



DIOCESE OF COLUMBUS

# CATHOLIC TIMES

*A journal of Catholic life in Ohio*

JULY 15, 2018  
THE 15TH WEEK IN ORDINARY TIME  
VOLUME 67:35



**CATHOLIC KIDS ENJOY SUMMER  
FUN AT VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**

Editor's reflections by Doug Bean

## 'Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed'

At the memorial Mass for St. Thomas the Apostle celebrated each year on July 3, the "doubting Thomas" gospel that comes from St. John 20:24-29 resonates with so many Catholics.

No matter how much a person professes faith in God, we often turn to Him in difficult moments asking, "Lord, I believe, help my unbelief."

It's not necessarily a lack of belief in the saving and healing power of the Lord, but rather the weakness that comes with being a mere human being.

There's a richness to this gospel passage that provides so much hope. Particularly striking is when "Jesus said to him, 'Have you come to believe because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed.'"

Jesus allowed Thomas to put his finger in the nail marks and his hand into his side, and said to him, "do not be unbelieving, but believe." That's incredibly powerful imagery.

Thomas represents every man, woman and child who has come after him and is a believer without being able to touch Jesus in the same way that Thomas did. And yet every Catholic actually is able to touch the same Christ who makes himself

truly present body, blood, soul and divinity through receiving him in the Holy Eucharist at Mass. It's the most precious gift a person can be given on earth.

When Thomas received the physical proof of Jesus' resurrection, he exclaimed, "My Lord and my God." Many older Catholics learned to silently repeat those same words three times when the priest elevates the body and then the blood during the consecration at Mass. It's a sign of reverence that seems to have been lost and is in need of a revival. Maybe unbelievers and the faith of those who say they are "bored" at Mass would be transformed with the revelation that Christ becomes truly present before their very eyes.

So like the other disciples who told Thomas, "We have seen the Lord," anyone who goes to Mass or enters a Catholic Church where the Blessed Sacrament is present can say the same thing. Even during the summer months, the Lord is waiting for everyone.

Not everyone has the luxury of going on vacation this time of year, but if you're blessed to be able to do so, remember that there is almost always

a Catholic Church nearby. Go online and check out Mass and adoration times for churches in the vicinity and plan accordingly.

Rest and relaxation is a good thing, but not at the expense of forgetting about the obligation to set aside time for God.

The children and young adults profiled in the Vacation Bible School story on Pages 10-12 in this week's Catholic Times took time out during the summer to grow closer to the Lord. These kids, parents and volunteers chose to experience God in a particular way for a week through prayer, songs, games, skits, activities, ministries, confession and Mass.

For the "older" generation, vacations and stay-cations also provide an opportunity to catch up on spiritual reading. There are a multitude of excellent books to explore. George Weigel offers some suggestions in his column on Page 15.

Whatever you do and wherever you go this summer, remember the words that Jesus told his disciples in John's Gospel when he appeared to them: "Peace be with you."



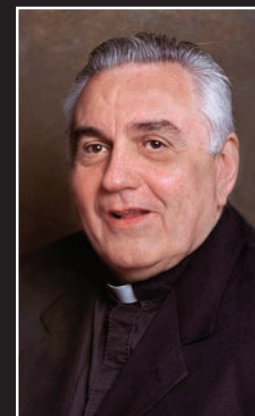
## Father Lawrence James Reichert passed away on June 30, 2018

Funeral Mass for Father Lawrence James Reichert, 73, who died Saturday, June 30 while in palliative care at Mount Carmel-St. Ann's Hospital, was held Friday, July 6 at Johnstown Church of the Ascension. Burial was at St. Joseph Cemetery.

He was born on November 30, 1944 to Charles and Margaret (Dempsey) Reichert in Columbus and was baptized on December 31, 1944 at St. John the Evangelist Church, where he attended elementary school. He also attended the now-closed Holy Family High School and graduated from Bishop Ready High School in 1962.

Father Reichert began his seminary formation and college studies for the priesthood at the former St. Charles Borromeo Seminary in Columbus, graduating with a Bachelor of Arts degree, and his theological studies took place at Mount St. Mary of the West Seminary in Cincinnati, where he graduated with a Master of Divinity degree. He was ordained a priest for the Diocese of Columbus by Bishop Clarence E. Elwell on May 29, 1971.

He was associate pastor at Columbus St. Agatha Church, Columbus St. Catharine Church and Zanesville St. Nicholas Church, then served as pastor at Columbus Holy Name Church, Groveport St. Mary Church and Johnstown Church of the Ascension. He also was a teacher at Columbus Bishop Watterson High School, Columbus Bishop Hartley High School and Zanesville Bishop Rosecrans High School. He retired in 2017.



## CATHOLIC TIMES IS ON SUMMER SCHEDULE!

Things slow down during the summer, and that includes the Catholic Times. In June, July and August, we will be publishing every other week. Look for the Catholic Times in your mailbox just prior to: **July 29; August 12 & 26. We will return to weekly publication schedule in September.**



Front Page photo:  
Vacation Bible School

Westerville St. Paul the Apostle Church is one of many diocesan parishes with summer VBS programs for youth. Photo courtesy of St. Paul the Apostle Church

## CATHOLIC TIMES

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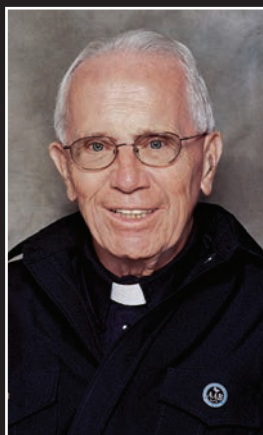
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## Father James Albert Ogurchock passed away on July 7, 2018

Funeral Mass for Father James Albert Ogurchock, 85, who died Saturday, July 7 at the Villas at St. Therese in Columbus, was celebrated on Thursday, July 12 at Gahanna St. Matthew the Apostle Church. Burial was at St. Joseph Cemetery.

He was born on October 2, 1932 in Akron to James and Anna (Ziegler) Ogurchock and was baptized on October 16, 1932 at Akron Immaculate Conception Church. He graduated from Akron St. Mary High School and then began his formation for the priesthood at the former St. Charles Borromeo Seminary in Columbus, originally for the Glenmary Home Missioners but later for service in the Diocese of Columbus. He continued his theological studies at Mount St. Mary of the West Seminary in Cincinnati, graduating with a Master of Divinity degree. He was ordained to the priesthood on May 31, 1958 by Bishop Clarence G. Issenmann at Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral.



He served as associate pastor at Zanesville St. Nicholas Church, Columbus St. Leo Church, Marysville Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Columbus Holy Spirit Church and Columbus St. Mary Magdalene Church. He also was a teacher at Columbus Bishop Hartley High School and Columbus Bishop Ready High School, principal at Zanesville Bishop Rosecrans High School, Assistant Superintendent of Catholic schools for the diocese, the Diocesan Vicar for Religious, and hospital chaplain at Mount Carmel East from 1981 until his retirement in 2008. After his retirement, he assisted at Gahanna St. Matthew the Apostle Church and Columbus St. Catharine Church.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his brother, Father John J. Ogurchock, M.M., a missionary for 51 years who died in 2013; and sisters, Sister Mary Catherine, CSJ, and Sister Mary Joanna, CSJ.

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## Martin de Porres Center to host Visible Invisible Tea

The Martin de Porres Center's sixth annual The Visible Invisible Tea fundraiser will feature a presentation from the Star House and its art program Visible Invisible from 2 to 4 p.m. Sunday, August 5.

Star House is a drop-in center for youth experiencing homelessness in Columbus. Art from the program will be on display in the special exhibit "Identity" and there will be performances by young artists.

Special guests will also discuss the problem of youth homelessness in Columbus.

Donations such as earbuds, canvases, paintbrushes, notebooks, or gift cards will be accepted for the Visible Invisible program.

A \$35 pre-paid registration fee is required by July 27. More details are available online at <https://martin-deporrescenter.net/programs/> or by contacting 614-416-1910 or [martin-deporres@oppeace.org](mailto:martin-deporres@oppeace.org).

The Martin de Porres Center, located at 2330 Airport Dr. in Columbus, is an outreach ministry of the Dominican Sisters of Peace.

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Mount Carmel College of Nursing is an approved provider of continuing nursing education by the Ohio Nurses Association, an accredited approver by the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Commission on Accreditation. (OBN-001-91) (OH-268, 11/1/2018). Course expires 10/2018.



## Tuscarawas Central Catholic students go to Buckeye Boys, Girls State

Nine rising seniors from the Tuscarawas Central Catholic High School attended the 2018 Buckeye Boys and Girls State in June.

Anthony Fredericks, Ciro Ciraci, Max DeMattio, Reece Blanchard, Austin Fantin, Braden Culler, Alex Selenski and John Clore participated in Boys State at Miami University in Oxford along with 1,200 others from high schools around the state. They were sponsored by American Legion Post 139 of New Philadelphia and the East Sparta Post 244.



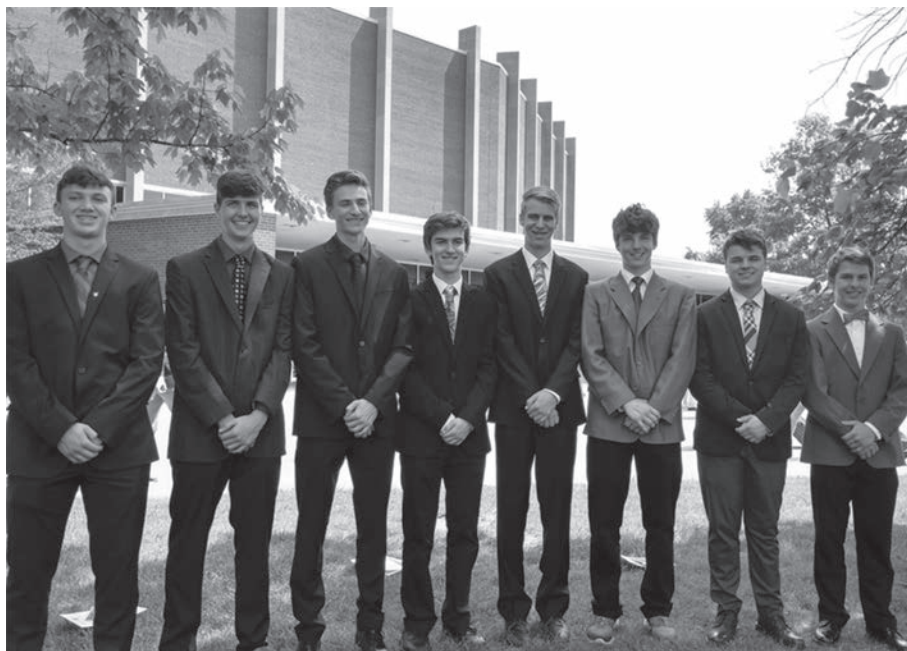
Regan Triplett

Regan Triplett

participated in the Girls State at the University of Mount Union in Alliance. She was sponsored by the American Legion Post 139 of New Philadelphia.

The nine students represented 24 in the Tuscarawas Central Catholic senior class of 2019 and a student body of 150 in grades seven through 12. Each of the nine is involved in multiple school and church activities.

Participants in the Buckeye Boys and Girls State programs learn about city, county and state government and how they relate to one another as part of the democratic process. The program's stated mission is to expose young men to rights and privileges, duties and responsibilities, and love for God and country necessary to become self-governing citizens.



Tuscarawas Central Catholic rising seniors who participated in American Legion Buckeye Boys State were (left to right) Anthony Fredericks, Ciro Ciraci, Max DeMattio, Reece Blanchard, Austin Fantin, Braden Culler, Alex Selenski and John Clore.



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## Herbeck, Father Richards to speak at Alpha conference

The Alpha Consortium will present a regional conference, Alpha: Learn-Grow-Share-Lead, on Saturday, August 11, at Sunbury St. John Neumann Church that features three speakers and 20 breakout sessions.

Peter Herbeck, vice president and director of missions for Renewal Ministries, will be one of the speakers. He will be joined by Father Larry Richards, a pastor at St. Joseph Church in Erie, Pennsylvania and the founder

and president of The Reason for Our Hope Foundation, a non-profit organization dedicated to spreading the gospel by telling people about Jesus Christ.

Also speaking will be Joshua Danis, the national director of Alpha in a Catholic context. He leads evangelization efforts in parishes across the country. His focus will be the message of St. Francis to reach out and build relationships in caring for others.



Informal gatherings around a table are part of the Alpha faith-sharing experience.

Alpha is a program adopted by a number of parishes in the Diocese of Columbus and in more than 60 countries. It involves a series of interactive sessions that freely explore the basics of the Christian faith.

Participants are called guests and assigned to tables with trained hosts and helpers. Each table consists of approximately 8-12 individuals. Sessions begin with an informal gathering to share a meal or food, which is followed by video and a group discussion.

The course consists of 10 sessions. Topics include: Who is Jesus? Why did Jesus die? How and Why do I pray? Why and How do I read the Bible? There is an additional retreat or day at a location where there are videos and discussions about the Holy Spirit and an opportunity for praying with others.

Alpha began in the diocese in 2015 at St. John Neumann, Grove City Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church and Powell St. Joan of Arc Church and expanded to Columbus St. Catharine Church, Delaware St. Mary Church and New Albany Church of the Resurrection.

The Alpha Consortium formed in 2016 and currently has 13 Alpha leaders from nine parishes who provide trainings, materials, coaching, support

and prayers for people from numerous parishes in the diocese.

More than 4,500 people have been involved during the past four years. Other diocesan parishes that have offered Alpha or are planning to do so include Columbus Immaculate Conception, Newark Blessed Sacrament, Columbus Our Lady of Peace, Columbus Our Lady of Victory, Columbus St. Cecilia, West Jefferson Sts. Simon and Jude, Columbus St. Timothy, Newark St. Francis de Sales, Marion St. Mary, Columbus St. Francis of Assisi, Plain City St. Joseph, Portsmouth Holy Redeemer, Columbus Santa Cruz, Portsmouth St. Mary of the Annunciation, Marysville Our Lady of Lourdes, Reynoldsburg St. Pius X, Hilliard St. Brendan, Columbus St. Thomas More, London St. Patrick, Dover St. Joseph, Lancaster St. Mary of the Assumption, Mount Vernon St. Vincent de Paul, Danville St. Luke, Pickerington St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Lancaster St. Mark, Columbus Bishop Hartley High School, Westerville St. Paul the Apostle and Columbus Christ the King.

To learn more about the Alpha Consortium and the regional conference or to register, visit [www.alphacolumbus.org](http://www.alphacolumbus.org). Registration is online only. No registrations will be accepted at the door.

## Diocesan Recreation Association prepares for new school year

Play Like A Champion Today training sessions for new coaches in the Diocesan Recreation Association program will be held starting in July for the upcoming school year.

The first session is scheduled for 11 a.m. Saturday, July 21 at Columbus St. Andrew Church, 1899 McCoy Road. Additional class times will be noon Saturday, July 28 and Saturday, August 18 at Columbus St. Mary Magdalene Church, 473 S. Roys Ave. Each sessions lasts approximately three hours. Registration is available at the DRA website.

The DRA began implementing the Play Like A Champion Today Educational Series in 2014 for all fourth grade parents. This year, at least one parent of all athletes must take the

training before their child participates in a DRA program.

The coaching-as-ministry programs are designed as faith based, particularly those run by Catholic diocese, parishes and schools. Play Like A Champion moves beyond the X's and O's of coaching to address the core elements of effective coaching: motivation, team building and leadership.

More than 2,000 coaches have participated in a Play Like A Champion Today training session. Thirty-five parish volunteers are trained to help implement the program.

The DRA is a program formed by the values of the Catholic Church. The important lessons of commitment, sacrifice and making good choices are part of the experience.

The DRA strives to make sports fun for all players; create a welcoming and inclusive team environment; promote an athlete's physical, social and moral development; and help children build lasting and strong relationships.

Sports are rooted in the most important gathering of the Catholic community — the Mass — and to ensure that young people are blessed in their experiences of athletics. The goal is to set a precedent in today's youth sports culture that it's necessary to set aside time for God and family.

The DRA has been able to greatly reduce the number of Sunday DRA games to allow for family time, uninterrupted by scheduled sports. But there are other sports offered in parishes and local communities that do

not fall under the umbrella of the DRA.

DRA member parishes will hold a "Kick-Off" Mass before the start of the season to recognize the summer and fall athletes and coaches. Young athletes, coaches and families are encouraged to attend together.

The DRA provided soccer, cross country, football, volleyball, basketball, track, baseball and softball to more than 7,200 students during 2017-2018. Cross country was added in the fall and over 170 students participated.

For more information on programs and DRA forms, visit [www.columbuscatholic.org/recreation](http://www.columbuscatholic.org/recreation) or call 614-241-2580.

## Prayers for Trump-Kim / Contact with gay couple



Question & Answer  
Father Kenneth Doyle  
Catholic News Service

**Q** How do we change those Catholic Church leaders who have political bias and anger toward our president?

Mr. Trump needed our prayers and support for his dialogue with North Korean President Kim Jong Un. But neither at the Sunday Mass I attended nor in our diocesan paper was there any mention of praying for the success of this important effort to denuclearize Korea and to bring peace to the region.

I thought we believed that “blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.” (Central Ohio)

**A** It surprises me that at the Mass you attended on Sunday, June 10, no mention would have been made in the prayer of the faithful about the critical summit scheduled two days later in Singapore.

In the Masses at our own parish that weekend, one of the petitions was, “For the upcoming meeting between President Trump and Kim Jong Un, that it may help to bring peace and stability to the Korean Peninsula.” I think that most Catholic parishes probably did something similar.

Pope Francis, in his Angelus address that same Sunday to the pilgrims gathered in St. Peter’s Square, asked the crowd to pray the Hail Mary in order that the talks in Singapore might “contribute to the development of a positive path that assures a future of peace for the Korean Peninsula and the whole world.”

Earlier, on April 29, the pontiff told pilgrims that Kim Jong Un and South Korean President Moon Jae-in had made a “courageous commitment” to ongoing dialogue in order to achieve “a Korean Peninsula free of nuclear

weapons,” and Pope Francis urged Catholics to pray the rosary for peace during the month of May.

I feel certain that most diocesan newspapers covered one or both of those papal pleas.

**Q** We are a Catholic family and have sent all of our children to Catholic schools. Our daughter, who is now in high school, has a friend in her class who lives with two women, one of whom is her adoptive mother. The women are in a homosexual partnership.

Recently that family was going to the beach on an overnight trip, and my daughter was invited to go with them. My husband and I refused (and said that she was busy that weekend). We do let our daughter go on play dates with this friend and hang out with her, but we draw the line on sleepovers with this family.

We were truthful with our daughter and told her that we don’t want her to start seeing that family’s way of life as natural and proper. While we are tolerant of other people’s sexual orientation, we do not approve of gay marriage. Was it wrong for us to refuse to let her go with them? (Roanoke, Virginia)

**A** No, what you did was not wrong. On the contrary, I think you handled the situation pretty well. I would agree that it’s OK for your daughter to “hang out” with that friend; in fact, it’s probably healthy and helpful for the girl to see that a heterosexual union like your own is the norm.

But I, too, would draw the line at an overnight. You were right to explain honestly to your daughter the reason for your disapproval; now a purist, I suppose, would say that you should have been just as frank in speaking

with the gay couple, but I know how awkward that might have been.

Had you wanted to do so, you might have found helpful the Catechism of the Catholic Church (Nos. 2357-59), which offers a Scriptural basis for disapproving of homosexual activity.

**Q** I would like to donate my remains to medical science. Does the Catholic Church approve or disapprove of this action? (Chesapeake, Virginia)

**A** The Catholic Church not only allows this but encourages it. Your donation could enable doctors, nurses and medical researchers to understand the human body better and save lives in the future.

The U.S. Catholic bishops in their policy document Ethical and Religious Directives for Catholic Health Care Services state that Catholic health care facilities should provide the means for those who wish to donate organs and bodily tissue both for transplant and for research (No. 63). Likewise, St. John Paul II in his 1995 encyclical “The Gospel of Life” called organ donation an act of “everyday heroism” that nurtures a genuine culture of life (No. 86).

A couple of cautions are in place, though. First, a Catholic funeral Mass may and should still be held, even without the presence of the body (i.e., a memorial Mass), to entrust the deceased person to the Lord and to allow the family to mourn and pray together.

Next, following the medical research, any bodily remains should be entombed or buried in consecrated ground. And finally, it is wise for someone intending to donate his or her body to communicate that desire to family members well in advance to avoid surprise or family friction at the time of death.

*Questions may be sent to Father Kenneth Doyle at [askfatherdoyle@gmail.com](mailto:askfatherdoyle@gmail.com) and 30 Columbia Circle Dr., Albany, New York 12203.*

## PDHC Walk for Life

Pregnancy Decision Health Centers (PDHC) will host a Walk for Life in Lancaster on Saturday, July 14 and in Columbus on Saturday, July 21 to raise funds to help pregnant women with pregnancy tests, ultrasounds and parenting classes.



Check-in for both events starts at 9 a.m., with the walk to follow at 10 a.m. The Walk for Life in Lancaster begins at the downtown bandstand and in Columbus at Scioto Audubon Metro Park, 400 W. Whittier St.

Registration is free, and participants can use PDHC’s online tools to raise funds. For every \$300 raised, walkers provide comprehensive care for one woman.

“We are excited to bring the community together to walk for life and to support women and families,” PDHC president Julie Moore said. “No one should be alone during a pregnancy. We want women to know that their community and PDHC is here to help. Together we will save and change lives.”

Thousands of women come to PDHC each year for free and confidential services. Of the women that used PDHC’s services last year, 71 percent reported incomes of less than \$15,000 per year. PDHC supports women and families by providing individualized consultations that include healthy pregnancy and reproductive education as well as additional help from other community resources.

PDHC extends help beyond pregnancy to support parents after their babies are born and to reduce infant mortality. New and expecting moms and dads attend parenting classes on child development, safe sleep practices and managing stress and finances.

PDHC is a non-profit 501c3 that empowers women and families to make healthy life choices, including parenting or adoption during an unexpected pregnancy. For more information and to register, visit [SupportPDHC.org/walk-for-life](http://SupportPDHC.org/walk-for-life).

## THE EVERYDAY CATHOLIC



By Rick Jeric

### *For love of the Christ Child*

Over the many years I have been writing columns for The Catholic Times, I have promoted and sung the praises of the Women's Care Center of Columbus. As you know, they love, serve, and save moms and babies each day. Our counselors and nurses are saints. While I have mentioned our Crib Club from time to time, where moms can earn diapers, baby clothing, cribs, books, and car seats, I just have not recognized the wonderful women who staff and operate the Crib Club for us: the women of the Christ Child Society. Without them, our moms and babies would be loved and served a little less. I want to tell you more about these humble women who give so much in time, talent, and financial support, for the love of the Christ Child. Their purpose is a volunteer organization dedicated to serving the needs of children and youth regardless of race or creed, through the personal service of their members. Their mission is a non-profit organization dedicated to service to children in need, for love of the Christ Child.

We are very privileged to have the Christ Child Society of Columbus as a partner in serving newborns and their moms. They are a national organization founded in 1887. Since then, their volunteers are driven by faith, love, and a desire to make a difference. By partnering with existing agencies, they are able to fulfill the mission of service to children in need, for love of the Christ Child. The Columbus chapter began in 1981. Current service projects include providing layettes, which include basic baby items, for moms and babies in need. They provide an accredited pre-school and day care at St. Stephen's Community House in the Linden area. They tutor students at All Saints Academy and St. James the Less schools. They assist Rachel Muha at Run the Race Club by providing home-cooked meals two times a week for 60 students. Members also donate to a scholarship fund that provides academic scholarships to Catholic high schools for students who could not otherwise afford to attend Catholic schools. The Christ Child Society has about 130 active members who contribute more than 8,400 volunteer hours per year. The affiliation with Women's Care Center began in 2008. They provide cribs and mattresses, as well as baby basics, such as diapers, wipes, sleepers, outfits, socks, bottles, and towels. All the items are new, and have been purchased with funds donated by members or groups in the community. Women who come to the center take parenting and baby care classes where they earn coupons to use at the store. There are currently 30 volunteers, providing 800 volunteer hours in the Crib Club each year. They also buy the merchandise, price the items in coupons, coordinate the volunteer schedule, and staff the store during open hours. In 2017, there were 850 visits to the Crib Club by 245 women, and they used their earned coupons to purchase 3,331 items. Their work in the Crib Club is a very rewarding experience, as the moms choose brand new, adorable items for their babies. And it is a great sight when the moms return, to show the volunteers the babies in their new outfits provided by the Christ Child Society.

We are so very blessed to have the wonderful ladies of the Christ Child Society as partners in the pursuit of loving, serving, and saving moms and babies. They are selfless champions of life and children in need, and we thank them. If you would like to learn more, and might consider joining this blessed group, go to [www.christchildsociety.org](http://www.christchildsociety.org). Thank you, ladies, for all that you do for the love of the Christ Child.

## Ohio Dominican hosts Summer Scholars Program in July

Ohio Dominican University is offering its first Summer Scholars Program for high school students graduating in 2019, 2020 or 2021 from July 23 to 27.

The five-day program consists of four daily classes, which includes classroom discussions, out-of-classroom labs, and numerous hands-on activities.

ODU faculty will teach the following courses during the camp: Everyday Logic, Exploring Slow Fashion and Fiber Arts, Introduction to Game Programming, Ohio's Environment – Hands on, Poetry Writing Workshop, Psychological Detectives, and College Ready.

"This camp gives high school students an outstanding opportunity to experience the rigorous academic atmosphere on a university campus,"

said Manuel Martinez, Ph.D., dean of undergraduate studies and associate professor of languages at ODU. "The wide range of courses available during the week gives students the flexibility to choose topics that interest and fascinate them."

The cost is \$150 per student for the camp, which will take place on ODU's campus at 1216 Sunbury Road in Columbus. Attendees will not receive college credit.

Registration is limited to the first 48 respondents. To register, please visit [ohiodominican.edu/SummerScholars](http://ohiodominican.edu/SummerScholars).

For more information on the Summer Scholars Program, visit [ohiodominican.edu/SummerScholars](http://ohiodominican.edu/SummerScholars), email [admissions@ohiodominican.edu](mailto:admissions@ohiodominican.edu), or call 614-251-4500.

## ODU receives national recognition as a College of Distinction winner

Ohio Dominican University was nationally recognized among the Colleges of Distinction for the second consecutive year.

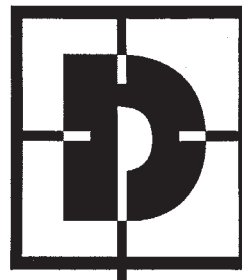
Colleges of Distinction is a national guidebook that honors colleges and universities for their excellence in undergraduate-focused higher education. Institutions are identified based on student experiences that take into account student satisfaction, alumni success, first-year student experience, retention efforts and a student-centered approach to teaching.

"Colleges of Distinction is far more

than a ranking list of colleges and universities," said Tyson Schritter, chief operating officer for Colleges of Distinction. "We seek out the schools that are wholly focused on the student experience and constantly working to produce graduates who are prepared for a rapidly changing global society. Ohio Dominican University stands out in the way it strives to help its students to learn, grow and succeed."

ODU's online profile for Colleges of Distinction can be found at [collegesofdistinction.com](http://collegesofdistinction.com). An annual guidebook will be released in the fall.

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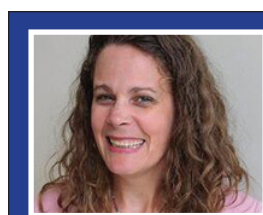
# LIVING Faith

## Finding Mary in a cowboy hat as Our Lady of Consolation

When I'm on the back of a horse, the world changes for me. Not only do I realize, with a sort of dazed wonder, that I'm doing one of the things I used to love more than anything else, but I also see the world through different eyes. When I'm riding a horse, my body is different -- for one thing, I'm not used to it anymore, and my legs scream in agony for at least three days after a ride. I have to pay attention to the world around me and I have to pay attention to the horse beneath me. The horses I ride are old hands at novice riders, and there's nothing to fear. Yet even though I know that, I don't ever forget that I'm on the back of a horse.

It makes me think of how I go through my life, so often. I cruise along, doing what I think is best, maybe asking for help here and there, thanking God every so often, involving Him when it suits me. Do I realize the immensity of what it means to be going through life as a Christian? Do I live my faith? Do I look down and see the Hands that are guiding me?

Reading about Saint Monica's devotion for her wayward son, Augustine, reminds me of this need to pay attention. Monica was a devout Christian, but her son wasn't. In fact, he was about as obstinate as it was possible to



### Finding Faith in Everyday Life Sarah Reinhard

get. He didn't want a thing to do with Christianity, and he could tell you why.

And yet Monica kept praying. Her prayer was so noteworthy that Mary appeared to her as Our Lady of Consolation. She was wearing mourning clothes with a belt around her waist, which she took off and gave to Monica, instructing her to wear it and spread this new devotional practice. Mary said she would protect anyone who wore the belt in her honor. Monica gave the belt, also called a cincture, to her son Augustine, and years later, he not only became Christian but became a renowned bishop, saint, and doctor.

When I hear Mary referred to as Our Lady of Consolation, I don't immediately think of Monica's tears and desperate pleas for help with her son's salvation. Sometimes I think of the little pains and tribulations in my life, like not getting to the horse farm as much as I'd like.

There's therapy in that time spent

among the horses, in the open air, unplugged from the technology that tries to run my life. I notice how much joy my family takes in the peacocks and the swings, and I treasure how we laugh and photograph and dawdle. Time stops at the horse farm, even as it flies by all around us.

When I've communed with God among the horses, I often realize how much I need Mass, how much I need that time with God. Though I may be distracted or interrupted or preoccupied, with kids crawling on my lap and sifting through my purse, people behind me or in front of me catching my attention; though I may be imperfect as I kneel there, I can see myself at the hitching post, waiting as the horses do, for my Herdsman to lead me to the still waters. Mary is right beside Him, wearing cowboy boots and probably a cowboy hat. She has a black leather belt, and she winks at me when I notice it.

"You probably thought I only wore robes," she whispers.

There's a lot of surprise in my daily life. I never expected, for example, to enjoy my babies so much. I didn't think I'd find solace in horses, having given up my equine dreams for more practical matters years ago, and I certainly didn't think I'd find Mary in a cowboy hat!

Our Lady of Consolation reminds me that there's comfort, even in the parts of life you don't "win," in the pain and suffering, in the knowledge of the prize I seek. As I share those moments with my family at the horse farm and rediscover that old horse-crazy part of myself, I find that there's help for me in the midst of my life, right there in the manure and the grass-stained knees. From five feet in the air, framed by alert ears and a wispy mane, I see how far I have to go... and how easily He can get me there.

*Sarah Reinhard is a Catholic wife, mother, and convert who writes from central Ohio with a sidekick of coffee and a yard full of critters. Get her Catholic take every weekday in your inbox by signing up at Snoring-Scholar.com.*

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## Thank you, Mr. Rogers



**Grace in the Moment**  
Mary Van Balen

When my oldest child was three, friends with a son about the same age asked how I liked Sesame Street. I admitted that neither I nor my daughter had seen it. We rarely turned on the television, but after hearing other young parents extolling the show's merits, I watched. The constant fast pace and short snippets put me off. (A former elementary teacher as well as a mother, I knew kids had longer attention spans than that.) Later, I came to appreciate what the show had to offer, and Sesame Street and other public television shows became common fare. But at first, if we were going to watch children's television at all, I preferred Mr. Rogers.

It was the pace. The real time. Taking time to let a story unfold without interruption. And the calm kindness and grace of Mr. Rogers himself.

After delaying seminary training to work in the new field of television, he eventually was ordained a Presbyterian minister to be an evangelist to children through the media. But Fred Rogers was no televangelist.

While St. Francis of Assisi probably never uttered the admonition attributed to him, instructing his followers to preach at all times and to use words if necessary, those words come to mind when I think of Mr. Rogers. His faith was integral in his life and it informed every show. But when the cameras rolled, he didn't mention Jesus or make religious statements. Who he was, what he did, how he spoke to his young audience, how he revered all (each child and of course all the "neighbors") spoke right to heart.

On the one-year anniversary of 9/11, he came out of retirement briefly to record a public service announcement addressing parents of young children about such tragedy and violence. Like the rest of us, he wondered what he could do in the face of such overwhelming evil.

With pain and sorrow in his face, he reminded parents to reassure their children that they would do all they

could to keep them safe. He recalled his mother's words: "When I was a boy and I would see scary things in the news, my mother would say to me, 'Look for the helpers. You will always find people who are helping.'"

He looked at the camera and said we are called to be *tikkun olma*, a Hebrew phrase that means "repairers of creation." It includes the sense of cooperation with God in mending the world, restoring it to wholeness.

In today's world, those words are powerful. Roger's had spent his life using his particular gifts and grace to help children understand they were loved, each a special, unique creation cherished by God. He was acknowledging a foundational truth of Christianity: God dwells in each of us. We are all loved and carry a spark of the Divine within.

The Hindu word *Nameste* says it: The divine in me bows to the divine in you. Acknowledging this truth about ourselves and others makes atrocities like separating immigrant children from their parents unthinkable. Judging others to be less than because of skin color, ethnicity, social standing, or education cannot stand when we recognize the dignity of all.

In an interview for Christianity Today, Rogers said "The underlying message of the Neighborhood is that if somebody cares about you, it's possible that you'll care about others. 'You are special, and so is your neighbor'—that part is essential: that you're not the only special person in the world. The person you happen to be with at the moment is loved, too."

Today we desperately need to heed the gospel message of "love your neighbor" and the Good Samaritan parable's understanding of just who our "neighbors" are. Mr. Rogers spent a lifetime being that neighbor to millions of young children and their parents.

Be a helper. Be *tikkun olma*. And if you have the opportunity, treat yourself to the movie, "Won't You Be My Neighbor."



**PRESCHOOL GRADUATION DAY FOR TRIPLETS** -- The first-ever set of triplets enrolled in the Christ Child Society of Columbus Child Care Center at St. Stephen's Community House, 1500 E. 17th Ave. recently graduated from the preschool program. Five-year-old Levi, Celeste and Davis Cole (left to right) were enrolled in December 2016 by their parents and have been at the center for the past two years. "Each of the triplets are extremely intelligent, kind and have a remarkable love for learning," said Kristin Dillard, youth services director at St. Stephen's Community House. "Their assessments demonstrate that they are exceeding developmental expectations and fully prepared for Kindergarten!"



## ST. PIUS X FESTIVAL

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By Doug Bean, *Catholic Times* Editor

## JUNE AND JULY ARE THE TWO MONTHS OF THE YEAR WHEN MOST CHILDREN TAKE A BREAK FROM THE CLASSROOM, BUT FOR ONE WEEK DURING THE SUMMER SOME OF THEM GO BACK TO SCHOOL . . . VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

During the past two decades, VBS has become more prevalent in Catholic parishes, partly because of expanded religious education staffs and demand from parents for summer faith activities for the children.

In the Diocese of Columbus, a variety of curriculums and resources are used, and in most cases the parishes

with other churches for a non-denominational VBS. One of those is Granville St. Edward the Confessor, which participated in a Granville ecumenical VBS in June.

Powell St. Joan of Arc, Grove City Our Lady of Peace and Chillicothe St. Peter have embraced Tutus Tuus, which is described as a parish mission

come into a parish for a week and stay in host family homes. The missionary teams share the Gospel and promote the Catholic faith through evangelization, catechesis, Christian witness and Eucharistic worship.

The teams are made up of seminarians and lay Catholics on fire for their faith. They go through training

deep desire for daily conversion, an openness to their vocation, and to give themselves to Christ through Mary.

Father Brian O'Connor, who was the parochial vicar at St. Joan of Arc, was instrumental in bringing Totus Tuus to the parish last year. He was once a Totus Tuus missionary himself while in the seminary.

# VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

## MIXES FAITH AND FUN

rely heavily on parents and youth volunteers to make VBS run smoothly.

VBS begins in mid-June and ends in mid-July before the school year gears up in August. While the focus is on students in elementary grades, ages of the participants range from preschool to high school.

The most widely utilized program in the diocese this summer is Shipwrecked: Rescued by Jesus from Totally Catholic VBS, which is produced by Our Sunday Visitor. Among the parishes using this format are Columbus St. Peter, Hilliard St. Brendan, New Albany Church of the Resurrection, Columbus St. Christopher, Pickerington Seton, Lancaster St. Mary, Sunbury St. John Neumann and Westerville St. Paul.

Other curriculums include Son-Spark Labs at Reynoldsburg St. Pius X, Maker Fun Factory at Columbus Our Lady of Peace, Birthday Blast: A Celebration of Life at Columbus Our Lady of Victory; Treasures of Faith: Challenging Kids to Explore What We Believe at Worthington St. Michael; Marvelous Mystery: The Mass Comes Alive! at Dublin St. Brigid of Kildare; Splash Canyon Bible School at Delaware St. Mary; and A Wilderness Adventure at Columbus Immaculate Conception.

Several parishes develop their own format and a few combine resources

for school-age children.

The Latin phrase Totus Tuus, or Totally Yours, was the St. John Paul II's motto during his papacy. Totus Tuus is unique because college-age missionaries from across the United States

in theology and classroom management to prepare to minister to youth and are dispatched to approximately 40 dioceses throughout the country. The goal is to inspire young people to have a true longing for holiness, a

The program is totally Catholic and centered around the Mass. At St. Joan of Arc, VBS for grades one through six runs a little longer each day than at most parishes. It extends through lunch into the afternoon for about 100 kids.

"It's a little different than your normal Bible school in the method," Father O'Connor said. "One of the things I love about Totus Tuus is there's Mass every day. There's an opportunity for them to go to confession during the week. Every morning they learn a mystery of the rosary."

Tutus Tuus is based on five pillars: Eucharist, Marian devotion, catechetical instruction, vocational discernment and fun. There is a six-year curriculum rotation revolving around the pillars of the Catechism of the Catholic Church: Sacraments, Ten Commandments, Virtues and Beatitudes, Prayer, Mystery of Salvation, and the Creed, which is this summer's focus.

In addition, a four-year teaching cycle on the mysteries of the rosary is incorporated into the catechesis. This year, the children learned the luminous mysteries. They were given a piece of colored yarn each day for their wrist that represented one of the mysteries.

"The other day I was asking first and second graders about the mysteries of the rosary. Where was Jesus baptized? 'In the Jordan River.' Who



**At Reynoldsburg St. Pius X Church's Vacation Bible School, children were amazed by scientific experiments that affirmed the marvels of God's creation.**

baptized Jesus? ‘John the Baptist,’” Father O’Connor recounted.

“Parents tell us that they ask their kids what they learned and they can rattle off all these things. One of the biggest things we got feedback on last year was how much better the kids behaved at Mass on Sundays and how much they had a desire to go to Mass.

“We underestimate what kids can learn. Also, it’s just a ton of fun. They’re doing silly songs and playing games. The kids don’t want to leave.”

There was also a traditional VBS in the morning at St. Joan of Arc for 35 preschoolers and an evening Totus Tuus session attended by 30 middle and high school students that focused on talks, witness and instruction. During each of the first four nights, one of the four marks of the Church (one, holy, catholic, apostolic) was discussed. The week concluded with a night of fun.

“You’re thinking a weekly Church activity in the evenings for junior high and high school kids is going to decrease throughout the week. It



The children who participated in Vacation Bible School at Plain City St. Joseph Church displayed the pro-life signs they made as part of the Birthday Blast program. Photo courtesy of Plain City St. Joseph Church.

doesn’t. The numbers increase,” Father O’Connor said. “Kids whose parents maybe forced them to go one night, well, they had a lot of fun. One of the challenges from the team on Monday night was to bring a friend, and they did. It’s really amazing.”

One benefit to having young adults involved in instruction is the inspiration they provide to the youth.

“The kids look up to them. To not only see the older kids but middle schoolers and high schoolers that are on fire for their faith, there’s a chain

reaction,” said Shana Leonard, youth faith formation director at St. Joan of Arc. “I had some parents comment that they’re teaching me some stuff that I didn’t realize.”

Sabrina Bently, a parent volunteer with three children in the program, appreciated the Mass being a focal point of the week and that Church teaching was clearly communicated.

“It’s not watered down,” she said. “It’s truly Catholic and that’s what I like about it.”

A residual effect from Totus Tuus

is planting seeds for future religious vocations.

“I think the biggest thing is the witness of the faith,” Father O’Connor said. “It normalizes that, hey, when I’m in college, I can love Jesus Christ. That when I’m figuring out what I want to do with my life Jesus and the Church can be a big part of that, and it can be fun and it can be exciting, and it’s normal to do that.”

At Westerville St. Paul, about 300 students were part of VBS during the last week of June, an increase over the past two summers when enrollment was capped at 200 because

of construction projects.

Jesus Rescues was the theme of St. Paul’s Shipwrecked program. The morning began with a session to get the children pumped up before they went through five stations that included Bible adventures, imagination, service and games.

The St. Paul gym was transformed into an island scene with elaborate sets and décor built by volunteers. VBS

See VBS, Page 12



Vacation Bible School at Reynoldsburg St. Pius X Church resembled a hands-on science lab with youth group volunteers conducting experiments for the participants. Photos courtesy of St. Pius X youth ministry.



Children participated in outdoor fun and games during Westerville St. Paul the Apostle Church’s Vacation Bible School. Photo courtesy of St. Paul the Apostle Church.

## VBS, continued from Page 11



Boys in Grades 1-6 huddled with Totus Tuus missionary leaders after Mass and before lunch at Powell St. Joan of Arc Church's Vacation Bible School. Photo courtesy of St. Joan of Arc youth ministry.

planning began in January to coordinate the numerous activities. Parents and parishioners were among the 30 or more volunteers during the week.

The Bible station featured dramatized stories with a new theme each day. Middle schoolers, high schoolers and adults dressed in costumes to portray the Bible figures in a room that

was completely transformed into the scene of the biblical event.

"It's incredible, it's super fun, it's my favorite thing," said Leia Bame, children's ministries coordinator at St. Paul who is in her fourth year as director of VBS. "They can connect to those Bible stories in such an intimate way. To actually go and be immersed

in those stories and hear those stories firsthand with those characters from the Bible, that's so powerful."

The imagination station used science, engineering and technology to show God's presence in everything.

A service station was added this year to help the children connect with various parish ministries ranging from assisting homebound parishioners to making blankets for children in foster care to outreach to the homeless in the community.

And of course it wouldn't be VBS without snacks, games and songs.

As was the case with most parishes, St. Paul opened its VBS to anyone, and a handful of friends and kids from other parishes joined the fun.

"My goal is ultimately that every child comes and feels the light of Christ inside them," Bame said, "that they feel like they can be the hands and feet of Christ, and also that Christ is joyful. He wants us to sing, he wants us to have fun. He wants us to be children."

Reynoldsburg St. Pius X's SonSpark Labs VBS, which was held in the evening for the third straight year to accommodate working parents, takes a scientific laboratory approach to reinforce teachings of the faith to about 75 enthusiastic pre-K through fifth grade participants.

SonSpark Labs emphasizes God's Big Plan "2 make us, 2 be with us, 4 us 2 know him, 2 save us, and 2 love

us 4 ever" through songs, skits, crafts, experiments and Bible stories.

One evening, for example, focused on Genesis and the scientific laws that governed how God created the world. The last day involved a chain reaction experiment in the church that showed the importance of spreading God's love. Another component during the week was the cause and effect of sin that separates people from God.

"Every day we studied a different scientific principle," said Judy Bryant, youth minister for the parish and VBS coordinator. "One day, it was who made the world and how God made me."

Fifty junior high and high schoolers from the parish youth group assisted during the week.

"Ultimately, it's just planting that seed," Bryant said. "I think it's working. Kids that have been through the program are now volunteering. We want it to be fun. We want them to understand that God is good, that we're His beautiful creations. We want them to know that they are wrapped in God's love."

Plain City St. Joseph Church used the pro-life-themed Birthday Blast format from Cat. Chat for its evening VBS in June for children ages 4-12.

Not only did they enjoy fun and games throughout the week while learning what it means to be a child of God, but one of their projects was to decorate pro-life signs as part of a basic introduction to St. John Paul II's Theology of the Body.

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## Bishop emphasizes importance of marriage in Jubilee of Anniversaries homily

Bishop Frederick Campbell offered a powerful reflection on the sacrament of Matrimony at the diocesan Jubilee of Anniversaries Mass on Sunday, June 24 at Columbus St. Andrew Church.

Bishop Campbell drew three parallels to marriage and St. John the Baptist, whose solemnity was celebrated that day on the Catholic calendar.

“I don’t know if it ever occurred to you that the feast of John the Baptist was chosen to be celebrated on this day because it is halfway between the two celebrations of Christmas -- Christmas celebrated during the darkest time of the year, St. John the Baptist during the high point of light. There’s a lesson here that John the Baptist taught when he pointed that out to his disciples when he said, ‘I must decrease and He must increase.’ As the year increases from Christmas to the birth of John the Baptist, it decreases in length of day.

“The second issue about John the Baptist is perhaps one that people don’t think about or maybe have not remembered. John the Baptist met a martyr’s death. And many people assumed that he was martyred by King Herod because of his powerful preaching, especially his preaching of the coming of the Messiah, which was taken to be a threat to King Herod. But that was not why he was martyred. He was martyred for the defense of the truth of marriage, when he preached openly about the invalid marriage of King Herod to his sister-in-law, Herodias.

“There’s a third reason. That is, John the Baptist sensed a mission to his prophetic call. Now, in the Christian understanding, John the Baptist is the last in the line of the Old Testament prophets. All of the prophets really came toward John the Baptist. But it is not that in particular what he preached is important but the fact that he shared in the gift of prophecy. Now, all Christians by their baptism participate in the threefold ministry of Jesus Christ: priest, prophet and king.

And it is in John the Baptist that we see that mystery of prophecy.

“And a prophet is not really someone who is telling the future. A prophet in the Biblical sense is one who is called by God to preach a truth to those may have forgotten it. And to preach it not only with their words but with the very character of their lives. And their lives became a symbol of their prophetic mission.



**Bishop Frederick Campbell delivers the homily at the annual diocesan Jubilee of Anniversaries Mass on Sunday, June 24 at Columbus St. Andrew Church.**

“You may notice in our first reading Isaiah prophesied the coming of John the Baptist by talking about how carefully God prepares his instruments. From the very beginning Isaiah said I have shaped you. I have called you to his mission ... especially in the case of John the Baptist, we are called to do something that we may not see the result of. John the Baptist was called by God to announce the coming of the Messiah. But John did not know when or where or who. In spite of that, he was true to his prophetic mission. That’s something for us to remember about the great sacrament of marriage.

“I suspect that very few who are celebrating these marvelous anniversaries are now in the place where you planned to be when you were first married. But all down that that path there has been a guidance, a presence. And we talk about

all sorts of programs for marriage preparation and so forth. But we sometimes forget that marriage is the entrance into a sacrament. It is in fact intended to be a channel of grace from God for his people. That husbands and wives in the exchange of vows become ministers to one another and to their family and to the world. And that sacramental reality has an extraordinary meaning not only for the Christian faith but for the whole world. If you look through sacred scripture, you will find numerous passages that use marriage as a sign of God’s work in this world.

“From the very beginning, the writers of scripture used marriage to indicate love of God. That sin became a kind of breaking of the marriage vows. For God is always faithful to his promises and he wished that marriage would become a sign of that gift to each other. In fact, St. Paul tells us that marriage is a sign of the love of Jesus Christ for his church. That’s why I touched upon John the Baptist as a prophet and fulfilling a prophetic mission. Men and women, husbands and wives, are called to be prophets. They are called to be prophets by how they live and how they relate to the world around them. How the promises they first made at their wedding endured, blossomed and bore fruit, and in that way spoke to the world that Jesus Christ is here. And his love of the Church is symbolized in his blessing of marriage.

“In the first 19 years of my priesthood I suspect I witnessed more than 220 marriages. And I used to try to follow them all, and I discovered a few years ago, that of the 220-some marriages, only three of them did not last. And I would consider that not my achievement but the achievement of the Lord. But over those 19 years I began to notice how the people coming to me for marriage had changed.

## God’s golden gifts

By Margaret O’Sullivan

Sometimes you receive gifts that are so unexpected, so thoughtful, and so meaningful, that you cannot adequately express your thanks and appreciation for them. This has been so true for me and my husband in June. We have joy and memories that we will treasure the rest of our lives.

My husband, Mike, and I celebrated our 50th wedding anniversary on June 6. The days preceding, the day of, and the week or so following were golden. The celebration began with a dinner for us with the siblings and their spouses. We were presented with an Apostolic Blessing parchment from His Holiness Francis, and a gift certificate to have it framed as we like. We also received other lovely gifts. The following Sunday, we requested that the Sunday Mass we typically attend be said in our names. Following Mass, we received a blessing from our Pastor.

To tell about the actual anniversary day, I need to give some background. In 1967-68, Mike was serving as a Lieutenant with the 5th Special Forces in Vietnam. In the course of our letters to each other, we decided we would be married in Hawaii on his R&R (rest & recuperation). This was the era of no Internet, no cell phones. Today, looking back, I am not exactly sure how I arranged for the ceremony to take place. Somehow via snail mail with the U.S. postal service, I found out Hawaii’s regulations on obtaining a marriage license and arranged for a priest to marry us at Fort Shafter, Oahu, Hawaii. Well, let me be accurate here, Providence arranged it. Following a few days in Hawaii, Mike went back to war and I returned home to my parents. He returned home safely nearly five months later - truly a golden gift.

We decided long ago that, God willing, we would return to Hawaii for our 50th wedding anniversary. Months ago, I searched the Internet and stumbled upon a religious services phone number for the Armed Forces in Hawaii. I called repeatedly but managed to hit times when the office was closed, often forgetting about the six-hour time difference. Finally, late one evening, I called and got a very eager and helpful sergeant who was so interested in our story and so happy for us.

15<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle B

## Freedom to serve

By Jem Sullivan

Catholic News Service

Amos 7:12-15 Psalm 85:9-14  
Ephesians 1:3-14 Mark 6:7-13

Faith works wonders. To walk by faith, and not by sight, is one of the greatest challenges and joys of the spiritual life. This is the invitation to all in this Sunday's Scripture readings.

The saints show us how to grow in faith in the daily circumstances of life. Holy men and women, known and hidden, have over the centuries witnessed to the power of walking by faith. Take the life of St. Aloysius Gonzaga, whose feast day the church celebrates this coming week.

Born into an aristocratic Italian family, the young Aloysius was set to inherit his family's wealth and pursue a life of fame and public honor. He was sent to Florence and later to Mantua for his education and began reading the "Lives of the Saints" while recovering from an illness. It was then that he heard the Lord's call to give his life



in self-giving love as a missionary.

He was drawn to the Jesuit order, but his family did all they could to prevent him from answering the call to the priesthood. His family forbade his entry to the priesthood with the threat that he would have to renounce his inheritance and social status. He continued on, walking by faith, as he gave up all rights of inheritance to en-

ter the novitiate of the Society of Jesus in Rome.

Soon after, he dedicated himself to teaching the faith to youth and to caring for those suffering from the plague and other contagious diseases. The witness of his holiness and purity of life spread among the people, like branches of a tree. He died with the name of Jesus on his lips, radiating the peace and love of God.

In the Gospels, Jesus compares the kingdom of God to a mustard seed. This smallest of seeds when sown in the ground, grows into the largest of plants, putting forth branches that spread out as shelter and shade. This imagery continues the teaching of the prophet Ezekiel in the first reading when God promises to plant a cedar on the mountain heights.

This cedar plant will, by God's nourishing, become a majestic cedar in which birds of every kind dwell and find shade in its branches. The Lord God promises that he will bring low the high tree, and lift high the lowly tree, wither up the green tree and make the withered tree bloom. God's mighty hand will do this.

As we ponder the word of God today, we are invited to walk by faith, and not by sight. This journey of faith begins in the grace of God, who plants the seed and gives growth to the gift of faith in our lives. Our daily challenge is to let go of self-reliance and to grow in friendship with Jesus as we say in faith, "speak to me, Lord."

**Reflection Question:**

*What do I need to be detached from so that I can be a missionary disciple of Jesus?*

*Sullivan is secretary for Catholic education of the Archdiocese of Washington.*

THE WEEKDAY  
BIBLE READINGS

7/16-7/21

MONDAY  
Isaiah 1:10-17  
Psalm 50:8-9, 16bc-17, 21 and 23  
Matthew 10:34-11:1

TUESDAY  
Isaiah 7:1-9  
Psalm 48:2-3a, 3b-4, 5-6, 7-8  
Matthew 11:20-24

WEDNESDAY  
Isaiah 10:5-7, 13b-16  
Psalm 94:5-6, 7-8, 9-10, 14-15  
Matthew 11:25-27

THURSDAY  
Isaiah 26:7-9, 12, 16-19  
Psalm 102:13-14ab and 15, 16-18, 19-21  
Matthew 11:28-30

FRIDAY  
Isaiah 38:1-6, 21-22, 7-8  
Isaiah 38:10, 11, 12abcd, 16  
Matthew 12:1-8

SATURDAY  
Micah 2:1-5  
Psalm 10:1-2, 3-4, 7-8, 14  
Matthew 12:14-21

7/22-7/28

MONDAY  
Micah 6:1-4, 6-8  
Psalm 50:5-6, 8-9, 16bc-17, 21 and 23  
Matthew 12:38-42

TUESDAY  
Micah 7:14-15, 18-20  
Psalm 85:2-4, 5-6, 7-8  
Matthew 12:46-50

WEDNESDAY  
2 Corinthians 4:7-15  
Psalm 126:1bc-2ab, 2cd-3, 4-5, 6  
Matthew 20:20-28

THURSDAY  
Jeremiah 2:1-3, 7-8, 12-13  
Psalm 36:6-7ab, 8-9, 10-11  
Matthew 13:10-17

FRIDAY  
Jeremiah 3:14-17  
Jeremiah 31:10, 11-12abcd, 13  
Matthew 13:18-23

SATURDAY  
Jeremiah 7:1-11  
Psalm 84:3, 4, 5-6a and 8a, 11  
Matthew 13:24-30

DIOCESAN WEEKLY  
RADIO AND  
TELEVISION MASS  
SCHEDULE WEEKS  
OF JULY 15 & 22, 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](http://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](http://www.stgabrielradio.com).

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



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In the marriage case styled ANTHONY DEAN DEVORE – PANSY MARIE HENZ LILLY, 2018-0130, the Tribunal of the Diocese of Columbus, Ohio is currently unaware of the present address of MS. PANSY MARIE HENZ LILLY. The Tribunal herewith informs her of the case and invites her to contact REVEREND MONSIGNOR JOHN JOHNSON, JCD, Presiding and sole Judge, no later than 30 JULY 2018 - Phone 241-2500 Extension 3. Anyone who knows of the whereabouts of MS. PANSY MARIE HENZ LILLY, is herewith asked to make this Citation known to her or to inform the Tribunal of her current address. Given this 25 JUNE 2018. REVEREND MONSIGNOR JOHN JOHNSON, JCD, Presiding Judge, Sue Ulmer, Notary.

## The summer reading list

The vacation season is an opportunity to escape TwitterWorld and do some serious reading. These books will help make your summer enjoyable, instructive, or both.

*Something Wonderful: Rodgers and Hammerstein's Broadway Revolution*, by Todd S. Purdum (Henry Holt): From *Showboat* (1927) through *The Man of La Mancha* (1965), musical comedy was America's most successful native art form, and at the center of that bountiful harvest of story and song were Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein II. This tale of their collaboration, replete with inside Broadway stuff, is also laugh-out-loud funny at certain points. Throughout, and while acknowledging their human flaws, Purdum helps us get to know two creative geniuses who lifted the spirits of tens of millions through entertainment that didn't appeal to de-ramentation.

*A Gentleman in Moscow*, by Amor Towles (Viking): Count Alexander Rostov, sentenced by a post-revolutionary Soviet court to spend the rest of his life in Moscow's Metropol Hotel, is the central character in the most charming new novel I've read in years. Inside the Metropol, where he's reduced to waiting on tables, the witty Count Rostov creates a humane world of friendship, fidelity, and appreciation for the finer things of life while



### The Catholic Difference George Weigel

communist goons demolish the old Russia outside the hotel's doors. The politics are kept in the background, however, and Towles' touch is both deft and light in depicting a man who refuses to betray the truths about human decency with which he grew up – no matter how politically incorrect they may be at the moment.

Alexander McCall Smith, perhaps best known for his *No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency* series, is also the author of four hilarious sendups of German academic pretentiousness: *Portuguese Irregular Verbs*, *The Finer Points of Sausage Dogs*, *At the Villa of Reduced Circumstances*, and *Unusual Uses for Olive Oil* (Anchor). The misadventures of the obtusely arrogant and inept Prof. Dr. Dr. Moritz-Maria von Igelfeld may remind some of certain personalities on today's German Catholic scene; but I couldn't possibly comment on that.

*The Forty Days of Musa Dagh*, by Franz Werfel (Verba Mundi): Before leaving on a flight to Australia in 2001, I asked the editor and critic Norman

Podhoretz, "What are the great long novels you think I haven't read?" He immediately named Werfel's story of the Armenian genocide during World War I, which easily got me from Los Angeles to Sydney. The story is gripping, but above all, *Musa Dagh* is a fine study in character – especially the qualities required of leaders under grave circumstances. Which gives it a certain contemporaneity.

*World War II at Sea: A Global History*, by Craig L. Symonds (Oxford University Press), offers a panoramic view of the effect of sea power on history between 1939 and 1945. Symonds's emphasis on the merchant marines of various powers, the fragility of maritime supply chains, and the American capacity to build the shipping that made possible the logistical support for U.S. armies fighting simultaneously in Europe and Asia, adds an often-overlooked dimension to the story. Enjoy it yourself; but consider it, too, as a gift for a millennial who thinks "Midway" is just the name of a Southwest Airlines hub in Chicago.

*What Will Dr. Newman Do? John Henry Newman and Papal Infallibility, 1865-1875*, by John R. Page (Liturgical Press): Drawing on a decade of Newman's wide-ranging correspondence, Page paints a portrait of the Catholic intellectual as churchman: someone determined to remain faithful to the truth, who knew how to be constructively critical; someone who didn't break into hives when his ecclesiastical opponents made serious mistakes; someone convinced of the capacity of history and the Holy Spirit to see the Church through stormy times. In brief, another tale for this ecclesiastical season.

*American Pastimes: The Very Best of Red Smith*, edited by Daniel Okrent (Library of America): The prologue, a mini-memoir, is worth the price of the entire book, but while admiring Red Smith's prose about everyone from Seabiscuit to Willie Mays, don't miss Dan Okrent's fine introduction and its crisp analysis of what makes for great writing, about sports or anything else.

And if you'll permit, let me mention my own latest offerings: *Lessons in Hope: My Unexpected Life with St. John Paul II* (Basic Books) and *The Fragility of Order: Catholic Reflections on Turbulent Times* (Ignatius Press). The former is, I hope, entertaining, the latter, I trust, instructive.

## Columbus St. Dominic Church recovering after explosion

Columbus St. Dominic Church reopened for Mass on Sunday, July 1 after a gas explosion at a nearby duplex damaged parish buildings.

Seven stained glass windows, door hinges at the historic 102-year-old church at 453 N. 20th St. and the adjacent rectory were impacted by the Friday, June 22 blast, which was felt throughout the neighborhood and critically injured two people inside the duplex.

No one at the parish was injured.

Authorities believe scrappers taking metal might have led to the accident.

Sunday Masses on June 24 were celebrated at Columbus St. John-Holy Rosary during cleanup and assessment before St. Dominic reopened.

Damage is estimated at approximately \$250,000. It is hoped that most of the cost of the repairs will be covered by insurance.

Father Joshua Wagner, pastor at St. Dominic and at St. John-Holy Rosary Church, said the parish is already receiving bids to restore the stained glass.

Windows on the north side of the church were shattered and others were warped.

The original church windows, which were built in Italy, depict the life of St. Dominic.

Repairs could take six months to a year, but Masses and parish activities will continue.



Stained glass and rectory windows at Columbus St. Dominic Church sustained extensive damage from a nearby gas explosion on June 22. CT photo/Doug Bean

# PRAY FOR OUR DEAD

ALLISON, Eileen, 94, July 6  
St. Mary Magdalene Church, Columbus

ANDERSON JR., Wilbert C., 82, July 1  
St. Aloysius Church, Columbus

BOND, William, 84, June 26  
St. Philip the Apostle Church, Columbus

BRAMISH, Charles, 86, June 29  
St. Paul the Apostle Church, Westerville

CELESTINO, Jose "Joe," 64, July 3  
St. Mary Church, Marion

DILLON, William Sr., 89, June 26  
Immaculate Conception Church, Dennison

EVANS, Edith, 94, June 27  
St. Joseph Cemetery, Columbus

FOTHERGILL, Catherine "Kay," 88, July 6  
St. Catherine Church, Columbus

FRICKIE, Mary Ellen, 92, July 4  
Our Mother of Sorrows Chapel, Columbus

GRUFF, Greg, 57, July 3  
St. Joseph Cemetery, Columbus

HERTLEIN, Dorothy, 84, June 26  
Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church,  
Buckeye Lake

HOFFMAN, Marjorie, 94  
St. Philip the Apostle Church, Columbus

HOLDRIETH, Philip, 84, July 4  
Christ the King Church, Columbus

HUNT, Marsha, 65, June 19  
St. William the Confessor Church, Green-  
ville, Texas (formerly of Columbus)

KOSNIK Jr., Edward James, 73, June 24  
St. Brigid of Kildare Church, Dublin

KOUGHNER, Nora Jane, 75, July 2  
St. Mark Church, Lancaster

KRUMM, Catherine, 75, July 5  
St. Elizabeth Church, Columbus

KWAST-KERTESZ, Pauline, 87, July 6  
St. Mary Magdalene Church, Columbus

LINGER, Justin, 26, June 27  
St. Joseph Cemetery, Columbus

MARSHALL, Virginia, 75, June 30  
St. Patrick Church, Columbus

McCARTHY, Marjorie, 95, June 25  
St. Gertrude Church, Madeira (formerly  
of Logan)

MELNIK, Frank F., 67, June 26  
St. Paul the Apostle Church, Westerville

MORBITZER, Benjamin, 48, July 3  
St. Joseph Cemetery, Columbus

NAEGELE, John, 88, June 27  
Our Mothers of Sorrows Chapel, Columbus

NOONE Jr., Thomas, 83, June 29  
Our Mothers of Sorrows Chapel, Columbus

PERNAVEAU, Edward, 89, June 4  
St. Joan of Arc Church, Powell

PEZZUTTI, Dolores, 88, July 6  
Seton Parish, Pickerington

PICKENS, Thomas, 86, June 27  
Immaculate Conception Church, Dennison

RICCIARDI, Frank, 80, July 3  
Our Lady of Victory Church, Columbus

RICHARDS, Jennifer, 72, June 30  
St. John XXIII Church, Canal Winchester

ROBBINS, Leota M. (O'Toole), 94, June 25  
St. Mary Church, Lancaster

ROBINSON, Tiffany, 47, June 27  
Church of the Resurrection, New Albany

ROECKER, Margaret M., 89, May 31  
St. Mary Church, Marion

SCHIRTZINGER, Glenna, 82, June 29  
St. Joseph Cemetery, Columbus

SCHOLL, Walter, 93, June 25  
Corpus Christi Church, Columbus

SHAW, Leo E., 82, June 25  
St. Mary of the Assumption Church,  
Lancaster

SHEDLOCK, Leo, July 4  
Seton Parish, Pickerington

SKOWRONEK, Stanley, 93, June 22  
St. Mary Church, Waverly

STRANGES Sr., Richard, 83, June 26  
Resurrection Cemetery, Lewis Center

THOMAS, John, W., 82, June 5  
St. Andrew Church, Columbus

TROY, Joanne, 84, June 26  
St. Paul the Apostle Church, Westerville

WEADE, Regina "Ginger," 69, June 30  
St. Colman of Cloyne Church, Washing-  
ton Court House

WELCH, Jack, 83, July 3  
St. Mary Church, Delaware

WOLTMAN, JoAnn, 89, July 1  
St. Joan of Arc Church, Powell

## Judith Ann Fenlon

Funeral Mass for Judith Ann Fenlon, 60, who died Friday, June 29, was held Tuesday, July 3 at Columbus St. Andrew Church. Burial was at Resurrection Cemetery.

She was born on January 1, 1958 to Richard and Roberta (McLain) Fenlon in Findlay, Ohio. She graduated from the University of Louisville with a degree in education and was a teacher at Ascension School in Louisville, Kentucky, before moving to Columbus and teaching at St. Andrew School for 35 years.

She was preceded in death by her mother. Survivors include her father, Richard; brothers, Rick, John and James; and many cousins.

## Worthington St. Michael KofC scholarship winner

Hope Hinger (left) received the Chris Damo Scholarship awarded annually by Worthington St. Michael Knights of Columbus Council #11445 to an eighth grade student at St. Michael School who is the child of an active Knight and will attend a Catholic high school. The \$4,000 scholarship is awarded based on the characteristics displayed by Damo: community service, Catholic spirituality, patriotism and Knights' fraternity. Hinger, pictured with her father, Bill, will attend Columbus St. Francis DeSales High School.







## Freewalt appointed director of Office for Social Concerns

By Doug Bean

*Catholic Times Editor*

Jerry Freewalt hopes to continue to reach out to the parishes and organizations impacted by the Office for Social Concerns in the Diocese of Columbus as its director.

Freewalt was elevated from his previous role as associate director in late June. He has been with the diocese since 1995.

Mark Huddy had served as director as well as Episcopal Moderator for the Office for Social Concerns and Catholic Charities. He will now focus his attention on his duties as Episcopal Moderator.

As associate director, Freewalt concentrated on parish social concerns ministry and rural life in addition to many other activities. He continues to serve on a wide range of boards and committees at the local, state and national level. Among them are the National Catholic Partnership on Disability, Ohio Catholic Rural Life Conference, Joint Organization for Inner City Needs (JOIN) and the Immigrant Worker Project.

“What I want to do is go around the diocese and do some additional listening,” Freewalt said. “Listen to the pastors and listen to some of the needs they’re continually addressing. Learn what is new and help to equip them in their ministries. We listen a lot in this office, but we’re going to be more intentional.”

“I think in this office we’re bridge builders. And that only comes from listening and finding out what people are really doing out there.”

In addition to working with parishes and groups, Freewalt is actively involved in advocacy on many levels. That includes defending dignity of human life at Columbus City Hall, the Ohio Statehouse and Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C., and he has directed large-scale urban plunge service opportunities addressing poverty and care for creation.

“Our job is to bring light to Catholic

social teaching in the areas of prayer, education, pastoral outreach or service, and advocacy,” Freewalt said. “The Church looks at the signs of the times and applies scripture, the gospel, in its over two millennia of teaching to really try to help us on our pilgrimage journey as we work through difficult problems in our society.”

“When we call it social teaching, we really mean relationships. How are we to live in relationship with each other on this pilgrimage journey? What do we have to do to love God and love our neighbor?”



Those pressing issues of concern are respect for human life in all stages, lifting up people living in poverty, recognizing the dignity of work, promoting global solidarity, protecting family life through religious liberty, keeping families together and helping them thrive as part of the domestic church, and care for God’s creation.

Freewalt has coordinated numerous projects. Some of those are the annual Good Friday Walking Stations of the Cross in downtown Columbus, Diocesan Senior Citizens Day celebration, Respect Life Mass and conference, diocesan creation care team, jail and prison ministry, ARCH reentry program, Drug Addiction Response Committee of the Diocesan Hope Task Force, and the Information and Response Network.

“Our office is really trying to create citizens that behave faithfully,” he said. “We are equipping Catholics to be good citizens in our country and in our communities to build the kingdom of God. We have to be animated by our faith and tackle the hard problems with a solution in mind that doesn’t tear apart or cause hurt. That’s hard.”

Freewalt has a bachelor’s degree in political science from Xavier University and a master’s degree in public policy and management from The Ohio State University. He and his wife, Karen, have three children and are parishioners at Columbus St. Margaret of Cortona Church.

By Tim Puet, *Catholic Times Reporter*

## Times writer returns after injury

It’s great to be back at the Catholic Times after an unexpected three-month “sabbatical” caused by injuries resulting from a fall.

The accident occurred in church – of all places. I tripped and fell while lifting a sign with a concrete base after the noon Mass at my home parish, Reynoldsburg St. Pius X Church, on Sunday, April 8, with the concrete landing on my left knee.

The result was a torn meniscus, a torn anterior cruciate ligament, and a fractured kneecap.

This started an odyssey that began in Mount Carmel Hospital East Hospital for a week, followed by three weeks of rehabilitation at Mother Angelina McCrory Manor. Fortunately, no surgery was needed. The rehabilitation, with regular visits from a therapist, continued at home for the past two months, and I returned to work on Monday, July 9.

I have many people to thank for their assistance during my recovery – most especially, my wife, Sandy. Words like “love” and “gratitude” are somehow inadequate to express my appreciation for the way she patiently cared for me and endured my impatience during the recovery process. Our two children, Megan and Brent, also were of great assistance with household tasks I’ve usually performed.

I hadn’t been a hospital patient since having my tonsils taken out in first or second grade, so I learned much about the intricacies and size of the health care system. I may be exaggerating a little, but it feels as though about 100 people took care of me at one stage or another.

Most of my time at Mount Carmel was spent trying to process what had happened and to get used to constant interruptions that are part of hospital life. So many people were coming and going in and out of my room that I can’t remember every name, but everyone was courteous and helpful.

I’ve written many good things about McCrory Manor over the years, and my treatment there by the Carmelite Sisters for the Aged and Infirm, led by Sister Ann Brown, and the staff members could not have been better.

The Manor is divided into seven

self-contained neighborhoods of 21 units each, and during my short time there, I learned a little of how the residents of those neighborhoods become like family. Best wishes to fellow rehab patients Michael and Stephen and neighborhood residents Father Ronnie Boccali, Michael, Stephen, Richard F., Marilyn, Mary, Jerry, John, Betty, Margaret, Pam, Charles, and Richard M.

I’m also most grateful to the nurses and aides at Mount Carmel and McCrory Manor for their kindness and devoted service. My early rehabilitation was a humbling experience because I had to be assisted in even simple tasks such as dressing, bathing, and other bodily functions. This gave me an appreciation of the importance of these workers, most of whom are immigrants and “invisible people” to many. Their assistance reminded me constantly of Jesus washing the feet of his disciples at the Last Supper in John’s Gospel, especially in instances when my own feet were being washed.

I don’t remember all of their names, but thank you to Ebenezer, Fatima, Tebeth, Justina, Tegegne, Taylor, Rupa, Ndalie, Jada, Tesfu, Christina, Jemima, and the others whose names I didn’t obtain. Also thanks to staff member Esther Williams for all of her help with paperwork.

Special thanks to Father Stephen Akange, chaplain at Mount Carmel East, for his comforting words when they were most needed; to McCrory Manor resident Father Joseph Ehwald for his example of cheerfulness and wisdom in the midst of his own health problems; to Father Raymond Maher, chaplain at McCrory Manor, for his frequent visits; and to those who brought me the Eucharist regularly.

Thanks as well to Amber Priestas, at-home physical therapist from Summit Home Care who was cheerful, extremely helpful, and a delight to deal with, and to her supervisor, Cindy Ross.

And finally, thanks to my colleague, Times editor Doug Bean, for the work he performed in my absence and for keeping me informed of events at the Times, including the newspaper’s move from the first to the fifth floor of the Catholic Center. I owe him a debt I never can fully repay.

**HOMILY**, continued from Page 13

“When I was first ordained I used to get very young couples, 18, 19, 20 years old, who were deeply in love with each other. In fact, in talking to the couple, in one instance raised the issue that neither of them had jobs. And they looked at me and said, but Father, we’re in love with each other. And I said, yes, but have you planned where you’re going to live? No, but God will show us the way. And you could see stars floating between them



**The Thiel family gathered at the diocesan Jubilee of Anniversaries Mass to celebrate the 66th wedding anniversary of Ruth and Wilfred Thiel (center) and the 40th anniversary of their son and daughter-in-law, Kathy and Wilfred Jr. (center right) from Marion St. Mary Church.**

as they looked at each other.

“As time went on, the couples became older. And I remember a couple in their early 30s, never been married before, very successful careers. And as we talked about preparation, I realized their challenge was living as a couple. And I swore I was presiding over a business merger, as they began to talk their individual investments, their properties and whatnot. But in all instances, I wanted to talk about the sacramental reality, the fundamental meaning of marriage between a man and a woman. For when we exchange those vows at your wedding, you accepted a mission from the Lord Jesus Christ. The whole idea of being in love changes and matures. It changes and matures because of the challenges, the difficulties of life.

“I once asked my father, why did he and mother get married in the worst

year of the depression. And he said, your mother and I thought it was about time to raise a family. Now, of course, that made me feel good that they wanted children from their family. But I remember later I was with my father – I must have been 14 at the time – and someone asked him, well, what do you do for a living? And he said, ‘Oh, I raise a family.’ The man looked at my father as if he’d slipped a disc. And my father said, ‘Oh, you

mean how do I earn my money.’ A powerful witness that he gave us. I sometimes wonder how my parents survived our childhood, five boys in the family. And as you know, people will tell you, girls bring drama, boys bring destruction. And I and my brothers fulfilled that description. But in all of that, it was my mother and father simply looking toward each other, looking for the future.

“My dear friends, as I celebrate with Mass with you, I ask you to remember John the Baptist, accepting your prophetic mission as married individuals. I’d like to thank you for the years of your fidelity, for your steadfast faithfulness to your vows and for your marvelous expression that the knowledge of Jesus Christ is always with you. What a powerful work and what a wonderful word you speak to our culture. I thank you.”

**GIFTS**, continued from Page 13

She contacted Father Joseph Fleury, a Marist priest, a full Colonel, and Garrison Chaplain at Schofield Barracks, Oahu, Hawaii. On July 1, he will add Hospital Chaplain to his duties. His enthusiasm about our request was apparent immediately. He arranged an absolutely wonderful and special day for us, one we did not expect to be as grand as it was, and one we will never forget.

I didn’t really give Fr. Joe much information about our actual wedding day, only when and where it had taken place. He advised me that our chapel had subsequently been torn down. That information didn’t upset me, I just thought God wanted me to be happy for how long we have been together and not to be concerned about a building.

For our celebration, Fr. Joe said Mass at Soldiers Chapel. First, he had us sit on the altar and presented us with beautiful Hawaiian leis. There were no flowers on our wedding day. Next, he said a private Mass for us and had us renew our wedding vows. There was no Mass for us on our wedding day. Then, Fr. Joe rang the chapel bell by hand 50 times in our honor. The bell was not rung even once on our wedding day. Later, he took us to lunch and presented us with a cake. We had no wedding cake on our wedding day.

Fr. Joe talked and laughed with us, and we so enjoyed one another’s company, as though we had been friends for decades. We are certain we will be friends with him for life. He completely downplayed the fact that June 6 is also his birthday: he made the day

all about Mike and me.

Our wedding day 50 years ago was a sacramental and blessed day. We do not have a single regret about it. The difference is, with the passage of time, we fully realize how deep our love is and how appreciative we are of all we have been given. Our 50th anniversary was beautiful - overwhelming really - thanks to the thoughtfulness and planning of Fr. Fleury. God bless this holy, kind, happy man!

We enjoyed Fr. Joe’s company so much that when he offered to show us some historic places on Oahu the next day, we both immediately agreed. Father had Special Forces training, and he and Mike found a lot of common ground for discussion. It is the most I have ever heard my husband talk about his time in the Army. I believe it was healing.

With the shortage of priests, the demands on Fr. Joe have to be staggering. Yet, he spent a great deal of time with us, and spiritually lifted us up for a shining, golden anniversary. We will always pray for him. And, we will continue to pray for vocations not only to the priesthood but to the military Chaplaincy.

We went from our wedding anniversary to a very enjoyable eight-day tour of the Hawaiian Islands. Arriving home, we had a stack of lovely anniversary cards in the mail.

Love from others. Love for others. Love for each other. The golden thread of faith.

*Margaret O’Sullivan is a parishioner at Columbus St. Patrick Church.*

## Sunbury St. John Neumann retreat open to all men

All diocesan men age 16 and over are invited to attend Sunbury St. John Neumann Church’s annual men’s retreat that will take place Saturday, August 18 from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. at Damascus Catholic Mission Campus, 7550 Ramey Road in Centerburg.

This year’s “The Vocation of Man” retreat will include Mass,

adoration prayer, spiritual growth, food and fellowship. The one-day retreat will be led by Father Thomas Blau, OP.

Online registration is available at [www.saintjohnsunbury.org](http://www.saintjohnsunbury.org) For more information or questions, contact Paul Stokell, adult faith formation director, at [pstokell.saintjohn@gmail.com](mailto:pstokell.saintjohn@gmail.com) or 740-965-1358.

## Conference celebrates 50th anniversary of *Humanae Vitae*

Pope Paul VI's prophetic encyclical on human life was written 50 years ago, but the speakers at "A Sign of Contradiction: Celebrating the 50th Anniversary of *Humanae Vitae*" conference at Chillicothe St. Peter Church emphasized the message remains timeless and vital in today's contraceptive world.

The conference, held Saturday, July 7, was sponsored in part by The Catholic Foundation and organized by Judy Harness, who serves as St. Peter's Family Life Coordinator and FertilityCare Practitioner as well as the president for Ross County Right to Life. It featured presentations by Father Adam Streitenberger, OSF, of Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral, Dr. Ashley Fernandes, MD, Ph.D., and Dr. Alicia Thompson, DO, MPH.

Fr. Streitenberger began by reviewing the Catholic Church's teaching on contraception.

"We also remember this is the 25th anniversary of another very important document, 'Veritatis Splendor,' by St. John Paul II, "which really is the full defense of 'Humanae Vitae,'" he said.

He clarified the distinction between birth control and contraception, including the morally legitimate means of birth regulation known as natural family planning. He also explained the history leading up to the release of the encyclical, the resistance to it, and the follow-up and expansion of the document by John Paul II now known as the Theology of the Body.

Fernandez, who serves as associate director of the Center for Bioethics at Ohio State University and is an associate professor of pediatrics at Columbus Nationwide Children's Hospital, told the audience that "it's not scholars or theologians that change the world but people just like you."

In his presentation "The Catholic Church and Contraception: Reality or Roman Roulette," he acknowledged the challenges faced by those who defend *Humanae Vitae*, saying "what you believe in is not 'fake news.' The reality of what the Church teaches is true and makes sense. It's not blind obedience to the Church because the Pope says so. The truth that you know to be true actually comports with medical science, philosophy, with morality. The more you study it, how

the world works, the more you realize the wisdom of the Church. My job, in part, is to try to bolster you in your belief that the reality of the Church teaching is true and makes sense and you can do this yourself -- you can lead a revolution of one."

Later, Dr. Fernandes laid out the history and current status of abstinence education in America. He said physicians want kids to be sexually abstinent but don't advocate for it with their patients.

"Sexual abstinence programs are not always effective, but even if they are not, it's the right thing to do," he said.

It's important to note the theological and philosophical arguments for abstinence, he said, and added that the teaching of Theology of the Body is superior over modern interventions. He encouraged teens to "don't be afraid! The Catholic Church believes in faith and science; we believe in the dignity of the human person. Let us pray for one another -- that's probably the most important point."

Thompson told the audience to "buckle up" before her talk on the "Co-Modification of Human Life." Thompson, an OB/GYN practicing at Mount Carmel St. Ann's, received *Humanae Vitae* from a reproductive endocrinologist who left his practice for moral reasons and said "it was very instrumental in me taking the plunge in making my decision to stop prescribing contraceptives and tying tubes."

She described the lengths that medical science has gone to use and manipulate DNA. Use of artificial reproductive technologies no longer means in-vitro fertilization only. The removal of cells from the egg of the woman for replication is actually a means of cloning, she said, but it's not called cloning because that would be less attractive. DNA engineering leads to forms of eugenics in the name of eliminating disease. Also, in using egg retrieval, children are born with three parents in some cases.

Thompson articulated the direction in which reproductive technologies are headed. In some cases, companies entice college students to sell eggs and sperm for large sums of money. One study found that a single sperm donor (a college student) had biologically fathered 150 children.

She asked the audience to pray for

these issues and pleaded with them not to participate in artificial reproduction technologies, saying "we should be reverent in what we create. We should be a voice which reaffirms the dignity of

the human person from conception until natural death."

A video archive of the conference can be found at [stpeterchillicothe.com](http://stpeterchillicothe.com).



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