

The Catholic **TIMES**

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Inside this issue



Relic visit:

A large crowd visited Columbus St. Patrick Church to venerate a relic of St. John Vianney, Page 3



Man of the Year:

Gahanna St. Matthew parishioner Frank Hartge III is the 2019 Catholic Man of the Year, Page 2



Back home:

Bishop Watterson graduate Al Washington returns to Columbus as an Ohio State assistant football coach, Page 5



SHOWERS HONOR MOTHERS WHO CHOOSE LIFE FOR THEIR BABIES

Pages 10-13



Editor's reflections by Doug Bean

Respect life; have hope

This week's *Catholic Times* focuses on faith and life – the most precious gifts given to us

by Our Lord.

Our annual Respect Life issue coincides with the March for Life that takes place on Friday, Jan. 18, in Washington. Hundreds of thousands of children, students, women and men will flood the nation's capital to provide a powerful witness to the world that all people – politicians included, and particularly those who profess to be Catholic – must defend life from conception to natural death at all costs. A number of those pilgrims will include students, parishioners and seminarians from the Diocese of Columbus.

Here in Columbus, the annual Respect Life Mass, celebrated by Bishop Frederick Campbell at 10:30 a.m. Tuesday, Jan. 22 at St Joseph Cathedral, will be followed by the Roe Remembrance at noon at the Ohio Statehouse.

Jan. 22 is the date of the *Roe v. Wade* decision by the U.S. Supreme Court in 1973. Since then, it's estimated that more than 56 million babies have died in America from abortion. Think about that. What a tragedy. How can the barbaric practice of taking the life of an innocent child in the womb continue to be accepted and defended in a civilized society? All of us must continue to pray and fervently work to make this stop.

The separation of dates between the March for Life in Washington and the Respect Life Mass and Roe Remembrance in the diocese might boost the number of participants in the local

events. Let's make the turnout the biggest ever here in Columbus to affirm that Ohio truly is one of the most pro-life states. If you're unable to come, be united in prayer with those who are able to attend.

Elsewhere throughout the country, the number of local and regional marches has increased noticeably during the past few years. Some of the locations of major events that took place or are scheduled include Chicago, San Francisco, Los Angeles and Denver. The mainstream media will try to ignore what's happening, but, rest assured, the culture of life is winning.

In this week's paper, read about the various pro-life organizations and what they're doing to advance the cause. The staff and volunteers who make up these groups deserve everyone's support and prayers. And countless other unsung heroes at parishes tirelessly give of themselves to defend life.

Also on these pages this week is a report on the visit last week of a relic of the incorrupt heart of St. John Vianney to Columbus St. Patrick Church. The turnout, to say the least, was astounding and gratifying.

At the parish's daily Mass with the relic exposed in front of the altar, an overflow crowd packed the church. Among the concelebrants were parish priests and friars from the parish's Dominican order. Also attending were religious sisters; a busload of students, parents and staff who drove two hours from Portsmouth Notre Dame Schools; and others from throughout the state who came to venerate the relic.

The lines of people at various points

See **EDITOR**, Page 6

Frank Hartge 'humbled' by Catholic Man of the Year award

Frank J. Hartge III of Gahanna St. Matthew the Apostle Church has been selected as the Catholic Men's Luncheon Club's 2019 diocesan Catholic Man of the Year.

Bishop Frederick Campbell will present him with the award at the club's meeting following the 11:45 a.m. Mass on Friday, Feb. 1 at Columbus

St. Patrick Church, 280 N. Grant Ave. A \$10 donation is requested to cover the cost of the luncheon.

"I was quite surprised when I got the call informing me I was going to be honored," Hartge said. "I feel humbled because I know some of the men who have received the award in the past. Now I have a new New Year's resolution, and that will be to try to live up to the implications of this honor and to the standards set by the other men of the year."

In a nomination form for Hartge, St. Matthew parishioner Steven Davis wrote, "Frank has been a wonderful friend and pillar of an example of what a Catholic man is all about. Frank's devotion to God, family and neighbors is exemplary to all that come in contact with Frank. His understanding of virtues and morals and his personal testimony show his commitment to the



Frank Hartge, Catholic Man of the Year. St. Patrick Church

Catholic faith."

And, in a testimonial letter attached to the form, parishioner Jeff Bernard wrote, "He is a deeply involved member of his parish and community and deserves recognition for his quiet and humble service. He has great zeal for the beauty of our Holy Mother Church and is quick to defend her

publicly and privately. I've learned a lot from him about what it means to be a strong Catholic man."

Hartge's son Father Michael Hartge, pastor of the Perry County Consortium of Catholic Parishes in New Lexington, Crooksville, Corn-ing and Junction City, wrote, "For his entire life, his Catholic faith has been central and important to him. ... In recent years, he has been even more convicted in his faith and has increased his devotional life. ... More convincing that he is deserving of such recognition is the way his four children all love and practice their Catholic faith today."

Frank Hartge, 64, grew up in Detroit and is a 1976 graduate of the University of Michigan with a degree in economics. He has been

See **MAN OF THE YEAR**, Page 4

CORRECTION

The Jan. 13 *Catholic Times* listed an incorrect date for the next Back in His Arms Again memorial Mass for infants to be celebrated in the Garden of the Holy Innocents at Resurrection Cemetery in Lewis Center. The correct date is Saturday, Jan. 26 at 1 p.m.



Front Page photo:

LITTLE FLOWER SHOWERS

A cake decorated in a Minnie Mouse theme for a baby shower sponsored by Little Flower Showers of Columbus St. Patrick Church.

Photo/Michele Hansen

CATHOLIC TIMES

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LARGE CROWD VENERATES RELIC OF ST. JOHN VIANNEY IN COLUMBUS

By Tim Puet
Catholic Times Reporter

More than 2,000 people came to Columbus St. Patrick Church on Tuesday, Jan. 7 to venerate the relic of St. John Vianney's incorrupt heart.

A congregation of 600 to 650 filled the pews of the church and stood along the side walls for the 11:45 a.m. Mass, which began the veneration. From the end of the Mass, through Vespers at 5:15 p.m. and until after 7, a steady stream of people came down the church's center aisle, then stopped

came to venerate the relic, especially since arrangements to bring it here were made only about three weeks ahead of time," said Father Stephen Alcott, OP, St. Patrick Church pastor. "I'm also pleased by the number of priests who came. There were 10 concelebrants at the Mass, and other priests came throughout the day."

For some who took part in the veneration, it was an event they had never anticipated. "I have not been close to a saint before," said Annelle Garcia of Columbus St. Elizabeth Church. "So

en had never met, but quickly began chatting.

"I'm here because this is a time of great need for prayer for priests and the pope," Michael said. "We need St. John Vianney's intercession as the patron of priests to help heal the church. Just the idea of being in the presence of his miraculously preserved heart touches my own heart. It's the least I can do for the parish priests who have been so faithful to the church and had a great impact on my parish and community."

mained intact, or incorrupt, since then.

The heart is considered a first-class relic of the saint because it was a physical part of him. Relics are classified in two other categories: second-class (items the saint touched) or third-class (items touched reverently to a first-class relic). Garcia was holding three handkerchiefs and a rosary to be touched to the reliquary. Many others taking part in the veneration did the same with items they were carrying.

A relic is an object associated with a saint that can be offered to the faithful for veneration. Such an object is meant to draw a person closer to God. Neither the relic nor the saint is to be worshipped.

Father Joseph Yokum, pastor, and Father Christopher Tuttle, parochial vicar for the four churches in Portsmouth, Wheelersburg and New Boston that make up the Scioto Catholic consortium, made the two-hour trip from Portsmouth with a busload of Notre Dame High School students, two teachers and a youth leader. They toured Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral, and then came to St. Patrick to venerate the relic.

"This is an opportunity I thought I'd never get in my lifetime," said student Graceann Beckett, calling the veneration "a very humbling experience." Abigail Jones, also from Notre Dame, said, "We've learned about the saints, but to see something like a relic makes you realize they actually existed." Another student, Simon Harting, said, "It's hard to believe a heart could be preserved, but you can't deny what you see in front of you."

Rachel Brown of Columbus Sts. Augustine & Gabriel Church brought her daughters, ages 2 and 4, and an 11-year-old niece to view the relic. They were joined by two other mothers and several more children from the parish.

"We all felt it was very important to have the children be this close to a saint and give them the opportunity to learn about his life and example," she said. Her niece, Jane Schaefer, said the experience made her feel "amazed and safe."

Lee Brock of Reynoldsburg St. Pius



Ten priests from the Diocese of Columbus, St. Patrick Church in Columbus and elsewhere in Ohio concelebrated a Mass to begin a period of veneration of a relic of St. John Vianney's exposed heart at St. Patrick. CT photo by Ken Snow

at the altar for a moment of prayer in front of the gold case, designed to look like a church, that enclosed the relic. The veneration had been scheduled to end at 6:30, but was extended because of the crowd. Four priests heard confessions for two hours after Mass, until all in line were served.

"I'm greatly surprised, and happily so, by the number of people who

when I learned Father Vianney's heart would be here, I had to come."

She and Debby Michael of Columbus St. Catharine Church were among the first persons to come for the veneration. On arrival, they and a few others had to wait in the hallway outside the church for a few minutes before entering the sanctuary because a funeral Mass that had started at 10 a.m. was being celebrated. The two wom-

St. John Vianney was the curé (French for "parish priest") of the French village of Ars from 1818 until his death in 1859 at age 73. In that time, his reputation for holiness spread through Europe and beyond, and he spent as much as 18 hours a day hearing confessions. Shortly after his death, his heart was taken from his body in recognition of his burning love for God and humanity. It has re-

Stewardship of Prayer: Are we good stewards of prayer?



STEWARDSHIP, LIVING OUR FAITH Andrea Pannell

I was watching the news one evening, and a reporter was interviewing a sobbing mother whose child was involved in a school shooting. Looking directly into the camera, with her finger pointing toward anyone who was listening, the mother shouted, "Keep your prayers!"

Her message was loud and clear: Action was what she wanted, not prayers.

I remember the sadness I felt for this mother as I nodded in agreement with her call for action. I also remember the sudden feeling of even greater heartbreak, as I became horrified by the thought that prayer had been reduced to a kind gesture, a term of endearment or, even worse and more harmful, just another empty promise.

Her words, and maybe even more so my nodding in agreement, remain with me and challenge me to ask myself, "Am I a good steward of prayer?" How many times has someone asked for your prayers, or have you asked others for prayer? What are they asking of you, and what are you asking of them? These are questions we might give little thought to, but matter greatly.

I heard a priest once say that, in countless ways, prayer opens us up to hear God say to us, "I love you!" Could this be what we are all seeking when we ask for prayer? Are we looking for someone or something to remind us of the goodness and hope we have in Jesus Christ? For that someone or something to confirm for us that we are loved and not forgotten, even when we are submerged in the wells of fear, guilt, shame, loss, uncertainty and sadness?

Prayer is not a mere term of endearment or a simple gesture of good will. Prayer is a response of gratitude, faith and hope for the friend we have in Jesus and His desire to be there for us in our celebrations and sorrows. It is our seeking of deeper wisdom, revelation and reconciliation, which enables

us to grow in the witness of our faith and the promised salvation of eternal grace and mercy that never fails us. Prayer is ultimately our response of love to Him who loves us first.

Stewardship of prayer teaches us that prayer is a gift that we must approach with an attitude of humility. As we mature in our prayer life, we know that there will be times when the words will leap off the pages of our prayer books captivating, motivating, comforting and strengthening us, and that there also will be times when we feel nothing.

We must take the time to pray even when feelings of betrayal, unforgiveness, numbness and uncertainty leave us thirsty for relief and understanding. Much like the woman at the well in John's Gospel, Jesus meets us in our thirst and leads us deeper into the comfort and security of our relationship with God, who first thirsts for us.

The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* says it best – "*The wonder of prayer is revealed beside the well where we come seeking water: there, Christ comes to meet every human being. It is he who first seeks us and asks us for a drink. Jesus thirsts; his asking arises from the depths of God's desire for us. Whether we realize it or not, prayer is the encounter of God's thirst with ours. God thirsts that we may thirst for him.*" (CCC 2560)

Whether you are praying the rosary, Liturgy of the Hours or some other devotional, meditative, contemplative or private form of prayer, it all seeks to give us deeper intimacy with Christ Jesus so that we can hear His whisper, "I love you." Our stewardship of prayer is our "I love you, too." Keep praying!

Andrea Pannell is the episcopal moderator for development and planning in the Diocese of Columbus.

Holy Rosary-St. John to host annual MLK Day event

The Community of Holy Rosary and St. John the Evangelist is hosting its annual Martin Luther King Day celebration from noon to 1:30 p.m. Monday, Jan. 21 at Columbus Holy Rosary-St. John Church, 660 S. Ohio Ave.

The guest preacher will be Father Chester P. Smith, SVD, of the Society of the Divine Word missionary order. Father Smith was ordained in 1988 in Chicago, making history by becoming, along with his brother, Father Charles Smith, the first African American twin priests in the Roman Catholic Church.

He is one of three Divine Word priests who are part of the Bowman-Francis Ministry Project, which the order founded in 1993 to serve African American Catholics across the nation and worldwide.

Father Smith has served as president of the National Black Catholic Clergy Caucus and is the founder of Ambassadors of the Word, a peer group ministry that focuses on youth development. The Smith brothers are co-authors of *Boyhood to Manhood*, a manual for African American boys,

MAN OF THE YEAR, continued from Page 2

employed as business manager at St. Patrick Church for the past five years. Before that, he spent most of his career in shopping center management, primarily for the Cleveland-based Richard E. Jacobs Group, whose properties at one time included the Northland, Eastland and Westland malls in Columbus.

He and his wife, Judeen, a teacher at St. Matthew School, have been married for 36 years. Besides Father Hartge, their other children are Dr. Frank Hartge IV, serving with the U.S. Navy at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Bethesda, Md; Margaret Hartge, who teaches religion at Columbus Bishop Hartley High School; and Joseph Hartge, a research assistant for an economics professor at Yale University.

At St. Matthew Church, Frank Hartge is a committee member for the parish Perpetual Adoration chapel, a sacristan, a lector, a handbell choir member, a participant in the That Man Is You! program and a



Father Chester P. Smith, SVD, of the Society of the Divine Word. Photo/Holy Rosary-St. John

and *My Family, Our Family*, a manual for family Kwanzaa celebrations.

Holy Rosary-St. John has been celebrating Martin Luther King Day every year since the holiday was established in 1986, making this event the longest-running celebration of its kind in Columbus. Community artists will be displaying their art during the celebration, and there will be a reception afterward. For additional information, send an email to hrsjevents@gmail.com or call (614) 252-5926, extension 7.

member of the Knights of Columbus.

He is a past president of the Bethesda Healing Ministry for individuals and families impacted by abortion and a board member for Back in His Arms Again, which helps people dealing with the loss of an infant through miscarriage or early death. He also is part of the enthronement program of Sacred Heart Columbus, a volunteer for St. Gabriel Radio and the diocesan Catholic Men's Conference, treasurer of the Serra Club of North Columbus and a member of the Catholic Laymen's Retreat League.

He was chosen for the award by a selection committee consisting of members of the league, the Catholic Men's Ministry, the Serra Club, the Knights of Columbus and the luncheon club.

The club established the honor in 1957, awarding it to John Igoe of Columbus St. Agatha Church, and has presented it every year since then. The 2018 recipient was Thomas J. Vollmer of Reynoldsburg St. Pius X Church.

Watterson football standout back home for OSU job

By Doug Bean
Catholic Times Editor

Al Washington is returning to his roots, and he couldn't be happier.

The 2002 Columbus Bishop Watterson graduate and former football standout was named last week as the new linebackers coach at Ohio State University by head coach Ryan Day.

The 34-year-old Washington was at the University of Michigan for one season as linebackers coach before he was offered a job by Day, who replaced Urban Meyer upon Meyer's retirement earlier this month. Another Michigan assistant, Greg Mattison, also was hired by Ohio State as its co-defensive coordinator.

"It's great to be back home with family," Washington said in an interview with the *Catholic Times*. "It's something in this profession that's rare. It's a combination of doing what you love at the highest level at home and working for a guy I know. It just kind of happened. I'm very blessed to be in this situation and really excited to get to work."

Washington first crossed paths with Day at Boston College, where he was a defensive end and Day a graduate assistant. The two have maintained a relationship since then that eventually led to them working together on Day's revamped defensive staff, which so far includes four new assistants.

"Ryan and I talk all the time," Washington said. "He's a mentor."

Washington isn't a stranger to Ohio State football. His father, Al Washington Sr., played for the Buckeyes from 1977 to 1980 and ranks eighth at OSU in career tackles with 345.

"Al Washington is going to be

a terrific addition to our coaching staff," Day said. "I've known him as a player and as a coach, and I know his family very well. I think his familiarity with this region as a coach

player of the year in Division II and helped the Eagles reach the state championship game.

He credits then-Watterson head coach Mike Golden, his father, and

have ever had," Golden said. "His people skills were incredible. Whether it was the star player or the last player on the team, he really encouraged everyone. Just an unbelievable young guy.

"I guess it doesn't surprise me at all" that Washington became a coach," Golden said. "His sincerity comes through so much. He's not faking. He's really positive."

Washington has maintained close ties with Watterson, Columbus St. Francis DeSales and other high schools in central Ohio.

"I love Watterson," he said. "Watterson created a great foundation for me. I go into schools all over the country now and the people, that's what makes Watterson. That's the truth of it.

"It's a sense of humility. God first. You prioritize your life around that. You treat others with respect. Watterson, you take pride in how you look. You take pride in academics and athletics. You do well in all of them and not just one. People loved me, not for playing football, but they took an interest in me as a person."

Washington is a Christian who calls himself an "adopted Catholic" after spending eight years at Watterson and Boston College, a Jesuit university.

"Hard work is the Catholic way," he said. "I remember selling raffle tickets door to door. All of those things I appreciate."

After Washington's senior year of football at Watterson, he was able to choose from multiple scholarship offers. Golden recalled Meyer visiting while he was the head coach at Bowling Green State University. Ohio

See WATTERSON, Page 16



Columbus Bishop Watterson graduate Al Washington spent one season as an assistant coach at the University of Michigan in 2018 before joining new Ohio State coach Ryan Day's staff as linebackers coach earlier this month.

Photo courtesy Michigan football Twitter

and as a recruiter is going to be very impactful, as will his leadership with our linebackers unit."

Washington knows central Ohio and Ohio State well, having played and gone to high school at Watterson, which is just a few miles up North High Street from the OSU campus.

It was at Watterson that he cut his football teeth. In 2001, Washington was named the state's co-defensive

other family members and mentors for shaping his life.

"I'm as average as grits," Washington said. "I've just been fortunate to be around some good people."

Washington's positive attitude stood out with Golden as much as success on the field. As a senior, Washington served as one of Watterson's captains.

"He's one of the best captains I

Ohio Dominican to honor veterans

Ohio Dominican University will host a veterans appreciation day program on Saturday, Jan. 19.

The day will begin at 11 a.m. with a reception in the president's dining room at the Bishop Griffin Center, 1215 Sunbury Road, followed by a talk by Dr. Sean Kay, professor of politics and government at Ohio Wesleyan University on "The U.S. and Russia: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow."

Veterans will be admitted free to

ODU's women's and men's basketball games against Trevecca Nazarene, which will feature a color guard and veterans serving as co-captains for each game. The event is sponsored by the university and Catholic War Veterans posts 1936 and 1962 of Columbus, which serve as partners with ODU in a number of ways to honor veterans and help make them aware of educational opportunities at the institution.



Removal of Advent wreath; salvation for non-Christians

Over the years, I have noticed that the question of how long the Advent candle is displayed and lighted varies widely from parish to parish. When I was growing up, the practice seemed to be that it was lighted on the First Sunday of Advent and concluded with the feast of the Epiphany.

But now, it seems, while virtually all parishes start on Advent's first Sunday, the "end date" varies widely. The most ridiculous, in my opinion, is that some parishes cease using the Advent candle as of Christmas Eve. What is the official church teaching on the matter? I am "old-school," and many others are as confused and disappointed as I am. (State of Georgia)

I am not sure that there is a definitive answer to your question (or any "official" church teaching on it), so we may just have to deal with some ambiguity.

The devotional use of the Advent wreath has a long tradition; in pre-Christian times, people would gather evergreens and light candles to counteract the darkness of winter and to show that "greener times" were on the horizon. Germans of the 16th century seem to have "Christianized" that custom with the Advent wreath, and the practice gradually spread throughout the Christian world as Germans emigrated.

As you indicate, the manner of use varies somewhat. Universally, the first candle on the wreath is lighted on the first of the four Sundays of Advent, and then the other three on the three succeeding Sundays. Some parishes do cease using the wreath and remove it from the sanctuary when the first Mass of Christmas Eve is about to be celebrated. (I don't really find that "ridiculous," since the season of Advent does end with the celebration of Christ's birth.)

In other parishes, though, a white candle is inserted in the center of the wreath – the "Christmas candle." That candle (larger than the others) is then



QUESTION & ANSWER
Father Kenneth Doyle
Catholic News Service

lighted at each liturgy throughout the Christmas season, which ends with the feast of the Baptism of Jesus, celebrated on the first Sunday after the Epiphany. Once Christmas has arrived, some parishes also replace the three purple and one rose candle with four white ones, symbolizing the church's joy at the birth of the Christ Child.

Recently someone close to me said that anyone who does not believe in (and follow) Jesus will not go to heaven. References were made to John 14:6 ("No one comes to the Father except through me") and Acts 4:12 ("There is no salvation through anyone else, nor is there any other name under heaven given to the human race by which we are to be saved").

It doesn't seem to me that such scriptural passages are to be taken literally, because that would deny redemptions to Jews, Buddhists, Muslims, etc., simply because they were born and raised in another culture. Would you elaborate on the possibility of salvation for non-Christians? (Dallas, Oregon)

Your instincts are right. The world's population is 7.7 billion; 2.3 billion of us are Christian. Why would a loving God create us all if two-thirds were destined to eternal unhappiness – and largely, through no fault of their own?

(I remember once, as a journalist, covering Pope John Paul II in rural Nigeria and seeing a billboard advertising Coca-Cola. I got into a discussion with my seatmate, a reporter from the *Los Angeles Times*, as to whether more people in the world had heard of

Jesus Christ or of Coca-Cola – and we weren't really sure.)

And what about those who lived in the many centuries before Jesus was born? Are they out of luck just because they were born too early?

The scriptural passages that you reference do not mean that only Christians can be saved; they simply mean that the possibility of salvation has been won for everyone solely through the redemptive work of Jesus. The teaching of the church on this is clear.

The *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, quoting the Second Vatican Council, says: "Those who, through no fault of their own, do not know the Gospel of Christ or his church, but who nevertheless seek God with a sincere heart, and, moved by grace, try in their actions to do his will as they know it through the dictates of their conscience – those too may achieve eternal salvation" (No. 847).

Does that mean that all religions are equally valid and that we should stop our efforts at evangelization? Of course not. I believe very strongly that the Christian faith (and, in particular, the Catholic Church) offers the surest and safest path to salvation – through the teachings of Jesus and the strength of the sacraments.

Our pastor is very old school and loves elaborate liturgy. He uses incense frequently, and my wife – who is seriously affected by the smoke – is at the point of not going to Mass at all. (She never knows when he might fire up the censer.) I also find that the stink – and that is the word for it – of burning charcoal is extreme-

ly irritating. (I am always left with a clogged nasal passage.)

I don't believe that I should have to medicate because I went to Mass, and I wonder why the church continues this archaic and off-putting practice. When Pope John XXIII wanted to "open the windows" of the church, that might not have been necessary if this terrible practice had been done away with at Vatican II! (Henrico County, Virginia)

Frankly, I don't think that your wife has a valid excuse for "not going to Mass at all." If your own pastor is wedded to incense, why not just try a different Catholic parish? (I Googled "Catholic churches in Henrico County, Virginia" and found seven parishes listed.)

As for having "this terrible practice done away with," a bit of background might be helpful. Incense was common in Jewish worship; in Chapter 30 of the Book of Exodus, the Lord instructs Moses to build a golden altar for the burning of incense. That practice was carried over into Christian liturgy, the smoke from the incense being seen as a symbol of the prayers of the worshippers rising to heaven.

Strictly speaking, there is no requirement that incense be used at any particular Mass, but parishes commonly use it, particularly on feasts and at funerals to reverence the body of the deceased.

You raise a legitimate point about the sensitivities and allergies some in the congregation might have, and for that reason, I think it wise for parishes to let it be known when incense might be used. As an example, the parish of Blessed Sacrament in Madison, Wis., notes on its website that, except for Easter Sunday, "Incense may be used only at the 11:00 a.m. Mass."

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

EDITOR, continued from Page 2

of the afternoon and early evening waiting to spend a few moments before the relic spilled out of the church. Despite little advance notice that the relic would make an unscheduled stop in Columbus, the

event attracted an estimated 2,000 people.

As our story mentions, the number of priests from the diocese who came on their own to venerate the relic was particularly gratifying to see. Their

devotion stems most likely from the great St. John Vianney, known as the Curé of Ars, being the patron of parish priests. His humility, sacrifice and devotion provide inspiration for priests who selflessly take on the

demanding duties of their parishes.

Amid the torrent of negative news that inundates us each day, these examples of faith gives us hope. Do not become discouraged. Seek the truth in all things. Life is worth living.

Sink or swim: It is up to us



LIGHTING THE WAY J. P. Leo Thomas

The tide rises and the tide recedes. We approach that time in life when all things seem possible, and later we see that time when things begin to slow down and fade away. What is in between is not for us to try and control, but is in the hands of God.

His plan for us has been set, not to be disturbed by human hands. As much as we try to create a situation, He steps in at just the right moment to steer us clear and down the path He has chosen for us.

Many of us, myself included, from time to time want instant gratification. We get frustrated when things do not turn out in the way we had hoped or prayed for. We begin to question the very nature of our faith. Why did this happen to me? Why did my family member suffer so? What could I have done to change things for the better? Should I have turned right instead of left? Should I have prayed harder? What would have happened if I had taken the shorter, narrower road ahead?

It is said that only through fire can we be forged into the people we become. What makes us weaker also makes us stronger. There will be many challenges in life. There will be sorrow and joy, laughter and tears, triumph and defeat. This is the delicate balance God has created for us in this most awesome adventure of discovery and love.

Our satisfaction is not based on what we perceive as the way to an end, but

is only the beginning of a lifetime of striving to be the very best we can be, no matter how hard the risk or how low the chance for success. As Loretta Lynn was quoted as saying, "You ain't supposed to get salmon when they're swimming upstream to spawn. But if you're hungry, you do."

Becoming a better person requires us to make a leap of faith. Sometimes what we do does not seem to be the right choice, but almost always, it is the most Christian choice. It is often the first step to entering a larger world. We are shaped as a society based on our experiences and by the choices we make in life. God gives us the freedom to choose. He allows us to tumble and fall and to get back up again.

I remember that as a boy, I would go to the beach and jump into the cold water. I would ride past the eddy and straight into the oncoming wave. As I surfaced, I looked back at the waves crashing along the shore and of how calm the water seemed on the other side.

In that vast ocean, I wondered over and over, "Is it meant for us to go through both hardship and happiness so we can grow into what we are destined to become? Just because we choose the easier path, does it necessarily mean it is the right one?" It's something to think about as we reach inside our hearts and toward the sky.

God bless us and keep us. May He shine His face upon us and may His peace be with us always.

Leah Darrow to speak to YCP group

Former *America's Next Top Model* contestant Leah Darrow will be the featured speaker at the monthly meeting of the diocesan Young Catholic Professionals group on Wednesday, Feb. 20 from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Jessing Center of the Pontifical College Josephinum, 7625 N. High St., Columbus.

Darrow speaks about how her experiences in the superficial world of modeling ultimately led her to realize the importance of each person's inner beauty. She is host of the *Do Something Beautiful* podcast, co-founder

of the LUX Conference for young adult women and author of the book *The Other Side of Beauty*.

Free drinks and appetizers will be available at the event. The Young Catholic Professionals group provides business networking opportunities for Catholics in their 20s and 30s in the Columbus area while also offering them a chance to create a citywide Catholic young adult community.

For more information, contact Lauren Manson at (614) 795-7514 or go to www.ycpcolumbus.org.

Father Toner to lead group to Passion Play

Father Patrick Toner, pastor of Columbus St. Agnes, St. Aloysius and St. Mary Magdalene churches, will lead a tour to the famed Passion Play in Oberammergau, Germany, from May 12 to 23, 2020.

This will be his fourth trip to the play, which has taken place in the first year of every decade since 1640. It began in 1634 as a gesture of thanks to God from the city when it was spared from the Black Plague.

"I have led tours all over the world and love to have company," Father Toner said. "The Passion Play is the biggest event in Europe and is an all-day experience. Even though it

is sung in German, the text will be easily understood. The staging is fantastic. The time in Oberammergau also will include a chance to see the wonderful wood carvings and charm of the village."

The tour also will include stops in Berlin, Prague, Vienna, Salzburg and Munich. It will be Father Toner's first visit to Berlin.

Father Toner said reservations will fill quickly because of the popularity of the play. For a copy of the tour brochure, send an email to patrick-toner00@gmail.com or write to him at St. Mary Magdalene Church, 473 S. Roys Ave., Columbus OH 43204.

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VIANNEY, *continued from Page 3*

X Church, a longtime member of the Knights of Columbus, which is sponsoring a nationwide tour of the relic, was at the veneration for most of the day. “What impressed me most was the number of young Catholic families and families with children who were there,” he said. “The respect they showed for the relic was remarkable.”

Most of those at the veneration came from central Ohio, but there were several from other parts of the state. Coming from Carrollton in eastern Ohio, about two hours from Columbus, were Sisters Maria Benigna, Maria Gemma and Maria Basilea of the Sisters of the Holy Cross and Brother Raphael Goetschl of the Order of Canons Regular of the Holy Cross.

“We have a special mission to pray and sacrifice for priests, especially at this difficult time for the church,” Sister Maria Benigna said. “Coming here was an obvious way to show our support.”

Deacon Bob Youngblood drove down from Prince of Peace Church in suburban Akron. “I know St. John Vianney did so much for the church, so I wanted to come here to honor him for what he’s done and to ask him to carry out my own mission in the future,” he said.

Father Jan Sullivan, pastor of Zanesville St. Thomas Aquinas Church, was one of the priests from the Diocese of Columbus and elsewhere in Ohio who concelebrated the Mass. “I visited St. John Vianney’s shrine in Ars (where the relic usually is displayed) during the (2009-10) Year for Priests and wanted to be near his heart again because he is the patron of parish priests,” he said. “I’ve always been captivated by his story. He’s a great inspiration to me.”

Other diocesan priests who were concelebrants were Father Adam Streitenberger of Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral, Father Joseph Trapp of Plain City St. Joseph Church, and Fathers Yokum and Tuttle. Father Alcott also was a concelebrant. Father Pius Pietrzyk, OP, a former St. Patrick parochial vicar, came from Menlo Park, Calif., where he is a teacher at St. Patrick Seminary.

The principal celebrant and homilist was Father Charles Shonk, OP, parochial vicar at St. Patrick. In his homily, he said, “St. John Vianney had a heart like the heart of Our Lord, like the heart of the Good Shepherd, moved with pity for his people.”

The day’s Gospel was Mark’s story of the miracle of the loaves and fishes. Father Shonk said that like the Apostles who had only five loaves and two fish to feed a large crowd, St. John Vianney appeared to have little. “He was from a poor family, little-educat-

feed thousands of hungry souls,” Father Shonk said.

He said that the saint had 20,000 people a year coming to him for confession by the time he was middle-aged. This and his regular parish duties left Father Vianney exhausted, and he tried



Martin Mostyn, a fourth-degree Knight of Columbus, stands watch as the relic of the heart of St. John Vianney is venerated. CT photos by Ken Snow



A woman venerates the relic at Columbus St. Patrick Church. More than 2,000 people took part in the veneration on Tuesday, Jan. 8.

ed, almost denied ordination because he didn’t know his Latin. He was not a great preacher, did not have a great personality, but what he had, he totally consecrated. He gave all he had to the Lord, and the Lord multiplied it to

four times to run away from Ars and become a monk, but he always came back. “His primary penance was his total availability to his people,” Father Shonk said, describing the saint as someone who ultimately recognized

that the pastoral and the contemplative states go hand in hand.

The relic’s tour of the United States began in November and concludes in late May. Evan Holguin, one of about a dozen members of the national Knights of Columbus staff who is coordinating the tour, traveled with the relic to Columbus. He said the schedule of stops for the relic for February through May is still being set up. Its only other scheduled Ohio public stop to date is at Old St. Mary’s Church in Cincinnati on Tuesday, Jan. 29.

Father Alcott said the idea of bringing the relic to St. Patrick Church was proposed by Father Jonathan Kalisch, a Dominican friar who works with the Knights at the organization’s headquarters in New Haven, Conn. He suggested the Columbus stop on Jan. 8 because he knew the relic would be passing through Columbus on that date, on its way from a five-day conference for college students in Indianapolis to the Basilica of the Assumption in Baltimore, where it was displayed on Friday, Jan. 11.

The relic also made a Jan. 9 stop at the Apostolate for Family Consecration in Bloomingdale, near Steubenville. Holguin said arrangements for that visit were completed just one day before the Columbus stop.

Holguin did not have an estimate of the number of people who have viewed the relic since November, but said about 20,000 people had seen it during the two weekends after Christmas when he had been traveling with it.

“I think people have been very grateful and honored to have the opportunity to pray with and venerate a relic of such a great saint,” he said. “Priests and seminarians especially have said they were moved by it, and there have been many large family groups coming to the veneration.

“For me, it has been a great blessing to travel with the relic and, at age 22, to be entrusted with the responsibility of caring for it for a brief time. It’s something I never could have imagined doing.

“I especially love to watch as parents teach their children how to venerate the relic and how important it is. For a lot of parents and children, it’s their first time with something like this. It’s great to watch how the relic helps transmit the faith from generation to generation.”

Birthright: Serving pregnant women for 50-plus years

Birthright, the world's first crisis-pregnancy service, is celebrating significant milestones. This year marks its 50th anniversary in the United States and the beginning of its second half-century of providing support to pregnant women in many nations.

Birthright began as a one-room office in Toronto in 1968, with its first American affiliate opening one year later. Its founder was Louise Summerhill, a mother of seven children. She thought that nonjudgmental support should be freely available to women facing unplanned pregnancies, to enable them to carry their babies to term. When she found no such organization in Canada's largest city, she created one.

Summerhill remained dedicated to Birthright from its founding until her death in 1991. Three of her daughters – Mary Berney, Stephenie Fox and Louise Summerhill – then assumed the co-presidency of Birthright International. Stephenie and Louise remain in their roles; Mary retired in 2017.

Their mother's legacy has become multigenerational, with her granddaughter, Victoria Summerhill Fox, working in the Birthright International office. Birthright International is committed to upholding Louise's mission for as long as Birthright is needed.

Birthright now serves women in nearly 300 locations in the United States, Canada and Africa. Its first Columbus location opened on April

1, 1972. Today, it has offices at 2453 W. Mound St. in the city's Franklinton neighborhood and in the rear of 4766 N. High St. in the Clintonville district. It also operates the In Review thrift shop at 4768 N. High.

In 2017, the Franklinton location was moved from 41 N. Skidmore St., near Columbus Holy Family Church, to the current site.

"We are much busier on Mound Street because the location is larger and a lot more visible," said Barb McMullen, Birthright Columbus director. "We're a block from St. Agnes Church and Hilltonia Middle School and near a Salvation Army center and the Run the Race club for young people.

"The convenience makes it easy for parents and for pregnant women and teens from all those locations to take advantage of our services. The revitalization of the Franklinton neighborhood also has helped make people more aware of us."

McMullen said that in 2018, Birthright volunteers talked to about 550 women, and its 24-hour telephone line took more than 1,350 calls from the Columbus area.

Birthright offers free pregnancy tests and has newborn and maternity clothing and diapers available for mothers in need. When a client delivers a baby, Birthright presents the mother with a layette of clothing and diapers. The organization also provides financial assistance on occasion, depending on need and available funds.

Birthright counselors are available at the Mound Street location from 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. The North High Street office is open from 1 to 3:30 p.m. Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays and noon to 2 p.m. Saturdays. The thrift shop, which provides most of the local Birthright orga-

nization's funds, is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. weekdays and noon to 3 p.m. Saturdays. Phone numbers are (614) 221-0844 on the west side, (614) 263-2514 on the north side and (614) 261-7377 at the thrift shop.

Birthright also has an office at 1159 12th St. N.W. in New Philadelphia, Ohio, to serve residents of the northeastern areas of the diocese. Marla Alexander of Birthright New Philadelphia said volunteers from that office

talked to about 340 people in the year just ended.

The office was founded in the neighboring city of Dover in 1991 by Sister Claudine Smith, who had operated the Catholic Social Services location in Dover for 40 years. It was moved to New Philadelphia in 2007. Its hours are 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday and Thursday, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesday and Friday, and 3 to 6 p.m. Wednesday. Its phone number is (330) 364-1752.

Birthright also has a 24-hour nationwide hotline linking callers to Birthright volunteers. Its phone number is (800) 550-4900. Web addresses for its local affiliates are www.birthright.org/columbusohmain and www.birthright.org/newphiladelphia.

Birthright is governed by a charter, followed by all Birthright locations, to ensure that women receive the same compassionate, nonjudgmental support at every location.

For more than 50 years, Birthright has continued to provide free, nonjudgmental, confidential and loving support to women who are pregnant or think they might be, regardless of a woman's circumstances.

Through a half-century, the organization has evolved but has kept Summerhill's vision at its core. The essence of Birthright is love. Unwavering dedication to the women it serves will carry Birthright forward for years to come.



Louise Summerhill founded Birthright in Toronto in 1968.

Photo courtesy Birthright

Much to be done despite pro-life progress

By Beth Vanderkooi

Executive Director

Greater Columbus Right to Life

In early January, a report predicted that Ohio will be about 70,000 people short of keeping its 16 members of Congress following the next federal census. An Ohio political reporter shared the news online, joking that it was "time to start procreating, now."

A few days later, the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention announced that the birthrate in the United States has fallen below the "replacement rate" – the rate that will keep the population steady. This is not a new problem and is not unique to this country. Many nations are experiencing a dramatic decline

in the birth rate, and, for some, it has become a serious economic and policy concern.

The reports cite a number of factors that contribute to the decline. These include delays in starting a family and a decline in the birth rate among teens. Abortion also has caused an impact. In the past decade, about 230,000 abortions have been performed in Ohio. To put that in a visual context, that is just a few seats shy of filling the Browns, Bengals and Ohio State University football stadiums combined.

The magnitude of abortion is hard to comprehend, and the stakes are much, much higher than determining how many Ohioans will serve in Congress, filling seats in a stadium or maintaining a steady population. The ripple ef-

fect permeates our whole society.

You can see it in the grief of those who regret their abortions and in communities wrecked by blatant disregard for the dignity of human life. It is reflected in increasing advocacy for the "right" to help kill the elderly, the vulnerable, the imperfect and the sick.

The rise in demand for assisted suicide and euthanasia should come as no shock. For decades, our culture has argued that individuals can decide if their children live or die; now those children have begun to believe that individuals can decide when they or their parents should live or die. This argument's consequences most profoundly, if invisibly, affect the hundreds of thousands of unborn children who were created as unique and be-

loved children of God – fully human, full of potential, but not fully recognized under the law.

On Tuesday, Jan. 22, we will commemorate the 46th year since the U.S. Supreme Court's *Roe v. Wade* decision nationalized abortion on demand. Hundreds of thousands of people will travel to Washington for the March for Life on Friday, Jan. 18. Many others will join Bishop Frederick Campbell four days later for the Respect Life Mass at 10:30 a.m. Tuesday, Jan. 22 in Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral or come to the *Roe* Remembrance sponsored by Greater Columbus Right to Life in the Ohio Statehouse Atrium at noon on that day.

The remembrance is an opportunity

See **RIGHT TO LIFE**, Page 13

Michele Hansen wanted to help women facing crisis pregnancies, but she wasn't sure of the best thing to do for her and for expectant mothers.

"I'd tried sidewalk counseling at abortion clinics and praying for women who were considering abortion, but that didn't seem to satisfy me," she said. "During Lent of 2016, I just prayed that somehow God would make me his instrument. I'd never used words like that before.

"On Easter morning, my baby woke up, and so did I. Then she fell asleep again. And all of a sudden, I had what I can only describe as 'a Holy Spirit moment.' Two words popped into my head – 'baby showers,'" Hansen said.

"I began thinking of a special day set aside just for a mom to feel loved, celebrated and cherished, to support her decision to choose life despite difficult circumstances. It would be a moment not to judge, but to show Christ's love and mercy. I knew it was time to act rather than putting things off."

With her pastor's blessing, the Columbus St. Patrick Church parishioner began a ministry known as Little Flower Showers as an outreach of the parish's Respect Life committee. The committee's chairman, Tricia Speicher, was enthusiastic about the idea, saying it would help build a stronger pro-life group and bring the parish closer together.

Little Flower Showers usually works with local pregnancy resource centers whose counselors discern which of their clients might benefit from a baby shower. Sometimes, friends recommend women to be showered. Last January, a parish member who recently became a Catholic was given a shower.

Hansen said shower honorees approach the event feeling a little nervous but end up leaving with the warmth of Christ's love all around them. Having other women gather to provide appropriate gifts, talk about their own experiences as mothers and offer support to the mother-to-be are things the expectant mothers don't get at home.

"Many of the mothers referred to us are feeling especially vulnerable at this time of their lives," Hansen said. "They often feel pressured to have an abortion. Little Flower Showers show there are women who have gone through what they have, who want to embrace them and give them one special day."

At least two other parishes in the Diocese of Columbus – the Church of the Resurrection in New Albany and Co-

lumbus St. Catharine – have organizations offering this type of pro-life event. The ministry at St. Patrick has been the most active, having conducted 22 showers in the nearly three years since its founding. Its most recent shower was on Jan. 5, with the next one scheduled in February.

The group also sponsors what's known as a "blessing shower" to honor

rewarding her with "feel-good" gifts, spiritual keepsakes and thoughtful letters of encouragement.

Hansen is the mother of 12 children – "10 on earth and two in heaven" – ranging in age from 22 years to 22 months. She named Little Flower Showers in honor of the popular name for St. Therese of Lisieux, whose "Little Way" of everyday holiness, as described in

usually attend.

Little Flower Showers also hosts one shower a year at Newark Blessed Sacrament Church, with the help of Melissa Stack of Licking County Right to Life. Stack said the next shower in Newark will be at 2 p.m. Saturday, May 18 in Blessed Sacrament's Shepherd Hall. The Newark showers began in 2017, with participants referred by Heartbeats of Licking County.

Stack said she is working with Respect Life groups at Newark St. Francis de Sales and Granville St. Edward the Confessor churches and hopes all three eventually will host showers.

"Father Jonathan Wilson, pastor at Blessed Sacrament, has been very supportive," she said. "Our message to the women being honored is, 'Come to our church. We're here to love you as Jesus loves you.' This may be the only time some of these women may be invited to church and made to feel welcome."

Hansen's group tries to keep in touch with honorees after the showers, visiting them in the hospital after the baby is born, arranging for a professional family photo shoot and sometimes bringing hot "welcome home" meals. The first woman given a shower by the group in 2016 is one of those who has remained in contact with it. Most shower honorees are single mothers, but some have married the fathers of their children.

A typical response to the showers came from a woman named Stephanie, who was showered in December 2016. On behalf of herself and her child, Greyson, she wrote, "I had such a beautiful day and got to meet a lot of generous, kind and loving people. I feel so very blessed to have met every one of you. I really can't express my gratitude for everything everyone did for me."

"The baby shower was beyond great, it was AMAZING!" wrote new mother Jamie in January 2018. "I've never felt so accepted when not even close to deserving in my whole life!"

This past September, Hansen and her family experienced a tragedy when her 1-week-old son died. "I didn't know if I would have the strength to be able to continue with the showers," she said. "But in the end, my baby boy motivated me to be even stronger in doing this. At the time, calls and texts from previously showered moms and from pregnancy counselors made me realize what an impact the showers are having."

Once a woman is referred to Little

By Tim Puet
Catholic Times Reporter



Gifts for an expectant mother who was the honoree at a Little Blessing Shower at Columbus St. Catharine Church, sponsored by the parish Respect Life Committee. Women are referred for the showers by the city's Women's Care Centers. Photo/St. Catharine Church

the decision of a woman who chooses to have her child be adopted. The birth mother, by selflessly placing her baby in a loving home, is embraced by a gathering of women, many of whom have experienced adoption as either an adoptive mother or a mother whose child has been adopted. They shower the birth mother with love in time of suffering,

her autobiography, *The Story of a Soul*, has inspired millions since her death in 1897 at age 24.

The showers take place mostly at one of the two meeting halls that are part of St. Patrick Church. Columbus Holy Family Church and other locations also have been shower sites. About 30 people, mostly women and their children,

LITTLE FLOWER, *continued from Page 10*

Shower honoree Seaira at Columbus St. Patrick Church with her baby's father. She had an African-themed shower.

Photos courtesy Michele Hansen

Flower Showers, Hansen and another representative of the organization meet with her to learn her specific needs. Women who agree to be showered sign a consent form that protects their privacy and sets limits on information that can be shared.

Following the initial meeting, planning for the shower begins. A baby registry or blessing shower gift list is set up. The registry includes a mix of practical items, books and toys. Decorations are customized to meet a theme or color scheme unique to each mother showered. Meal and dessert preparations are made and a call for volunteers is initiated. "This ministry takes a lot of work, and without the continued help of volunteers to provide gifts, food and setting up the hall, it could not succeed," Hansen said.

Items given can be new, "gently used" or homemade, but any car seats, booster seats or cribs must be new, for safety reasons. Gift cards are accepted, but not cash. People who cannot attend a shower, but would like to help the mother, are encouraged to purchase gifts from the registry. The gifts are sent to Hansen's home, where she wraps them and marks them with the giver's name.

Tax-deductible monetary donations also are accepted to help defray the expenses incurred in conducting the showers, which cost about \$500 each. This includes decorations, food, baby gifts (including one to three high-ticket items the mother will need for the baby), Masses said for the mother and a spiritual gift basket, which typically costs more than \$100 itself.

Some funds donated to Little Flower Showers are used for travel to other parishes throughout the diocese to assist



Erin, showered at Columbus St. Patrick Church, holds up an item of clothing she received during a Little Flower Shower at Columbus St. Patrick Church.



Nicole, mother of a baby named Dorothy, with a toy for her child. She was recommended for a shower by Kambra Malone of the Back in His Arms Again ministry.



Little Flower Showers hosted a shower at Columbus Holy Family Church for mother-to-be Devon. She is holding a blanket with Eric Carle's "Very Hungry Caterpillar."



Courtney, the proud mother of a baby boy named Julian, with a car seat she was given at one of Columbus St. Patrick Church's Little Flower Showers.



A faux cake put together as a Little Flower Shower decoration by Laura Horn of the Little Way Cakery, who also provides baked goods for the events.

women who have expressed interest in setting up similar groups.

The spiritual basket, put together by volunteer Angie Robbins, includes the Divine Mercy image and images of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary, (provided by diocesan Office of Marriage and Family Life director Stephanie Rapp); a Mass card; a rosary; a Bible; and other gifts. The women open the basket in private at home so they can meditate on each spiritual item.

Stephanie Davolio of St. Patrick Church has volunteered with Little Flower Showers since its beginnings and makes "diaper cakes" that consist of rolled-up diapers formed in three tiers like a cake. As mothers unwrap the diapers, they find each has a prayer or Scripture verse tucked inside, giving them a pleasant surprise in a time of weariness.

Laura Horn of the Little Way Cakery in Columbus, who attends St. Catharine Church, has donated baked goods to the showers. Many handmade blankets and outfits have been sewn or knitted by shower attendees such as Amy Tatz of Sunbury St. John Neumann Church. Melissa Bair, a volunteer at St. Patrick Church, provides advice to the mothers on breastfeeding and how to use a baby carrier. Many other volunteers also have provided gifts and advice to the organization.

Showers are typically held once each month. If you would like to help at any of the showers, contact Hansen at littleflowershowers@gmail.com or (740) 817-4969.

The shower group at the Church of



Stephanie, a mother honored at a Little Flower Shower at Columbus St. Patrick Church, kisses her newborn son, Greyson. The parish has sponsored 22 showers in the nearly three years since the Little Flower Showers group began. The next one is in February.

See LITTLE FLOWER, Page 12

LITTLE FLOWER, *continued from Page 11*

Twin girls born to Little Flower Shower honoree Aliyah. They were born early, so guests at their mother's shower at Newark Blessed Sacrament Church got to see the girls.

the Resurrection is part of a national group known as Mary Garden Showers, which is based in Charlotte, North Carolina, and has two chapters in that state, two in Indianapolis and one in Minnesota.

The New Albany chapter's leader, Karen Radford, said her group is entering its third year and has conducted four or five showers, each for one mother, at the parish's original church building, now converted into a com-

munity center. The group's most recent event was in October, with another tentatively scheduled in February. Radford said about 15 or 20 people attend the showers.

"This group and the one at St. Patrick's are very similar," she said. "The main difference between us is that we focus on Mary, and Michele's group emphasizes the Little Flower. We cooperate with each other, receiving referrals from the same agencies.

"Putting together the showers has been fulfilling because it's a very positive way to support life and provide a non-threatening environment for the mothers. It supports crisis pregnancies in a loving way, bringing Christ and his love to pregnant women at a time when they're most in need of it," she said.

Radford may be reached at (614) 425-3841. The website for Mary Garden Showers is www.marygardenshowers.org.

Showers at St. Catharine Church are known as Little Blessing Showers and are sponsored by the parish Respect Life committee. Shower organizer Caitlin Kemp said the events began in October 2018. There have been three so far, with another scheduled in May.

Women honored at the showers are referred by the two Women's Care Center locations on the city's east side. Kemp said that besides presenting items at the shower, the committee also has provided extra clothing and



Jayde, whose mother, Tiara, was honored at a Little Flower Shower at Columbus St. Patrick Church. Shower honorees are referred mainly by local pregnancy centers.

meals for a mother following her delivery. At the center's request, another mother has been presented with a special feeding chair to meet her child's particular needs.

"It's been a great learning experience as we realize how we can best serve each mother and that each has particular needs," Kemp said. "One mother said her shower completely restored her faith, because it showed how God cares for her and is working for her good. Hearing that was the greatest satisfaction I could get from doing this."

For more information, contact Kemp at (614) 483-1166 or send an email to oneilc@gmail.com.

Pro-life movement in Ohio made progress in 2018

By Jamieson Gordon
Ohio Right to Life

As is customary at the beginning of a new year, we at Ohio Right to Life are reflecting on what occurred in the previous year and how we will move forward. It seems fitting to reflect more deeply on the important strides made by the pro-life movement in Ohio in 2018.

Last year, there was much activity relating to Ohio's abortion facilities. In the past eight years, half of the state's abortion providers have either voluntarily or involuntarily closed. A few of the remaining facilities have been involved in run-ins with the Ohio Department of Health.

The center of most of this activity was Capital Care Network (CCN) of Toledo. In February, the Ohio Su-

preme Court ruled 5-2 against CCN. The abortion provider's case involved a "safety proposal" of contracting with a helicopter company two hours from Toledo and taking women who needed emergency medical attention out of state because no Ohio hospital would work with CCN.

The court ruled that the proposal did not meet the requirement that care be "local" and said CCN must either find a local hospital to work with or close.

After the ruling was made, CCN tried to obtain a transfer agreement with ProMedica health system in Toledo, even though CCN owed the health department a \$40,000 fine. ProMedica eventually signed the agreement, enabling CCN's license to be restored.

CCN has appealed the \$40,000 fine, which was levied in 2017 because the

facility failed to follow its own medical emergency procedures. In October 2018, a health department examiner hearing the appeal recommended lowering the fine to \$3,000.

It is up to the state health director to accept or reject the recommendation. Ohio Right to Life has recommended that the reduction be rejected.

Founder's Clinic in Columbus, the first abortion clinic in Ohio, was closed unexpectedly last summer. It has since reopened, but has surrendered its medical license and is still doing chemical abortions.

In 2016, the health department ordered that the Women's Med Center in Dayton must close. The center had made four consecutive yearly applications for a variance that would allow it to remain open and was denied each

time.

Montgomery County Common Pleas Judge Mary Wiseman ruled on Aug. 22 that the center had 30 days to close or appeal. One day before the deadline, the facility appealed. We are waiting to see what happens.

In December, Gov. John Kasich signed legislation banning the barbaric method of abortion known as dilation and evacuation (D&E). In a D&E procedure, an abortionist dilates a woman's cervix, and then uses steel instruments to dismember the living unborn baby. Nearly 3,500 D&E abortions were performed in Ohio in 2017.

Anticipating four years of a pro-life gubernatorial administration, pro-life Ohioans can be encouraged that more pro-life progress will be coming to the state in 2019.

RIGHT TO LIFE, *continued from Page 9*

to memorialize the precious unborn children who are lost to abortion, to extend a hand of mercy to the women and men who are hurting from a past abortion and to strengthen our own resolve to re-engage in the work to protect innocent human life.

This year, we hope to see many newly elected and re-elected officials at the *Roe* Remembrance. We will ask them to join us in remembering all those who are lost to, or hurting from, abortion and in our rededication to the work of protecting innocent human life. Those in government have great power to work on behalf of the unborn and their moth-

ers, but we must show them the strength of own commitment and dedication if we wish to obtain a positive response.

With last year as an exception, abortion rates have continually and dramatically dropped for the past two decades. Abortion clinics continue to close. Pro-life majorities in our legislature and state constitutional offices and our state courts (not to mention the U.S. Supreme Court) give us a sense that we are winning the fight for life. Indeed, compared with a state such as New York, which is on the brink of adopting one of the world's most liberal abortion laws, we are for-

tunate to have strong support in the pro-life movement.

Events such as the *Roe* Remembrance and everyday programming such as sidewalk counseling are a reminder that we all have a critical role to play in this work, and we must recommit to it again and again. There were about 20,000 abortions last year in Ohio, and that is not OK. We should not be complacent to count ourselves "better than New York" or better than a few years ago.

One of the "shocking" statistics that has been shared as New York debates abortion expansion is that one out of

every three children in New York is aborted. That is horrible, right? But last year, 18 percent of Ohio pregnancies ended in abortion. In Cuyahoga County, 32.4 percent of pregnancies ended in abortion – statistically the same as in New York. In Franklin County, 19 percent of pregnancies ended in abortion.

We can do better, and Greater Columbus Right to Life has a plan. The only question is: "Will you join us to see it through?"

To learn more about the work of Greater Columbus Right to Life, go to www.gcrtl.org or email Beth Vanderkooi at Beth@gcrtl.org.

'Heartbeat bill' might be reintroduced in legislature

By Doug Bean
Catholic Times Editor

A bill that would have made Ohio one of the most pro-life states in the country fell just short of becoming law, but a new legislature and a new governor could revisit the issue this year as the state's Catholic bishops and others continue to watch with interest.

House Bill 258, the "heartbeat bill," would have banned all abortions on babies in the womb with a detectable heartbeat (generally seven to eight weeks into a pregnancy), except when the mother's life is in danger. Violating physicians could have faced up to one year in prison.

Outgoing Gov. John Kasich vetoed the bill in late December, arguing that it was at odds with the U.S. Supreme Court's previous rulings on abortions and would not withstand legal challenges. The state House of Representatives voted to override Kasich's veto, but in the Ohio Senate, the override fell one vote short when then-state Sen. Bill Beagle changed his vote. Every Democrat in the Senate and four other Republicans failed to vote with pro-lifers.

Ohio Right to Life, which had previously opposed the heartbeat bill, threw its support behind the legislation, along with other groups working to end abortion.

New Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine,

who took office this week after being elected in November to replace Kasich, is a strong pro-life advocate and has expressed support for the heartbeat bill.

The Catholic Conference of Ohio has yet to make a statement on the heartbeat bill. Earlier in December, the Ohio General Assembly passed the dismemberment abortion ban, (Senate Bill 145) prohibiting a procedure known as dilation and evacuation in which steel instruments are used to remove a baby from a mother's womb. It is estimated that the ban, signed by Kasich, will save 3,500 babies a year.

"We do expect the heartbeat bill to be reintroduced," said Jim Tobin, associate director for social concerns with the Catholic Conference of Ohio. "We also expect other pro-life legislation to be introduced as well. The bishops did support the recently passed bill that prohibits dismemberment abortions (SB 145). The conference will be reviewing legislation as it is introduced.

"Catholic teaching affirms the sacredness and dignity of every human life from conception to natural death. As an overall advocacy position, the Catholic Conference of Ohio encourages the enactment of effective laws that will provide maximum protection for unborn persons."

ESSAY WINNERS



Winners of the inaugural Ross County Respect Life essay contest will be honored at the county's March for Life on Jan. 22. Avery Brown (center) was the first-prize winner, Geraldine Noel (left) was second and Anna Hansen third. Photo/Knights of Columbus Council 15793

'Worship and Wings' at St. Michael

The young adult group of Worthington St. Michael Church will be sponsoring an event titled "Worship and Wings" once a month on Wednesday nights, beginning Jan. 23 at 7 p.m.

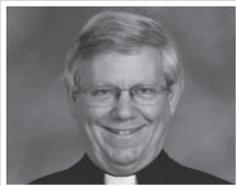
The program will consist of praise and worship in front of the Blessed

Sacrament at the church, 5750 N. High St., followed by dinner featuring chicken wings at a local restaurant.

Dates for the program are Jan. 23, Feb. 20, March 20, April 17 and May 22. For more information, call Katie Roden, St. Michael religious education director, at (614) 885-7814.

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time (Cycle C)

God fills our needs, as we should do for others



**Father
Timothy
Hayes**

Isaiah 62:1-5
Psalms 96:1-2, 2-3, 7-8, 9-10
1 Corinthians 12:4-11
John 2:1-11

As the season of Christmas closes, the feasts of Epiphany and the Baptism of the Lord give way to the Sundays of Ordinary Time. In Year C, there is a distinct reminder that what is celebrated during the special liturgical seasons is also to be kept in view during the rest of the Sundays of the year.

The Solemnity of the Epiphany calls to mind three distinct moments in the life of Jesus: the coming of the Magi, the Baptism of the Lord and the first miracle at the Wedding Feast of Cana. Although formally the Christmas season has closed, having celebrated the arrival of the Magi on Epiphany and then, a week later, the Baptism of the Lord, on this Second Sunday of Ordinary Time in Year C, we are taken to Cana for the Wedding Feast. The mystery of Jesus as the Son of God whose glory shines out to the nations through God's people, loved by God and exercising the gifts of the Spirit received through faith, is the theme of this Sunday's readings.

Isaiah 62 reprises the first reading of the Vigil of Christmas, recalling the great love God has for the people of Israel. Identified collectively as "Zion" and "Jerusalem," God's people become the object of God's joyful song, with the promise of a vindication that will be made known to all the nations.

The context of the reading is the history of Israel, with its cycle of growth and destruction and new life. God's promise is that all nations will come to understand that God takes delight in this people and does not leave them desolate and alone. They will be called by a new name, given royal status and taken as God's own bride.

The Gospel of the Wedding Feast of Cana carries forward the image of the Lord as bridegroom. Jesus, who is

in attendance at a wedding feast with his mother and his disciples, takes the role of the bridegroom in the accomplishment of the "first of his signs," the water made wine, revealing his glory for the first time to his disciples. The disciples now begin to believe in him.

When a disciple begins to respond with faith, the Spirit of God pours out gifts on the believer. "To each individual the manifestation of the Spirit is given for some benefit."

St. Paul enumerates some of the gifts: "the expression of wisdom, the expression of knowledge, faith, gifts of healing, mighty deeds, prophecy, discernment of spirits, varieties of tongues, interpretation of tongues." What St. Paul is speaking about is the kind of gift that has two qualities: it is beyond us, even with our own best efforts to create, and it is for the community. That is, it is not a gift that primarily benefits ourselves. It is for others.

The Gospel shows us how to discover these gifts. There is a need. Jesus' mother Mary notes the need. She tells her son about it. At first, it appears that he wants to have nothing to do with it. But mother knows best. "Do whatever he tells you." Her gift is to see the need and to say something about it with Faith, trusting that God will meet it. Her "Yes" to God is now met by the divine response to the need of a couple at a wedding. And this becomes the occasion for Jesus' first public miracle, opening his disciples to faith.

What needs do you see? How are you called to respond to those needs and to ask God to intervene? How does he use you? Are you doing whatever he tells you in prayer and through the requests of others?

These days, we are challenged to put our gifts at the disposal of others. Let us look around us. There are people in need in our neighborhoods. "They have no wine." There are many caught up in fear and loneliness. Are we being silent when we should speak out? What do you see? Will you allow God's word to be proclaimed in you? *Proclaim his marvelous deeds to all the nations!*

Father Timothy M. Hayes is pastor of Columbus St. Timothy Church.

THE WEEKDAY BIBLE READINGS

MONDAY

Hebrews 5:1-10
Psalm 110:1-4
Mark 2:18-22

TUESDAY

Hebrews 6:10-20
Psalm 111:1-2, 4-5, 9, 10c
Mark 2:23-28

WEDNESDAY

Hebrews 7:1-3, 15-17
Psalm 110:1-4
Mark 3:1-6

THURSDAY

Hebrews 7:25-8:6
Psalm 40:7-10, 17
Mark 3:7-12

FRIDAY

Acts 22:3-16 or Acts 9:1-22
Psalm 117:1b-2
Mark 16:15-18

SATURDAY

2 Timothy 1:1-8 or Titus 1:1-5
Psalm 96:1-3, 7-8a, 10
Mark 3:20-21

DIOCESAN WEEKLY RADIO AND TELEVISION MASS SCHEDULE: JAN. 20, 2019

SUNDAY MASS

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

Mass with the Passionist Fathers at 7:30 a.m. on WWHO-TV (the CW), Channel 53, Columbus, and 10:30 a.m. on WHIZ-TV, Channel 18, Zanesville. Check local cable system for cable channel listing.

Mass from Our Lady of the Angels Monastery, Birmingham, Ala., at 8 a.m. on EWTN (Spectrum Channel 385, Insight Channel 382, or WOW Channel 378). (Encores at noon, 7 p.m., and midnight).

Mass from the Archdiocese of Milwaukee at 6:30 a.m. on ION TV (AT&T U-verse Channel 195, Dish Network Channel 250, or DirecTV Channel 305).

Mass from Massillon St. Mary Church at 10:30 a.m. on WILB radio (AM 1060, FM 94.5 and 89.5), Canton, heard in Tuscarawas, Holmes, and Coshocton counties.

DAILY MASS

8 a.m., Our Lady of the Angels Monastery in Birmingham, Ala. (Encores at noon, 7 p.m. and midnight). See EWTN above; and on I-Lifetv (Channel 113 in Ada, Logan, Millersburg, Murray City and Washington C.H.; Channel 125 in Marion, Newark, Newcomerstown and New Philadelphia; and Channel 207 in Zanesville);

8 p.m., St. Gabriel Radio (AM 820), Columbus, and at www.stgabrielradio.com.

We pray Week II, Seasonal Proper of the Liturgy of the Hours.

World Marriage Day event set at museum

The diocesan Office of Marriage and Family Life invites married couples to "go on a free date" for World Marriage Day on Sunday, Feb. 10.

The office's annual World Marriage Day program will take place from 1 to 4 p.m. on that date at the Jubilee Museum, 57 S. Grubb St., Columbus. It will feature a presentation by museum director Shawn Kenney

on "The Art of Marriage" featuring works displayed at the museum, which houses the nation's largest collection of diversified Catholic artwork.

Light refreshments will be served. Those interested in attending are asked to register by Wednesday, Feb. 6 at www.columbuscatholic.org/marriage-ministry-enrichment.

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Nothing about us without us



THE CATHOLIC DIFFERENCE George Weigel

The slogan “Nothing about us without us” was used by Solidarity in the 1980s in Poland, borrowing a royal motto from the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth in the mid-second millennium. Then, it was expressed in Latin: *Nihil de nobis sine nobis*. Later, it appeared in Polish on the banners of 19th-century Poles fighting their country’s partition by Russia, Prussia and Austria: *Nic o Nas bez Nas*. Today, it’s often used by disability activists asserting their claim to be fully participant in society.

“Nothing about us without us” also applies to the Special Assembly of the Synod of Bishops for the Pan-Amazon Region, which will meet in Rome in October.

That synod will involve seven bishops’ conferences from nine Latin American nations who will consider their pastoral situation under the theme “Amazonia: new paths for the Church and for an integral ecology.” As is usually the case in these meetings, the bishops at the synod will work with materials drafted in Rome. Early indicators from the synod’s preparatory document suggest that the Amazonian synod will be longer on environmentalism than on theology. International media attention will doubtless focus on the synod’s discussion of climate change and its relationship to Amazonian deforestation.

Recent synodal history suggests, however, that more will be afoot at the Amazonian synod than what its

announced theme suggests.

The 2014 and 2015 synods were called to consider the crisis of marriage and the family throughout the world. Yet they became the occasion for powerful churchmen to try to deconstruct Catholic moral theology and sacramental discipline, according to the tried and failed theologies and pastoral practices of the 1970s. The 2018 synod, summoned to discuss youth ministry and vocational discernment, began with an effort by the synod general secretariat to enshrine the world’s language of sexual plasticity (and the lame understandings of happiness that underwrite that language) into an official Church document. When that failed, Synod 2018 became the occasion for the synod general secretariat to promote an ill-defined notion of “synodality” that struck more than a few bishops present as a prescription for local-option, choose-your-own-doctrine Catholicism on the model of the (imploding) Anglican Communion.

This pattern seems likely to continue at the Amazonian synod. There, the deeper agenda will be the ordination of mature married men – *viriprobatii* – to the priesthood. Proponents will

argue that this dramatic change in the Church’s longstanding tradition of a celibate priesthood (which, contrary to much misinformation, antedates the early Middle Ages by hundreds of years) is necessary because Amazonia is a Catholic area deprived of the Eucharist by a lack of priests. One hopes that the counterclaims – that Amazonia is mission territory requiring wholesale evangelization, and that Amazonia’s lack of priests reflects racial and class divisions in Latin American Catholicism that discourage priests of European pedigree from working with indigenous peoples – get a serious hearing.

Proponents of ordaining *viriprobatii* in Amazonia, including retired Brazilian Cardinal Claudio Hummes, OFM, have insisted that any such concession there would have no implications for the universal Church. That cannot be, however. Should the Amazonian synod request the Pope to grant a dispensation from the discipline of celibacy for that region, and should he grant it, it will be just a matter of time before bishops conferences elsewhere – Germany, Switzerland, Belgium, and Austria come immediately to mind – make similar requests, citing press-

ing pastoral needs. On what ground would those requests be denied?

In a year-end interview with Vatican News, the synod’s general secretary, Cardinal Lorenzo Baldisseri, insisted that the Amazonian synod would not discuss environmental issues only, but would also confront “ecclesial themes” – and would do so in a way that Amazonia could be “a model for the whole world.”

We can be grateful to the cardinal for his candor in, however unintentionally, letting the celibacy cat out of the synodal bag. Any decision to ordain *viriprobatii* in Amazonia would inevitably have major consequences for the entire Church. A decision of this magnitude cannot be taken by an unrepresentative segment of the Church and then turned into a “model” for everyone else.

That is why the principle of “Nothing about us without us” must apply here. Whatever else “synodality” may mean, it surely must mean that decisions bearing on everyone should involve as broad a consultation and as global a reflection as possible. Bishops who agree should make their concerns known now, not after the Amazonian synod meets.

George Weigel is Distinguished Senior Fellow and William E. Simon Chair in Catholic Studies of the Ethics and Public Policy Center in Washington. His column is distributed by the Denver Catholic, the newspaper of the Archdiocese of Denver.

Judges block Little Sisters’ religious exemption from contraception mandate

Catholic News Agency

Judges in California and Pennsylvania have issued injunctions against a Trump administration rule that would allow the Little Sisters of the Poor and similar groups to claim a religious exemption against the Department of Health and Human Services’ so-called contraception mandate.

Judge Haywood Gilliam of the U.S. District Court for Northern California issued a preliminary injunction on Jan. 13 that affects 13 states plus the District of Columbia in the case *State of California v. HHS*. Gilliam declined to issue the nationwide injunction requested by the plaintiffs, who are the

attorneys general of several states.

Responding to the ruling, Mark Rienzi, president of the Becket Fund for Religious Liberty, said Sunday’s decision “will allow politicians to threaten the rights of religious women like the Little Sisters of the Poor,” whom the Becket Fund represents.

On Monday, U.S. District Judge Wendy Beetlestone issued a nationwide injunction blocking the same rule in her decision for the case *Commonwealth of Pennsylvania v. Trump*.

“We never wanted this fight, and we regret that after a long legal battle, it is still not over,” said Mother Loraine Marie Maguire of the Little Sisters of the Poor.

“We pray that we can once again devote our lives to our ministry of serving the elderly poor, as we have for over 175 years without being forced to violate our faith.”

In October 2017, the Trump administration issued a new rule that would expand the eligibility of groups to claim religious exemptions to the contraceptive mandate. The new rule was set to go into effect on Monday.

California Attorney General Xavier Becerra filed suit against the Trump administration concerning the new rule shortly after it was announced. He was joined by 12 other states and the District of Columbia.

The Little Sisters of the Poor and

many other religious-based organizations were not eligible under previous religious exemptions to the mandate, since they do not exclusively employ or serve people of their religion.

The sisters argue that forcing them to offer an insurance plan that provides birth control pills and devices to their employees would violate their religious beliefs.

Rienzi said Monday that the Little Sisters will return to court to fight the injunctions.

“Now the nuns are forced to keep fighting this unnecessary lawsuit to protect their ability to focus on caring for the poor,” Rienzi said. “We are confident these decisions will be overturned.”



PRAY FOR OUR DEAD

ARCHER, Pauline R. "Polly" (Schafer), 93, Jan. 8
St. Nicholas Church, Zanesville

CALHOUN, Annajean (Branson), 78, Jan. 13
St. Leo Church, Columbus

COLLINS, Paul, 62, Jan. 6
Immaculate Conception Church, Dennison

CUMMINS, Jeanne (Thompson), 93, Jan. 8
St. Stephen Church, Columbus

DODEL WALSH, Lucia, 79, Jan. 12
Church of the Ascension, Johnstown

EDGINGTON, Douglas E., 59, Jan. 8
St. Timothy Church, Columbus

FANTIN, Frank, 89, Dec. 27
Sacred Heart Church, New Philadelphia

FLAIS, Madeline R., 29, formerly of Columbus, Jan. 10
St. Pius X Church, Greensboro, N.C.

FOLEY, Judy A. (O'Harra), 76, Jan. 13
Ss. Simon and Jude Church, West Jefferson

GARCIA VON LEMBCKE, Genaro "Geno," 74, Jan. 10
Holy Name Church, Columbus

GEDYE-LITZENBERG, Lorraine J. "Lori," 66, Jan. 3
St. Mary Church, Marion

HARTIGAN (KUNKEL), David H., 83, Jan. 11
Holy Family Church, Columbus

MALONE, Mary Ann, 54, Jan. 7
St. Pius X Church, Reynoldsburg

McNEIL, Rita (Busher), 99, Jan. 13
St. Joseph Church, Dover

MYERS, Vera (DeBois), 100, Jan. 1
Sacred Heart Church, New Philadelphia

ORLASKA, Irene M. (Stricker), 97, Jan. 9
St. Matthias Church, Columbus

PAUL, Michael A., 51, Jan. 3
St. Nicholas Church, Zanesville

RATHBURN, Nancy J. (Ricci), 96, Jan. 9
St. Leo Church, Columbus

RIOUX, Nancy A., 88, Jan. 9
St. Paul Church, Westerville

SCHMIEDER, Juanita M. "Bonnie" (Wetzel), 96, Jan. 5
St. Michael Church, Columbus

SCHUMACHER, Ricnard E., 79, Jan. 5
St. Andrew Church, Columbus

WACHINGER, John A., 78, Jan. 10
St. Leo Church, Columbus

WHITE, Paul J., 98, Dec. 21
St. Joseph Church, Circleville

William "Bill" Groce

A private funeral Mass will be celebrated later this year for William "Bill" Groce, 79, who died Friday, Dec. 21.

He was born in 1939 in Coshocton to Raymond and Elizabeth Groce and grew up in Zanesville.

He was a graduate of Zanesville Bishop Rosecrans High School and received a bachelor's degree in education from the University of Dayton and master's degrees from The Ohio State University. He served in the Army from 1962 to 1964.

He served as a teacher, guidance counselor, coach and principal at Columbus Bishop Ready High School, Columbus Father Wehrle High School, Grove City Our Lady of Perpetual Help School and Columbus St. Mary Magdalene School.

He was preceded in death by his parents and a daughter, Ann. Survivors include his wife, Dianne (Greiner); son, John; daughters, Mary Ferris, Kathryn Miller and Stephanie Groce-Niehoff; and six grandchildren.

Jeffrey E. Pharion

Funeral Mass for Jeffrey E. Pharion, 73, who died Sunday, Jan. 6, was celebrated Monday, Jan. 14 at Columbus St. James the Less Church.

He was employed by the city of Columbus as a code enforcement officer for 20 years and coached football and basketball for more than 30 years at Columbus St. Charles Preparatory School, Columbus Bishop Ready and St. Francis DeSales high schools and St. James the Less School, where he was one of the first students. He also

was a member of several Columbus rock and roll bands.

He was preceded in death by his father, Eddie; mother, Jeanine; stepfather, Robert; and daughter, Tina. Survivors include his wife, Patty; sons, Jeffrey (Angela), a teacher and former head football coach at St. Charles, and Michael (Lisa); daughter, Cindi (Doug) Bauer; stepbrother, John (Lou) Emrich; five grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

To have an obituary printed in the Catholic Times, send it to tluet@columbuscatholic.org

WATTERSON, continued from Page 5

State came in later in the recruiting process, but Washington honored his commitment to Boston College.

In four years at Boston College from 2002 to 2005, Washington was a three-year starter who finished his career with 74 tackles, six sacks and 15.5 tackles for loss. During his time there, the Eagles won eight or more regular-season games each season and all four bowl games. He graduated in 2006 with a degree in sociology.

What happened after college and where he's at today could be considered providential.

Washington had no aspirations to coach. He spent two years playing in Canada after using up his college eligibility. During the offseason when he returned to Columbus, he worked at a movie theater "just trying to make a couple bucks." Once Wash-

ington's playing career ended, he had planned to follow his father into the insurance business.

His first taste of coaching came when he accepted an invitation from Dennis Lyberger, then the freshman football coach at Thomas Worthington High School, to help out with the team.

His stepmother saw his enthusiasm for helping young players and decided to take action herself. She sent a resume to Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, an NCAA Division III school, about a job opening in 2007. The next thing Washington knew, he was in New York interviewing for the position and landing it.

"She sent it to the coach without me knowing," he said. "It's like divine intervention. If she hadn't done that, who knows?"

The position paid \$12,000, which

is a far cry from what he will be making at Ohio State.

"I was living in a house with other coaches, and we had squirrels in the house," Washington said. "They called it the squirrel shack. I had to coach and do team laundry, and I had to work in admissions. I was completely content doing it. I didn't have any expectations."

The next year, he took a graduate assistant position at North Carolina State University. After 13 months, it was on to Slippery Rock University of Pennsylvania for his first full-time job, which paid \$25,000. "I was on top of the world," he said.

A stop at Elon University in North Carolina followed. After spending one year there, a chance to return to his alma mater arose, and he jumped at it. He stayed at Boston College

for five years and gained experience coaching a number of positions.

"I've been at every level and met some great people," he said. "It's been a hell of a journey, and it's still going."

The past three years have been a whirlwind.

In 2017, Washington went to the University of Cincinnati to join the staff of former Ohio State defensive coordinator Luke Fickell, who is now the Bearcats' head coach. Then it was on to Michigan for a year, and now back to Columbus.

"I'm just a college coach. I love kids," Washington said. "I've been doing this for 12 years now. My goal is to continue to help young people. I don't feel deserving of the attention."

Washington and his wife, Melissa, are the parents of a son, Michael, and a daughter, Audrey.

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JANUARY

18, FRIDAY

Catholic Singles on Fire for Christ

6 p.m., Chapel, Church of the Resurrection, 6300 E. Dublin-Granville Road, New Albany. Monthly meeting of Catholic Singles on Fire for Christ, for anyone older than 35 who is single in the eyes of the Catholic Church and seeks to grow in faith, bring hope to others and share the love of Christ. Begins with prayer and Adoration, followed by dinner at a restaurant. 614-855-1400

Labyrinth Walk at Shepherd's Corner

7 to 8:30 p.m., Shepherd's Corner Ecology Center, 987 N. Waggoner Road, Blacklick. Labyrinth walk with theme "Patient Stillness," led by John Seryak. Suggested donation \$5. Registration deadline Jan. 15. Minimum five participants. 614-866-4302

19, SATURDAY

Life and Mercy Mass in Plain City

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

Centering Prayer Group Meeting

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

Ohio Dominican Veterans' Appreciation Day

11 a.m. Ohio Dominican University, 1215 Sunbury Road, Columbus. Veterans appreciation day, beginning with reception in president's dining room at Bishop Griffin Center, followed by talk by Dr. Sean Kay of Ohio Wesleyan University on "The U.S. and Russia: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow," and free admission for veterans to women's and men's basketball games against Trevecca Nazarene. 614-315-2937

20, SUNDAY

St. Christopher Adult Religious Education

10 to 11:20 a.m., Library, Trinity Catholic School, 1440 Grandview Ave., Columbus. "Amazed and Afraid: The Revelation of God Become Man," Part 1 of Bishop Robert Barron's "Catholicism" series.

Blessing of St. Gerard Majella at Holy Family

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

Angelic Warfare Confraternity at St. Patrick

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

Kateri Prayer Circle at St. Mark

1 p.m., Aranda Center, St. Mark Church, 324 Gay St., Lancaster. Kateri Prayer Circle meeting to

honor St. Kateri Tekakwitha and promote Native Catholic spirituality.

St. Padre Pio Secular Franciscans

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

Polish Mass at Holy Family

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

Taize Evening Prayer at Corpus Christi

4 to 5 p.m., Corpus Christi Center of Peace, 1111 E. Stewart Ave., Columbus. Evening Prayer in the style and spirit of the Taize monastic community, with song, silence, and reflection. 614-512-3731

Prayer Group Meeting at Christ the King

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

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 Church. Speaker: Sean Kenney, executive director of the Jubilee Museum of Columbus, on "Why Should We Evangelize?" Contact Julie Naproano at julienaproano1@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

21, MONDAY

Martin Luther King Day Program

Noon to 1:30 p.m., Holy Rosary-St. John Church, 660 S. Ohio Ave., Columbus. Parish's 34th annual Martin Luther King Day commemoration, with keynote speaker Father Chester Smith, SVD, of the Society of the Divine Word, who serves as a missionary priest to African American Catholics. 614-252-5926

Mass of Healing at Cathedral

6:30 p.m., St. Joseph Cathedral, 212 E. Broad St., Columbus. Mass of Healing, followed by healing service including Exposition and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament and veneration of relic of the True Cross. Priests will be on hand for discussion and prayer, and the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick will be available. 614-224-1295

22, TUESDAY

Respect Life Mass and Rally for Life

10:30 a.m., St. Joseph Cathedral, 212 E. Broad St., Columbus. Bishop Frederick Campbell celebrates Mass in observance of the day of penance for violations to the dignity of the human person committed through abortion and of prayer for full restoration of the legal guarantee of the right to life, followed at noon by the annual Rally for Life in the Statehouse atrium, sponsored by Greater Columbus Right to Life, to express support for pro-life activities on the anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court's *Roe v. Wade* decision legalizing abortion.

Rosary for Life at St. Joan of Arc

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

23, WEDNESDAY

'Worship and Wings' at St. Michael

7 p.m., St. Michael Church, 5750 N. High St., Worthington. "Worship and Wings" program for young adults, beginning with praise and worship in

front of the Blessed Sacrament at church, followed by a meal featuring chicken wings at a local restaurant. 614-885-7814

24, THURSDAY

Ohio Dominican St. Thomas Aquinas Lecture

11 a.m., Matesich Theater, Erskine Hall, Ohio Dominican University, 1216 Sunbury Road, Columbus. Sister Kathleen McManus, OP, associate professor of theology at the University of Portland (Oregon), delivers ODU's annual St. Thomas Aquinas lecture. Topic: "Light Out of Darkness: Dominican Stories of Justice." 614-251-4453

Cenacle at Holy Name

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

Eucharistic Holy Hour at Sacred Heart

7 p.m., Sacred Heart Church, 893 Hamlet St., Columbus. Eucharistic Holy Hour with the intention of deepened holiness and an increase in the virtue of fortitude for the Holy Father, bishops, and priests, concluding with Benediction, social period and refreshments. 614-294-7702

Frassati Society Christ in the City

7 p.m., St. Patrick Church, 280 N. Grant Ave., Columbus. Christ in the City program sponsored by parish's Frassati Society for young adults, with Eucharistic Adoration, confessions, Taize chant and Dominican Compline, followed by fellowship at Pat and Gracie's restaurant. 614-224-9522

Open House at Our Lady of Perpetual Help

6 to 7 p.m., Our Lady of Perpetual Help School, 3752 Broadway, Grove City. Open house for parents of prospective students, followed by special session for prospective kindergarten families from 7 to 7:30. 614-875-6779

25, FRIDAY

Open House at St. Joseph Montessori School

9 a.m., St. Joseph Montessori School, 933 Hamlet St., Columbus. Open house for parents of prospective preschool through eighth-grade students. 614-291-8601

Holy Hour at St. Matthew

7 p.m., St. Matthew Church, 807 Havens Corners Road, Gahanna. Monthly Holy Hour with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and prayers for reparation, purification and sanctification of the universal Church. 614-471-0212

25-26, FRIDAY-SATURDAY

Newark Catholic Presents 'Shrek! The Musical'

7:30 p.m., Midland Theater, 36 N. Park Place, Newark. Newark Catholic High School drama department production of "Shrek! The Musical," based on the picture book and computer-animated movie "Shrek!" Tickets \$15; children five and younger free. 740-344-3594

25-27, FRIDAY-SUNDAY

St. Brendan Men's Retreat at Maria Stein

Maria Stein Retreat Center, 2365 St. Johns Road, Maria Stein. Men's retreat sponsored by Hilliard St. Brendan Church and directed by Father Michael Houston, CSSR, parochial vicar, Lima St. Gerard Church. Theme: "St. Alphonsus: His Life and Spirituality." Cost \$170, including meals and private room with bath. 614-946-8117

26, 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.

Citywide Adoration and Prayer Meeting

9 a.m. to Noon, Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal Church, 5225 Refugee Road, Columbus.

Citywide adoration and prayer meeting sponsored by Columbus Catholic Renewal, beginning with Mass celebrated by Father Dean Mathewson, followed by potluck breakfast and talk by Bryan O'Donnell of Encounter Ministries. Healing and prayer teams and the Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available during Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. Worship music by the Living Stones. Child care on request. 614-980-3021

Back in His Arms Again Memorial Mass

1 p.m., Garden of the Holy Innocents, Resurrection Cemetery, 9571 N. High St., Lewis Center. Memorial Mass for families who have experienced the loss of a child, sponsored by Back in His Arms Again ministry. 614-906-3115

27, SUNDAY

St. Christopher Adult Religious Education

10 to 11:20 a.m., Library, Trinity Catholic School, 1440 Grandview Ave., Columbus. "Happy Are We: The Teachings of Jesus," Part 2 of Bishop Robert Barron's "Catholicism" series.

Open House at St. Anthony School

10 a.m. to 1 p.m., St. Anthony School, 1300 Urban Drive, Columbus. Open house for parents of prospective students, including book fair in school library. 614-888-4268

Open House at Trinity Preschool

10 a.m. to noon, St. Margaret of Cortona Church, 1600 N. Hague Ave., Columbus. Open house for parents of prospective students of preschool for Columbus Trinity Elementary School. 614-274-1922

Praise Mass at Church of Our Lady

11 a.m., Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal Church, 5225 Refugee Road, Columbus. Praise Mass with upbeat contemporary music. 614-861-1242

Frassati Society Mass and Brunch

11 a.m., Our Lady of Victory Church, 1559 Roxbury Road, Columbus. St. Patrick Church Frassati Society for young adults gathers for Mass, followed by brunch at Cambridge Tea House, 1885 W. 5th Ave. 614-224-9522

Our Lady of Bethlehem School Open House

1 to 3 p.m., Our Lady of Bethlehem School and Childcare, 4567 Olentangy River Road, Columbus. Open house for parents of prospective students at school which serves students from six months old to kindergarten. 614-459-8285

Open House at St. Matthew School

1 to 2:30 p.m., St. Matthew School, 795 Havens Corners Road, Gahanna. Open house for parents of prospective students. 614-471-4930

St. Catherine of Bologna Secular Franciscans

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

Prayer Group Meeting at Christ the King

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

Spanish Mass at Columbus St. Peter

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

28, MONDAY

Bethesda Post-Abortion Healing Ministry

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

Our Lady of Peace Men's Bible Study

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

A tower of spaghetti and string



Columbus St. Anthony School second-graders took part in a lesson titled “the spaghetti and marshmallow challenge” as part of a visit by Kim Gattis, a teacher at Columbus St. Francis DeSales High School. Teachers at DeSales regularly come to St. Anthony because it is a “feeder school” for the high school. Gattis is a construction technology teacher at DeSales and challenged the students to build the tallest possible tower out of spaghetti, tape and string that could support a marshmallow. The students had 18 minutes to complete the project. Pictured with Gattis are students (from left) Rashid Kargbo, Padmore Berko, Kennedy Brown, Grace Fekru and Smith Acha. The challenge encourages the design mindset and supports basic engineering principles. Photo courtesy St. Anthony School

St. Christopher PSR celebrates Epiphany



The annual Epiphany celebration by Columbus St. Christopher Church's Parish School of Religion featured sixth- and seventh-graders performing a skit, while guests sing Christmas carols between acts. Crafts and food also were part of the event. Pictured are (from left): kneeling, Jamie Lee Bishop, Ben Carini and Grace Jones; standing, Catherine Dorrian, Eleanor Winemiller, Chloe Gehres and Sean McKelvey.

Photo courtesy St. Christopher Church

Empty Bowls dinner at DeSales

Columbus St. Francis DeSales High School, 4212 Karl Road, will sponsor an Empty Bowls dinner from 5 to 8 p.m. Friday, Feb. 1 in the school cafeteria. For a donation of \$7, visitors will be served soups made by school faculty and staff members.

Guests also will receive a hand-

made ceramic bowl crafted by a student or staff member. Proceeds will benefit the Mid-Ohio Foodbank. As a bonus, stay and watch the DeSales boys basketball teams play Bishop Hartley that evening. If you have any questions, send an email to Jack Welsh at welsh@desales.co.

Newark Catholic to stage 'Shrek! The Musical'

The Newark Catholic High School drama department will present *Shrek! The Musical* at 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday, Jan. 25 and 26 at the Midland Theater, 36 N. Park Place, Newark. Tickets are \$15 and will be available at the school office or at the door. Admission will be free for children age five and younger.

Set in a mythical “once upon a time” sort of land, *Shrek! The Musical* is the story of a hulking green ogre who, after being mocked and feared his entire life by anything that crosses his path, retreats to an ugly green swamp to exist in happy isolation. Suddenly, a gang of home-

less fairy-tale characters, including Pinocchio, Cinderella and the Three Little Pigs, raid his sanctuary, saying they’ve been evicted by the vertically challenged Lord Farquaad.

So Shrek strikes a deal: I’ll get your homes back if you give me my home back! But when Shrek and Farquaad meet, the Lord strikes a deal of his own: He will give the fairy-tale characters their homes back if Shrek rescues Princess Fiona. Shrek obliges, yet finds something appealing, strange and different about the princess. He likes her a lot. But why does she always run off when the sun sets?



**World Marriage Day
Dinner/Dance**

**Saturday
February 9, 2019
6:30 p.m. - 10:30 p.m.**

**American Legion Post 171
393 E. College Ave.
Westerville, OH**

\$74.00 per couple

RSVP to Fred & Joy Kerner
joc93@yahoo.com
614.761.9048

**Dinner - Music - Dancing
Prizes & Fun - BYOB**



**St. Joseph
MONTESSORI SCHOOL**

**JOIN US FOR AN OPEN HOUSE
January 25 at 9:00am**

**www.sjms.net | (614) 291-8601
933 Hamlet Street | Columbus, OH**



Annulment can aid healing in failed marriage

By The Catholic Foundation

Catholics, and those who seek to enter the Catholic Church, might be familiar with the term “annulment.” However, what they might not understand is what annulments are and why they are sought by members of the faith.

An annulment, or more accurately, a declaration of nullity, is a judgment from the Catholic Church that a marriage was not a valid Christian marriage as the Church defines it. Because the Church sees marriage as a call to mutual self-giving for the good of the spouses and the nurturing of children, the question of validity addresses whether the spouses were capable of and open to entering into a permanent commitment.

If it can be shown that something essential was lacking at the time of the exchange of vows, then the Church declares the marriage “null.” The annulment process can help people come to peace within themselves and with the community of the Church after a failed marriage ends in divorce.

A tribunal, which is the official ecclesiastical court of the Catholic Church, is established in each diocese by the bishop to assist him in carrying out his responsibility as shepherd of the local Christian community that has been en-

trusted to him (1983 *Code of Canon Law* canons 369, 1419). As the judicial arm of the bishop, a diocesan tribunal cooperates in his ministry, namely, “the salvation of souls, which must always be the supreme law of the Church” (canon 1752).

The tribunal hears petitions of individuals seeking declarations of nullity. Such cases are examined through a judicial process that involves the taking of testimony and the interviewing of parties and witnesses, all the while trying to respect the rights of all parties involved. The tribunal also employs psychologists who help the judge come to a greater understanding of the nature and problems of marriages.

All tribunal procedures are handled in a confidential manner and have no civil effects. An annulment is not a legal divorce, for it does not dissolve an existing marriage. This might seem daunting to people on the outside regarding their prior marriage on whether their bond is held as valid or invalid.

A final decision can often take 18 months or longer. And while some people believe it is a process afforded only to the rich, the cost of an annulment normally ranges from \$200 to \$1,000 in fees, depending on the diocese. In 1993, Bishop James Griffin of the Diocese of

Columbus established the Tribunal Endowment Fund at The Catholic Foundation. This fund covers those fees, making this process entirely free.

The tribunal averages about 200 cases a year and relies heavily on generous donors to its endowments, such as those in The Catholic Foundation. Father Robert Kitsmiller, adjutant judicial vicar for the Diocese of Columbus, said, “The Catholic Foundation has been very good to work with, and they have gone out of their way to support the tribunal. I encourage people, if they have found healing through the process and found it to be fruitful, to contribute to our fund.”

A failed marriage can be a painful life event, and often the road to finalizing it can be heartbreaking and tumultuous. For the sake of anonymity, the person below who has provided her story will be referred to as Jane.

Jane said she is a cradle Catholic – a person who has been raised in the Catholic faith since birth. She was raised a strict Catholic, and her faith has always meant everything to her and her family. After being married for several years, deciding to get a divorce was devastating. Initially, Jane had not gone through the annulment process, but after meeting her current husband, she knew that she wanted to get married in the Cath-

olic Church. Even if you are already married again, you can’t receive the sacraments until the previous marriage is annulled.

Jane said, “When I started going through the annulment process, it was almost like I was giving my side of the story, but also like going to confession.” Jane said this was a healing and cleansing process and compared it to going through the five stages of grief: denial, anger, bargaining, depression and acceptance. She felt as if God was forgiving her and telling her that people make mistakes. The Church is there to help and support you, not hold you back.

Jane said, “If I had not gone through the process, I would probably be a different person. I would be going through life without God and the sacraments. And that ... is a life half lived.”

Jane is happily married for more than three decades and says her husband has treated her children and grandchildren as his own. She says she is exactly where she should be, and she has God to thank for that. Simply, Jane said, “I trust God.”

If you would like to support the tribunal and people like Jane, consider donating to the fund by visiting www.catholic-foundation.org/tribunalendowment.

World Marriage Day Celebration

The Art of Marriage

WHERE: Jubilee Museum
57 S. Grubb St.
Columbus, OH 43215

WHEN: Sunday, February 10, 2019, 1 - 4 p.m.

COST: Free

Please RSVP by Wednesday, February 6, 2019 at www.columbuscatholic.org/marriage-ministry-enrichment



Shawn Kenney, serves as the Executive Director of the Jubilee Museum. A native of Columbus, Shawn studied Art and Business

at Ohio Dominican University, and later Music at Capital University. He was the assistant music advisor for Reynoldsburg City Schools for several years and continues to hold the role of Director of Music at Holy Family Church, where he and his family are parishioners. Shawn resides in Dublin, Ohio with his wife and son.

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SCHOLARSHIPS

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February 1 - March 8!

For more information and to apply, visit
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257 East Broad Street | Columbus, OH 43215 | 614-443-8893

The Society for the Propagation of the Faith - Membership Sunday

By Leandro (Lany) M. Tapay
Diocesan Missions Director

The weekend of Saturday and Sunday, Jan. 19 and 20 is the membership renewal weekend for the Society for the Propagation of the Faith. To join or to renew your membership, put your donation to the missions in the envelope for "Membership Sunday" which is included in your parish's January packet of collection envelopes.

Members of the society (living or deceased) receive the graces of 15,000 Masses offered each day by missionaries. Mass also is offered daily at St. Peter's Basilica in Rome for society members.

Proceeds of the collection will help support the Church's mission effort to reach out to the two-thirds of the world's population who have yet to hear about Jesus - mostly in Africa, Asia, the Pacific Islands and the remote areas of South America. Our help - prayers, sacrifices and donations - will bring closer the day when, in the name of Jesus, every knee shall bow and every tongue shall confess that Jesus is Lord.

In this life, we may not meet the folks we help to know Christ through our prayers, sacrifices and donations. But we certainly will meet them in the next. And they will thank us for what we have done, as we thank those who were instrumental in bringing us to Christ.

Our donations go a long way in the missions. The money we spend for a cup of cappuccino or a latte, or for a can of beer, could pay for the dinner of a hungry child in Africa. The money we spend for a few new outfits could pay for a couple of day's supply of food for a family of three in places where the average income is \$2 a day.

The Society for the Propagation of the Faith, which is directed by the Vatican's Congregation of the Evangelization of Peoples, is the main source of support for the 1,150 mission dioceses around the world.

The society does not have any investments or savings. Every year, the funds it collects are distributed in total, to mission dioceses and mission congregations or societies whose role is to spread the Gospel to places untouched by it. In 2017, the Diocese of Colum-

bus contributed \$72,819.20 to the society's membership drive. On behalf of the society, I would like to thank you in advance for your generosity.

The society was founded by Blessed Pauline Jaricot of Lyons, France, in 1822. She formed a group of young women at her father's silk factory, with the purpose of praying and collecting funds for the missions. Each member contributed one cent a month. It was from this act that the Society for the Propagation of the Faith grew. A century later, its headquarters was moved to the Vatican, where Pope Pius XI proclaimed it to be the chief fundraising and distribution agency for the Church's missions.

Proceeds of the society's first collection in 1822 were sent to missions in China, Kentucky, and the Diocese of Louisiana, which at the time included all the territory from the Florida Keys to Canada. The United States contin-

ued to receive funds from the society until 1908, when it ceased to be a mission territory.

The society has no bylaws. There

All funds are disbursed completely, making the society wholly dependent on the missionary spirit of Catholics worldwide who contribute for the



Sister Josephine Murigi, a member of Our Lady of the Missions and Solidarity with South Sudan, walks with children in a Sudanese refugee camp.

CNS photo/Paul Jeffrey

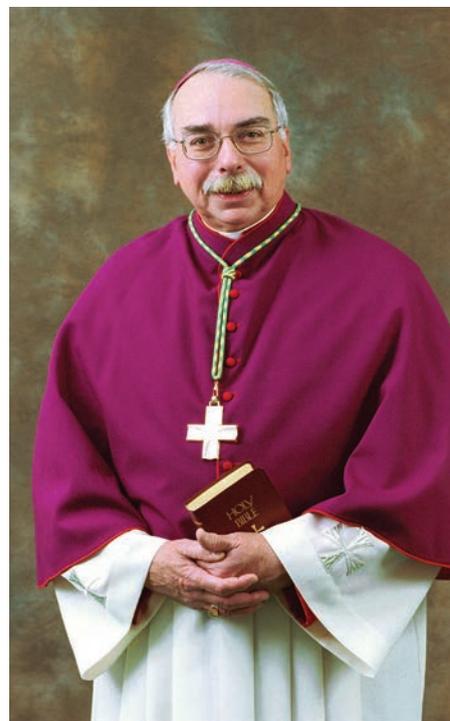
is no attendance requirement. To be a member, one only needs to pray and to give financial help to the missions so the Gospel can be preached in areas of the world untouched by it.

Each year, 1,150 dioceses receive a subsidy from the society's general fund to help their evangelization work.

needs of the missions.

If in this life it is your passion to help spread the Gospel around the world, you may continue fulfilling your passion even after death by leaving your estate, or a portion of it, to the Society for the Propagation of the Faith in your will.

Message from Bishop Campbell



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Through the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, we partake in the Church's mission to bring the message of God's Kingdom of love, mercy and forgiveness "even to the ends of the earth."

The membership drive for the Society for the Propagation of the Faith will take place on the weekend of Saturday and Sunday, Jan. 19 and 20. With our membership, we make a special commitment to the Church's mission "to all peoples and nations" by pledging daily prayer and financial help to the society.

In more than 1,150 mission dioceses worldwide, priests, religious brothers and sisters, and lay catechists rely on the prayers and financial assistance of members of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith.

The missionaries count on this support as they help young people search for the meaning of life, comfort refugees in their spiritual and material needs, minister to the sick, teach children, prepare adults for baptism or bring help to the suffering in times of war and natural disasters.

During the membership drive, let us pray for missionaries everywhere, especially the seven men and women from the Diocese of Columbus who are sharing Christ's Gospel message around the globe.

I am most grateful for your continuing generosity and support for the most important task of the Church - evangelization.

Sincerely yours in Christ,
Most Rev. Frederick F. Campbell,
DD, PhD
Bishop of Columbus