



DIOCESE OF COLUMBUS

# CATHOLIC TIMES

*A journal of Catholic life in Ohio*

MARCH 12, 2017  
THE SECOND WEEK OF LENT  
VOLUME 66:23



491 PEOPLE STATE THEIR INTENTION TO  
BECOME CATHOLIC AT RITE OF ELECTION



## The Editor's Notebook

## The Shepherd's Voice

*My sheep hear my voice; I know them, and they follow me.*

John 10:27

Jesus, the Good Shepherd, stands beside us, protects us, and leads us to eternal life. It's good to be part of the flock.

This week, *Catholic Times* looks at some of the hundreds of men and women across the Diocese of Columbus and the millions more in the Church throughout the world who are taking a bold step forward to declare their desire to be united with Christ as part of his enduring earthly body, the Catholic Church. Their journey will culminate at the Easter Vigil, where the catechumens will be baptized into the Church, and they and the candidates from other Christian traditions will be brought into full communion with the Church as they receive their first holy Communion.

That marks the end of the journey of discovery, but the beginning of a journey with Christ to carry out the work of discipleship. These new believers did not find their way to this moment on their own. For the sheep to join the fold, they have to hear the Shepherd's voice.

The voice of God does not normally come rolling out of the clouds, as it did for James, John, and Peter on Mount Tabor on the day of Transfiguration. No, we hear the voice of the Shepherd through the voice of his disciples. In the Book of Acts, we read of Peter's amazement when, through his words and those of the other disciples, 3,000 people in Jerusalem were converted to faith in Christ on the day of Pentecost. They had become the voice of the Shepherd.

That duty of discipleship continues to this day, and it is not the sole responsi-

By David Garick, Editor

bility of priests, deacons, and religious. Evangelization is a responsibility all of us bear as part of our covenant with Christ.

We must gather the lost sheep and lead them back to the fold. It is not up to us to place faith into their hearts, Jesus will do that. But we must bring the message to them and allow the power of the Gospel to bring them to salvation.

This is the New Evangelization. Pope Francis spoke of it in his apostolic exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium* (Joy of the Gospel): "The Joy of the Gospel fills the hearts and lives of all who encounter Jesus. Those who accept his offer of salvation are set free from sin, sorrow, inner emptiness and loneliness. With Christ, joy is constantly born anew.

"In this Exhortation I wish to encourage the Christian faithful to embark upon a new chapter of evangelization marked by this joy, while pointing out new paths for the Church's journey in years to come. Here we find the source and inspiration of all our efforts at evangelization. For if we have received the love which restores meaning to our lives, how can we fail to share that love with others?"

So let's rejoice with these new members of our Catholic community. But we also must be unafraid to reach out to those who do not yet believe, and to those who have fallen away, with the message of the Gospel.

We are the best tools God has to demonstrate the power of faith. We must give voice to the Shepherd so that all may be gathered together in faith and love.



## Fasting: Lent's spiritual practice creates space for prayer



By Carol Zimmermann  
Catholic News Service

There is no getting around fasting during Lent.

Not only is it one of the three pillars of spiritual practice along with prayer and almsgiving, but it also bookends the period of preparation for Easter.

Fasting and abstinence is required of adult Catholics, ages 18 to 59, at the start of Lent on Ash Wednesday and at its end on Good Friday. This means eating only one full meal and two small meals that equal one meal, as well as no snacks between meals and no meat consumption.

Creighton University's Online Ministries program, "Praying Lent 2017," says the purpose of fasting is to "experience the effects of not eating. It also serves to be a penance or a sacrifice for the purpose of strengthening us."

"When we get hungry, we have a heightened sense of awareness," it adds, noting that the practice helps people clarify their thoughts. "It is purifying and prepares us to pray more deeply," the resource from Jesuit-run Creighton University in Omaha, Nebraska, points out.

In addition to the two days of fasting, Catholics age 14 and older are obligated to abstain from eating meat during Fridays in Lent.

The Friday practice is a sacrifice meant "to help Catholics make much bigger sacrifices," the Creighton resource says, pointing out that not eating meat doesn't give someone permission to eat a fancy fish meal. And for vegetarians, it could mean abstaining from a favorite meal.

Fasting, which has deep roots in many religious traditions, is meant to draw participants into deeper prayer and link them with those in need.

For Christians, the tradition has roots in the Old and New Testaments. In the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus tells his disciples how they should look when they are fasting -- not gloomy, not neglecting their appearance, and with their faces washed so they do not appear to be fasting.

"Jesus says *when* we fast, not *if*," said Father John Riccardo, pastor of Our Lady of Good Counsel Parish in Plymouth, Michigan.

He said the key to fasting is to attach an intention to the practice "rather than seeing it as a flexing of our self-discipline muscles." It makes the practice "not about me, but someone else," he told Catholic News Service on March 1.

"Fasting is heavy artillery," he added, because those doing it are

See **FASTING**, Page 15

The Eucharistic Adoration list in the March 5 *Catholic Times* incorrectly included Columbus St. Christopher Church, which no longer has scheduled Adoration times. In addition, it had an incorrect listing for Marion St. Mary Church. The correct times are 5 to 6 p.m. every Tuesday and 4 to 7 p.m. on the first Friday of every month.



### Front Page photo:

Tim Carpenter, who will join the Catholic Church at the Easter Vigil, kneels during intercessory prayers at the diocesan Rite of Election on Sunday, March 5 at Westerville St. Paul Church.

CT photo by Ken Snow

## CATHOLIC TIMES

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Catholic Times (USPS 967-000) (ISSN 745-6050) is the official newspaper of the Catholic Diocese of Columbus, Ohio. It is published weekly 45 times per year with exception of every other week in June, July and August and the week following Christmas. Subscription rate: \$25 per year, or call and make arrangements with your parish.  
Postage Paid at Columbus, OH 43218

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

## Dr. Robert Gervasi will be Ohio Dominican's 16th president

BY TIM PUET, *Catholic Times Reporter*

Ohio Dominican University's new president says he still is as much of a student as he is an educator and is enthusiastic about joining an institution which recognizes that education is a lifetime process.

"As educators in the Catholic intellectual tradition, we believe in lifelong learning. By definition, this means that no matter what our age is, we always have something yet to learn and we all continue to be students," Dr. Robert A. Gervasi said in an interview moments after his selection as the university's 16th president was announced on Friday, March 3.

"If we don't know it all yet, that's what the power of community is all about. We have to rely on our learning community – our faculty, as well as our staff and students – to help discern the truth together."

Gervasi has been president of Quincy (Illinois) University, a Catholic Franciscan liberal-arts institution with about 1,300 students, since 2008. He said one of the things that attracted him to ODU was its increasing emphasis on adult education.

"Ohio Dominican has a very balanced portfolio, and all parts of that portfolio have opportunities to become even stronger in the future," he said. "I have had experience in instructing and serving adult learners as well as traditional learners. The fact that ODU serves both is definitely of great appeal."

Gervasi will become Ohio Dominican's 16th president on June 26. He succeeds Dr. Peter Cimbotic, who will be retiring after serving as president of the institution since 2010.

Gervasi was selected from among a field of 70 applicants by a 12-member search committee, said committee chair Thomas Winters, a 1972 ODU graduate. Six of the applicants were chosen as finalists, and three were brought to the university for two-day visits. He said Gervasi was the committee's unanimous choice.

Gervasi said he learned of the search in November from consultant Tom Courtice, a longtime colleague who was assisting the search committee. He applied for the position in December.

During Gervasi's tenure as president, Quincy experienced growth and improvement in several areas, including enrollment. This fall, it welcomed its largest class on record. In the past nine years, enrollment in the university's honors program has increased from 33 to 202 students. Quincy also became a more diverse campus under Gervasi's leadership, with approximately 17 percent of its student population made up of minority students.

"We've accomplished a lot at Quincy," he said. "At the same time, I lived in Ohio longer than in any other state. I went to college in Cincinnati at Xavier and then graduate school in the classics here at Ohio State, and (his wife) Jen went to Denison, so she's familiar with central Ohio as well.

"ODU has an excellent reputation. Peter and his predecessors have done a great job. It's a larger institu-



**Ohio Dominican University Student Senate President Theresa Varrasso presents Dr. Robert Gervasi (right) with a combination ODU sweatshirt and blanket with university symbols. Gervasi will succeed Dr. Peter Cimbotic (left) as the university's president on June 26.**

CT photo by Tim Puet

tion (than Quincy), and the fact that it is in Columbus has great appeal. We're both urban people and look forward to returning to an urban environment. In addition, we have two daughters who live in Louisville, Kentucky, so we're hoping to be able to see more of them now that we're closer."

Gervasi described Ohio Dominican's identity as a Catholic Dominican university as "a very important point of difference" between it and other institutions. "I certainly would want to strengthen the relationship this institution already has with Catholic high schools in the region and throughout the state and expand those relationships where they haven't yet taken root," he said.

"I think Catholic higher education has never had a more critical role to play, particularly with its overarching emphasis on the compatibility of faith and reason in the Catholic intellectual tradition, especially at a time when even the definition of truth has been called into question.

"The Catholic Dominican emphasis on contemplating and sharing truth is more than a religious assertion," Gervasi said. "It's a really practical one as well, and it's one that our society and our world sorely need. The Catholic intellectual tradition therefore has a very important role to play," Gervasi said.

"During my visits to campus, I've seen firsthand how Ohio Dominican's founding in the Catholic Dominican tradition more than 100 years ago continues to provide students a solid foundation on which to grow personally, spiritually, and professionally.

"ODU will continue to emphasize and embrace that tradition as it evolves to meet the unique challenges facing it and other institutions of higher education in the 21st century. The road ahead for ODU is bright, and Jen and I are eager to be fully immersed in this wonderful campus environment," he said.

Before joining Quincy, Gervasi, 66, was president and chief executive officer of the Institute for Study Abroad in Indianapolis. He served more than 3,000 American students annually at 80 universities worldwide.

Prior to that, he was dean of Kentucky campuses and dean of external programs for McKendree University at its Louisville campus. In these positions, he had responsibility for all executive functions such as strategic planning, faculty development, marketing, fundraising, and recruitment.

Gervasi has taught at the University of Louisville; McKendree University; Chatfield College in St. Martin, Ohio; Miami University in Oxford, Ohio; Xavier University in Cincinnati; the Wharton School of Business at the University of Pennsylvania; and The Ohio State University. He also lectured as senior Fulbright scholar in classics at the University of Zimbabwe.

In addition to his work in higher education, he has been involved in public relations, marketing, and publishing for companies such as Bristol-Myers and Procter & Gamble. He serves on several boards, and in several community service and professional organizations.

Gervasi received a bachelor's degree in classics from Xavier, a master of business administration degree in marketing from the Wharton School, and masters and doctoral degrees in classics from Ohio State. He also studied at the American School of Classical Studies in Athens, Greece, as well as Corpus Christi College at Cambridge University, and he received a certificate in fundraising management from The Center on Philanthropy at Indiana University.

Winters said the search process resulting in Gervasi's selection took more than 1,000 hours over five-and-a-half months and included several listening sessions with representatives of all segments of the university.

He said that through the sessions, the committee determined it was looking for "a visionary leader who will work aggressively to promote the university's rich Dominican tradition, its reputation for serving a diverse student body, including many first-generation and adult students, its commitment to high-quality teaching and student transformation, and its ability to blend liberal arts and professional curricula in a comprehensive education program. We also were looking for experience in enrollment management, fundraising, and bank financing."

Following his introduction to the ODU community, Student Senate President Theresa Varrasso presented Gervasi with a "goodie bag" which included a combined clock and paperweight with the university seal and a combination sweatshirt and blanket which she said was "very coveted among students."

Ohio Dominican is a comprehensive, four-year, private liberal arts and master's institution founded in 1911 as St. Mary of the Springs College by the Dominican Sisters of St. Mary of the Springs, now the Dominican Sisters of Peace. It has approximately 2,550 students and offers undergraduate degrees in 40 majors and nine graduate degree programs.



*Faith in Action*

By Jerry Freewalt



## Do More Social Networking During Lent

I hope this title got your attention. Yes, the Catholic Church is encouraging you to engage in social networking during Lent. BTW (by the way), the Church encouraged social networking long before the era of smartphones and the Internet. And yet some people think the Church is behind the times.

You may feel overwhelmed staying connected in our fast-paced, information-overloaded, technological environment. We struggle to keep up with inbox messages, online posts, friend requests, and viral videos. Recently, I heard a DJ on the radio say "I really fear missing out" of the latest happenings online.

Time out! Here are some Church-recommended social networking opportunities that will ensure you will not miss out on what's truly important.

*Prayer: The High-Speed Network*

Think your 4G LTE network connection for your smartphone and your 500 Mbps Internet speed are fast? It's nothing, compared to prayer. That's right, prayer is the fastest high-speed network in the universe.

Prayer is a great form of social networking, strengthening a social relationship with God. Jesus Christ said, "You are my friends" (John 15:14) 2,000 years before online social networking. Any friend of God's should be a friend of ours. Also, pray to the saints. Carve out prayer time to talk about joys and struggles. Especially pray for the poor, sick, and vulnerable in the world.

*Fasting: Full Coverage and No Dead Zones*

You say you have no coverage to place a call or post a selfie at a trending happening? Not LOL (laughing out loud). Lent has a solution to coverage problems and eliminating dead zones that are obstacles to serving God and neighbor. If you want to break away from the selfie culture, then fast! Looking for something to give up? Try sin and indifference. Remove the junk from your inbox. Actually talk with someone in person; for instance, a priest at confession.

Read the *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church* or the papal encyclical *Laudato Si': On Care for Our Common Home*. Read a statement by the U.S. bishops on a social concern. As a family, prepare a simple meal from the CRS Rice Bowl Lenten activities calendar. Participate in the Good Friday Walking Stations of the Cross.

*Almsgiving: Great Plans Available*

Honestly, do our technological plans and devices cost more than what we give to the Church and to charity? I admit, they come in handy to keep track of family and friends and on the job. But our obsession for the fastest, latest, and best can be expensive. Does it contribute to authentic social networking? How much time are we spending? Is it the best use of our talents?

The Church has great plans for everyone: sacrifice of time, talent, and treasure. It's about being good stewards and remembering the Church's preference for the poor.

Pick a plan by giving to your parish and local parish social ministry such as the St. Vincent de Paul Society. Give to a diocesan Catholic charity like JOIN, Catholic Social Services, the St. Francis Center, St. Stephen's Community House, St. Vincent Family Center, or another Catholic ministry. Contribute to the Bishop's Annual Appeal and The Catholic Foundation. Participate in CRS Rice Bowl or sponsor an overseas mission. Send a message in the form of advocacy. Engage in justice-based efforts for systemic change.

Lent is truly an opportunity to be connected to what matters most. Try the Church's Lenten way of social networking, a way of encounter, for a change of pace and a change of life.

Jerry Freewalt is an associate director of the diocesan Office for Social Concerns.

## Bishop Watterson Events

### Annual Men's Night

Columbus Bishop Watterson High School will host its annual men's night in honor of the late Msgr. Kenneth Grimes on Sunday, April 23, at Nugent Hall of Columbus St. Andrew Church, 1899 McCoy Road. Doors will open at 4:30 p.m., with dinner starting at 5:15.

Ohio state football coach Urban Meyer will be guest speaker. Table sponsorships are being offered at three levels: gold, silver, and bronze. Gold table sponsors receive front-row seating for eight for \$5,000. Silver table sponsors

receive second-row seating for eight for \$2,500, and bronze table sponsors receive third-row seating for eight for \$1,000.

Men's Night, sponsored by The Catholic Foundation, is expected to sell out quickly, so make your reservations at [www.bishopwatterson.com](http://www.bishopwatterson.com). Individual tickets are \$150, with proceeds benefiting Watterson's Msgr. Grimes Scholarship Fund.

Contact Scott Manahan with questions at [smanahan@cducation.org](mailto:smanahan@cducation.org) or (614) 268-8671, extension 239.

### Youth Baseball Hitting Clinic

Columbus Bishop Watterson High School will host a baseball hitting clinic for students in grades three to eight on Sunday, March 12. Times are 2 to 3:30 p.m. for grades three to five and 3 to 5 p.m. for grades six to eight. The clinic will be held in the school gymnasium, 99 E. Cooke Road, and the school's baseball coaches and current players will provide instruction.

The cost is \$15 per participant. Registration forms are available at [www.bishopwatterson.com/athletics/spring-baseballclinic](http://www.bishopwatterson.com/athletics/spring-baseballclinic). Pre-registration is suggested, but walk-ups are welcome. Players should bring a helmet and bat. For more information, contact Watterson baseball coach Scott Manahan at (614) 268-8671, extension 239, or email [smanahan@cducation.org](mailto:smanahan@cducation.org).

### March Madness table tennis tournament

The Columbus Bishop Watterson High School alumni department will host its fourth annual Msgr. John Cody March Madness table tennis tournament on Saturday, March 19. The event is open to all alumni, parents, and friends age 21 and over. Doors to the school, 99 E. Cooke Road, will open at 6 p.m., and the tournament begins at 6:45. Indi-

vidual registration is \$20, with doubles teams costing \$40.

Pizza and refreshments will be available.

Register at [www.bishopwatterson.com](http://www.bishopwatterson.com). Questions can be directed to Watterson alumni director Scott Manahan at [smanahan@cducation.org](mailto:smanahan@cducation.org) or (614) 268-8671, extension 239.

### FACILITIES MANAGER POSITION

Our Lady of Peace Parish is looking for a new FACILITIES MANAGER to maintain all of the parish buildings.

A minimum of two successful years of experience in such a position is required. The person must have extensive experience with power tools and equipment and must have experience working aloft. He/she must be able to troubleshoot problems with heating electrical systems and to address plumbing issues. The Facilities Manager also deals with deliveries and vendors nearly daily. Physically demanding work is required.

Applicants must be in compliance with Diocesan Safe Environment requirements. Applicants who are interested in this position should direct their inquiries, resumes, and letters of recommendations to:

**Thomas Kasberg/Our Lady of Peace Parish**  
**20 East Dominion Boulevard Columbus, Ohio 43214**



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## Students Tackle the Virtue of Patience

Seventh-grade students at Columbus Immaculate Conception School recently completed a video that explained and demonstrated the virtue of patience to the rest of the student body. The undertaking was part of the school's family group meetings, in which groups consisting of students from every grade level focus on one of the seven cardinal virtues. The planning process for the video took many weeks and helped students learn about more than simply patience.

Seventh-grader Ruby Nelson said the goal of the entire presentation was to "learn about it (patience) ourselves so we could teach it to the rest of the school." Both of the school's seventh-grade classes worked together to come up with ideas of how best to demonstrate patience. With nearly 50 students and as many different ideas about how to proceed, the students had to compromise to create a final project.

Student Keirra Yeck said the process of making a decision taught her "how to work with each other as a team." In the end, the students agreed that creating a video with examples of patience and the lack thereof would have the most impact.

The learning did not stop there. As the video was recorded and edited, there were complications with the equipment and scheduling, but the students persevered. "This process taught me to solve problems by yourself without relying on others,"

student Paul Rivera said.

Following a schoolwide viewing of the video, the children broke into their family groups (*one of which is pictured above*) to have a more personal discussion about patience and to complete a hands-on activity. The groups have been part of the school since 2014 and are designed to help all students see themselves as part of one school community.

Each family had a seventh-grader leading a conversation about the meaning of patience and what it looks like when someone is practicing the virtue. While discussion took place, some students planted a seed in a pot to demonstrate how they would have to exhibit patience as they wait for the seed to sprout.

In addition, the students created a "patience garden" with paper flowers, with each petal including a word that was to serve as a reminder of the virtue. The garden is posted in each classroom to serve as a constant reminder.

Reflecting on what the students learned as a result of the assignment and presentation, seventh-grader Rosie Kay said, "Before I could work with others, I had to learn patience myself. It was hard to work with someone that was so much like me."

Although learning more about patience was the end goal, the students walked away with a greater understanding of collaboration, perseverance, and leadership.

Visit [www.columbuscatholic.org](http://www.columbuscatholic.org)



## Meaning of “world without end”; Free to marry?



**QUESTION & ANSWER**  
by: FATHER KENNETH DOYLE  
*Catholic News Service*

**Q.** I enjoy reading your column in our archdiocesan newspaper, *The Criterion*, and I am hoping that you can help with something I have always wondered about: Why, at the end of the Glory be to the Father, do we say “world without end”? (Indianapolis)

**A.** Your question serves as a good reminder of how unreflectively we often pray. I have been saying the Glory be to the Father prayer for 70 years, and it never had occurred to me to think about the confusion the words “world without end” might cause.

Actually, the phrase refers not to the physical universe as we know it. It is simply an idiom, a poetic way of expressing the notion of eternity. What we are really saying is that the glory of God and the praise owed to the Trinity are endless.

The phrase attempts to translate the Latin ending of many Mass prayers, *per omnia saecula saeculorum*, which means “through all ages upon ages.”

In fact, some prayer books now render the prayer this way: “Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.”

**Q.** My husband was previously married and divorced. Back when we were engaged, we wanted to be married in the Catholic Church, but when we called my parish, the priest insulted us on the phone and said he doubted that he could marry us. So we got married by a justice of the peace, have now been married for 38 years and have raised our children as Catholic.

We still consider ourselves Catholic, have practiced the faith all these years and continue to be bothered by the fact that our mar-

riage is not blessed by the Catholic Church. Recently, we found out that my husband’s ex-wife passed away, and we are wondering how that affects our situation and our relationship with the church. (Baton Rouge, Louisiana)

**A.** First, I admire your continued loyalty to the church, and I apologize for the unkindness with which you were treated long ago. We priests need to take great care to be kind, because our words have a long life span.

Now to your question: Assuming that this is your own first and only marriage (and I am sure that you would have told me otherwise), the solution is quite simple. You and your husband should arrange an appointment with a local priest, with your husband bringing with him verification of his first wife’s death.

(The surest way is a death certificate, although in many jurisdictions, your husband would not be able to obtain that from a government agency, since he was not her husband at the time of her death. In that case, a newspaper obituary or a letter from the funeral home almost certainly would suffice.)

The priest will speak with you about to what preparation might be needed for him to bless (technically, “convalidate”) your marriage in the Catholic Church. This preparation would include you and your husband receiving the Sacrament of Penance with a priest of your own choosing.

The marriage ceremony probably would be a very simple one with some appropriate scriptural readings. You and your husband, in the presence of two witnesses, then would repeat your marriage vows in front of the priest, and the priest would pronounce a prayer of blessing over the marriage.

Some dioceses might require that the priest submit paperwork in advance to the diocesan office for a quick approval.

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

### St. Catharine Adoration

Columbus St. Catharine Church, 500 S. Gould Road, is now having all-day Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament on Thursdays, beginning at 8:30 a.m.

As in the past, there will be a Holy Hour from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m., with the Sacrament of Reconciliation available from 6:30 to

7:25, and Benediction at 7:30. Adoration also will continue on the first Friday of the month, from the end of the 8 a.m. Mass to 9:30 a.m.

In addition, there will be a candlelit adoration service with prayer and music at 6:30 p.m. Sunday, April 2.

### DeSales presents “The Sound of Music”

The Columbus St. Francis DeSales High School performing arts department will present *The Sound of Music* at 7 p.m. Friday and Saturday, March 17 and 18 and 3 p.m. Sunday, March 19 in the little theater of the school, 4212 Karl Road. Tickets are \$10 each. All seats are reserved.

*The Sound of Music*, with music by Richard Rodgers and lyrics by Oscar Hammerstein II, enjoyed a long run on Broadway following its premiere in 1959. The 1965 musical version starring Julie Andrews and Christopher Plummer is one of the most beloved films of all time.

It tells the true story of Maria, a young Austrian woman studying to become a nun in 1938 who is sent to the home of Captain von Trapp, a widow with a large family, to serve as their governess. She melts the heart of the stern captain and they eventually marry, and the family escapes from the Nazis who have taken over their homeland. The family eventually moved to the United States, performing as the Trapp Family Singers in the 1940s before settling in Stowe,

Vermont, where Maria and the captain’s descendants continue to operate a lodge.

The popular show features many songs which have become standards, including *Edelweiss*, *My Favorite Things*, *Climb Every Mountain*, *Do-Re-Mi*, and the title song. Cast members include Caitlyn Clarke as Maria, Rocco Iacobone as the captain, and Domenica Cua, Noah Garrick, Mary Polemeni-McGovern, Ben Reither, Caroline Reither, Lily Hartman, and Georgia Gantz as the children.

Others in the cast are Isaac Steiger, Brianna Stokes, Chloe Myers, Alexa Kruezer, Delaney Rice, Erneste Dusengimana, Maddie Menz, Sydney Hord, Connor Cavanagh, and Jackson Moulder.

Chorus and ensemble members are Natalie Allton, Paula Clark, Olivia Houlihan, Jackie Lineberry, Jackson Montoya, Anna Pallone, Hannah Verne, Frances Weger, Lauren Akainyah, Grace Brunton, Catharina Le, Kherty Leger, Lucy Marchese, Mileena Mookpachan, Becca Pallone, Gaby Pallone, Ryenne Rowan, Madison Salyer, and Kathryn Stalnaker.

### St. Paul Science Fair

Forty-nine of 88 students who submitted projects to the Westerville St. Paul School science fair received a superior rating and went on to district competition at Columbus State Community College.

Ashleigh Zehala finished first and will receive a \$200 scholarship from Dr. Joseph and Marilyn Harpster. In second place were Kevin Heil and Jason Zehala, who were awarded a scholarship. Other Harpster scholarship recipients were: Lillian Metzger, Aidan Williams and Ryan Gustafson, \$150; Nathan Stevenson, Julia Mauger, Lauren McCann, Emma Fantine, Haley Weis, Elena Marchese and Mia Gehrlich, \$125; and Sydney Eader, Marley Jackson, Alex Michalec, John Protz,

Narit Mongkollugsana and Mia Slanoc, \$100.

Tommy Donnelly, Kendall Gonya, Margaret Owsiany, Ella Reither, Nick Hartman, Colin McClain, James Foos, Max Lee, Evelyn Sarle, and Lauren Coleman were awarded \$15 Barnes & Noble gift cards donated by Mr. and Mrs. Ed Bozymski.

Alex Hatcher, Lauren Keating, Gabriella Mahaffey, Ben Franz, Audrey Callahan, Cara Jewett, Madelyn Nagel, Nick Trostel, Lily Carlos, Marlee Kroll, Noah Kistler, Isaiah Rush, Josh Thomas, Luca Ricci, Maya Steiger, Alexis Jacobsen, Nathan Fanning, Nick Lusky, Nicole Corn, and Bridget Javitch also received superior ratings.



## Read Across America Day at Lancaster Fisher Catholic

Lancaster Fisher Catholic High School students Brock Conrad and Emma Tobin read Dr. Seuss' "The Lorax" to Lancaster St. Mary School students to celebrate Read Across America Day and Dr. Seuss' birthday. Guest readers including Fisher coaches and athletes, Father Craig Eilerman, pastor of St. Mary Church, and school nurse Debbie Wilson visited the school to read to various classes during the week of Feb. 27. St. Mary drama students presented a reader's theater version of the book, which was chosen because it illustrates the school's goal of "Care for God's Creation." The cafeteria served a special treat that tied in with the Lorax theme each day.

Photo courtesy St. Mary School

## MAINTENANCE MANAGER POSITION

St. Peter Parish is looking to hire a full-time Maintenance Manager. Hours are Monday through Friday, 9:00AM through 4:00PM.

The Maintenance Manager is also on-call 24-7 for occasional after-hours emergencies.

The Maintenance Manager's duties include planning projects; securing bids; communicating with vendors and service providers; observing and holding accountable any contracted third-parties working on-site, even if such are working here after-hours; maintaining an inventory and maintenance record of equipment; preparing a schedule for preventive and routine maintenance of property, plant, and equipment; helping plan for future needs and projects; supervising maintenance staff, including assisting them prioritize; and doing actual maintenance work. The Maintenance Manager, as do all other staff members, answers to the Office Manager and to the Pastor.

The hourly rate is negotiable. Benefits are available. Send resumes to:

**Mr. Mike Luis, Business Manager**  
**St. Peter Roman Catholic Church**  
**6899 Smoky Row Road • Columbus, Ohio 43235**  
 Or e-mail resumes to: [mluis@stpetercolumbus.com](mailto:mluis@stpetercolumbus.com)

## THE EVERYDAY CATHOLIC

By: Rick Jeric

### *Twenty Birthdays*



So what can we possibly do with the middle of March, two weeks into Lent, and nearly one-fourth of the way through 2017? We could jump ahead a little and think about St. Patrick's Day, which is on a Friday this year. I am not sure for whom I should feel more badly – all of us everyday Catholics, or all our everyday bishops. For us, we have to decide if we will remain faithful to our sacrifices and commitments on March 17. Normally, a Friday in Lent would be a day for discipline and really focusing on our prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. But St. Patrick's Day offers us a real opportunity to reflect on our priorities. We should be sensitive to the proud Irish and the temporarily Irish among us who have a difficult decision to make. My suggestion is this: Pray for the same grace and spiritual guidance that made St. Patrick such a great leader. Abstain as in other Fridays in Lent, fast sacrificially, especially from any overindulging, and give alms. Write a check to your favorite charity – your parish, your school, Catholic Social Services, the Josephinum, Birthright, Bethesda Healing Ministry, Women's Care Center, and others. And pray for our bishops as they entertain all the requests for dispensation from abstinence on St. Patrick's Day. We can enjoy it just as much on Saturday, while supporting all those great local parish fish fries on Friday.

We also could try to look at the Ides of March, but other than being a really bad day for Julius Caesar, there is nothing too interesting about it. I want to look at March 14. Aside from being Pi Day, it is my daughter's birthday, and she will be 20 years old. It got me thinking and reflecting, and there is fodder for all of us to do the same. What has a 20-year old learned, experienced, and absorbed over two decades? What type of person is she, and what type of person will she continue to grow to be? And for us, as scores of years go by, who are we now? Are we where we want to be? Where should we be? So, with direct parallels to my daughter and her formative years, let us reflect together on where we are right now, and where we really should be.

Teaching the sign of the cross. Do I still do that with the same care and reverence as when I was a child? Teaching grace before meals. Do I do this faithfully, especially as a family, both at home and at a restaurant? What is there to be embarrassed about? Teaching prayers before bed. Do I still do this each night? Teaching to say "Please" and "Thank you." Do I do the same, or do I take my spouse, friends, and co-workers for granted and assume they know I am grateful? Teaching to be respectful. Respectful of one another, of elders, of those in authority, and of those who appear to be weaker or simply "beneath" us. Teaching to be successful. What does that really mean, especially and most importantly related to our Catholic Faith? Teaching to be a good sport. Do I play to win, do I play to participate and enjoy, or can I do both? Teaching academic discipline. Besides family, a good education is the second most important thing that will impact our lives. Teaching our Catholic Faith. Yes, that is the number one, most important thing. So, what do we absorb in our first 20 birthdays, and what do we faithfully take with us for multiple scores of years beyond?



## ALTAR SERVER AWARDS

Lancaster Council 1016 of the Knights of Columbus had its annual altar server awards dinner last month, honoring servers from Lancaster St. Mary, Lancaster St. Bernadette, Sugar Grove St. Joseph, and Bremen St. Mary churches for the help they give their pastors and parishes. Honorees were (from left): first row, Justin Kilbarger, Ian Northrup, and Owen Northrup, St. Joseph; second row, Gus Spiegel and Caroline Messerly, St. Bernadette; Emma Tobin, Lancaster St. Mary; Clara Craaybeek and Ashlyn Quaintance, St. Bernadette; and Regan Conrad, Bremen St. Mary; third row, Bryson Vogal, St. Bernadette; Christopher Carter, Lancaster St. Mary; Daniel Turner, Zackary Vogel, Drew Solt, and Colin McCrady, St. Bernadette; and Spencer Conrad, Bremen St. Mary. (Photo courtesy K of C Council 1016)



## YOUNG AMERICANS

Forty-seven students from Wellston Sts. Peter and Paul School took part in the Young Americans music workshop in Wellston from Feb. 26-28. The event focused on singing, dancing, improvisation, and theatrics and drew 200 participants in grades three to 12 from the school and the Wellston and Jackson public schools, concluding with a performance on Feb. 28 (pictured below).



During the performance, the Young Americans presented a \$750 check which will be divided between the theater and music department of Sts. Peter and Paul and the Wellston High School music department. Pictured at the presentation are (above) Dorothy Riepenhoff, Sts. Peter and Paul music director, and (from left) Young Americans director Gary Delk and Tyler Vogt and Erin Cole of the Young Americans, who travel all over the world conducting workshops for children interested in music and theater.

Photos courtesy Sts. Peter and Paul School



# LIVING Faith

## Ideas for Keeping Lent

Two weeks ago, I gave a presentation, “Making Old Prayers New,” looking at prayers we say or hear so often that they become more a rote exercise than a meaningful expression of faith or a means of experiencing the closeness of God. Someone requested ideas for keeping Lent that would breathe new life into praying through this liturgical season.

I remembered addressing that question years ago in a column. Here’s an updated list:

Create a focal point. If lighting Advent-wreath candles helped you focus on the sacredness of the moment, as well as the steady progress through the season, why not do something similar during Lent? Six candles arranged in a circle or a row can provide a prayerful reminder of the Lenten journey. Or use a large purple candle and light it each evening during meals or for special times of prayer. Replace it with a white candle for Easter.

Plant a bulb and watch it push up through the soil, grow, and flower, a sign of the journey we are making through death to new life. Cut pussy-willow branches, place them in a vase of water, and observe how their brown-hulled buds split open to reveal silvery-gray “kittens.” By Easter, the branches will have rooted and sprouted green leaves. What must fall away in our lives to encourage deepening roots and new life in Christ?

A container of sand can remind us of Jesus’ 40 days of fasting and prayer and of the Lenten call to enter our “desert” and spend quiet time alone with God, away from the noise and activity of everyday life. Busyness can be a way to avoid facing things that keep us from greater openness to God’s Presence.



### GRACE IN THE MOMENT

Mary van Balen

“Noise” distracts from Jesus’ invitation to a deeper relationship.

Keep a journal. Purchased Lenten journals often include a scripture passage, a daily reflection, and space to write your thoughts. Any journal will do. You might try pondering a verse or two from the daily Mass readings, and then write what they reveal to you of God. You could record thoughts on where you see God in a book you’re reading, whether it’s specifically spiritual or not. (*God for Us: Rediscovering the Meaning of Lent and Easter* is a new one I’m reading this year.) Poetry can touch deep places, as can hymns and music. Or simply write what stirs in your heart—gratitude, worry, hopes, concerns—sharing them with God, who wants nothing more than to be with us. Once you begin writing, you may be surprised where the pen leads. Visual prompts work better for some: photos, pictures, newspaper or magazine clippings that move you to prayer. You may prefer drawing to writing.

Live with Scripture. Make time to sink into the Word—daily Mass readings, a gospel, the Psalms. Whatever you choose, read slowly and carry your word with you throughout the day.

Make contemporary Stations of the Cross. Consider

how the events and suffering depicted in each station continues today. “Whatsoever you do to the least of these, you do to me.” How is Jesus suffering today? How can we respond? This, too, is fertile ground for journaling.

Journey with family. Lenten “progress charts” are a good way to involve children and can take many forms. Place a small marker of some sort on a poster for good deeds done—anything ranging from sending letters to those who live alone or who are sick to being cheerful, patient, or helpful around the house. You could write activities on the markers: “spend extra time with your brother,” “read to your sister,” “help with dishes.” Reading scripture, bible stories, or stories with appropriate themes can involve everyone. When the activity is finished, add the marker to the poster or strip of paper, making a pathway to Easter. Glue paper leaves to a simple drawing of an empty tree; add foil stars to a brown paper cross. Imagination’s the limit.

Do something extra. Lent is not only for “giving up.” It’s also for “adding on.” Do positive things that nurture your spirit and give hope: take a walk, listen to beautiful music, watch the sunset, keep fresh flowers on the table. Do something for someone else, something to remind us of God’s transforming love even in difficult times.

Lent is a time to slow down and pay attention to God and the things that either help or hinder our response to Jesus’ call to live and love as he did—Forty days to be attentive and to practice.

© 2017 Mary van Balen. Visit van Balen’s blog at <http://www.maryvanbalen.com/the-scallop>.

## Stations of the Cross at Martin de Porres Center

Stations of the Cross painted by Dominican artist and friar Marie-Alain Couturier are on exhibit throughout Lent at the Martin de Porres Center, 2330 Airport Drive, Columbus. (Pictured is the fourth station, *Jesus Meets His Mother*.)

They were painted in 1944, while Father Couturier was in residence at the retreat house of the Dominican Sisters of St. Catherine de’Ricci in Elkins Park, Pennsylvania. The Stations were a gift to the sisters

for their hospitality while he was in exile in North America during World War II. In December 2012, this community of sisters became the eighth Dominican congregation to join the Dominican Sisters of Peace. The Stations previously were displayed at the de Porres center in early 2013.

For more than 12 years, the center, an outreach ministry of the Dominican Sisters of Peace, has been serving the Columbus area. The center

provides programming in spirituality, education, and personal growth, as well as reasonably priced rental space for not-for-profit groups whose mission is in keeping with the center’s.

The center also has become known for its art exhibits, featuring a variety of artists and media.

Contact the center at (614) 416-1910 or [martindeporres@opeace.org](mailto:martindeporres@opeace.org) to schedule a viewing of the Stations.







Story by **TIM PUET**, *Catholic Times Reporter*

## RITE OF ELECTION WELCOMES ADULTS WHO PLAN TO JOIN CHURCH

The diocesan Rite of Election this past Sunday, March 5, at Westerville St. Paul Church marked a significant stop along the pathway of faith for 491 people from 65 parishes in the Diocese of Columbus who declared their intention to enter full communion with the Catholic Church.

Here are the stories of four of them:

For Alex Carroll, who is taking part in the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA) at Lancaster St. Mary Church, the journey to Catholicism

was an intellectual one.

“The search for truth has always been an integral part of my life,” said Carroll, 22, a senior majoring in physics at Ohio University-Lancaster. “My choice to become a physics major and many of the other major choices in my life were made because I always wanted to know the true nature of reality.

“On several occasions, I learned of scientific discoveries that were made by Catholic priests. For instance, the



Above: Catechumen Stephen Mosley from Columbus St. Matthias Church signs the Book of the Elect. Below: Candidate Cym Schmidt kneels in prayer. CT photos by Ken Snow



scientist who first proposed the Big Bang theory was a Jesuit priest. ‘A priest making a discovery. What an interesting notion,’ I thought, not realizing the Catholic Church’s long tradition of involvement in science,” he said.

“This brought me into contact with the teachings of the Apostles, the early Church fathers, Scripture, and the teachings of Jesus Christ. A book called *The Language of God* by Francis Collins, current director of the National Institutes of Health and a leader of the Human Genome Project, also had a big impact, for he is one of the nation’s top scientists and presents a strong rational case for belief in God.

“I had been an evangelical Protestant for most of my life, and while my relationship with Jesus was always important, all this studying revealed a deeper insight to me,” Carroll said.

“This past year was a tough one because of an engagement that was broken off and some family problems. It made me really ponder hard about what I want to be and about what truth is. A friend of mine had recently joined the Catholic Church and was really excited about it. I did more research, looked at the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, and knew after talking with my friend that it was time to make a decision, so I called Brian McCauley at St. Mary’s and he invited me to join the parish RCIA class.”

Carroll said the realization that the church’s authority can be traced directly to Jesus and the Apostles was of great significance. “The authority of the church verifies its teaching,” he said. “Jesus said explicitly to St. Peter, ‘Here are the keys to the kingdom. Whatever you bind and loose on earth shall be bound and loosed in heaven.’ You can’t be more direct. You can’t deny what this means.”

Among the 491 people declaring at the diocesan Rite of Election that they intend to join the Catholic Church at the Easter Vigil were (from left): candidate Alexis Lewis, studying the faith at Marysville Our Lady of Lourdes Church; candidate Alex Carroll, Lancaster St. Mary Church; catechumen Leland Davis, Chillicothe St. Peter Church; and candidate Aara Wise, Newark St. Francis de Sales Church. Photo at right shows some of the crowd which filled Westerville St. Paul Church for the event on March 5.



Carroll also said he was delighted to learn that some of the things he had heard about Catholics were misconceptions. “I often used to hear people say Catholics were very legalistic and emphasized what you couldn’t do. That’s not true with the Catholics I’ve met. They’re very welcoming and have the kind of deep relationship with Jesus I hope to gain.”

Leland Davis, who is learning the Catholic faith at Chillicothe St. Peter Church, had been a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, commonly known as the Mormon Church, all his life.

“I got a lot out of my LDS background, but there were just some things about that church’s history as it relates to matters like race and marriage that agitated me. The church has changed its position on those things, but its leaders seemed reluctant to admit they were human and made mistakes,” he said.

“The Catholic Church seems much more willing to admit the mistakes it made and to recognize that though it is inspired by God, it has dealt with plenty of human failings and continues to deal with them. It’s also encouraging to see the great diversity of thought among Catholics. There’s not a sense that ‘You have to do things this way.’

“That’s what surprised me most about the Catholic Church – the breadth of possibilities, the multiple ways you have to approach prayer,” said Davis, 46, who works for a contractor doing cleanup work at the site of the former Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant in Piketon that produced enriched uranium.

“When I decided I didn’t want to be a Mormon, I knew I didn’t want to renounce God, so I began exploring different methods of belief, particularly the Buddhist and the Catholic ways. I like the Buddhist tradition of

meditation, and have come to realize the Catholic Church offers that and much more. For some reason, I have found the Hail Mary to be comforting. I don’t know why, but it just soothes me.

“The most important thing about faith to me is that God works through people as they are, with all their imperfections, and the Catholic Church recognizes this,” he said. “I also want to thank my friend Derick Tormohlen for helping me along the road to this point.

“There’s still a lot I don’t know about the Catholic Church, but little by little, I’m getting more insights. I don’t expect to know all the answers when it comes time to join the church at Easter, but hopefully, I can grow.”

“I have never felt as much at home as I do in a Catholic church,” said Aara Wise, who plans to attend Newark St. Francis de Sales Church. Perhaps that’s because for much of her life, she never was far away from Catholicism.

She grew up in Newark, and most of her childhood friends attended St. Francis de Sales School. When she was attending Wilson Junior High School, a friend asked her to play in the orchestra for Newark Catholic High School’s spring musical. There she met the school librarian, Sister Maria.

“Over time, I got to know her and asked her many questions about many things my young mind wanted to know about,” she said. “She was always patient and kind. She answered questions on a variety of subjects, including things I thought nuns had no personal knowledge of. I admired her. She always had a smile on my face, which brightened her day.”

As she grew older, Wise continued to be involved in theater and music activities through Weathervane Playhouse and the Licking County Play-

ers and was invited to join the choirs of Granville St. Edward and Newark Blessed Sacrament churches.

“As the years went by, I found myself becoming more and more involved in the services” at Blessed Sacrament, said Wise, 53, who was baptized in the Methodist Church. “Every Sunday, I sang with the choir, and I was cantor for other services. My father was not happy with the amount of time I spent at Blessed Sacrament. He couldn’t understand why Catholic and why not Methodist? I was uncomfortable there, I never had been comfortable in the Methodist Church.”

Wise was part of an RCIA class at Blessed Sacrament at one time, but two unsuccessful marriages, a job loss, and health problems all had an impact on her over the years. Then came a community theater production of *White Christmas* and an invitation by a cast member who was a St. Francis de Sales parishioner to attend church with his family.

“It began with Christmas Eve service that year,” she said. “Each time I attended, I went home with such a peaceful feeling. After much prayer and thought, I made up my mind that I would like to seek confirmation.

“My father still doesn’t understand why Catholic and why not Methodist, as I will be the only Catholic in the family. So be it. I feel that God is leading me here.”

Alexis Lewis will attend St. Paul Church in Westerville, where she lives, but is taking RCIA classes at Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Marysville, where she grew up. She was baptized and raised in the Lutheran Church, but says she felt something was absent there that she has found in Catholicism.

“I find a feeling of wholeness now that I’d been missing before, and my confirmation at the Easter Vigil will

complete the journey,” said Lewis, 21, a cosmetologist.

“My mother is Catholic, so I was raised in a household that knew something about the Catholic Church, but mostly I went to Trinity Lutheran in Marysville with my grandparents,” she said. “Like many young people, I struggled a lot with religion and pretty much dropped out as I got older.

“After graduating from cosmetology school in October 2015, I realized that I was missing something important in not being part of a faith community and got in touch with Our Lady of Lourdes Church. I learned that the priest who was pastor there at the time (Father David Poliafico) was ill, and I didn’t go to Mass there, so I thought my request had been forgotten.

“Then while I was on vacation last summer, Deacon Dave Bezusko at Our Lady of Lourdes sent a message inviting me to talk with him about RCIA,” the formal process through which adults are instructed in Catholic teaching for several months, leading to their joining the Catholic Church at the Easter Vigil.

“I was thrilled. I started jumping with excitement. My mother was with me, and she got excited, too. I’m getting more excited as I get closer to the Easter Vigil, and I’m hoping my mom also will resume her involvement with the Catholic Church,” Lewis said.

“While I was in school, I had what turned out to be a bad relationship with a guy who called himself Christian, but was judgmental. That turned me sour toward religion, but eventually I decided that I should be more open-minded about it, and I’m glad I changed my mind.

“It’s great to go to RCIA and hear my classmates tell their own stories of what drew them to the Catholic faith. Every time I go to class, I hear

something new and wonderful about the church and about its tradition – both big and little T – that makes me realize this is where I belong. I’m also getting great support from my family, because they know this is a decision I’ve worked long and hard to think through,” she said.

Rite of Election ceremonies take place each year on the First Sunday of Lent. For the past several years in the Diocese of Columbus, there have been two identical services at the same site to allow adequate room for the number of people taking part.

This year, 172 catechumens and 319 candidates, along with their chosen godparents or sponsors, participated in the rite. Catechumens are people who never have been baptized. Candidates are those who have been baptized in another Christian denomination.

Catechumens indicated their desire to join the church by signing the Book of the Elect, giving them the title “members of the elect.” Candidates participated in the Call to Continuing Conversion that was part of the ceremony and signed the book.

Bishop Frederick Campbell witnessed the signatures and spoke in his homily about man’s longing for God. “Man was created for God and never lost the desire for him,” even after the fall of Adam, which was described in the first Scripture reading at the ceremony, he said.

“Most of us here feel the desire to know life has meaning, and in trying to satisfy that longing, we often end up in blind alleys,” the bishop said. “In Jesus Christ, we find God’s desire to grant life and meaning and perfection to humanity. Just gazing

on him and listening to his word engraves on our hearts the realization that this is the way.

“Through him, we feel the sweetness of life, of victory over death. At the heart of this is an invitation to life, and life abundantly.”

The readings also included Matthew’s Gospel account of Jesus’ temptation in the desert. “We understand temptation,” Bishop Campbell said. “We have made many false starts. We acknowledge being seduced by lies, but the final word is the victory of Jesus Christ. It is that victory the Church proclaims, and in that proclamation says ‘Yes’ to this life.

“We have to turn away from our sin, away from our selfishness, toward the face of God we know in Jesus Christ. Through our discernment, we prepare ourselves to receive the fullness of love and encounter Jesus in the sacraments, especially the sacrament of his body and blood.”

“You are extraordinarily important to us,” he told the catechumens and candidates. “You have joined us on this Lenten journey, and you renew us. You give us joy because you journey with us in this extraordinary adventure called life in Jesus Christ. We are here to welcome you and pray for you as you enter fully into the body of Christ.”

In addition to those taking part in the Rite of Election services, there are baptized Catholics in the diocese who are taking part in RCIA classes this year because they have not received the sacraments of Confirmation and the Holy Eucharist. They will take part in a service at Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral at which they will receive those sacraments from Bishop Campbell.





## Mysteries of the Rosary plaques painted by students

Fifth- to eighth-grade art elective students at Worthington St. Michael School painted stonelike backgrounds on the school stairwells for a set of plaques featuring the mysteries of the rosary, which were donated by school parents, families, and community members. The plaques are dolomite bas-reliefs which were handcrafted by the religious sisters of the Community of Bethlehem in France. Students pictured are (from left) Ellie Bogue and the introductory plaque for the myster-

ies, Giovanna Frisone and the plaque for the Presentation of Jesus at the Temple, and Isabelle Unk (left) and Evangeline Brunton and the plaque for the Assumption of Mary. More than 65 students participated in the project. The stairwell was dedicated on Feb. 2, the Feast of the Presentation. Each background had five areas and each area was painted by a different student. The lower part of each background is a rock formation with water passing through from the upper

framed mystery plaque, symbolizing how reciting the rosary focuses on the life of Jesus, who quenches us with the water of his Word when we spend time with him and when we meditate on the mysteries of his life. Art elective students have an additional two days aside from their regular weekly art class. These students get to perform additional work related to important art skills and to experience additional art media and processes.

Photo courtesy St. Michael School

## Catholic Foundation offers grants for youth ministry

Youth ministry programs empower young people to live as disciples of Jesus Christ in our world. They help youth to make the right connections and they grow young disciples. Observations from a survey of young people showed that 75 percent of respondents say religion is important in their lives and that they want to know what the Catholic Church teaches. However, fewer than half of the churches in the Diocese of Columbus have a paid youth ministry position.

The Catholic Foundation is partnering with the diocesan Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry and donors who want to support the effort to reverse that statistic.

The Foundation is accepting online applications for five youth ministry grants. The deadline to apply is noon Friday,

April 7. These grants will help parishes pay for a new full-time youth minister or a new full-time position with youth ministry as a primary responsibility (based on a \$50,000 annual budget for salary and benefits) over a period of four years. Parishes who have a part-time position but wish to expand to a full-time position also may apply. By the end of the grant term, the person in this position also will become a certified catechist and youth minister.

These grants provide a wonderful opportunity for parishes to engage and revitalize their young people. The parishes will pay an increasing portion of the annual costs each year for four years, and by the fifth year, the parishes will pay for the position in its entirety. Parishes are encouraged to think about partner-

ing with one another, or partnering at the deanery level where appropriate, in order to consider future funding of the position after the grant period ends.

For complete grant guidelines and eligibility, visit [grants.catholic-foundation.org](http://grants.catholic-foundation.org). The Catholic Foundation encourages pastors to prayerfully consider

how their parish could benefit from this grant. For guidance on suggestions and eligibility, contact Amy Parker, the Foundation's vice president of grants and diocesan partnerships ([aparker@catholic-foundation.org](mailto:aparker@catholic-foundation.org) or 614-443-8893) or reach out to the diocesan Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry.



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## Other Persons Are a Gift

**By Sister Constance Veit, LSP**

A few days ago, I met a very little girl who made a big impression on me. Grace and her older brother Benedict suffer from a rare genetic disorder that has resulted in serious hearing impairment and limited physical growth. The two come to our home for the elderly with their mother each week to pray the rosary with our residents. Watching Grace and Benedict interact with the elderly, I was amazed by their maturity and graciousness. I almost felt I was in the presence of angels, such was the radiance of these two beautiful little ones in the midst of our frail seniors.

In all likelihood, Grace and Benedict never will make an impact on the world scene, and yet I believe that they and so many other little, hidden souls make a huge difference in our world spiritually. This is what our Holy Father is suggesting in his Lenten message this year. The theme he has proposed for our 2017 journey through Lent is “The Word Is a Gift. Other

Persons Are a Gift.”

Using the parable of Lazarus and the rich man from St. Luke’s Gospel, Pope Francis turns our attention to those whom we might usually ignore. He compares the anonymity of the rich man, who is never named in Scripture, with Lazarus, who appears with a specific name and a unique story. Lazarus “becomes a face, and as such, a gift, a priceless treasure, a human being whom God loves and cares for, despite his concrete condition as an outcast,” the pope says.

The Holy Father continues, “Lazarus teaches us that other persons are a gift. A right relationship with people consists in gratefully recognizing their value.” Lent, he says, is a favorable season for recognizing the face of Christ in God’s little ones. “Each of us meets people like this every day,” he says. “Each life that



we encounter is a gift deserving acceptance, respect, and love. The word of God helps us to open our eyes to welcome and love life, especially when it is weak and vulnerable.”

This is what our foundress, St. Jeanne Jugan, did so beautifully. Mindful of Christ’s promise that whatever we do for the least of his brothers and sisters, we do for him, she opened her heart and her home definitively to the needy elderly of her day. She often counseled the young Little Sisters, “Never forget that the poor are Our Lord. ... When you will be near the poor, give yourself wholeheartedly, for it is Jesus himself whom you care for in them.”

Jeanne Jugan looked upon each elderly person with the loving gaze of Christ, and so she saw each one as a treasure worthy of reverence and loving care. She knew that despite outward

appearances, each person to whom she offered hospitality was someone for whom Christ died and rose again. Each one was someone worthy of the gift of her own life.

Pope Francis’ prayer this Lent is that the Holy Spirit will lead us “on a true journey of conversion, so that we can rediscover the gift of God’s word, be purified of the sin that blinds us, and serve Christ present in our brothers and sisters in need.” Let us pray for one another, he concluded, “so that by sharing in the victory of Christ, we may open our doors to the weak and the poor. Then we will be able to share to the full the joy of Easter.”

I thank God for my recent encounter with Grace and Benedict, for they opened my eyes anew to the beauty in each human person. My wish for you this Lent is that God might lead you to a similar life-changing encounter.

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



### ODU Preview Day on April 1

You have a passion. At Ohio Dominican University, we’re committed to helping you use that passion to fulfill God’s purpose for your life. Take the next step in your faith journey at a university founded in the Catholic Dominican tradition.

**Join us from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, April 1.  
Register now at [ohiodominican.edu/Preview](http://ohiodominican.edu/Preview)**



*Central Ohio’s Catholic University • Founded by the Dominican Sisters of Peace.*

1216 Sunbury Rd. | Columbus, OH 43219 | 614.251.4500

### Purple hair for Lent



Portsmouth Notre Dame Elementary School principal Ann Kempf has purple hair for Lent, and she’s happy about it.

This is because the school’s students responded to her challenge to complete 5,000 random acts of kindness in the 50 days before Ash Wednesday, March 1.

She said that if they did this, she would color her hair, students in the classroom that performed the most acts of kindness would be allowed to “dress down” for a week, and their classroom teacher would get a day off. When asked if she would be embarrassed about having purple hair, Kempf responded, “I would use that as a teachable moment about how we can all commit to random acts of kindness, and maybe we

can set the world in the right direction.” Purple was chosen because it is a color the Catholic Church uses to symbolize penance. Kempf’s hair was colored by third-grade teacher Regina Flinders, who at one time worked as a beautician.

Photo courtesy Notre Dame Elementary School

**St. Margaret of Cortona** 1600 N. Hague Ave. Phone: 614.279.1690

### Best Fish Fry Dinner in Town!

**Fridays during Lent • March 3 - April 7  
4:30 - 7:30 PM**

Fried Ocean Perch or Baked Cod, with French Fries, Baked Potato, Macaroni & Cheese, Cole Slaw, Applesauce, Roll & Butter, and homemade Desserts. Free coffee!

Adults - \$10.00; Seniors - \$9.50;  
Children (10 & under) - \$5.00 (Free under 3)  
Pop, Beer, Seconds, & Carryouts available. Info: 279-1690





## Second Sunday of Lent (Cycle A)

# The Lord speaks to all of us until we understand



Father  
Lawrence L. Hummer

**Genesis 12:1-4a;  
2 Timothy 18b-10;  
Matthew 17:1-9**

Abram acts on a word from the Lord. That word tells him to leave his kinfolk behind and to head for a new land. The Lord promises to bless him and make his name great. Based on this word of promise, Abram goes according to the Lord's instructions.

The Lord speaks to all of us in some way. Sometimes it is through the words of others. Sometimes it comes in answer to our prayers. Sometimes it is through the Word proclaimed to us as we hear with our ears, and it takes root in us and works on us until we simply know we have to act on that word. We may have to hear the word six times or more before we understand, but the Lord keeps speaking to us until we do.

Abram becomes the source of all future blessing. Both Christianity and Islam later will acknowledge Abraham's righteous faith (see Romans 4) and thereby bless Abram for his faith. Those who would curse Abram or the nations established in his name will be cursed. Abraham had two sons, Ishmael and Isaac: Ishmael with a slave girl and Isaac with Sarah, his wife. Muslims trace their descent through Ishmael, thereby also claiming Abraham as their father. Jews trace their descent through Isaac and also claim Abraham as their father. Catholics acknowledge Abraham as "our father in faith" (see the Roman Canon, Eucharistic Prayer I).

The Gospel for the Second Sunday of Lent is always about the Transfiguration. It follows the first prediction of the passion and death of Jesus, and it is a private experience of Peter, James, and John. In Exodus 24:13-16, we notice that Moses had gone up Mount Sinai and

was there for six days before the Lord spoke to him on the seventh day. Matthew and Mark link this to Moses' experience in Exodus by the mention of "six days." Oddly, Luke says it was eight days later.

The significance of dazzling white clothes and Jesus' face shining like the sun is meant to give it an other-worldly feel, equivalent to Moses in Exodus experiencing the glory of the Lord for six days. For Matthew, the appearance of Moses and Elijah with Jesus represents the two great figures of the Old Testament (the Law and the Prophets) in conversation with Jesus, the real teacher of Christians.

Matthew says Moses and Elijah appeared "to them" while speaking with Jesus. Some commentators, based on this "appearance," suggest that this happened after the death and resurrection of Jesus, who reflected his heavenly light after rising from the dead.

When the scene continues with the bright cloud casting a shadow over them, it underscores the cloud in Exodus which showed the glory of God. Now Jesus reflects heavenly glory, which is underscored by the voice from the cloud: "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him." This quotation cites Psalm 2:7, which was used at royal enthronements. This not only affirms Jesus' title as "Son of David," but it also gives divine approval to Jesus' teaching and ministry ("listen to him").

The disciples react to all this with great fear. Jesus goes to them and says, "Rise and do not be afraid." At the end of Matthew's Gospel, the women who go to the tomb are told by an angel, "Do not be afraid." There, Matthew uses a passive form of the same Greek verb *rise* ("he has been raised from the dead"). This same expression is used in the warning Jesus gives to the three, not to tell about this until "the Son of Man has been raised from the dead." All this strengthens the argument that this vision happened after the resurrection.

*Father Lawrence Hummer, pastor of Chillicothe St. Mary Church, may be reached at hummerl@stmarchillicothe.com.*

## The Catholic Foundation Is Now Accepting Scholarship Applications

The Catholic Foundation's online scholarship application period is now open. This year, 22 students in the Diocese of Columbus will receive awards from scholarship funds administered by the Foundation. To streamline the process, the Foundation has made it easier than ever to apply, with a complete listing of available scholarships, qualifications, and applications on its website.

Of the 22 scholarships available, 10 require a submitted application. The scholarship deadline is Friday, April 7. Recipients will be notified in May.

Scholarship recipients are selected based on criteria established by donors who created the funds to as-

sist gifted and deserving students with the costs of their education. Donors often establish scholarship funds to honor or memorialize friends, teachers, family members, or other loved ones. Since 2007, The Catholic Foundation has awarded more than \$287,000 in scholarships, enabling 94 young people to continue their academic and vocational studies. With the continued generosity of donors who share this dedication to education, the Foundation will continue to support students as they answer God's call.

*For detailed information and the full list of scholarships, visit <https://grants.catholic-foundation.org/scholarships> or call the Foundation at (614) 443-8893.*

## The Weekday Bible Readings

### MONDAY

Daniel 9:4b-10  
Psalm 79:8-9,11,13  
Luke 6:36-38

### TUESDAY

Isaiah 1:10,16-20  
Psalm 50:8-9,16bc-17,21,23  
Matthew 23:1-12

### WEDNESDAY

Jeremiah 18:18-20  
Psalm 31:5-6,14-16  
Matthew 20:17-28

### THURSDAY

Jeremiah 17:5-10  
Psalm 1:1-4,6  
Luke 16:19-31

### FRIDAY

Genesis 37:3-4,12-13a,17b-28a  
Psalm 105:16-21  
Matthew 21:33-43,45-46

### SATURDAY

Micah 7:14-15,18-20  
Psalm 103:1-4,9-12  
Matthew 21:33-43,45-46

## DIOCESAN WEEKLY RADIO AND TELEVISION MASS SCHEDULE WEEK OF MARCH 12, 2017

### 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 (Time Warner 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).

### 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 Week II, Seasonal Proper of the Liturgy of the Hours



## Jesus Didn't Care Who Liked Him

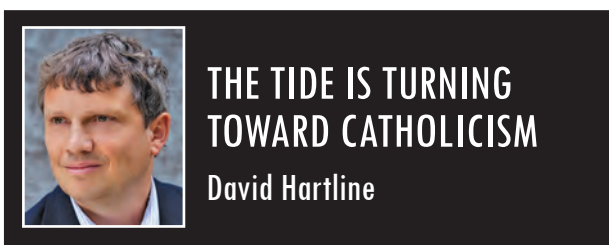
Most of us say that if more people did the right thing and didn't care what others thought about them, life would be much better. Now imagine that person being a boss, politician, or someone else in charge. It almost sounds too good to be true. Yet look at what happened to Jesus.

In the span of one week, the one person who always did the right thing went from being hailed with palm leaves by huge crowds entering Jerusalem to being crucified on Calvary, with a handful of followers lamenting his apparent death.

We all celebrate his resurrection and many of us try to follow him as best we can, but for whatever reason, some people just won't appreciate what he did for us. The first example we have of this concerns the Gadarenes, who asked Jesus to leave, even after he healed the possessed man who caused them nothing but grief (Mark 5:1-20).

One would think the people would be grateful to Jesus, not only for helping the man, but also for the power of healing Jesus displayed. However, it would seem those people didn't want to change, for it would force them to see themselves as they really were. The possessed man even wanted to follow Jesus and his disciples. However, Jesus asked him instead to stay and preach to his fellow citizens in the area known as the Decapolis.

This was an interesting region of ancient Israel – one that holds a special parallel for us today. The people there were wealthy and very well-educated,



### THE TIDE IS TURNING TOWARD CATHOLICISM

David Hartline

and it was the least religiously observant area of the nation. While the people might not have liked the Roman occupation, they didn't violently rebel, unlike the residents of Jerusalem.

The people of the Decapolis seemed to greatly admire the Romans, their empire, and their own egos. Doesn't this sound familiar 2,000 years later? Jesus was very clear in teaching that even the learned and those who consider themselves to be highly cultured need to humble themselves before God and follow his teachings.

We could take a lesson from this in our outreach to the world. How many of us do the right thing by welcoming in those of little or no faith, but make the mistake of apologizing for the Church's teachings or failing to correct misconceptions about them? Jesus showed us the way by being merciful and truthful. The two have to go hand in hand.

When I was a child and heard the phrase "Let your yeast be yeas and your nays be nays," I figured it meant "Say 'Yes' when you mean 'Yes' and 'No' when you mean 'No,'" but I wasn't sure. It comes

from the fifth chapter of the Gospel of Matthew and certainly is a memorable Bible verse.

In our modern times, it is refreshing, even if we disagree with people, to hear them state their views plainly rather than being nuanced in 10 different directions. Clarity is refreshing and rare today – something that should make all of us pause as we make our way through Lent.

Now would be a good time to think of other things we could correct during this Lent. Very few people set out to be phony, but most of us often end up sounding phony because we mean well and feel overstretched, or just don't know what to do. We all have been let down by someone who promised to do something for us or to help us with some task and didn't do it. Depending upon the situation, it can be very upsetting. Now imagine that you are the one guilty of this failing. I am sure it has happened.

Jesus went about his daily life being consistent and not really caring what the trends and whims of the world were. It may seem incredibly hard for us to do the same, but through faith, prayer, and sheer repetition, we can live the life Christ asked us to and free ourselves from the phoniness of wanting to be liked by everyone and never making a stand. Once this hurdle is overcome, it will make us better people than we were when our Lenten journey began.

*Hartline is the author of "The Tide is Turning Toward Catholicism" and a former teacher and administrator for the diocese.*

### FASTING, continued from Page 2

denying themselves something and trusting that God will use it.

Although fasting is technically not eating food, giving something up also can be a form of fasting.

Msgr. Charles Murphy, author of the 2010 book *The Spirituality of Fasting: Rediscovering a Christian Practice*, said there are two forms of fasting -- total and partial. A total fast is eating nothing and drinking nothing for a designated period of time, while a partial fast involves giving up certain things for a specific period.

Partial fasting is a popular part of Lent, in which people choose to give up something such as soda, candy, beer, television, or, more increasingly, social media.

The top things people said they were going to give up this Lent, according to OpenBible.info, a Web search engine that examined Twitter posts during the week of Feb. 26, included a mix of social media and food, with one of wishful thinking: school. The only other top-10 mention that didn't involve food or drink was to give up swearing.

Partial fasting, like a full fast, should not be done to benefit the person doing it. "It's not to make us more narcissistic, which it can do," said Paulist Father Jack Collins, who helped Busted Halo, the Paulist web-



site, with videos such as *You Don't Know Jack About Lent* a few years ago.

"We don't fast to feel good, but to remind ourselves that half the world goes to bed hungry," he said, adding that it's a way of reminding us "we are our brother's keeper."

Paulist Father Larry Rice, director of the University Catholic Center at the University of Texas at Austin, is not keen on people looking for a loophole in their fasting practices; for example, saying that Sundays don't count and they can have whatever they gave up that day.

"I get that people want a pressure relief valve," he said, "but when I open my missal, it says the First

Sunday of Lent" meaning Sunday counts.

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops gives a little leeway here. In its fasting guidelines it notes that if someone is giving something up for Lent, it is more effective if it is continuous -- "kept on Sundays as well. That being said, such practices are not regulated by the church, but by individual conscience."

Father Rice, who is giving up riding elevators for Lent, said the Catholic college students he works with typically give up a food or social media. "They won't give up texting. That would be like giving up breathing," he added.

This age group, and Catholics at large, could take a small step toward a phone fast by following the initiative of the Archdiocese of Hartford, Connecticut, which urged Catholics to not use their phones on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday this year.





# Pray for our dead

**ADAMS, David L., 72, March 3**  
St. Elizabeth Seton Parish, Pickerington

**BAAD, Lucille (Gualtieri), 94, Feb. 24**  
St. Joseph Church, Dover

**BERGUNZI, Delores "Susie," 80, March 2**  
St. Patrick Church, Columbus

**BRISLEY, Frank O., 88, formerly of Bexley, Feb. 24**  
Holy Spirit Church, Avon Lake

**BUDAY, Dr. Stephen J., 73, Feb. 23**  
Immaculate Conception Church, Columbus

**CLARK, Jean (Huck), 90, Feb. 25**  
St. Timothy Church, Columbus

**D'AMICO, Dolores (Morlani), 87, Feb. 27**  
St. Brendan Church, Hilliard

**DELFINO, Barbara L. (Shields), 87, March 1**  
St. Patrick Church, Columbus

**ENNEMOSER, Robert T., formerly of Columbus, 30, Feb. 26**  
St. Mary Magdalene Church, Willowick

**FRERICKS, Joan (Stuber), 89, March 1**  
Ss. Simon and Jude Church, West Jefferson

**GRAY, Lloyd E., 70, Feb. 24**  
St. Paul Church, Westerville

**GREULICH, Barbara A. (Archer), 88, March 3**  
St. Thomas Aquinas Church, Zanesville

**HACKNEY, Phyllis R. (Crago), 71, formerly of Columbus, Feb. 26**  
Corpus Christi Church, Chambersburg, Pa.

**HANNA, Sheila M., 80, Feb. 23**  
St. Brendan Church, Hilliard

**KELSEY, Joseph R., 73, March 2**  
Immaculate Conception Church, Columbus

**KERBER, Evelyn E. (Hammond), 92, Feb. 24**  
St. Aloysius Church, Columbus

**KNAPP, Donald J., 71, formerly of Columbus, Feb. 23**  
St. Aloysius Church, Hickory, N.C.

**LUKETICH, Mary A. (Rotonda), 94, March 1**  
St. Matthias Church, Columbus

**MARBLE, Delmar, 84, Feb. 27**  
St. Patrick Church, Columbus

**McCAUSLIN, Marlene M. (Sigillo), 81, Feb. 25**  
St. Joan of Arc Church, Powell

**MILLER, Norman L., 93, Feb. 24**  
St. Agatha Church, Columbus

**RAYMER, Ronald A., 73, March 3**  
St. Pius X Church, Reynoldsburg

**SINES, Jackie S. (Tate) Wilson, 70, Feb. 21**  
St. Rose Church, New Lexington

**TROTT, Thomas W., 83, Feb. 28**  
St. Nicholas Church, Zanesville

**WELSH, Terrence P., 77, March 3**  
St. Joan of Arc Church, Powell

**WIRTHMAN, Nancy E. (Harbage), 86, Feb. 24**  
Church of the Resurrection, New Albany

**ZEITLER, Norene E. (White), 68, Feb. 22**  
St. Andrew Church, Columbus

## Sister Gertrude Fawls, OSF

Funeral Mass for Sister Gertrude Fawls, OSF, 93, who died Friday, Feb. 24, was held Tuesday, Feb. 28 at the chapel of the Sisters of St. Francis of Penance and Christian Charity in Stella Niagara, New York.

She was born Oct. 23, 1923 in Buffalo, New York to Joseph and Agnes (Cronin) Fawls.

She graduated from the Academy of the Sacred Heart in Buffalo in 1941 and received a bachelor of arts degree from Rosary Hill College (now Daemen College) in Amherst, New York, in 1960 and a master of science degree in education from the State University of New York at Buffalo in 1975.

She entered the Stella Niagara Franciscan congregation on Sept. 7, 1941, and pronounced her first vows on Aug.

18, 1943, taking the name Sister Geraldine, and her final vows on the same date three years later.

In the Diocese of Columbus, she taught at Columbus Holy Rosary (1943-45), New Lexington St. Rose (1946-50), Columbus St. John the Evangelist (1951-52 and 1956-57), and Columbus St. Leo (1960-64) schools. She also was a teacher in New York, West Virginia, Pennsylvania, and the Diocese of Steubenville.

She was preceded in death by her parents; brothers, Joseph, John, Eugene, and Daniel; and sisters, Sister M. Joanne Fawls, OSF, Mary Tardif, Agnes Subkowiak, Margaret Sweeney, Rose Donaldson, and Dolores Kemp. Survivors include a brother, Robert, and many nieces and nephews,

## Deacon Robert Eugene Staker



Funeral Mass for Deacon Robert Eugene "Gene" Staker, 80, who died Saturday, March 4, at Morrison House hospice care in Zanesville, will be held at 11 a.m. Friday, March 10 at Zanesville St. Nicholas Church, preceded by viewing from 9 to 11 a.m. Burial will be at Mt. Olive Cemetery, Zanesville.

He was born June 27, 1936 at the family farm in Duncan Falls to the late Robert and Virginia (Fulmer) Staker, was a 1954 graduate of Philo High School, and attended The Ohio State University and Muskingum Agricul-

tural Technical College. He worked as a furnace laborer at Ohio Ferro Alloys Corp. and spent many years in farming. His job took him to Mobile, Alabama, in 1984, and he returned to Zanesville after retirement in 1998.

He began his diaconal formation at the Sacred Heart Center in Shelby, and was one of the last permanent deacon candidates to study for the diaconate there before the Diaconate School of Theology for the Diocese of Columbus was started at the Pontifical College Josephinum in 1983.

He was ordained a deacon on May 28, 1983 by Bishop James Griffin in Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral. He was assigned to diaconal ministry at St. Nicholas Church until his job took him to Alabama. He served at Our Lady Queen of Mercy Catholic Church in Montgomery, Alabama, from 1985 to 1998. After his return to Ohio, he again served at St. Nicholas Church until his retirement from active ministry in 2015. Because of his own failing health, the last part of his life was spent mainly in hospital ministry to the sick, where he gave tremendous comfort to those who were chronically and terminally ill.

He is survived by his wife of 59 years, Mary Lou (Wolfe); three children; Douglas, Kama, and Kerby; and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

## Robert J. Lewis

Funeral Mass for Robert J. Lewis, 73, who died Tuesday, Feb. 28, was held Monday, March 6 at Columbus Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal Church. Burial was at St. Joseph Cemetery, Columbus.

He was born July 14, 1943 in Ludlow, Massachusetts to Fred and Irene (Jodoin) Lewis, graduated from Sparrows Point High School in Baltimore, Maryland, and served in the

Air Force.

He served as religious education director of his church for 21 years and was on the parish finance committee. He retired from employment with United Parcel Service after 25 years.

He was preceded in death by his parents and a brother, Larry. Survivors include his wife, Kathleen (Koebel); son, John (Rachel); two grandsons; and one granddaughter.

To have an obituary printed in the **Catholic Times** please send it to: [tpuet@columbuscatholic.org](mailto:tpuet@columbuscatholic.org). **Obituaries cannot be taken by phone.**



# H A P P E N I N G S

## CLASSIFIED

### St. Elizabeth Church Lenten Fish Fry Dinners

Every Friday, March 3-April 7 • 5-7 p.m.

\$9 Large portion dinner

\$7 Smaller portion dinner

\$7 Fish sandwich & perogi dinner

\$5 Grilled Cheese

Dinners include biscuit, drink, dessert, and 2 sides.

Credit Cards Accepted.

Come, have a great meal & a great time

### LENTE FISH FRY

FRIDAYS 5 - 8 pm, MAR 3 - APR 7

### St. Michael Church

5750 N. High St., Worthington

Fish Dinner: Reg/\$9; Small/\$7

Macaroni-Cheese Dinner: \$7

Clam Chowder, Desserts: \$1

Dine In, Drive Thru & Carryout

### St. Christopher Church

### LENTE PASTA DINNER

1420 Grandview Avenue / Trinity School Cafeteria

Fridays ~ March 3 - April 7 ~ 5-7PM

\$8 Adults / \$5 Kids / \$25 Family

Pasta Sauce Provided by local area restaurants

March 10 — Z Cucina Ristorante

March 17 — Trattoria Roma

All fund-raising events (festivals, bazaars, spaghetti dinners, fish fries, bake sales, pizza/sub sales, candy sales, etc.) will be placed in the "Fund-Raising Guide."

An entry into the Guide will be \$18.50 for the first six lines, and \$2.65 for each additional line.

For more information, call David Garick at 614-224-5195.

### 'Happenings' submissions

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

Items not received before this deadline may not be published.

Listings cannot be taken by phone.

Mail to Catholic Times Happenings, 197 E. Gay St., Columbus OH 43215

Fax to 614-241-2518

E-mail as text to

tpuet@columbuscatholic.org

### St. Margaret of Cortona Church

1600 N. Hague Ave, Columbus

19<sup>th</sup> Annual

"Best Fish Fry Dinner in Town!"

Fridays during Lent,

Mar. 3 - Apr. 7 • 4:30 -7:30 PM

Fried Ocean Perch or Baked Cod, with French

Fries, Baked Potato, Macaroni & Cheese, Cole

Slaw, Applesauce, Roll & Butter,

and homemade Desserts.

Free coffee!

Adults -\$10; Seniors -\$9.50;

Children age 10 & under -\$5 Free under 3

Pop, Beer, Seconds & Carryouts available.

Info: 279-1690

### St. Catharine's K of C Fish Fry

500 S Gould Rd, Columbus

Fridays, March 3, 17, 31 & April 7 ~ 5-8pm

ALL YOU CAN EAT

Dine-in, Carry-out & Drive-thru

Adults \$10; Seniors (65+) \$8

Children (under 12) \$5; Under 5 Free

Fried Ocean Perch, Baked Cod, Fries, Macaroni,

Coleslaw, Applesauce, Rolls, Dessert & Beverage

### Our Lady of Victory Catholic Church

1559 Roxbury Road, MarbleCliff (Parish Life Center)

### FISH FRY DINNERS

Fridays, 3/3-4/7, 4:30 -7 pm

Fresh Ocean Perch (fried)

Baked Potatoes, French Fries or Rice Salad or

Slaw, Beverages, Dessert included

\$9 Adults, \$5 Kids -Carryouts available

### St. Patrick Church Feast Day Dinner

Friday, March 17, 5pm to 7pm

Corned beef and cabbage dinner

with potatoes, dessert, & drink

Stations of the Cross in the

Church immediately after dinner

Adults: \$9; Students/Seniors: \$8

Family Discounts too!

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## MARCH

THROUGH APRIL 9, SUNDAY

40 Days for Life

7 a.m. to 7 p.m., sidewalk in front of Founder's Women's

Health Care Center, 1243 E. Broad St., Columbus. 40 Days

for Life campaign of daily vigils at clinic. Individuals,

groups may sign up for hourly shifts. 614-445-8508

9, THURSDAY

### Cenacle at Holy Name

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

### Soup Supper at St. Francis of Assisi

St. Francis of Assisi Church, 386 Buttles Ave., Columbus. Soup supper following 6 p.m. Mass. 614-299-5781

### Theology on Tap Meeting

7 p.m., El Vaquero restaurant, 3230 Olentangy River Road, Columbus. Theology on Tap discussion and social group for young Catholics, with Wendy Tarr of the diocesan St. Vincent de Paul Society speaking on "Mercy and Hope in the Age of Incarceration." RSVP to [cbustheologyontap@gmail.com](mailto:cbustheologyontap@gmail.com) or Columbus Theology on Tap Facebook page.

### Catechism Uncorked in Delaware

7 p.m., El Vaquero Restaurant, 259 S. Sandusky St., Delaware. Catechism Uncorked social for 36- to 64-year-olds, sponsored by Delaware St. Mary Church adult faith formation program, with Father Kevin Kavanagh, pastor of Marysville Our Lady of Lourdes Church, speaking on the Mass.

### Holy Hour of Reparation at Columbus Sacred Heart

7 to 8 p.m., Sacred Heart Church, 893 Hamlet St., Columbus. Eucharistic Holy Hour following Holy Hour of Reparation prayer format, concluding with Benediction and social period. 614-372-5249

### Sung Vespers at St. Margaret of Cortona

7:30 p.m., St. Margaret of Cortona Church, 1600 N. Hague Ave., Columbus. Sung Vespers, following Stations of the Cross during weekly Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament.

10, FRIDAY

### Stations, Simple Supper at Holy Redeemer

6 p.m., Holy Redeemer Church, 1325 Gallia St., Portsmouth. Stations of the Cross, followed by simple supper.

### Simple Supper, Stations at Groveport St. Mary

6 p.m., St. Mary Church, 5684 Groveport Road, Groveport. Simple supper, followed by Stations of the Cross.

### Liturgy of the Hours, Living Stations, Holy Hour

6:15 to 8:15 p.m., St. John Neumann Church, 9633 E. State Route 37, Sunbury. Liturgy of the Hours, followed by Living Stations of the Cross with high school students and Eucharistic Adoration Holy Hour. 614-965-1358

### Lenten Vespers Service at St. John Chrysostom

7 p.m., St. John Chrysostom Byzantine Catholic Church, 5858 Cleveland Ave., Columbus. Weekly Lenten Vespers service with Holy Eucharist.

### Exposition, Stations, Reconciliation at Del. St. Mary

7 to 9 p.m., St. Mary Church, 82 E. William St., Delaware. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, with Stations of the Cross at 7:30, Reconciliation at 8, and Benediction at 9.

10-12, FRIDAY-SUNDAY

### Dominican Sisters of Peace Discernment Retreat

4:30 p.m. Friday to noon Sunday, Motherhouse, Dominican Sisters of Peace, 2320 Airport Drive, Columbus. "Come and See" discernment retreat for single Catholic women thinking of entering the religious life.

11, SATURDAY

### Life and Mercy Mass in Plain City

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

### Lenten Day of Reflection at St. Elizabeth

9 a.m. to 3 p.m., St. Elizabeth Church, 6077 Sharon Woods Blvd., Columbus. Lenten day of reflection with Sister Ginny Silvestri, OSM. Theme: "Unplug and Reconnect."

### Retreat at Grove City With Bishop Barron DVD Series

9:30 to 11:30 a.m., Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, 3730

Broadway, Grove City. Retreat featuring Bishop Robert Barron's "Seven Deadly Sins -- Seven Lively Virtues" DVD series. 614-875-3322

12, SUNDAY

### Exposition at Our Lady of Mount Carmel

9:15 to 10:15 a.m., Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church, 5133 Walnut St. S.E., Buckeye Lake. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, continuing every Sunday during Lent.

### St. Christopher Adult Religious Education

10 to 11:20 a.m., Library, Trinity Catholic School, 1440 Grandview Ave., Columbus. First session of three-week training program with James White, president of Performance Consulting Services, focusing on "The Racial Divide in the United States," a pastoral letter by Bishop Edward Braxton of Belleville, Illinois.

### Kateri Prayer Circle at St. Mark

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

### Lay Fraternities of St. Dominic Meeting

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

### Family Retreat at St. John Neumann

1:30 to 4:30 p.m., St. John Neumann Church, 9633 E. State Route 37, Sunbury. Mini-retreat for the family, sponsored by diocesan Focolare movement. 614-965-1358

### Exposition, Benediction at Coshocton Sacred Heart

4 to 5 p.m., Sacred Heart Church, Walnut Street and Park Avenue, Coshocton. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, continuing with Benediction, each Sunday during Lent.

### Adoration, Vespers, Benediction at Lancaster St. Mary

4 p.m., St. Mary Church, 132 S. High St., Columbus. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, sung Vespers, and Benediction each Sunday during Lent. 740-653-0997

### Prayer Group Meeting at Christ the King

5 to 7 p.m., Christ the King Church, 2777 E. Livingston Ave., Columbus (enter at daily Mass entrance). Weekly parish prayer group meets for praise, worship, ministry, and teaching. 614-861-1242

### Vespers Service at St. Brigid of Kildare

5 p.m., St. Brigid of Kildare Church, 7179 Avery Road, Dublin. Lenten Vespers service. 614-761-3734

### Catholic Conversations Series

6 to 8 p.m., Sports on Tap, 4030 Main St., Hilliard. Monthly Catholic Conversations series for anyone 21 and older, sponsored by Columbus St. Margaret of Cortona and Hilliard St. Brendan churches. Speaker: Peggy Hartshorn, founder of Heartbeat International, on "How Did We Get Here ... Life Is a Choice?" RSVP to [nancywhetstone@gmail.com](mailto:nancywhetstone@gmail.com) or [julienaporano1@gmail.com](mailto:julienaporano1@gmail.com).

### Spanish Mass at Columbus St. Peter

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

12-14, SUNDAY-TUESDAY

### Parish Mission at St. John Neumann

7 p.m., St. John Neumann Church, 9633 E. State Route 37, Sunbury. Parish mission with papal missionary of mercy Father Thomas Blau, OP. Theme: "Proofs for God."

13, MONDAY

### Adoration at New Philadelphia Sacred Heart

5 p.m., Sacred Heart Church, 139 3rd St N.E., New Philadelphia. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and confessions, followed by Evening Prayer. 330-343-6976

### Cenacle of Prayer at Delaware St. Mary

6:30 to 7:30 p.m., Teachers lounge, St. Mary School, 82 E. William St., Delaware. Weekly Lenten Cenacle of prayer, led by Deacon Felix Azzola. 740-363-4641



# Columbus' Modlich family is in its fourth generation of making monuments

**BY TIM PUET**

*Reporter, Catholic Times*

A little more than 80 years ago, a German immigrant named Linus Modlich started a one-man business in a building the size of a one-car garage. His assets consisted of a hammer and chisel, his talent for using those tools to carve memorials from stone, and a \$1,000 loan from a relative.

Four generations later, that business has five central Ohio locations and 14 employees, most of whom have been with the company for 20 or more years, and produces about 1,500 monuments each year.

"We still have Linus' original tools," said Dan Modlich, Linus' grandson, one of three family members who are co-owners of Modlich Monument Co. on Columbus' west side. "We don't use them any more, but we still could. Much of the carving process has become automated, but some of the detail work on many monuments still requires work by hand with carbide-tipped versions of the hammer and chisel."

The company's other owners are Dan's brother Jerry and Dan's 37-year-old son, Jonathan, who is set to take over the business in a few years when his father and uncle, who are 63 and 64 respectively, retire.

"I have three daughters, and



**Above: Jonathan (left) and Dan Modlich. Right: Dan does detail work on a monument. Below: The Ready "Homeless Jesus" statue.** CT photos by Tim Puet

Jerry has a son and a daughter, but they're not involved in the business," Dan said. "Jonathan has a daughter in second grade, so it will be quite a while before the next generation takes over, if that happens. I also have a son-in-law who works for the company in sales."

Dan and Jerry's father, whose birth name is Hans but is known to most people as John, is one of four children of Linus and Clara Modlich, who came to the United States in 1927 from what then was Germany and now is a part of Poland. Linus worked for Zenker Monuments of Columbus until 1936, when the company had to let him go because it

didn't have enough money to pay him.

Linus then started what originally was known as Franklin Monument Co. on Mound Street near the former Cooper Stadium. The company later became Modlich Monument, moving to its current main office at 301 N. Hague Ave. in 1970 because of the construction of Interstate 70.

John was the only one of Linus' four children to follow their father's trade. John and his wife, Helen, had six boys and three girls, all of whom worked for the company at one time. Dan and Jerry, the oldest brothers, stayed with the business. Three other brothers in 1988 formed a related company, Modlich Stone-works, which produces granite, quartz, marble, limestone, and soapstone countertops, fireplaces, and other items for homes and businesses. John Modlich is 91 and has been retired for many years.

As in many industries, consolidation has become the trend in the monument business. The Modlich company now owns Darden Memorials in Westerville, Fuller Memorials in Delaware, Hannigan Memorials in Grove City, and Newark Memorials in Newark,



continuing to operate under those names at their respective locations.

"The basics of our business haven't really changed that much since Linus' era," Dan Modlich said. "He started with the hammer and chisel. Then came the development of rubber templates you sandblasted through, and he began using those, which allowed for designs to be a lot more decorative."

"Things still hadn't changed that much when Jerry and I came into the business in the 1980s, but the pace of change become much more rapid after that. Computers and lasers are now doing most of what my great-grandfather used to do by hand, but he would recognize the process. And you still need the old-style tools for the most intricate work."

Creation of most of what is engraved on a monument today involves blasting compressed air and an abrasive against the exposed portion of the stone left open by one of the rubber templates. The stone is placed on an assembly line for the blasting process. The line includes a vacuum to pick up leftover flakes of stone. Leftover abrasive that is suitable to be used again is recycled.

Modlich said a basic gravesite marker costs about \$500. "Each memorial is different because every person is unique, so the price of any monument depends on the amount of detail and personalization involved in creating it," he said. The company's website, [www.modlich-monument.com](http://www.modlich-monument.com), displays several designs for markers, the most expensive of which costs \$9,125. In addition, its artists can etch a photograph of the deceased or create an etched landscape or any other scene for any monument to help capture the life and essence of the person it honors.

"This generally is not a business where you casually decide one day that you're going to go out and buy the particular product," Modlich said. "Most of our customers come here at the time of need, after a person has died and the gravesite needs a marker. It's excellent if you can take care of purchasing a marker ahead of time, but it's a subject most people don't want to deal with in advance."

"There are a few people who pre-plan what their gravestone is going to look like so their children or other family mem-



*See MODLICH, Page 19*



**MODLICH, continued from Page 18**

bers won't have to deal with that situation," Jonathan Modlich said. "Most of the people who do make those plans are ones who had to deal with the death of their own parents or another close relative as a child and don't want their children to go through the same thing."

The growing trend toward cremation has resulted in a significant impact on the monument industry. "When I started in the business, about 15 or 20 percent of funerals involved cremation," Dan Modlich said. "Now the total is about 60 percent, but only about 30 percent of those choose to place ashes in a grave or columbarium at a cemetery. I would say to families that af-

ter a loved one dies, it's important to have a place where they can come to remember a loved one and to mourn, and to consider this when you're deciding what to do with a deceased person's ashes."

The company guarantees its granite and bronze memorials and will provide a free replacement if any defects in material or workmanship are found.

Besides providing monuments and the occasional mausoleum for individuals and families, the Modlich company also makes memorials and bronze plaques for military, civic, and religious organizations.

One of its most recent works is a six-foot, 7,000-pound stone marker, resembling the

side of an airplane wing and dedicated to the Marine Corps' Observation Squadron Six helicopter unit, which saw combat in Nicaragua in 1928 and in World War II and the Korean and Vietnam wars. The monument is in the memorial park of the Marine Corps Museum in Triangle, Virginia.

The company also did the engraving for the walls at the National Park Service's memorial park on Guam which feature the names of the 933 natives of that United States territory who died in World War II.

In addition, it crafted the bench for the "Homeless Jesus" statue at Columbus Bishop Ready High School and outdoor Stations of the Cross for Columbus St. Andrew and St. Timothy churches. Architectural engravings or plaques by Modlich can be found in the reflecting pool of the Pope St. John Paul II Cultural Center in Washington, and at Franklin University, the Longaberger Alumni House at The Ohio State University, The Catholic Foundation's offices, Columbus St. Margaret of Cortona and Hilliard St. Brendan churches, and elsewhere. The company also has provided several churches with engraved stone pavement blocks listing the names of donors to various projects.

"This company has been my



life, like that of my father and grandfather before me, and it's brought me great satisfaction to provide a service that I know will help people through one of the worst points of their life," Dan Modlich said. "We take a family's memories of a loved one and make them perma-

nent," said Jonathan. "Whenever a family comes to any of us and says we've captured the heart of a person's life, we've achieved our goal."

**Photos clockwise: St. Margaret of Cortona plaque; John Paul II Center reflecting pool; St. Brendan plaque.** (from Greencrest Marketing)



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