarti (left) and Chris Yakkel. (Right photo) The five deacon candidates listen to Bishop Campbell's homily at St. Joseph Cathedral.

service, which was accepted by Bishop Campbell.

The five men then offered their commitment to perpetual celibacy, followed by the promise of the elect to respect and remain obedient to the bishop and his successors. This promise to remain celibate is permanent for transitional deacons who are on the road to becoming priests. Conversely, permanent deacons who serve in many diocesan parishes are married.

After a Litany of Supplication to the saints, there was a laying on of hands and the prayer of ordination. The scriptural gesture of the bishop laying hands on the heads of the candidates is used by the Church to signify the special conferral of the Holy Spirit, which ordains men to service in Holy Orders. The new deacons thus entered into the Holy Orders. In the prayer of ordination, the bishop asked God to dedicate these deacons to the service of the altar and the word.

stole and dalmatic signified incorporation into Holy Orders. The dalmatics and stoles are signs of the ministry and

office of the deacon in the Church.

In the handing on of the book of the Gospels from the bishop, placing the book in the hands of the new deacon symbolizes his commitment to proclaim God's word.

The Rite of Ordination concluded with a fraternal kiss of peace from the bishop, who extends his greeting to the new deacons as a sign that they are co-workclerical state through the Sacrament of ers in the ministry of the Church. The other deacons in attendance also gave the sign of peace to the newly ordained.

Also in the bishop's homily, he pointed to the various duties as described The ceremony of investiture with the in the Act of Consecration that the ordained will undertake in their new role, including preaching the gospel and ministering to the sick and dying, while

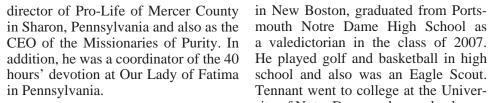
"I remember a wonderful line from a poem from T.S. Eliot. In his Little Gid-

keeping in mind the ultimate purpose.

ding, he was taken with something that Mary Queen of Scots said just before he was to lose her head. And she said almost defiantly, if my end is my beginning ... What she meant to indicate was that her earthly death would be the beginning of eternal life. It is interesting what Elliot did. He said the beginning is often the end ... and the end is where we start. With the whole of our bodies. whatever order we serve the Church, begins with that expectation of the glorious coming of Jesus Christ."

Beal, 40, from Columbus Immaculate Conception Church, is a native of Hermitage, Pennsylvania. He graduated from Ohio Dominican University with a degree in theology and went on to Franciscan University of Steubenville, where he did additional studies in theology with a specialization in catechetics, graduating magna cum laude with honors. Beal worked as a professional tennis instructor at Lakes Country Club in Westerville after college. He also was a co-organizer of Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration at Immaculate Conception and a coordinator of the 24hour Eucharistic adoration vigil while at Ohio Dominican. He then returned to his home state to serve as the executive

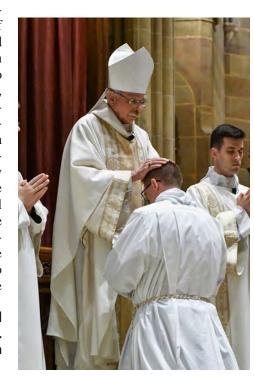
(Left) The five deacon candidates kneel before the altar and Bishop Campbell. (Right) Bishop Campbell lays hands on Deacon Bryant Haren. CT photos by Ken Snow.



Brandmarti, 31, from Gahanna St. Matthew Church, came to Columbus from the Pittsburgh area. He graduated from Hampton High School in Allison Park, Pennsylvania and attended Duquesne University in Pittsburgh. He worked as an assistant manager at Wendy's, a store operations manager for Circuit City, and a retail store manager for Sony Electronics before coming to Columbus as a market development manager for Motorola Mobility. He began studies for the priesthood in 2012 at the Josephimun and earned an undergraduate degree in philosophy. He is a fourth-degree member of the Knights of Columbus and a past Grand Knight.

Haren, 25, from Newark St. Francis de Sales Church, is a 2011 graduate of Licking Valley High School in Hanover. He was an altar server for eight years, an Eagle Scout, treasurer of the Future Farmers of America, and a member/ adviser of the Junior Fair Board. Haren worked at Chapel Hill Golf Course in Mount Vernon, Giant Eagle in Heath, and for his parish. He entered the seminary at the Josephinum out of high school and received a bachelor's degree in humanities three years ago.

Tennant, 29, from St. Monica Church



in New Boston, graduated from Portsmouth Notre Dame High School as a valedictorian in the class of 2007. Tennant went to college at the University of Notre Dame and earned a degree in mechanical engineering. After graduating, he went to work in Chicago for Accenture as a security analyst before deciding to leave his job to pursue a calling to the priesthood. He began his studies at the Josephinum in 2013 and received a degree in philosophy two years later.

Yakkel, 29, a member of St. Joseph Cathedral, is a self-described "military brat" who moved throughout his childhood depending upon where his father was assigned by the U.S. Air Force. He spent his last two years before college in Hawaii, graduating from Damien Memorial High School in Honolulu. He came to Ohio to attend Miami University in Oxford, where he received a bachelor of science degree in health and sports studies. For two years after college he served as a missionary with NET Ministries, a Catholic youth ministry organization based in St. Paul, Minnesota, before entering the Josephinum in 2013. His parents have now retired to Xenia, Ohio. He hopes to serve as an Air Force chaplain after three years of service in the diocese once he is ordained to the priesthood.

As ordained ministers, the new deacons are now able to baptize, assist the priest and read the Gospel during Mass. give homilies, witness at marriages, preside at funeral vigils and graveside services, and offer certain blessings. Until they are ordained as priests, deacons cannot celebrate Mass, hear confessions or anoint the sick.

The deacons do not take a vow of poverty, but they are expected to live simple lives without an excess of material possessions.

After completing the academic year this month, each new deacon will have a summer assignment. Deacon Brandmarti will serve at Gahanna St. Matthew, Deacon Haren at Newark St. Francis de Sales, Deacon Beal at Columbus Immaculate Conception, Deacon Tennant at New Boston St. Monica and the Scioto County Consortium, and Deacon Yakkel with the U.S. Air Force.



Bishop Flaget School joins Ohio STEM Learning Network

Chillicothe Bishop Flaget School is among 11 schools statewide and the first in the Diocese of Columbus to receive STEM designation from the Ohio Department of Education.

The Ohio STEM Committee reviewed 22 applications from throughout the state to become part of the Ohio STEM Learning Network, a public-private partnership managed by Battelle, and unanimously chose those schools considered to be an effective place for STEM learning.

STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) education provides students with a deep understanding of STEM subjects while incorporating inquiry-based learning and design thinking in all subjects.

Bishop Flaget is the only school from central Ohio to be awarded STEM distinction. The Ohio STEM Learning Network began in 2008 with five schools and has grown to 55 with the latest additions.

"We are thrilled to be recognized by the Ohio Department of Education for the hard work of our staff to develop our program into one that meets the rigorous requirements set forth for STEM schools," Bishop Flaget Principal Laura Corcoran said. "Our school has embodied many of the elements of STEM learning for years, but through this development process, our school staff was able to determine areas of challenge for our building and improve our program so that we are providing a strong STEM education to all of our students from preschool through the eighth grade."

For the last five years, Bishop Flaget has built partnerships with area businesses, including Kenworth, Fluor BWT, Corcoran Farms, Ohio Bluebird



Chillicothe Bishop Flaget fourth graders work with lightbulbs and circuits through the AEP Energy Smart Program.

Society, Haller Funeral Home, Hirsch Fruit Farm, Ohio University-Chillicothe, and the Atomic Credit Union. Through these partnerships, Bishop Flaget has been able to harness a large pool of knowledge and resources to aid in student learning. In addition to the business partnerships, Bishop Flaget has fostered the cross-curricular learning that is a crucial part of the STEM curriculum.

"One crucial aspect of STEM education is the need for students to be able to see the real life connections of their learning as well as the interconnectedness of their education," said Terrina Fahnestock, Bishop Flaget's STEM coordinator. "Through inquiry-based, hands-on learning opportunities and design challenges, students are encouraged to take risks, solve problems, and apply their learning in new and innovative ways."

Some of the special projects developed this year by Bishop Flaget students include the "backyard habitat and outdoor classroom" project, which incorporates the development of a bluebird trail, establishment of a "playground habitat," Project Wild staff training, development of plans for a Monarch Way Station, and long-term plans for a community garden and trail on the property.

In addition, the technology program at Bishop Flaget continues to grow with 1:1 Chromebooks in grades 5-8, 1:1 iPads in grades 3-4, and classroom sets of iPads for the lower grades. This year, the school also invested in four 3D printers and a Virtual Reality ZSpace computer. Through Tinkercad software, the students at all levels are creating models on the 3D printers, and most recently, the kindergarten students used the ZSpace computer to look at the human brain up close while studying multiple sclerosis as part of their school service project.

"Our teachers do a phenomenal job incorporating hands on, creative assignments and technology into the classroom on a daily basis," Corcoran said. "Meeting the standards has never been more thrilling or more engaging. This style of teaching is the best way to reach all students. Many programs only offer this type of program to gifted students, but this type of learning works well for all students, no matter what their ability level."

The Ohio STEM Learning Network, supported by the Ohio Department of Education, provided technical assistance to schools seeking STEM challenges and advised the Ohio STEM Committee on which applications merited designation.

"Inducting new schools into our network provides new ideas while ensuring the growth of STEM education in the minds of Ohio teachers and parents," said Aimee Kennedy, senior vice president of education, STEM Learning and Philanthropy at Battelle. "These schools can be proud of their work in earning this honor and we look forward to sharing their unique strengths with the rest of Ohio's vibrant STEM education community."

Bishop Flaget is accepting applications for students in preschool through eighth grade for 2018-2019. The school is open to students of all faith traditions, and tuition assistance is available to those who qualify.

There are several full-tuition scholarships available for preschool or pre-kindergarten students who are age four or will be four by September 30. These scholarships are available to students whose family incomes fall below 200 percent of the poverty level.

For more information on enrolling or tuition assistance, please contact Mrs. Corcoran at 740-253-0433 or 740-774-2970 or lcorcora@cdeducation.org.



Chillicothe Bishop Flaget sixth grade students are joined by a NASA ambassador who visited the school to talk about rocketry and the new projects in action at NASA.

May is Mental Health Awareness Month

Diocesan Office

of Social Concerns

Catholics are called to embrace an ever-clearer vision of each human person as created by God with inherent dignity and worth. This truth is not diminished when someone struggles with various illnesses or behaviors, including mental health concerns.

Pope St. John Paull II reminded us of this fundamental truth in 1996 at the International Conference for Health Care Workers:

"Whoever suffers from mental illness always bears God's image and likeness in themselves, as does every human being. In addition, they always have the inalienable right not only to be considered as an image of God and therefore as a person, but also to be treated as such."

Mental health includes emotional, psychological and social well-being. It affects how people think and act and helps determine how to handle stress, relate to others, and make choices (Mentalhealth.gov). When a person suffers from mental illness, it can inter-



fere with their everyday life and can result in an inability to cope with life's ordinary demands and routines (NCPD).

Mental illness, as with any health-related issue, can vary in severity and look very different from person to person. Oftentimes, we may not observe the warning signs that someone is struggling with their mental health. This does not mean that the warning signs are not there, or that the problem is insignificant and should be ignored.

Unfortunately, there is also stigma

attached to mental illness which may lead people who are struggling to isolate themselves, choosing not to share that they are hurting, and not seek help or treatment.

Members of faith communities are called to support those brothers and sisters suffering from a mental health condition, offering the unconditional and non-judgmental love they deserve. Rather than accept the misconceptions surrounding mental illness, it is important to increase awareness of

symptoms and effects, and identify local resources.

Moreover, relationship must be created with others, bringing hope and comfort in times of crisis or pain by offering prayers of healing and accompaniment through treatment. Together, a parish can be a place of healing for all people and their families.

If you or someone you know is in need of mental health services, contact Ohio Mental Health & Addition Services toll-free hotline at 1-877-275-6364. This hotline provides information and referrals for local resources throughout Ohio.

If you or someone you know is suicidal, in danger of harming themselves, or in emotional distress, contact the confidential National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 1-800-273-8255 or text HOME to 741741. Trained crisis workers are available to talk 24/7. In cases of imminent risk and/or danger, please call 911.

For information and resources from the diocese, visit www.columbuscatholic.org/mental-health.

California bishops: We must accompany those with mental illness

Catholic News Agency

The leading cause of death for Americans under the age of 50 is not car accidents or cancer, but drug overdoses.

Suicide is not far behind, as the second-leading cause of death for adolescents and young adults, and the 10th cause of death overall in the U.S. Researchers are now collectively calling suicide and overdose deaths "deaths of despair."

Amid these sobering statistics, and at the beginning of national Mental Health Awareness Month, the Catholic bishops of California have issued Hope and Healing, a pastoral letter on caring for those who suffer from mental illness, calling Catholics to accompany them and to offer them Christian hope.

"Christ's public life was a ministry of hope and healing. As Catholics, in imitation of our Lord, we are called to provide hope and healing to others," they said.

"We profess that every human life is sacred, that all people are created in the image and likeness of God and, therefore, a person's dignity and worth cannot be diminished by any condition, including mental illness."

The bishops called the spike in mental illness, suicide, and drug overdoses a "heartbreaking" crisis, and urged Catholics to help end the social stigma for those seeking support and help in these areas of their lives.

"Persons with mental illness often suffer in silence, hidden and unrecognized by others," the bishops said.

"We clearly proclaim that there is no shame in receiving a diagnosis of a psychiatric disorder. We affirm the need for education in our communities to remove the unjust prejudice and stigma often associated with mental illness," they said.

Instead, all Catholics should use their unique gifts and talents to help alleviate these problems and to accompany those who suffer, the bishops noted, whether by providing friendship, spiritual support, or professional support if appropriate.

They also encouraged a "both-and"

approach to the healing of mental illnesses that accounted for the whole human person – spiritually, physically, and psychologically.

"Some Christians harbor suspicions about psychiatry or clinical psychology and question their compatibility with the Catholic faith. Discernment is necessary since not all psychological approaches claiming to be 'scientific' are in fact supported by sound evidence," they said.

"However, good science that recognizes the life and dignity of people and the Catholic faith are never at odds. Medical science has discovered

See ILLNESS, Page 14

Prayer for Mental Health Awareness

Creator God,

You made all things and created humanity in Your own image.

Help us to always be mindful of this dignity
in ourselves and others.

May we not despair when faced with the struggles of mental health, but instead find hope in you, knowing you have a greater plan for us.

Guide us to be advocates in our families, parishes, schools, and communities, always seeking to build a communion that embraces and values all people.

We ask this in the name of Your Son, Jesus our Savior and Shepherd of Peace.

Amen.

The Ascension of the Lord Cycle B

A prayer for the Ascension

Acts 1:1-11 Psalm: 47:2-3, 6-9 Eph 1:17-23 or 4:1-13 Gospel: Mk 16:15-20

By Kevin Perrotta, Catholic News Service

St. Mark takes us to the core meaning of Jesus' ascension: "The Lord Jesus ... was taken up into heaven and took his seat at the right hand of God" (Mk 16:19).

At the conclusion of his appearances to his disciples after his resurrection, Jesus was seen to ascend. It was not into the heavens in the sense of the sky that Jesus went; his going up symbolized his entry into the heavens in the sense of God's presence.

And there he is now, as much God as the Father is God, and as human as you and I. And there, with the Father and the Spirit, he reigns over the entire creation.

"God reigns over the nations," as the psalmist sings, through his Son, Jesus of Nazareth. That's what we're celebrating today.

But has the reality of "Jesus is Lord" taken hold of our minds and hearts? Or is it just an element in our belief system, an incomprehensible -- and sometimes seemingly implausible -- statement with little effect on our lives?

For me, the answer is "both."

So I pray along with St. Paul: "May the God of our

Lord Jesus Christ ... give you a Spirit of wisdom and revelation. ... May the eyes of your hearts be enlightened, that you may know ... what is the surpassing greatness of his power for us who believe, in accord with the exercise of his great might, which he worked in Christ, raising him from the dead and seating him at his right hand in the heavens" (Eph 1:17-20).

A troubled young woman's life could begin to straighten out if she got her eyes open to the goodness and gifts that God has built into her. A marriage could be saved if a husband got his eyes open to his wife's great worth and inner beauty. Your life and mine could be transformed by our getting our eyes open to the presence and humility and power of Jesus' reign.

The novena prayer form is based on Mary's and the disciples' prayer for 9 days from Jesus' ascension to the coming of the Spirit at Pentecost ("novena" comes from the Latin for the number 9).

Let's begin a novena for each other today (actually only 7 days), asking God to send his Spirit to open the eyes of our hearts to his lordship over all.

Reflection Ouestion:

Will you pray St. Paul's prayer, for yourself and others?

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.

ILLNESS, continued from Page 13 **-**

many useful treatments to help those with mental illness, and Catholics should welcome and make use of these – including medications, psychotherapy and other medical interventions," they added.

The bishops also emphasized that Catholics who experience mental illness or addiction should not feel like spiritual failures, and noted that "Indeed, men and women of strong moral character and heroic holiness – from Abraham Lincoln and Winston Churchill to St. Thèrése of Lisieux, St. Benedict Joseph Labre, St. Francis of Rome, and St. Josephine Bakhita – suffered from mental disorders or severe psychological wounds. As Evangelical Pastor Rick Warren of Saddleback Church, who lost a family member to suicide, said: 'your chemistry is not your character' and 'your illness is not your identity.'"

Several popes in recent years have spoken or written about the importance of caring for those with mental illness, including St. John Paul II, who said during a 2003 address about depression that it is important to "stretch out a hand to the sick, to make them perceive the tenderness of God, to integrate them into a community of faith and life in which they can feel accepted, understood, supported, respected; in a word, in which they can love and be loved."

Pope Francis in 2013 said that God is in everyone's

life, "Even if the life of a person has been a disaster, even if it is destroyed by vices, drugs or anything else – God is in this person's life."

While recognizing the difficulty and sensitivity of discussing issues such as mental illness and addiction, the bishops urged Catholics to show that they are not afraid to accompany those who suffer.

They also said that while suffering usually does not make sense, Catholics can look to Christ for hope and healing, because he, too, knew great suffering when he was on earth.

"Out of the depths we cry to him and he reaches down into these depths to raise us up. Christ's kingdom has not yet reached its fullness, but we know in faith that it will at the end of time. On that day, all things will be made new."

The bishop's letter, in English, Spanish, and Vietnamese, was posted to the website of the California Catholic Conference, along with a list of mental health resources and suicide hotlines available in California.

Catholic psychologists in your area can be found by searching at http://www.catholictherapists.com/ or at https://wellcatholic.com/. The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline can be reached at 1-800-273-8255.

The Weekday Bible Readings

MONDAY Acts 1:15-17, 20-26 Psalm 113:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8 John 15:9-17

TUESDAY Acts 20:17-27 Pslam 68:10-11, 20-21 John 17:1-11a

WEDNESDAY Acts 20:28-38 Psalm 68:29-30, 33-35a, 35bc-36ab John 17:11b-19

THURSDAY Acts 22:30; 23:6-11 Psalm 16:1-2a, 5, 7-8, 9-10, 11 John 17:20-26

FRIDAY Acts 25:13B-21 Psalm 103:1-2, 11-12, 19-20ab John 21:15-19

> SATURDAY Acts 28:16-20, 30-31 Psalm 11:4, 5, 7 John 21:20-25

DIOCESAN WEEKLY RADIO AND TELEVISION MASS SCHEDULE WEEK OF MAY 13, 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 VII, Seasonal Proper of the Liturgy of the Hours

Freedom is never free

western Ukraine, in 2002, the transportation from plane to airport terminal was an old bus towed by a Soviet-era tractor; today, the airport is a model of cleanliness and efficiency. In 2002, the Old Town was shabby and begrimed; today, it's become a major tourist destination, and while there is still more clean-up to do, the charms of an old Habsburg city are beginning to reveal themselves. To sit in a downtown restaurant and speak with the city's mayor about his plans for further development, it's easy to forget that you're in a country at war.

But then you come to the Garrison Church of Sts. Peter and Paul.

There, Father Stepan Sus of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church is running an urban ministry so dynamic that he has twenty other priests working with him. The church itself is full of architectural and decorative interest: built in the Baroque style



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When I first visited Lviv, the principal city of the early seventeenth century as the city's "Jesuit Church" (and therefore modeled on the Church of the Gesù in Rome), Sts. Peter and Paul long served as a center of military chaplaincy for the Austrian and Polish troops garrisoned in Lviv. Then, in 1946, the property was seized by the Soviet regime and the church was turned into a book depository in which some two million volumes were stored. After the Soviet Union collapsed in 1991 and Ukraine achieved independence, there was a fuss over ownership and it was not until 2010 that the church was deemed the property of the Greek Catholic Archeparchy of Lviv.

> Father Sus is full of energy, and on both weekdays and Sundays, the church celebrates the Divine Liturgy several times, with confessions available for over 11 hours each day. But when Father Sus takes you to a small memorial to the left of the church's entrance, his mien becomes more sober and you begin to understand that the vibrant ministry underway at this site of ecclesial resurrection has its costs. For there, amidst shell casings, bits of shrapnel, spent bullets, and an icon, are the pictures of the young men of the parish who have been killed in the war Russia has been conducting in the Donbass region of eastern Ukraine since 2014. Since the invasion of the Donbass by Russian "little green men," Father Sus has conducted 76 funerals in the garrison church. Each of those young lives, sacrificed to defend a country against an aggression the West would prefer to ignore, is a powerful and poignant reminder that freedom is never free.

> So is the memorial to Bohdan Solchanyk in the foyer of one of the sparkling new buildings that grace the campus of the Ukrainian Catholic University in Lviv. UKU (as it's known from its initials in transliterated Ukrainian) is another marvel. The only Catholic institution of higher learning in the former Soviet



THE CATHOLIC **DIFFERENCE** George Weigel

space, UKU was a dream 25 years ago. Today, it's a stunning reality — the most highly-rated university in Ukraine on several indices of accomplishment, thanks to the work of an extraordinary faculty and administrative team first assembled by Bishop Borys Gudziak.

UKU is a university that takes Catholic mission with utmost seriousness: in this case, the mission to heal and evangelize a society still traumatized by more than seven decades of communism, war, and the Soviet attempt to destroy Ukraine's national identity. The university has long understood that one of its foundations is martyrdom, for the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church was brutally persecuted after World War II and gave the faith thousands of many witnesses-unto-death. When Bohdan Solchanyk, a history lecturer at UKU preparing his doctorate and engaged to be married went to Kyiv in 2013 to participate in the nonviolent demonstrations we now know as the Maidan Revolution of Dignity, he was certainly aware of that foundation. Then he, too, became a martyr, shot through the head by a sniper as he peacefully called for a Ukraine cleansed of corruption in society, culture, politics, and economics.

The vibrant ministry at Lviv's garrison church and the exceptional university being built at UKU are signs of hope in a world where the bad news sometimes seems to be all the news there is. The war in the Donbass is real, however, and the West needs to take it far more seriously.

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

St. John Paul II Preschool anticipates fall opening in Columbus

A new preschool and extended care center for children that emphasizes spiritual, educational, and social development is working toward opening this fall.

St. John Paul II Preschool hopes to open its doors in September at 957 E. Broad St., which is just east of downtown Columbus, pending final approval by the Ohio Department of Jobs and Family Services and the state Department of Education.

The preschool will operate under the direction of Sister Bozena Tyborowska, who is with the congregation of the Little Servant Sisters of the Immaculate Conception.

St. John Paul II Preschool will offer full-time and part-time schedules for children ages 2 ½ to 4 ½ with extended hours to meet the needs of working parents' schedules.

Children will be taught Christian values, explore their relationship with God, and share their experiences in an atmosphere of joy, peace and goodness that flows from love.

"Our goal is to create an appropriate climate for learning that enhances the development of the young child's character," Sis-

ter Bozena said in a release. "Character traits we strive to reinforce are self-control, a generous spirit, respect for one's own dignity, and the dignity of others."

Education and social development will include structured and non-structured activities as part of the preschool curriculum. The program will provide opportunities for learning, playing, story time, snack, and rest. Preschoolers will participate in both individual and group activities to develop their independence, self-reliance, confidence, self-expression, and creativity.

The Congregation of the Little Servant Sisters was founded by Blessed Edmund Bojanowski in 1850 in Poland. Through the influence of their founder, the Sisters devote their service to the education of children, provide homes for orphans, and care for the sick, elderly, and needy. The Sisters expose children in their care to Gospel values with security, peace and joy while bringing old-fashioned values to today's world.

For more information on enrollment, please email stjohnpaul2preschool@gmail.com or call 856-874-6096.

Pray for our dead

ABSTEN, Irene, 82, April 25 Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, Grove City

CAVANAUGH, Don, 81, April 19 St. Catherine of Siena Church, Columbus

COLOSIMO, Bruce William, 68, May 1 St. Michael Church, Worthington

CONVERTINE, Virginia Mary (Teatino), 99, May 2

St. James the Less Church, Columbus

DOHERTY, Winifred M., 89 St. Pius X Church, Reynoldsburg

DUNN, Patricia, 63, April 28 St. Leo Church, Columbus

FAIELLA, Mary Ann (Tornes), 97, May 2 Mother McCrory Manor Chapel, Columbus

FILIPPI, Frederick P., 94, May 3 Resurrection Cemetery Chapel, Lewis Center

FOSTER, John Paul, 73, May 4 Our Lady of Sorrows Chapel, Columbus

HELENTHAL, Julie, 76, May 2 Our Lady of Peach Church, Columbus

HICKMAN, Marcella, 92, May 2 Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, Grove City KINNEY, Mary, 93, May 4 St. Timothy Church, Columbus

LARIMER, James T., 82, May 2 St. John Church, Logan

LEONARDO, Rosemary Christine, 91, May 1 St. Brendan the Navigator Church, Hilliard

MESSENHEIMER, Carl, 69, May 5 St. Paul Church, Westerville

MILLER, Margaret Mary "Peggy," 83, May 3 Holy Family Church, Columbus

NOLAN, Eugene, 73, April 27 Our Lady of Peace Church, Columbus

REAM Sr., George F., 98, May 2 St. Vincent de Paul Church, Mount Vernon

REGAN, John, 93, May 6 St. Philip the Apostle Church, Columbus

RIZO, Fernando "Ding," 77, May 5 St. Peter Church, Columbus

RUNYAN, Donna, 72, April 7 Resurrection Cemetery Chapel, Lewis Center

SHEAHAN, Hollis H., 88, April 19 St. Thomas More Newman Center, Columbus

ULLIMAN, Joann C., 79, May 1 St. Brendan the Navigator Church, Hilliard

Sister Mary (Eulalia) O'Hara, O.P.

Funeral Mass for Sister Mary (Sr. Eulalia) O'Hara, who died at Tuesday, May 1 at Mohun Health Care Center, was celebrated Tuesday, May 8 at the Dominican Sisters of Peace Motherhouse Chapel in Columbus. Burial was at St. Joseph Cemetery.

She was born in 1940 in Pittsburgh and in 1960 entered the congregation of St. Mary of the Springs, now the Dominican Sisters of Peace. She earned her degree from the College of St. Mary of the Springs, now Ohio Dominican University. She also earned her Chaplaincy Certi-

fication from Bethesda Hospital in Cincinnati.

She taught at schools in Michigan and Pennsylvania and in the Diocese of Columbus at Sacred Heart School in Coshocton. From 1980 to 1984, she was a missionary in Chimbote, Peru. For 25 years, she ministered as chaplain at St. Mary Medical Center in Gary, Indiana.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Michael and Margaret Davis O'Hara, and brothers, Michael and Martin. Survivors include a sister, Margaret Abulencia.

Margaret E. Long

Funeral Mass for Margaret E. (Pinney) Long, 101, who died May 2, was celebrated on Tuesday, May 8 at the Mother Angeline McCrory Manor Chapel in Columbus.

She was a longtime member of Columbus Christ the King Church and retired after 33 years of service in the Diocese of Columbus as a school teacher.

She was preceded in death by husband, J. Kenneth, and sisters, Martha Rose Stalder and Mary Frances Greely. Survivors include son, James (Jane) Long and daughter, Peggy Sawicki, five grandchildren, two great-grandchildren, and many nieces and nephews.

Sister Lucille Winstel, O.P.

Funeral Mass for Sister Lucille (Sr. Lucilla) Winstel, 96, who died Sunday, May 6, was to be held Friday, May 11 at the Dominican Sisters of Peace Motherhouse Chapel in Columbus. Burial was to be at St. Joseph Cemetery.

She was born in 1922 in Steubenville, Ohio, and entered the congregation of St. Mary of the Springs (now the Dominican Sisters of Peace) in 1941.

She received degrees from Ohio Dominican and Manhattanville College. She was a teacher in New Mexico, New York, Texas and in the Diocese of Columbus at Newark St. Francis de Sales, Lancaster

St. Mary, and Columbus Christ the King, where she was also principal from 1970 to 1975.

She worked in supportive services at St. George Hospital in Cincinnati, as a nurse aide and administrator at Mohun Hall, and at the Catholic Times office. She was a diocesan director in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania and assistant development director at Ohio Dominican. At the Columbus motherhouse, she was coordinator of the Springs Press and typist for the congregational history.

She was preceded in death by her parents, George and Florence Gilmore Winstel, and a sister, Helen Winstel. AM 820
CATHOLIC RADIO

Lend an ear!

Send obituaries to tpuet@columbuscatholic.org

HAPPENINGS

MAY

10, THURSDAY

Women to Women Listening Circle at Corpus Christi

11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Corpus Christi Center of Peace, 1111 E. Stewart Ave., Columbus. Women to Women program for women of all ages and life circumstances. Begins with soup lunch until noon, followed by listening circle. No child care available onsite. 614-512-3371

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.

Eucharistic holy Hour at Sacred Heart

7 p.m., Sacred Heart Church, 893 Hamlet St., Columbus. Eucharistic Holy Hour with the intention of deepened holinessand an increase in the virtue of fortitude for the Holy Father, bishops, and priests, concluding with Benediction, social period, and refreshments. 614-372-5249

11, FRIDAY

Fiesta de Mayo

6-10 p.m., Our Lady of Victory Church, 1559 Roxbury Road, Columbus. Fiesta de Mayo celebration sponsored by Columbus Christ the King and St. Stephen the Martyr churches.

Columbus Frasatti Society at Ohio State baseball

6:35 p.m., Bill Davis Stadium, Ohio State University, 560 Borror Drive, Columbus. Ohio State baseball vs. Purdue followed by fireworks. Meet at main gate. Cost of ticket \$6.50

12, SATURDAY

Ohio Dominican Commencement

11 a.m., Alumni Hall, Ohio Domunican University, 1216

All fund-raising events (festivals, bazaars, spaghetti dinners, fish fries, bake sales, pizza/sub sales, candy sales, etc.) will be placed as classified ads. An entry will be \$18.50 for the first six lines, and \$2.65 for each additional line.
For more information, call Douglas Bean at 614-224-6530.

'Happenings' submissions

Notices for items of Catholic interest must be received at least 12 days before expected publication date. We will print them as space permits.

Items not received before this deadline may not be published.

Listings cannot be taken by phone.

Mail to: The Catholic Times

Happenings,

197 East Gay St., Columbus, OH 43215 Fax to: 614-241-2518 E-mail as text to tpuet@colsdioc.org Sunbury Road, Columbus. 9 a.m. Baccalaureate at Christ the King Chapel followed by Commencement at 11.

Shepherd's Corner annual plant sale

9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Shepherd's Corner Ecology Center, 987 N. Waggoner Road, Blacklick. Plant sale includes vegetables, herbs and more naturally grown from seeds on site. 614-866-4302

13, SUNDAY

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.

Seasons of Hope Bereavement Ministry

2 to 4 p.m., St. Francis of Assisi Church, 386 Buttles Ave., Columbus. Sixth meeting of North High Deanery's sixweek Seasons of Hope Bereavement Ministry for those who have lost a loved one. Contact michaeljamesschmidt@yahoo.com or mjulian@columbus.rr.com.

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.

614-237-0401

Spanish Mass at Columbus St. Peter

7 p.m., St. Peter Church, 6899 Smoky Row Road, Columbus. Mass in Spanish. 706-761-4054

13--17. SUNDAY-THURSDAY

Seminarians Bike Tour 2018

Annual seminarians bike tour begins at Holy Family Church on Sunday, May 13 and ends Thursday, May 27 with stops at parish schools and high schools on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.

14. 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 the church). 614-718-0277, 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 Scripture readings.

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

15, TUESDAY

Edwardians Mystery Day Trip

8:30 a.m., St. Edward Church, 785 Newark-Granville Road, Granville. Parish's Edwardians senior travel group takes a one-day mystery trip. Cost \$34; advance registrations required. 740-323-3105

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.

16, WEDNESDAY

Abortion Recovery Network Group

9:30 to 10:30 a.m., Westerville Area Resource Ministry, 1150 Heatherdown Drive, Westerville. Abortion recovery network group meeting for anyone interested in recovering from abortion or who has been through a recovery program, and wants to stay connected.

17. THURSDAY

Faith and Culture Lecture Series at Jubilee Museum

7 p.m., The Jubilee Museum, 57 S. Grubb St., Columbus. Father Thomas Blau, OP, will present "Jewels in Her Crown: Is Devotion to Mary Biblical?"

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.

Holy Hour at Holy Family

6 to 7 p.m., Holy Family Church, 584 W. Broad St., Columbus. Holy Hour of Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, followed by meeting of parish Holy Name and Junior Holy Name societies, with refreshments. 614-221-4323

Abortion Recovery Network Group

7to8p.m.,GatewayCenter,2670N.ColumbusSt.,Lancaster. Abortion recovery network group meeting for anyone interested in recovering from abortion or who has been througharecoveryprogram,andwantstostayconnected.

614-721-2100

Eucharistic Holy Hour at Sacred Heart

7 p.m., Sacred Heart Church, 893 Hamlet St., Columbus. Eucharistic Holy Hour with the intention of deepened holiness and an increase in the virtue of fortitude for the Holy Father, bishops, and priests, concluding with Benediction, social period, and refreshments.

614-372-5249

17, FRIDAY

Annual Corcoran Awards luncheon

11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., COSI, 333 W. Broad St., Columbus. St. Vincent Family Center's annual awards luncheon honors community difference-makers and highlights the center's work with children and families. 614-252-0731 ext. 1132

19, SATURDAY

Life and Mercy Mass in Plain City

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

Centering Prayer Group Meeting at Corpus Christi

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

Pentecost Vigil Mass

7 p.m., St. Elizabeth Catholic Church, 6077 Sharon Woods Blvd. Columbus. Rosary, contemporary praise and worship before Mass at 8:15 p.m. and fellowship afterward. Sponsored by the Columbus Catholic Renewal. 614-500-8178.

20, SUNDAY

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 Columbus 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 fol-

614-224-9522

lowed by Holy Hour. 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.

St. Padre Pio Secular Franciscans

1:30 to 5 p.m., St. John the Baptist Church, 720 Hamlet St., Columbus. Fellowship and ongoing formation followed by adoration and prayer, Liturgy of the Hours, and initial formation with visitors. 614-282-4676

St. Catherine of Bologna Secular Franciscans

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

Polish Mass at Holy Family

2 p.m., Holy Family Church, 584 W. Broad St., Columbus. Monthly Mass in Polish. 614-221-4323

Taize Evening Prayer at Corpus Christi

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

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. 614-237-0401

Spanish Mass at Columbus St. Peter

7 p.m., St. Peter Church, 6899 Smoky Row Road, Columbus. Mass in Spanish. 706-761-4054

21, MONDAY

Mass of Healing at St. Joseph Cathedral

6:30 p.m., St. Joseph Cathedral, 212 E. Broad St., Columbus. Mass of healing and healing service will be followed by exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and veneration of reliics from the true cross. All are invited. 614-224-1295

Columbus Frasatti Society Mass and a Meal

7 p.m., St. Patrick Church, 280 N. Grant Ave., Columbus. Mass celebrated by Father Charles Shonk, OP, followed by pizza.

22-23, TUESDAY-WEDNESDAY

Trauma-Informed Care Summitt

Residence Inn by Mariott, 3100 Olentangy River Rd., Columbus. Presenters at the conference sponsored by Ohio Mental Health & Addiction Services include Father Jeff Putthoff, SJ, founder and former executive director of Hopeworks.

24, THURSDAY

Columbus Frasatti Christ in the City

7 p.m., St. Patrick Church, 280 N. Grant Ave., Columbus. Eucharistic adoration, confessions, Taize chant and Dominican compline followed by fellowship at Claddagh Irish Pub.

Foster parents informational meeting

16:30 p.m., St. Vincent Family Center, 1490 E. Main St., Columbus. Informational meeting on becoming a foster parent. 614-252-0731

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

Eucharistic Holy Hour at Sacred Heart

7 p.m., Sacred Heart Church, 893 Hamlet St., Columbus. Eucharistic Holy Hour with the intention of deepened holiness and an increase in the virtue of fortitude for the Holy Father, bishops, and priests, concluding with Benediction, social period, and refreshments.

614-372-5249



The Hillbilly Thomists

By Kelly Sankowski

Catholic News Service

Bluegrass music may not be the first thing that comes to mind when people think of Dominicans, but for the 10 Dominican brothers and priests at the Dominican House of Studies in Washington who recently released their debut album, "The Hillbilly Thomists," the two have a lot in common.

"The life of holiness is the happiest life. It is the good life," said Brother Jonah Teller, who plays guitar on the album. "I was drawn, and I think a lot of men are drawn, by the joy the brothers exhibit ... to be living this life, to be saving our souls, to be drawing closer to Jesus, and to do it with brothers."

Likewise, while listening to bluegrass music, "there is a real happiness that is just drawn out of you," he said. "So I think that we're geared to be happy, and bluegrass lets you be happy in a really expressive way."

That happiness was tangible as six of the Hillbilly Thomists played to a standing-room-only crowd last month at the Catholic Information Center in Washington. Middle-age men tapped their feet and babies clapped their hands to the tunes. The musicians laughed with each other as they created the proper setting for bluegrass music, which they said is usually played informally around a kitchen table.

Brother Simon Teller, who plays the fiddle in the new album, is Brother Jonah's brother. They grew up in Cincinnati, attending St. Gertrude Parish, where Dominicans in the religious order's Eastern province go for their novitiate year. The Dominican friars at Columbus St. Patrick Church are also part of the same province.

Looking through old family photos, Brother Simon found one of himself as



a 13-year-old, playing the fiddle alongside now-Father Thomas Joseph White, who had begun playing the bluegrass mandolin after his novice master told all novices to take up a hobby.

Little did the 13-year-old know that he would later wear a similar white habit and again play the fiddle alongside Father White, who is now an associate professor of systematic theology at the Dominican House of Studies.

Father White and Father Austin Litke founded the Hillbilly Thomists in the early 2000s. They chose the name from a quote by Catholic author Flannery O'Connor, who said: "Everybody who has read 'Wise Blood' thinks I'm a hillbilly nihilist, whereas ... I'm a hillbilly Thomist."

Brother Justin Bolger was a professional touring musician and a sound engineer before entering the Dominican order. Brother Joseph Hagan and others had studied music in college. Brother Simon had spent summers as a street musician in Asheville, North

Thomas Aquinas meets bluegrass in best-selling album Above: The Hillbilly Thomists perform at the Catholic Information Center in Washington April 11. (NS photo/Tyler Orsburn

Left: Dominican Brother Joseph Hagan smiles as he plays the washboard during a performance. The band consists of 10 Dominican friars from the Dominican House of Studies in Washington. CNS photo/Jaclyn Lippelmann, Catholic Standard

Carolina.

"The different skills we brought fit well together," said Brother Joseph, who plays the drums. "Obviously, we came together primarily for God. ... We aren't just people who have skills and (who) use each other to make an album."

Unless they are practicing for a specific gig, the Hillbilly Thomists' schedule of playing together is pretty fluid.

"It is a true extension of our fraternal life," Brother Jonah told the Catholic Standard, newspaper of the Archdiocese of Washington.

The product of the brothers' fun pastime has received a response that none anticipated. It was in the top 10 of the bluegrass Billboard charts for about 10 weeks, at one point reaching the No. 3 spot, and it also reached the top 20 of all albums on Amazon. People from around the world are listening to it, reviewing it and often learning about St. Thomas Aquinas in the process, as they Google, "What is a Thomist?"

Country and bluegrass legend Ricky Skaggs stopped by the Dominican House of Studies to visit the Hillbilly Thomists and, before playing bluegrass with them, joined them for prayer and lunch.

The impetus for the album was as a fundraiser, since the album's proceeds go to the Dominican House of Studies, but the album also is a form of preaching, said Brother Simon. The Dominicans also are known as the Order of Preachers.

ation

The songs are "about Christ and grace and about very human things like death," he said. The themes are found in tracks such as "What Would You Give in Exchange for Your Soul?" inviting the listener to contemplate dying and meeting God; "Poor Wayfaring Stranger," reflecting the experience of pilgrimage; and "Leaning on the Everlasting Arms," invoking an image of relying on God.

People have told the brothers that they see the album as something that they can send to their children who have fallen away from the Church or share with their non-Catholic friends, said Brother Simon. It is considered "cultural, but at the core of it is Christianity," he said.

While the songs have deep and complex theological themes, part of the beauty of the bluegrass is its simplicity, said Brother Joseph.

"The lyrics are very prayerful, if not just simply prayers," he said.

Since they take vows of obedience, Brother Simon said it is difficult to talk about the future of the band, but added, "We're all excited to see where the Lord takes it."

Sankowski is on the staff of the Catholic Standard, newspaper of the Archdiocese of Washington.

Mothers ... God's precious gift

By Gloria Butler

We see them every time we attend Mass. They are the clingers and cuddlers ... children, every age from newborn to 10 years old and older, who cling to their mothers, and more and more to their fathers as well.

It has always amazed me how the same little ones, who can be loud, full of energy, chasing siblings and friends across the lawn at church only moments ago, nestle down during Mass and become quiet as mice. They sit very close to their Mom, inching over, and more often than not climb into their laps. Their heads on parent's shoulders, they stare off into space in a trance-like state, sometimes smiling, but more often shyly diverting their eyes. They seem to be simply absorbing their parent's touch, as they feel their mother gently rubbing their backs to comfort them, and occasionally whispering in their ear the words only a parent uses to calm a restless child.

I always say a silent prayer for the parents, who sometimes hold and/or



wrestle their little ones for the entire Mass! They miss part of the Mass, focusing instead on the most important job, meeting the needs of their little ones. If the child becomes loud, cries and is disturbing others, they simply get up and quietly take the child out of the sanctuary ... again, we are seeing more fathers helping with this also.

As these little ones grow up, the scene may change a bit, but usually a different sort of touching is involved. I have witnessed little ones winding their fingers in their mommy's hair, and stroking her face for an entire hour, or bury their face in her neck and plant butterfly kisses. The parent may be thinking of this as a way to get through Mass, but to this great grandma, it is one of the most precious bonding moments to store away and treasure forever. Oh, to turn back the clock and have my children need me like that again! To be able to make everything in their life better, just by touch. It is truly one of God's finest accomplishments, creating the unconditional love between mother and child, memories to last our lifetimes.

If you have, in your parish, large families, with "stair-step" children, observe the dynamics that take place during Mass, only slightly different, but just as sweet. We are blessed to have several such families. One comes to mind, six little boys, age range seven or eight down to about a year old. To say they are adorable is an understatement! To say their parents are destined for sainthood is also an understatement! They follow their parents into Mass like little ducklings, with mom and dad carrying the two youngest. They do not bring toys, trucks, food or even many "soft things" such as blankets, stuffed animals, etc. They sit on chairs and seldom get up. Yes, they do climb on their parents' laps sometimes, when the baby is sleeping or in the car seat, but they also comfort each other. A four-year-old holds his two-year-old brother when mom and dad's arms are full. For the most part, the little ones remain quiet as their siblings cling to them in clumsy fashion.

It is wonderful to witness the results of the training being instilled in these beautiful little guys and a testament to their parents for their patience and work it must require to accomplish this calm, in what could easily be chaos.

Our parish is full of children whose parents are doing amazing jobs teaching the importance of Mass, and how we respect our heavenly family always, especially when we are in their presence in the Lord's house.

They are learning life-long values in the perfect place, at Jesus' altar, with His Mother Mary standing watch, quietly nearby, to comfort, console and be there for her Son.

As the wonderful spring gives forth to Mother's Day once again, may God watch over the little children and their mothers and fathers, keeping all safe from harm. And may the beautiful bonding that takes place before Our Lord each week continue for eternity.

Gloria Butler is a lifelong writer and active parishioner at Plain City St. Joseph Church. Her work has appeared in the Catholic Times and other publications. In 2010, she was selected as Catholic Woman of the Year in the Diocese of Columbus.

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Fr. David Shalk
Pastor
Christ the King

ST. JOSEPH

6440 S. High Street (Route 23) South of I-270 **11:00 A.M. MASS**

IN OUR MOTHER OF SORROWS CHAPEL

Flag Ceremony at 12:00 Noon **614-491-2751**

MT. CALVARY

581 Mt. Calvary Avenue at West Mound Street 11:00 A.M. MASS ON PRIEST'S CIRCLE

614-491-2751



Fr. Vince Nguyen
Administrator
Corpus Christi/St. Ladislas



Fr. Homer Blubaugh Retired

RESURRECTION

9571 N. High Street (Route 23) North of I-270 **1:00 P.M. MASS**

IN CHAPEL MAUSOLEUM

Flag Ceremony at 12:00 Noon **614-888-1805**

HOLY CROSS

11539 National Rd. S.W. (Route 40) East of I-270 11:00 A.M. MASS IN CHAPEL MAUSOLEUM

Flag Ceremony at 10:30 a.m.

740-927-4442



Msgr. David Funk Pastor St. Pius X.

SPECIAL MEMORIAL WEEKEND OFFICE HOURS

SATURDAY 8:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M. SUNDAY 11:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M. MONDAY 9:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M.

Cemetery personnel will be available to answer questions and help locate family grave spaces



