



DIOCESE OF COLUMBUS

# CATHOLIC TIMES

*A journal of Catholic life in Ohio*

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WORLD MARRIAGE DAY

The Editor's Notebook*We deserve each other*

By David Garick, Editor

This week, *Catholic Times* looks at the vocation of marriage. Vocation is such an interesting and accurate term to describe marriage. In the purest sense, the word "vocation" is a calling, a life that God has called us to. Just as some are called to Holy Orders or consecrated life, many are called to marriage and family life. But the word "vocation" also is used to refer to an occupation and to work. Anyone who is married knows that it certainly occupies a lot of your attention and is a lot of work.

As St. Paul says in First Corinthians, "An unmarried man is anxious about the things of the Lord, how he may please the Lord. But a married man is anxious about the things of the world, how he may please his wife, and he is divided." In fairness, St. Paul then points out the same thing concerning women. I'm a reader at Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral, and by luck of the draw, I occasionally get to read that particular scripture. You can't proclaim that message without having the thought in the back of your mind that your wife is sitting out there thinking "What does he mean by that?" Sort of like when you get that other reading from St. Paul about wives obeying their husbands.

Now I have to say I'm not sure that all unmarried folks have quite gotten that concept of focusing totally on God. I'm gauging that partly on beer sales and attendance at area night spots and monster truck rallies. Certainly, if those folks were totally centered on God, vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life would be skyrocketing. And we continue to pray for that.

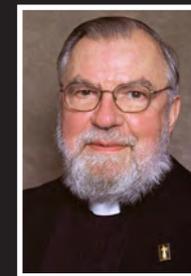
There is no doubt that marriage can be distracting. But I don't think that it has to be distracting from concern for God. In fact, if you are doing marriage right, I think it brings you a lot closer to God.

What marriage really distracts you from is

yourself. When you get married you create a new entity: "Us." That's the hardest thing about adjusting to marriage. It is the realization that life from now on is not about me. It is not about what makes me happy or fulfilled or satisfied. It is about what makes us, the family, into a true reflection of God's love.

God is really pretty smart. He looked at me and saw a guy that was never going to get where he needed to be spiritually on his own. Left to my own devices, I was pretty much a slave to my own self-centered Neanderthal tendencies. So he gave me a wife to shape me up. Likewise, my wife has me to toughen her up to deal with the real world and to kill spiders.

None of this comes easily, because neither of us wants to give up our little pet notions and our comfortable little self-centered worlds. But we aren't just individuals any more. We are a team and so we drive each other crazy for the good of the team. We still have a lot of our old selves inside, but we have allowed each other to have a part in constructing "us." So as we squabble in an effort to hang on to some old piece of self, we end up admitting in frustration that "We deserve each other." And the amazing thing is that in denying our own sense of what makes "me" happy to focus on "us," we are both happier and more satisfied than we ever have been. That's why God put us together, and that's why as a couple we are able to live according to his will so much better than we ever could have done alone. This year, we will celebrate 41 years of marriage. I guess that is a long time in contemporary society. Yes, there is a lot of work involved. It is a vocation, after all. But it is the best, most satisfying job I've ever had and it just keeps getting better.


**FATHER JOSEPH F. LOSH  
PASSED AWAY ON  
JANUARY 6, 2017**


Funeral Mass for Father Joseph F. Losh, 83, who died Tuesday, Jan. 31 at Columbus Mount Carmel East Hospital, was held Monday, Feb. 6 at Grove City Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church. Burial will be at St. Joseph Cemetery, Columbus.

He was born May 30, 1933, in Danville to the late William and Flora (Young) Losh.

He graduated from Mount Vernon St. Vincent de Paul High School in 1951, served in the Navy for four years, then began his studies for the priesthood at Columbus St. Charles Seminary, where he received a bachelor of arts degree in philosophy in 1960. He received a theology degree in 1964 from Mount St. Mary Seminary of the West in Norwood.

He was ordained to the priesthood in Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral by Bishop Clarence Isenmann on May 30, 1964.

He served as associate pastor at Delaware St. Mary Church (1964-70), Columbus Sacred Heart Church (1970-71), and Zanesville St. Nicholas Church (1971-73), pastor at Wainwright St. Therese and Midvale St. Paul churches (1973-76), co-pastor at Columbus St. Augustine Church (1976-78), associate pastor at Coshocton Sacred Heart Church (1978-82), Columbus St. Elizabeth Church (1982-87), and Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church (1987-91), and pastor of LaRue St. Joseph Church (1991-2004).

He also was a teacher at Delaware St. Mary, Columbus Bishop Watterson, and Zanesville Bishop Rosecrans high schools, and was active in the diocesan Catholic Charismatic Renewal, serving for several years as its liaison to the bishop.

Following retirement, he was a resident of the assisted living section of the Villas at St. Therese and later of Mother Angeline McCrory Manor.

He was preceded in death by his parents; brother, James; and sisters, Mary, Dolores, and Celia. He is survived by a brother, Paul (Patricia), and several nieces and nephews.



Front Page photo:

A couple prays to the Virgin Mary as part of their wedding ceremony. The Catholic Church celebrates World Marriage Day this Sunday, Feb. 12.

Photo courtesy Diocesan Office of Marriage & Family Life

**CATHOLIC  
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## Catholic media may be remedy for challenges church faces, says CNS head

**By Matthew Gambino**  
*Catholic News Service*

Catholic news media might be the remedy for three of the greatest challenges facing the church in the United States today, said a Catholic journalist who spoke on Jan. 30 at St. Charles Borromeo Seminary in suburban Philadelphia.

Greg Erlandson, director and editor-in-chief of Catholic News Service, delivered the Cardinal John Foley Lecture for about 50 attendees at the seminary, including Philadelphia Archbishop Charles J. Chaput.

CNS was founded by the U.S. bishops in 1920. The international news service is based in Washington, with offices at the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' headquarters.

In his talk, Erlandson recalled words from Cardinal Foley that could be considered the mission statement of Catholic communicators. The cardinal said weeks before his death in 2011 that media professionals have a "sacred bond" with media consumers.

"They look to you for information, for formation, for inspiration," the cardinal said, repeating a theme he had offered Catholic journalists many times in his long ministry in the church and in the Catholic press.

The cardinal was editor of *The Catholic Standard and Times* newspaper in Philadelphia from 1970 to 1984, when he was chosen to lead what was then the Pontifical Council for Social Communications at the Vatican.

Cardinal Foley supported and encouraged generations of Catholic journalists, and his words still apply to the issues facing Catholics and journalists today, Erlandson suggested.

He offered context to his talk, titled "The Power of the

Word: Catholic News Media and Spiritual Formation," by describing three crises in the church today.

"My conversations with Catholics around the country suggest that they are unaware ... of the challenges we face now and will face *in extremis* in the near future," Erlandson said.

First, an aging priesthood faces a "demographic cliff" that in coming years will not have enough active priests to sustain parish life in the United States as it is structured today.

"Each year, an average of about 400 new priests are ordained nationwide, while an average of 1,500 retire or die," Erlandson said.

He also cited the decline in sacramental marriages and in baptisms and the reception of other sacraments, driven largely by divorce and remarriage outside the church.

Lastly, Erlandson described the dearth of Catholic faith formation for children and especially for adults. He cited a statistic that only 15 percent of Catholic school-age children attend a Catholic school and said that despite valiant efforts of volunteer religious educators in parish programs, "nearly everyone agrees that many Catholic parents are too distracted, undereducated in the faith, or broken to assume their role as primary educators of their children."

Putting it bluntly, Erlandson said that two generations of parents "have been educated primarily in, at best, 40-minute class sessions 20 or so weeks a year from first through eighth grades or until confirmation, whichever comes first. Too many of them are, in terms of their religious IQ, children inhabiting adult bodies."

It has been said that Catholics today are the best educated in the history of the church, but "in this country, this applies

to their MDs and their MBAs, not to their religious education," Erlandson said.

He said that if Catholic families are the building blocks of parishes that are stressed by a gap in clergy resources, then a "parish- and family-centered religious education system" is sorely needed. "At this point, the greatest strategic need facing the church may be in the area of adult faith formation and education," he said.

Erlandson suggested that Catholic media including television, radio, digital, and print publications may best address the need to form lay Catholics to accept the leadership roles they increasingly will need to take in the church.

Catholic news and commentary can inform Catholics on the issues of the day by "helping them to see reality through Catholic eyes," Erlandson said, adding that the church "needs a voice to tell the stories that are not being told, or not being told well, and it needs a voice to mobilize Catholics."

Secular media might not present issues such as the Health and Human Services contraceptive mandate, health care reform, immigration reform, or the Christian diaspora in the Middle East with the Catholic perspective that offers not propaganda, but the truth of the Gospel, he said.

"The regular appearance of a Catholic publication with news, analysis, columns, and features in a virtual or actual mailbox does more to help form more adult Catholics than any other method or tool," Erlandson said.

Catholic news media's stories of ordinary people striving in extraordinary ways for holiness have an undeniable power "to show that what God asks of us, what the church teaches, can be lived out in the real world," he said. "It is

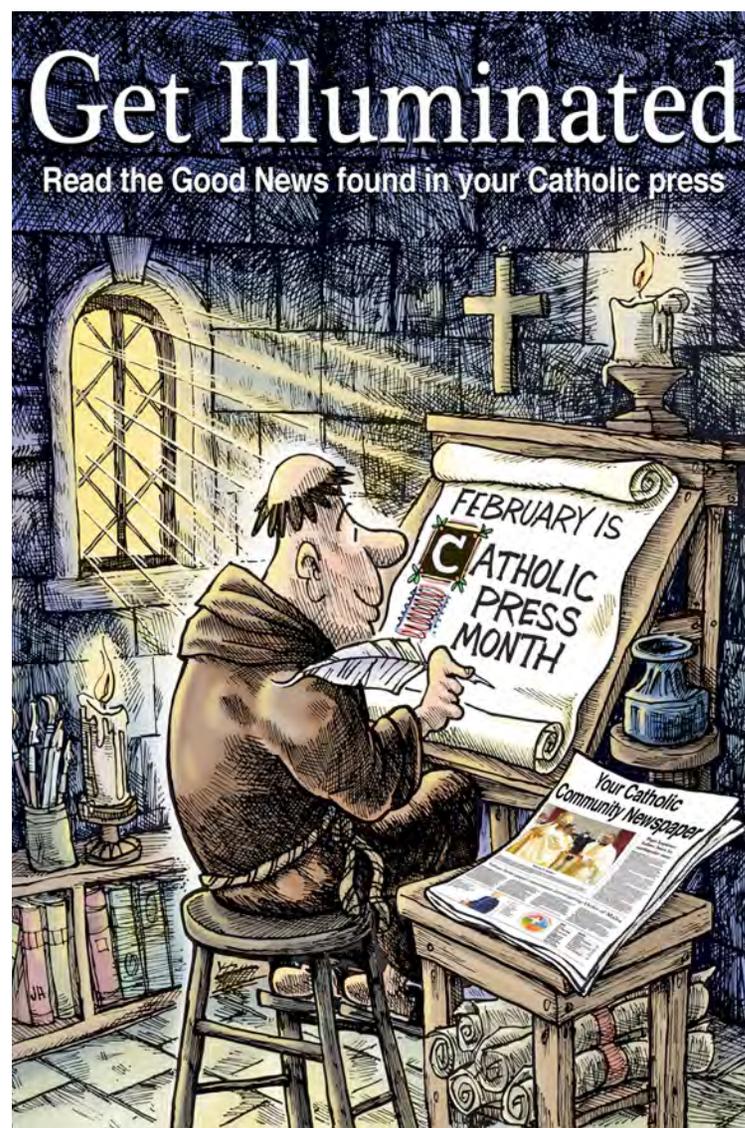
being done. And the lesson is that we can do it, too."

Just as secular media are experiencing seismic changes in their business model and even in their quality, the Catholic press is also under great stress, "but it remains a vital and valuable tool in service to the church," Erlandson said.

"It needs the resources to flourish and to fulfill its role to inform, to form, and to inspire, particularly at this time when other institutions of the

church, especially the parish, are facing equally daunting challenges and are in need of a well-formed laity," he said.

And while he pointed out that "print is not dead" and delivering a publication into homes remains "the ultimate push technology," he also acknowledged that social media, video, print, and digital all are tools the church can use to preach the Gospel "and to reach modern men and women effectively."



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*Faith in Action*

By Mark Huddy

**Fear of Fidelity**

Over the course of my 60 or so years on this planet, I have made some really good decisions and some really bad decisions. In all those decisions, fear was an element. In the really good decisions, I was able to overcome my fears. In the really bad decisions, I was overcome by my fears.



Believe it or not, the same thing happens at the level of national decisionmaking. There are things that we know are the right things to do, and yet we are fearful that in doing them, we risk too much. During the Cuban missile crisis, there was harsh rhetoric about Russia immediately removing missiles from Cuba. As the crisis wore on, President Kennedy's executive committee began to entertain discussions about a sneak attack on Cuba, a kind of first strike that could reduce or eliminate the missile installations. These discussions among senior advisers to the president were based on the real threat posed by nuclear warheads so close to the United States in the hands of a hostile power. History gives us a glimpse of the lone voice in the committee against such a plan. The State Department notetaker's notes captured some of Attorney General Robert Kennedy's arguments against a first strike:

"He thought it would be very, very difficult indeed for the President if the decision was for an air strike, with all of the memory of Pearl Harbor and with all the implications this would have for us in whatever world there would be afterward. For 175 years we had not been that kind of country. A sneak attack was not in our traditions. Thousands of Cubans would be killed without warning, and a lot of Russians too. He favored action, to make known unmistakably the seriousness of the United States' determination to get the missiles out of Cuba, but he thought the action should allow the Soviets some room for maneuver to pull back from their over-extended position in Cuba."

As we create national policy, it is worth asking "What kind of nation are we?" Can we find solutions to our most vexing problems in a way that maintains our fidelity to being that kind of nation? On the personal level as Christians, we might want to ask ourselves what we hold as true and commit ourselves to upholding. Can we make decisions that maintain our fidelity to our belief in God and His love for all people?

As we wrestle with concerns over borders and safety, can we do so in a way that respects the inherent worth and dignity of every person, that acknowledges and defends fundamental human rights, and that allows us to show genuine compassion to the suffering, the oppressed, and the vulnerable? If the right balance is not being struck in the formation of our national policy, we should use the legal and peaceful means we have available to have our policymakers reconsider. In the 1960's, the Berlin wall was a sign of the failures of the communist state. In 1989, when the wall came down, there was the hope that freedom and democracy finally had prevailed over fear and intimidation. Maybe history has something to teach us today.

Mark Huddy is moderator of the diocesan Office of Social Concerns.

**WATTERSON SIGNEES**

**Three Columbus Bishop Watterson High School seniors have announced their intent to play college sports. They are (from left): Anna Hartman, lacrosse, Indiana Tech; Chris Carter, football, Wayne State; and Juliana Rotolo, soccer, Ball State.**

Photo courtesy Bishop Watterson High School

**RELIEF FOR LOW-INCOME UNINSURED**

The diocese's Northland Columbus Deanery is shining a bright light that will provide relief for the low-income uninsured.

The Helping Hands Health and Wellness Center has received a major gift of \$50,000 per year for three years from the Northland Columbus Deanery, under the leadership of Fathers Charles Klinger and Thomas Petry, pastors of Westerville St. Paul and Columbus St. Anthony churches respectively.

The deanery has supported the center's free clinic for the past six years, enabling it to expand hours and provide lifesaving treatment and medication to patients.

Outgoing Helping Hands board president Connie Sauter, a St. Paul parishioner, has been a long-term champion for the clinic, which serves people with incomes within 200 percent of the poverty level and is mostly staffed by volunteer doctors, nurses, allied health professionals, and students.

The support fills an essential need in the neighborhood and its surrounding area. The clinic serves 38 ZIP codes.

Parishes in the Northland Deanery are Columbus St. Anthony, St. Elizabeth, St. James the Less, and St. Matthias; the Church of the Resurrection in New Albany; Sunbury St. John Neumann; and Westerville St. Paul.

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In the marriage case styled ROBLES - NOVARRO, 2017/0007, the Tribunal of the Diocese of Columbus, Ohio, is currently unaware of the present address of MR JOSE ANTONIO NOVARRO. The Tribunal herewith informs him of the case and invites him to contact REVEREND ROBERT KITSMILLER, JCL, Presiding and sole Judge, no later than 27 FEBRUARY 2017. Phone: 614-241-2500 Extension 3. Anyone who knows of the whereabouts of MR JOSE ANTONIO NOVARRO is herewith asked to make this Citation known to him or to inform the Tribunal of his current address. Given this 6th day of JANUARY 2017. REVEREND ROBERT KITSMILLER, JCL, Presiding Judge.

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## Candidates for the Sacrament of Holy Orders



Four seminarians from the Diocese of Columbus were admitted to candidacy for the Sacrament of Holy Orders by Bishop Frederick Campbell on Saturday, Jan. 21 at the Pontifical College Josephinum. They are (first row, from left): Paul Brandimarti, Bryant Haren, Kyle Tennant, and Christopher Yakkel. Pictured in the back row are (from left): Father Michael Lumpe, diocesan vicar for priests; Msgr. Christopher Schreck, Josephinum rector/president; Bishop Campbell; and Father Joseph Yokum. The Rite of Admission to Candidacy for Holy Orders is celebrated when a seminarian, usually in his second year of graduate study, has reached a maturity of purpose in his formation and has demonstrated the necessary qualifications for ordination. In the presence of the bishop, he publicly expresses his intention to complete his preparation for Holy Orders and his resolve to fully invest himself to that end so that he will serve Christ and the Church faithfully. Photo by Ken Snow

## Lancaster St. Mary District Science Fair Participants



Twenty students from Lancaster St. Mary School received superior ratings on their projects for the school science fair and will present them at the district science fair at Ohio University-Lancaster in March. They are (from left): first row, Kate Crow, Sylvia Boyden, Ava Holbrook, Allie Welsh, Brooke Vogel, Meg Saffell, Kate Gavin, and Gideon Doan; second row, Emma Albert, Audrey Manella, Paige Gavin, Mallory Ortiz, Elisa Pillar, Leo Guerke, and Taylor Fitch; third row, Patrick Kenney, Luke Sharp, Jonathon Crook, Mitchell Santino, and Caden Pike. Photo courtesy St. Mary School

## At Mass, if you are in confessional? Martin Luther King Jr. 'feast day'?



### QUESTION & ANSWER

by: FATHER KENNETH DOYLE  
*Catholic News Service*

**Q.** Growing up Catholic, I was taught that in order to fulfill your Sunday obligation, you were required to be present for three parts of the Mass -- the Gospel, the offertory and Communion. Our parish just started hearing confessions at the very time the Sunday Mass is being celebrated (i.e., not just before or after Mass).

So my question is this: If you are in the confessional during any of these three parts of the Mass, have you fulfilled your Sunday obligation? And what about receiving holy Communion? (Coon Rapids, Minnesota)

**A.** Your memory is two-thirds correct. Half a century ago, Catholics were taught that if you wanted the Mass to "count," you needed to be present for the offertory, the consecration and Communion.

Now, though, the church views the Mass as an integrated whole, a single act of worship from the entrance rite through the dismissal prayers, and canon law simply says, "On Sundays and other holy days of obligation, the faithful are obliged to participate in the Mass" (No. 1247).

If you happen to be in the confessional for part of that time, I would say that you are "morally present" at the Mass (your intent is certainly to be there) and that you are eligible to receive holy Communion.

Your question, though -- about a parish's practice of hearing confessions during Mass -- deserves further comment. That practice is a source of some pastoral debate among priests.

Since the faithful are gathered in largest numbers during Mass times, some view this as the opportune moment to make the Sacrament of Penance available; others, though, feel that it easily distracts people from the eucharistic liturgy itself.

Strictly speaking, there is no universal prohibition of the practice. In fact, the Vatican has spoken directly to the point: In 2001, the church's Congregation for Divine Worship and the Sacraments, while expressing a clear preference that confessions be heard outside of Mass, specifically allowed that they can be heard while Mass is being celebrated.

Some dioceses, though, have issued their

own guidelines: The Archdiocese of Chicago, for example, says in its published sacramental policies that "the Sacrament of Penance shall not be celebrated while a Mass is being celebrated in the same place."

**Q.** Yesterday, at the parish church I attended, a visiting monsignor gave the homily. (I believe he did so at all the Masses that day.) At the Mass my daughter went to, this monsignor referred at least three times in his homily to the "feast of Martin Luther King."

Many parishioners were upset, and a few walked out. Is this right? (Georgia)

**A.** The monsignor misspoke. Feast days are celebrated in the Roman Catholic Church for those who have been formally recognized as saints -- usually after a lengthy and rigorous process of examining their lives and the miracles credited to their intercession.

Martin Luther King Jr. Day is, instead, a national holiday -- proclaimed as such by the U.S. government to honor King's life and work. This year, on the date of the holiday -- Jan. 16, 2017 -- the church's liturgical calendar calls for the celebration of the Mass of "Monday of the second week of ordinary time."

I do think, though, that it's appropriate that King be mentioned in Catholic churches at the time of the holiday.

About 30 years ago, I served as the Catholic representative on a national committee planning the first King holiday, and I remember Coretta Scott King, Martin's widow, saying at a meeting that she hoped the holiday would be used not so much to honor her deceased husband personally, but to advance the cause he cherished.

I always include in the prayer of the faithful on the weekend before the holiday a petition that says, "As we recall the life and death of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., for an end to racism and for continued cooperation among those who stand against discrimination, we pray to the Lord."

As for the people who walked out of your church at the monsignor's misstatement, that strikes me as a bit extreme, and I have to wonder what underlying biases that reaction might indicate.

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

## Tax Preparation Help

For the 11th consecutive year, Ohio Dominican University accounting students and faculty will offer free income tax preparation services to qualified individuals through the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program.

VITA offers free tax help to people with low to moderate income (generally \$51,000 and below). Through this program, ODU accounting students offer assistance with special credits, including the earned income tax credit, child tax credit, and credit for the elderly.

The VITA program is offered in Room 202 of Erskine Hall at ODU's main campus, 1216 Sunbury Road, Columbus. The program begins Saturday, Feb. 25 and will continue from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. each Saturday and 3:30 to 6:30 p.m. each Wednesday through April 12. Exceptions are Wednesday, March 15 and Saturday, March 18.

Since first offering the VITA program in 2007, ODU faculty and students have helped prepare more

than 2,400 tax returns. In the spring of 2016, they prepared 256 state and federal income tax returns.

The Internal Revenue Service certifies as tax preparers participating accounting students, usually juniors and seniors. Under the supervision of faculty members who are certified public accountants, students prepare federal, state, local, school, and city income tax returns. In addition to free tax return preparation assistance, the program offers free electronic filing.

Appointments will be taken for the ODU site starting Saturday, Feb. 11. To make an appointment, call HandsOn Central Ohio at 211 in Franklin County or (614) 221-2255 elsewhere, and ask to speak with the VITA scheduler.

*For additional information on the VITA program, contact Jack Edwards at (614) 251-4261 or [edwardsj1@ohiodominican.edu](mailto:edwardsj1@ohiodominican.edu), or Dawn Hill at (614) 251-4382 or [hildd6@ohiodominican.edu](mailto:hildd6@ohiodominican.edu).*

## Lenten Morning of Reflection

Sister Louis Mary Passeri, OP, will conduct a Lenten morning of reflection on the theme "I Thirst" at Sts. Peter and Paul Retreat Center, 2734 Seminary Road S.E., Newark, from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, March 18.

On the cross, Jesus uttered the words, "I thirst" (John 19:28). No doubt, he was thirsty for water. However, his love for us is so great it seeks an ever-deeper response of love from each of us. We are thirsty, too,

for the living water Jesus promised. Sister Louis Mary invites everyone to come and pray and reflect on this loving relationship between God and ourselves.

The cost is \$20, which includes a continental breakfast.

*Register by phone at (740) 928-4246 or by email at [info@stspeterandpaulretreatcenter.org](mailto:info@stspeterandpaulretreatcenter.org), or visit the center's website, [www.stspeterandpaulretreatcenter.com](http://www.stspeterandpaulretreatcenter.com).*

**Go To Church**

## THE EVERYDAY CATHOLIC



By: Rick Jeric

### *Marriage and Lincoln*

As I continue to navigate my way through 2017, I realize that this year will mark 35 years of marriage for me and my wife. And as I like to tell our friends, it only seems like 70 years. All joking aside – and fortunately, my wife just rolls her eyes instead of smacking me – marriage is a lot of hard work. It

is a true labor of love every day, with no greater reward than the lifelong love it builds and enriches. The years go by very quickly, but with love, prayer, and humility, our marriages go from the initial bliss to the realization of what the sacramental bond of matrimony really is. This Sunday is World Marriage Day, and it affords us the opportunity to reflect on the things that make our marriages so very important to our families, to society, and to the world.

St. Josemaria Escriva: “Marriage is to help married people sanctify themselves and others. For this reason they receive a special grace in the sacrament which Jesus Christ instituted. Those who are called to the married life will, with the grace of God, find within that life everything they need to be holy.” St. John Chrysostom: “The love of husband and wife is the forge that welds society together.” St. Teresa of Calcutta: “Love, to be real, must empty us of self.” The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops: “Marriage is the foundation for the family, where children learn the values and the virtues that will make them good Christians as well as good citizens.” The Second Vatican Council: “Husbands and wives are the first to communicate their Faith to their children and to educate them with their words and their example.” Pope St. John Paul II: “Marriage and the family are the first community called to announce the Gospel to the human person during growth, and to bring him or her to full human and Christian maturity.” Pope Francis: “Marriage is like building a house. You would not wish to build it on the shifting sands of emotions, but on the rock of true love, the love that comes from God.” Winnie the Pooh: “If you live to be a hundred, I want to live to be a hundred minus one day, so I never have to live without you.” Anonymous: “A successful marriage requires falling in love many times, always with the same person.” And “Marriage lets you annoy one special person for the rest of your lives.” And “True lovers do not marry someone they can live with; they marry someone they cannot live without.” Dr. Seuss: “We are all a little weird, and life’s a little weird, and when we find someone whose weirdness is compatible with ours, we join up with them and fall in mutual weirdness, and call it love.”

Many brides go with the traditional rhyme “Something old, something new, something borrowed, something blue, and a lucky penny in your shoe.” While luck is more superstitious, our faith is not. Marriages are both honest and humbling. We wish ourselves the best, but it is always difficult to know how easy or challenging the road will be. But together, as one, the road is straighter. Abraham Lincoln is on that penny, and this Sunday, we celebrate his 208th birthday. One of his better quotes: “It is my intention to do all in my power to make my wife happy, and there is nothing I can imagine that would make me more unhappy than to fail in this effort.” This is the “luck” we should all wish for.

## Avery Brown Receives National Award

Avery Brown, a sixth-grader at Chillicothe Bishop Flaget School, was one of 10 students nationwide who were honored recently by the National Catholic Educational Association’s Youth Virtues, Valor and Vision Awards program.



The honorees, “through their selfless service, determination, innovation, and ideals are changing the world,” said a release from the association. “The honorees embody the standards of personal conduct and public service through their faith, leadership and service to others.”

“When talking about the benchmark by which all of us measure ourselves, these students set the bar very high,” said NCEA president Thomas Burnford. “They are the next generation of students who will make a difference in the world. Each one is a witness to the risen Christ and the importance of Catholic schools.”

Brown was recognized for her work with Southern Ohio Survivors (SOS), which helps people suffering from traumatic illnesses. After learning about their struggles, she started the “Pink Pumpkin Project” with the financial support of her grandmother. Each year, she and all the girls in her class paint, glitter, and

sell pumpkins in the community. All the supplies are donated, and all of the proceeds are donated to SOS. Brown started this project the summer before going into the third grade and has donated more than \$5,000 to SOS.

The Youth Virtues, Valor and Vision Awards program is made possible, in part, through the support of Cross Catholic Outreach, a Catholic ministry whose mission is to mobilize the global Catholic Church to transform the poor and their communities materially and spiritually for the glory of Jesus Christ.

CATHOLIC  
TIMES

*Your weekly guide along  
the pathway of faith*

### Preschool Director Position

St. Andrew Preschool, located at 3880 Reed Road, is seeking a Director for the 2017-2018 school year. This is a full time position.

Responsibilities for this position include, but are not limited to the following:

- oversee preschool staff
- prepare and manage annual budget
- make necessary provisions for needed supplies and equipment
- ensure compliance with Ohio Department of Education and Diocese of Columbus policies and regulations

Candidates for this position must possess a Bachelor’s and/or Graduate Degree in Child Development or Early Childhood Education.

Candidates must have, or be eligible for, a valid PreK teaching license issued by the Ohio Department of Education. Candidates must also have prior preschool teaching experience.

Interested applicants are encouraged to send their letter of interest, resume, and references to:

**St. Andrew School Principal/Joel Wichtman**  
jwichtma@cducation.org

## LUNAR NEW YEAR CELEBRATION AT STS. AUGUSTINE & GABRIEL

Columbus Sts. Augustine & Gabriel Church, which serves the Vietnamese community of the diocese, hosted a celebration of Tet, the Vietnamese lunar new year holiday, on Saturday, Jan. 28. Following Mass, young women from the parish's Vietnamese and English-speaking communities performed a traditional Vietnamese dance to celebrate the Year of the Rooster. In keeping with another Vietnamese new-year tradition, gifts were distributed to all the children in the parish after Mass.

CT photos by Ken Snow





## A Time for Stories

On my way to work, I stopped at the Cambridge Tea House to buy a currant scone. The crusty outside is just sweet enough and surrounds a tender center filled with currants -- no jam needed. I prefer mine just as they come out of the oven, and when I'm early, they're still warm.

Waiting for the young woman at the counter to ring up the purchase, I noticed small packages of intricately stamped *springerle* cookies resting on a glass plate. My daughter and I bake a few hundred each Christmas. Ours are anise-flavored and decorated with bells and angels, but these were smaller, almond-flavored, and covered with flowers and hearts for Valentine's Day.

"They're beautiful," I said as the tea house owner and baker emerged from the kitchen.

"A local woman makes them," she volunteered. I picked up one of the clear bags for a closer look. "The recipe's 150 years old."

I wondered aloud if she used baker's ammonia or some other leavening.

"What's baker's ammonia? the younger woman asked.

So began the story. I told them about baking *springerles* using an old family recipe from a friend of my mother. "Baker's ammonia is used in many old recipes. I used to buy it at pharmacies, but it's more difficult to find now. You can order it online."

I described our technique, which began with using a traditional wooden board carved with designs we pressed into the dough and evolved into our current biscuit cutter/cookie stamp routine.

"After we cut and stamp the cookies, we spread them over the counter to dry overnight. Baker's ammonia is heat activated, so they form a crusty top that keeps the stamped impression crisp when it bakes."

As the story unwound, the three of us stood still, caught up not only in my story, but in the personal stories it evoked in each of us. Images from deep heart places, rising to the surface, pulling along sights, sounds, smells, and emotion as they broke into consciousness. In silence, we breathed stories.

We recognized them in each other's eyes, memories both unique and the same: delight in the preparation and sharing of special foods with loved ones, anguish faced over steaming cups of tea and coffee, or reverence before moments of grace when the veil of ordinariness slipped away, revealing the extraordinary that's always present.



### GRACE IN THE MOMENT

Mary van Balen

Motionless, we paused, heartened by our connection. There we were, members of one family, God's beloved community.

We should give thanks for the humble story, for the telling that reminds us of the basic connection of all human beings. It isn't "them and us," as some would have us believe. "Other" is a fiction. Really, at the core, we are much the same. How to remember this in times of division?

Sharing stories is one way, the ancient sacrament as old as humanity. Sometimes, the details are unfamiliar: details of lives lived as a part of the minority or of the privileged majority; details of living in poverty or in wealth; details of raising children or living as a single person; details of enjoying good health or suffering physical or mental illness. The list is endless.

But if we listen to the stories of people who at first glance are "not like us," we recognize common

threads: Courage. Fear. Love and the need for it. Desire to care for our children, to have enough to eat. The search for meaning and self-expression, acceptance, and reverence.

There are many stories we need to hear today from people within and outside our usual circles: stories of people who think like us and those who don't, of people dealing with uncertainties of jobs and homes. There are stories of refugees, undocumented immigrants, ethnic and racial minorities, indigenous people, LGBT people, those who are abused.

Their stories cry out to be heard. Sometimes stories are told in books such as *Hidden Figures* and films like the movie *Lion*. An Oscar nominated documentary on James Baldwin, *I Am Not Your Negro*, was released last week, and from reviews I've read, it's filled with stories that can help us better understand race in our country.

Jesus used the power of story, moving his listeners to open their hearts to the stranger, to follow his example, to love. Story has the power to break barriers, to unite, to give heart, to change history. Or less lofty, to shine the warm light of common humanity on an ordinary morning trek to work.

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

### Washington, DC March

Twenty Portsmouth Notre Dame High School students traveled to Washington to participate in the March for Life. Holding signs saying "Defend Life," "For those who can't," "1/3 of my generation is missing," and other phrases, they witnessed to their belief that every life is sacred from the moment of conception and should be protected by the law.  
Notre Dame High School photo



## MARRIAGE: A VOCATION OF JOY

By Stephanie Rapp

The thrill of saying “Yes” to a wedding proposal. The look on a groom’s face as he watches his bride walk down the aisle. The feeling a married couple experiences when their love brings life into the world. No one can deny that each of these experiences is marked with the joy of love.

This joy is profound, deep, and real, and the Church delights in this. In fact, Pope Francis opened his apostolic exhortation *Amoris Laetitia* by stating that “the joy of love experienced by families is also the joy of the Church.” His exhortation shares Church teaching, encourages the faithful, and discusses various topics related to marriage and family life.

In his writing, before delving into the intricacies of the family, Pope Francis draws us to its center: “Let us cross the threshold of this tranquil home, with its family sitting around the festive table. At the center we see the father and mother, a couple with their personal story of love.” Although each married couple has their own unique story, they are also part of the greatest love story of all time – the story of God’s love for man.

The Bible declares “God is love” (1 John 4:8) and the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* notes that the relationship between Jesus and the Church often is imagined as the relationship between a bridegroom and bride. This reveals a truth of marriage and what God intends for marriage on Earth.

Pope Francis said, “Christian marriage, as a reflection of the union between Christ and his Church, is fully realized in the union between a man and a woman who give themselves to each other in a free, faithful, and exclusive love, who belong to each other until death and are open to the transmission of life, and are consecrated by the sacrament, which grants them the grace to become a domestic church and a leaven of the new life for society.” Individuals who are called to the vocation of marriage are undertaking a worthwhile commitment that literally changes their society and the world.

Yet it is important to note that marriage is not always easy. One merely considers Jesus’ passion and begins to understand that marriage, although



joyful, is not without sacrifice and, at times, suffering. However, joy and suffering need not be independent of each other.

Pope Francis notes, “Marital joy can be experienced even amid sorrow; it involves accepting that marriage is an inevitable mixture of enjoyment and struggles, tensions and repose, pain and relief, satisfactions and longings, annoyances and pleasures, but always on the path of friendship, which inspires married couples to care for one another: they help and serve each other.”

Married couples ensure that they stay on the path of friendship if they continually turn to God for strength, courage, and perseverance. They must seek the Lord and his grace, and intentionally choose to love their spouse. Pope Francis echoes this sentiment, stating, “The joy of love needs to be cultivated” and “growth can only occur if we respond to God’s grace through constant acts of love, acts of kindness that become very more frequent, intense, generous, tender and cheerful.” Love is not simply

a feeling, but a choice to be celebrated.

The purpose of the diocesan Office of Marriage & Family Life is to celebrate love through ministering to the family. Its mission is to draw married couples, families, and everyone in the Diocese of Columbus into a deeper union with Jesus Christ and with one another. This is accomplished through many programs, such as preparing engaged couples for the sacrament of matrimony and teaching couples how to practice Natural Family Planning. The office also links families with necessary resources, supports parishes in their ministry, and hosts multiple events throughout the year to support marriages.

This year, the annual diocesan World Marriage Day celebration will take place at 1 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 26 at Columbus Immaculate Conception Church, and the Jubilee of Anniversaries will be celebrated at 2:30 p.m. Sunday, June 25 at Gahanna St. Matthew Church. For more information regarding these events and educational opportunities or resources available from the Office of Marriage

& Family Life, call (614) 241-2560 or send an e-mail to [familylife@columbuscatholic.org](mailto:familylife@columbuscatholic.org).

Pope Francis beautifully describes married love in this way: “The love they pledge is greater than any emotion, feeling, or state of mind, although it may include all of these. It is a deeper love, a lifelong decision of the heart. Even amid unresolved conflict and confused emotional situations, they daily reaffirm their decision to love, to belong to one another, to share their lives and to continue loving and forgiving. Each progress along the path of personal growth and development. On this journey, love rejoices at every step and in every new stage.”

The Office of Marriage & Family Life asks everyone, especially during National Marriage Week, to pray for engaged and married couples as they daily renew their commitment to the Lord and to their vocation of joy.

Stephanie Rapp is director of the diocesan Office of Marriage & Family Life.

## Marriage preparation from the perspective of a newlywed

By Kathleen Hall

I did four things on July 9, 2016. I ran outside, sat in my car, bawled my eyes out, then called my mom. It was approximately one month into marriage, and my husband and I had gotten into our first big fight. Tears were shed, voices raised, and feelings were hurt.

I was greatly confused as I sat in my car that warm Saturday morning, wondering why the “honeymoon stage” which so many other couples had mentioned before us hadn’t lasted longer. Was our relationship flawed already? Did we make a wrong turn somewhere? What led to such an emotional argument? As a 26-year-old with an anxiety-prone personality, the statistic that 50 percent of marriages end in divorce already was looming over my head. My disillusionment with marriage had come too soon.

As things would have it, my mom didn’t answer the phone that day, and, in retrospect, it was actually a blessing that she didn’t. God reminded me in that lonely moment as the sun shone through my windshield that the pain I felt was the

very place that he wanted to be, if only I invited him. God gave me the courage to put my pride aside, humble myself, and walk back to my husband in order to find a resolution. We worked things out and continue to work through the challenges of life together as a happily married couple.

Pope Francis quotes the *Catechism in Amoris Laetitia* when he states, “Indeed, the grace of the sacrament of marriage is intended before all else ‘to perfect the couple’s love.’” I’ve found in my short time as a married woman that this task of self-perfection and selfless love admittedly does not come easily or naturally. The great thing, though, is that I’m not relying on my own will alone (or Dustin’s will alone) to make my marriage work, but also on the grace of God. Dustin and I encounter Christ in and through the daily task of perfecting our love for one another, and that is a beautiful thing!

In one weekend, it is not possible to know and understand everything there is to know about marriage and family life. Sometimes you can’t really understand

something unless you’ve lived through it, but marriage preparation taught me a great deal about God’s plan for marriage, and what the Church teaches us about this amazing sacrament.

The workshops gave Dustin and I an uninterrupted opportunity to focus on our relationship with God and each other. I would recommend the program to any engaged or civilly married couple who would like to go deeper with God and their fiancé or spouse. Information about the diocesan marriage preparation program is included below.

The diocesan marriage preparation program, “The Joy-Filled Marriage,” takes place on one weekend from 6 to 9:30 p.m. Friday and 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Saturday. It includes group workshops led by a team of diocesan staff, married couples, a priest, and a medical professional, with time at the end of most of the sessions for individual reflection by each couple.

Dates and places for this year’s remaining diocesan marriage preparation programs are: March 10-11, Pickerington St. Elizabeth Seton Parish; March 31-April

1, Westerville St. Paul Church; April 21-22, June 9-10, July 14-15, Aug. 18-19, and Nov. 17-18, Columbus St. Elizabeth Church; May 19-20 and Sept. 29-30, Columbus Immaculate Conception Church.

There is a \$175 fee, which includes the cost of dinner Friday and breakfast and lunch Saturday, and pre-registration is required. Registrations cannot be accepted at the door or by phone. It is recommended that a couple attend a minimum of four to six months before the scheduled wedding date.

If you are preparing to marry after loss of a spouse because of death or annulment, you may be a candidate for diocesan remarriage preparation, which addresses additional relevant issues. The format is similar to that of the marriage preparation program, with a special emphasis on challenges such as healing the past and blending families. The remaining sessions will take place at Columbus St. Elizabeth Church in July and October.

Kathleen Hall is marriage preparation coordinator for the diocesan Office of Marriage & Family Life.

## Practicing communication through NFP readies couples for challenges ahead

“Some crises are typical of almost every marriage,” Pope Francis says in his apostolic exhortation *Amoris Laetitia*. He cautions that couples will find it harder to face crises together if they lack previous opportunities to speak heart to heart. “Communication is an art learned in moments of peace in order to be practiced in moments of difficulty,” the pope says.

Frank and Jennifer Fullin (pictured), who have been married for 30 years, recommend the practice of Natural Family Planning (NFP) for couples as a way to encourage communication and foster respect, maturity, and generosity – qualities conducive to a long and healthy marriage.

“When I first started looking into NFP, I thought, like most people, that NFP was a Catholic Church-approved method of birth control,” Frank said. “After putting NFP into practice, I discovered that it is so much more than a family planning method. It is a way of living in a more intimate relationship with my spouse.”

NFP effectively assists a couple in achieving or postponing pregnancy without the use of drugs, devices, or surgical



procedures. A husband and wife simply learn to recognize their natural signs of fertility, then adapt their sexual behavior

accordingly. A couple trying to conceive will have sexual relations during their fertile times; a couple needing to postpone pregnancy will abstain during the fertile days.

Research indicates modern types of NFP to be 97 to 99 percent reliable in postponing pregnancy, and more effective than *in vitro* fertilization in assisting infertile couples. Successful NFP relies upon spouses understanding the method and one another. Couples must communicate about their fertility, their emotions, and their family planning intention (whether to have a baby or not) on a cycle-by-cycle basis.

“While it’s a little awkward at first to share this type of discussion with your spouse, once you can comfortably talk about your fertility, you can talk about anything,” Jennifer said. “You have a starting point for conversations about intimate aspects of your life that may have been difficult to talk about before, and this is not limited to sexuality. You may be surprised where your romantic conversations lead you.”

Frank concurred. “Jenny and I found ourselves talking about more than her basal body temperature and mucus signs. I also learned to manifest my love in ways that I hadn’t done as much before, especially during our times of abstinence. I rediscovered ways to cherish her, not just desire her,” he said.

The joyous reuniting after abstinence is playfully known as the honeymoon phase. This periodic renewing of the physical relationship keeps the flame of love burning brightly. Perhaps Pope Francis had NFP in mind when he wrote, “the love present from the beginning becomes more conscious, settled and mature as the couple discovers each other anew day after day, year after year.”

Engaged and married couples are invited to learn more about the relational and health benefits of Natural Family Planning by visiting the Marriage & Family Life Office website, [familylife.coldsdioc.org](http://familylife.coldsdioc.org), or contacting Jennifer, the office’s NFP coordinator, at (614) 241-2560 or [jfullin@columbuscatholic.org](mailto:jfullin@columbuscatholic.org).

## Columbus Worldwide Marriage Encounter

We are Mike and Kim Roberts of Gahanna. We are parishioners at New Albany's Church of the Resurrection, have been married since 1994, and are the area leaders for the Columbus Worldwide Marriage Encounter community.

What is a Worldwide Marriage Encounter weekend? It is a positive, personal experience offering married couples an opportunity to learn a technique of loving communication they can use for the rest of their lives. It is a chance to look deeply into their relationship with each other and with God.

The emphasis of a Marriage Encounter weekend is on communication between husbands and wives. The weekend provides time for couples to be together, away from the distractions of everyday life, while encouraging them to focus on each other and their relationship. It is not a marriage clinic, group sensitivity training, or a substitute for counseling. It is a unique approach aimed at revitalizing marriage. It truly is a marriage enrichment program.

Worldwide Marriage Encounter is unique in that a series of presentations is given by a team of Catholic couples and a priest. Priests and religious can attend a Worldwide Marriage Encounter weekend, too. A priest will enrich his relationship with his spouse – the church.

In February 2008, we attended a Marriage Encounter weekend after hearing about it, talking about it, and worrying about it for six or eight months before dealing with the babysitting

and weather issues that almost kept us from going. We did go, though, and it literally changed our lives. We came out of the weekend with a renewed love for each other and for our marriage sacrament. We learned a new way to communicate that we use to this day as a way to maintain the new closeness we found on the weekend.

Our marriage, before the weekend, was "OK." It was acceptable by society's standards and no one could see the distance that had grown between us, but we could sure feel it. When we left our weekend, and ever since then, we have been able to relate to each other differently, discuss our differences in a more loving, understanding way, and carry the torch of what a Catholic marriage should be – setting an example for our son, his friends, our family, and others.

Worldwide Marriage Encounter has resulted in a positive effect on us and on many other local marriages. We would like to invite all married couples and priests to consider attending a weekend. Upcoming weekends in the Columbus area are April 21 to 23 at the Worthington Holiday Inn, and Sept. 15 to 17 at St. Therese's Retreat Center. The weekends begin at 7 p.m. Friday and go through 4 p.m. Sunday.

For more information, or to attend a Marriage Encounter weekend, contact Paul and Marilou Clouse at (614) 834-6880 or visit [www.wwmecolumbus.org](http://www.wwmecolumbus.org).

*May God bless you and your marriage!*

### St. Charles Visit Days

Columbus St. Charles Preparatory School, 2010 E. Broad St., will have winter visit days from 9 to 11:30 a.m. Thursday, Feb. 23 and Tuesday, Feb. 28. The sessions are for eighth-grade boys and their families who were unable to attend the school's open house in December or one of the student visitation days throughout January.

Those interested in the school are invited to come and see what makes St. Charles a great choice for young men pursuing a high-quality college preparatory education.

Students and parents will visit freshman classes, tour the main and west

campus facilities, and receive information regarding college readiness provided through the school's curriculum. They also will learn about its athletic and extracurricular activities and a financial aid program that provides more than \$1.4 million annually for qualified students and their families. There also will be question-and-answer sessions with administrators, faculty members, coaches, and group moderators.

For more information or to sign up for one of the visit days, contact the school by email at [trishasmith-2010sc@yahoo.com](mailto:trishasmith-2010sc@yahoo.com) or by phone at (614) 252-6714.

#### MARRIAGE EVENTS SPONSORED BY COMMUNITIES OF THE MARRIAGE MINISTRIES LEADERSHIP COUNCIL 2017 - 2018

2017	Event	Location	Info/register
February 10-12	Retrouvaille Weekend	Procter Center, London	<a href="mailto:jjwilliamsretrouvaille@yahoo.com">jjwilliamsretrouvaille@yahoo.com</a>
February 17-18	Diocesan Marriage Preparation	St. Elizabeth, Columbus	<a href="mailto:familylife@columbuscatholic.org">familylife@columbuscatholic.org</a>
February 26	World Marriage Day	Immaculate Conception, Columbus	<a href="mailto:familylife@columbuscatholic.org">familylife@columbuscatholic.org</a>
February 17-19	Marriage Encounter	St. Therese Retreat Center, Columbus	<a href="mailto:ApplicationCouple@wwmecolumbus.org">ApplicationCouple@wwmecolumbus.org</a>
February 24-26	Engaged Encounter Weekend	St. Therese Retreat Center, Columbus	<a href="mailto:Registration@engaged.org">Registration@engaged.org</a>
March 10-11	Diocesan Marriage Preparation	Seton Parish, Pickerington	<a href="mailto:familylife@columbuscatholic.org">familylife@columbuscatholic.org</a>
March 31-April 1	Diocesan Marriage Preparation	St. Paul, Westerville	<a href="mailto:familylife@columbuscatholic.org">familylife@columbuscatholic.org</a>
April 21-23	Engaged Encounter Weekend	St. Therese Retreat Center, Columbus	<a href="mailto:Registration@engaged.org">Registration@engaged.org</a>
April 21-23	Marriage Encounter	Holiday Inn, Worthington	<a href="mailto:ApplicationCouple@wwmecolumbus.org">ApplicationCouple@wwmecolumbus.org</a>
April 21-22	Diocesan Marriage Preparation	St. Elizabeth, Columbus	<a href="mailto:familylife@columbuscatholic.org">familylife@columbuscatholic.org</a>
April 28-30	Retrouvaille Weekend	St. Therese Retreat Center, Columbus	<a href="mailto:jjwilliamsretrouvaille@yahoo.com">jjwilliamsretrouvaille@yahoo.com</a>
May 19-20	Diocesan Marriage Preparation	St. Elizabeth, Columbus	<a href="mailto:familylife@columbuscatholic.org">familylife@columbuscatholic.org</a>
June 9-11	Engaged Encounter Weekend	St. Therese Retreat Center, Columbus	<a href="mailto:Registration@engaged.org">Registration@engaged.org</a>
June 9-10	Diocesan Marriage Preparation	St. Elizabeth, Columbus	<a href="mailto:familylife@columbuscatholic.org">familylife@columbuscatholic.org</a>
June 25	Jubilee of Anniversaries	TBA	<a href="mailto:familylife@columbuscatholic.org">familylife@columbuscatholic.org</a>
July 15-16	Diocesan Marriage Preparation	St. Elizabeth, Columbus	<a href="mailto:familylife@columbuscatholic.org">familylife@columbuscatholic.org</a>
September 15-17	Marriage Encounter	St. Therese Retreat Center, Columbus	<a href="mailto:ApplicationCouple@wwmecolumbus.org">ApplicationCouple@wwmecolumbus.org</a>
August 18-19	Diocesan Marriage Preparation	St. Elizabeth, Columbus	<a href="mailto:familylife@columbuscatholic.org">familylife@columbuscatholic.org</a>
September 9	Retreat for Married Couples	TBD	<a href="mailto:familylife@columbuscatholic.org">familylife@columbuscatholic.org</a>
September 29-30	Diocesan Marriage Preparation	Immaculate Conception, Columbus	<a href="mailto:familylife@columbuscatholic.org">familylife@columbuscatholic.org</a>
October 13-15	Engaged Encounter Weekend	St. Therese Retreat Center, Columbus	<a href="mailto:Registration@engaged.org">Registration@engaged.org</a>
October 27-29	Retrouvaille Weekend	St. Therese Retreat Center, Columbus	<a href="mailto:jjwilliamsretrouvaille@yahoo.com">jjwilliamsretrouvaille@yahoo.com</a>
November 17-18	Diocesan Marriage Preparation	St. Elizabeth, Columbus	<a href="mailto:familylife@columbuscatholic.org">familylife@columbuscatholic.org</a>

## World Marriage Day Celebration

"Male & Female He Created Them: Complementarity and Intimacy in Marriage"

**WHERE:** Immaculate Conception Church  
Marian Hall  
366 E. North Broadway  
Columbus, 43214

**WHEN:** Sunday, February 26, 2017, 1-4 p.m.

There is no charge for the World Marriage Day Celebration. Kindly RSVP at [familylife.coldsdioc.org](mailto:familylife.coldsdioc.org) or 614-241-2560.



**Deacon Harold Burke-Sivers**, known around the world as the "Dynamic Deacon," is featured on *The Greatest Commandments: A 40-Week Spiritual*

*Journey for Married Couples*, a vibrant marriage-enrichment program rooted in biblical values and designed to help husbands and wives know God better, trust Him fully and love Him completely throughout the course of their married lives.

## Church must accompany couples before, after marriage, pope says

By Junno Arocho Esteves

Catholic News Service

To ensure engaged couples are entering into a fully Catholic marriage and remain committed to their vows for life, they must be prepared properly beforehand and supported afterward, Pope Francis said.

Addressing members of the Roman Rota, a tribunal handling mostly marriage cases, the pope said the church cannot ignore that there is a “widespread mentality” which is convinced eternal truths do not exist and, therefore, that many young people approaching the church for marriage do not understand what the sacrament is and that it is for life.

“Such a context, lacking religious values and faith, cannot help but condition matrimonial consent,” which is one of the essential conditions for a Catholic marriage to be valid, the pope told Rota members on Jan. 21.

He said the response of the Catholic Church must be to provide serious preparation for engaged couples and of-

fer support that would help newlyweds mature in their vocation.

“The objective of this preparation consists in helping engaged couples to know and live the reality of the marriage they intend to celebrate so that they may do so not only validly and lawfully, but also fruitfully,” he said.

Citing Pope Benedict XVI’s last address to the Rota -- in which he highlighted the relationship between love and truth -- the pope said that some people seeking marriage participate actively in the church, while others “are guided by a more generic religious sentiment.”

He said educating young people so that they rediscover marriage and family life according to God’s plan is a first “remedy” to situations where sufficient preparation is lacking.

“In this spirit, I would like to reiterate the need of a ‘new catechumenate’ for marriage preparation,” he said.

Pope Francis explained that, as with a catechumenate period in preparation for baptism as an adult, “marriage

preparation can become an integral part of the whole sacramental procedure of marriage, as an antidote that impedes the growth of null or inconsistent matrimonial celebrations.”

He said a second remedy is the church’s presence and formation after marriage to encourage newlyweds in their lives together.

The Christian community is “called to welcome, accompany, and help young couples” and care for their spiritual life through the parish’s pastoral ministry, he said.

“Oftentimes, young couples are left to themselves, perhaps for the simple fact that they are seen less in the parish. This is especially true after the birth of children,” the pope said.

He said it is in those first moments of family life that the church must be even closer to young couples, so they “may strive for the beauty of the Christian family despite the destructive traps of a culture dominated by the ephemeral

and the provisional.”

“As I have said several times,” the pope said, “great courage is needed to be married in the times in which we are living. And those who have the strength and the joy of fulfilling this important step must feel the love and concrete closeness of the church near them.”

Before their meeting with Pope Francis, Rota members celebrated Mass with Archbishop Angelo Becciu, a top official in the Vatican secretariat of state, to inaugurate the Vatican court’s judicial year.

In his homily, Archbishop Becciu said that, like Jesus, the court officials are surrounded by real people who want to be listened to and who have had an “experience of failure, of pain.”

“The ministry you fulfill in the pope’s tribunal puts you daily in contact not just with letters, but with people marked by human and marital failure. They are awaiting answers of truth and justice by the church,” the archbishop said.

## Pope Francis to media: Focus on ‘good news’ stories

By Edward Pentin

National Catholic Register

Pope Francis has called on the media to focus on “good news” stories by looking at the world through the paschal mystery of Christ, thereby breaking the “anxiety” and “fear” that stem from a “constant focus on ‘bad news.’”

“Confidence in the seed of God’s Kingdom and in the mystery of Easter” should “shape the way we communicate,” the pope said in his message to mark the 51st World Day of Social Communications. The message was titled “Communication, Hope, and Trust in Our Time.”

“This confidence enables us to carry out our work — in all the different ways that communication takes place nowadays — with the conviction that it is possible to recognize and highlight the good news present in every story and in the face of each person,” he said.

The pope said he wants an “open and creative” style of communication that encourages “everyone to engage in constructive forms of communication.” He said he also wants the media to reject “prejudice towards others” and foster “a culture of encounter, helping all of us to view the world around us with realism and trust.”

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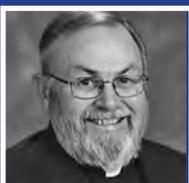
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## Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Cycle A)

## Choices and their consequences are always before us



Father  
Lawrence L. Hummer

**Sirach 15:15-20;  
1 Corinthians 2:6-10;  
Matthew 5:17-37**

A choice is an interesting part of life. Two things are set before a person, who must choose one. Both choices might be good, but only one thing can be chosen. Sirach realizes this when he offers the possibility of choosing to keep the commandments, which will save a person. He then likens the choice to fire and water. Both are good things, but only one can be chosen. So, too, life and death, good and evil are put before us. “Whichever one chooses shall be given.”

The result of choosing to do good is life. Choosing to do evil brings death. God does not force us to act one way or the other. The choice is always before us, but so are the consequences.

The Gospel continues the Sermon on the Mount with Jesus stating that he has come to fulfill the law and the prophets, not to destroy them. “The law and the prophets” is an expression that summarizes the entire Old Testament. For Matthew, “fulfilling the law” does not mean “doing” it so much as indicating its

full meaning. Jesus will do this in his commentary on various points of the law which follow, beginning in verse 21.

Jesus’ comments all involve laws which are connected with love of the neighbor in some way. Jesus does not bother here with commenting on the love of God with one’s whole being. All six “antitheses” begin with a statement of what the written law says: “You have heard that it was said. ...”

After this, the particular law is stated: “Do not kill. ... Do not commit adultery ... whoever divorces his wife must give her a bill of divorce ... do not swear falsely, but make good to the Lord your vows.” There are others in the sermon that will be covered in next week’s Gospel.

The antithesis comes when Jesus comments, “But I say to you.” Jesus says this in each case as he comments on the particular law. In regard to killing, Jesus also bans anger, name-calling, and even harboring evil thoughts about one’s “brother (or sister).” Reconciliation with a brother (or sister) who is angry with us is our responsibility, not theirs. This deepens the law considerably.

Concerning the ban on adultery, looking at another with lust also is banned, to the point that Jesus urges the offender to pluck out the sinful eye or to cut off the sinful right hand. This would be a severe penalty for those cultures where eating out of a common dish was commonplace. The New Testament world was one such culture. Lacking a right hand meant that one could not eat from the common dish. That could lead to starvation or malnutrition. Here, Jesus radically intensifies what is covered under adultery.

Regarding the issue banning divorce, Jesus’ response is curious: “But I say to you, whoever divorces his wife—unless the marriage is unlawful—causes her to commit adultery, and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.” This “unless phrase” is a rather complicated solution to a problem which has existed for ages. It involves three Greek words, which read literally “except cases (of) *porneia*.” That word ranges in meaning from “unlawful sexual intercourse” to “prostitution” to “unchastity” to “fornication.”

Earlier translations said “except in cases of adultery.” That is not what was written and is simply wrong. Finding its exact meaning is elusive. It probably was added to the original statement of Jesus to respond to a pastoral situation in Antioch, where this Gospel was likely written.

As far as swearing oaths are concerned, they involve asking God to witness to the truth of what we say, when all of us lean toward the lie. The solution is not to swear at all. Let one’s word suffice.

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

## DeSales office manager honored

Columbus St. Francis DeSales High School celebrated the Feast of St. Francis de Sales on Tuesday, Jan. 24, with a visit from Bishop Frederick Campbell, who celebrated



Mass and met with student leaders. The bishop also honored school office manager Chris Johnson for her 50 years as part of the school community. She became a DeSales student in 1966, graduated in 1970, began working in the school office on the Monday following graduation, and has been there ever since.

Photo courtesy St. Francis DeSales High School

## The Weekday Bible Readings

MONDAY  
Genesis 4:1-15,25  
Psalm 50:1,8,16bc-17,20-21  
Mark 8:11-13

TUESDAY  
Genesis 6:5-8;7:1-5,10  
Psalm 129:1a,2,3ac-4  
Mark 8:14-21

WEDNESDAY  
Genesis 8:6-13,20-22  
Psalm 166:12-15,18-19  
Mark 8:22-26

THURSDAY  
Genesis 9:1-13  
Psalm 102:16-18,19-23,29  
Mark 8:27-33

FRIDAY  
Genesis 11:1-9  
Psalm 33:10-15  
Mark 8:34-9:1

SATURDAY  
Hebrews 11:1-7  
Psalm 145:2-5,10-11  
Mark 9:2-13

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

## SUNDAY MASS

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

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

Mass from Our Lady of the Angels Monastery, Birmingham, Ala., at 8 a.m. on EWTN (Time Warner Channel 385, Insight Channel 382, or WOW Channel 378).

(Encores at noon, 7 p.m., and midnight).

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

## DAILY MASS

8 a.m., Our Lady of the Angels Monastery in Birmingham, Ala. (Encores at noon, 7 p.m. and midnight). See EWTN above; and on I-Lifetv (Channel 113 in Ada, Logan, Millersburg, Murray City and Washington C.H.; Channel 125 in Marion, Newark, Newcomerstown and New Philadelphia; and Channel 207 in Zanesville); 8 p.m., St. Gabriel Radio (AM 820), Columbus, and at [www.stgabrielradio.com](http://www.stgabrielradio.com).

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

# If Jesus Walked Among Us Today, Who Would Follow Him?

The story goes that one day about five years ago, when Father (now Bishop) Robert Barron was rector of Mundelein Seminary in Chicago, the late Cardinal Francis George stopped by and told the seminarians that they needed to do what Jesus did and hit the world with a strong dose of the truth of Catholicism, combined with mercy. His Eminence went on to say that Jesus knew he was asking a lot of the world and that people would have to live by much higher standards. Jesus also realized that in order to reach that objective, a lot of mercy would be needed.

Keep in mind that while the faithful Jewish believers of Jesus' time despised the Roman occupation, the Romans brought with them money, jobs, and lots of lavish possibilities. Everyone knew all roads led to Rome, a city full of wealth, power, the blood sport of the Coliseum, and the libertine lifestyle that existed after sunset.

The more things change, the more they stay the same. This is the reason for the title of this column. Our modern world, especially our entertainment culture, tells us that everything we hear in church is irrelevant and outdated, the stuff of old women and old men. There isn't a gadget we aren't supposed to own and there isn't a whim or fantasy we aren't supposed to try.

This is a problem everyone has to deal with, whether you are a single person facing the temptations of modern life or are married and trying to help your children stay on the straight and narrow. If you have a problem with modern culture, you are called backward, repres-



## THE TIDE IS TURNING TOWARD CATHOLICISM

David Hartline

sive, even bigoted. It is the world in which we live.

The modern world would have us think that Jesus is some sort of life coach, somewhere between Dr. Phil and Deepak Chopra. Sin is what you want it to be, and self-discovery and helping animals and nature is the highest form of service you can do. Recently, one militant zero-population supporter said that if you love babies, you shouldn't want to see any more of them. Needless to say, these kinds of folks love abortion.

How do we deal with these people and their ideas? The answer is simple: Do what Jesus did. Hit them with truth and mercy. We have to remind people that Jesus wants everyone in heaven, but there is a reason he mentioned hell more than heaven – because hell exists, and he doesn't want any of us there. However, because he gives us free will, we can foolishly reject him and his love.

In recent times, there has existed in theological circles a great debate about how believers in Christianity should contend with a modern world that often mocks and rejects our views. There is a line of thinking that says we have to embrace the modern world by show-

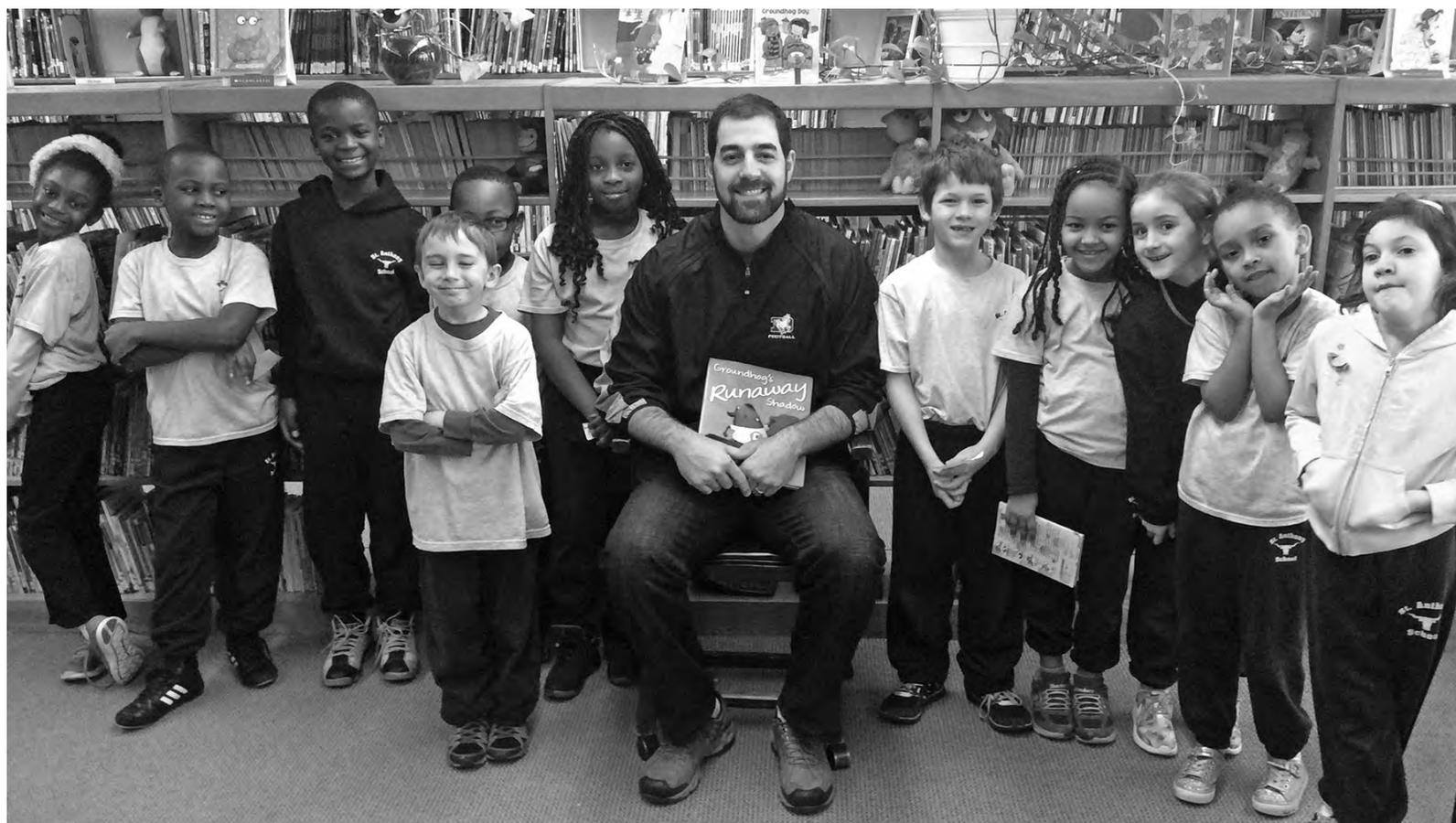
ing it our values, while at the same time not embracing a "maintenance" style of Christianity that says "Just keep doing what we are doing."

In their extremes, both views are wrong. We certainly can't be a "maintenance" church, slowly dying and never trying to reach the lost, all the while patting ourselves on the back for at least being better than the heathen sinners who exist outside our doors.

However, the other extreme of trying to be like the world by showing it how cool and hip we think we are doesn't work, either. We shouldn't wager our souls in a Russian roulette game of trying to be cool when playing against people who will have no say in our eternal destiny. We shouldn't care what they think of us. There is nothing wrong with certain kinds of modern music, movies, and other forms of popular culture, which I certainly enjoy. However, do we know more about these things than we do about our own faith?

If Jesus walked among us today, he probably would offend a wide swath of people, as he did 2,000 years ago. Just as he did, we have to hit them with truth and mercy. Ultimately, we have to make the decision whether his opinion of our actions is more important than the latest pop culture trends and the opinion of those who initiate them. The choice is ours.

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



## "READ WITH A STALLION" PROGRAM AT ST. ANTHONY

Matt Stewart, a graduate of Columbus St. Anthony School and Columbus St. Francis DeSales High School, participated in the "Read with a Stallion" program at St. Anthony. Stewart graduated from Vanderbilt University with an engineering degree and went on to play for the Atlanta Falcons and the Cleveland Browns. He read "Groundhog's Runaway Shadow" to the second-grade class and he shared with them some of his own adventures as a St. Anthony student.

Photo courtesy St. Francis DeSales High School

# Pray for our dead

**ADAMICH, Dorothy (Pavelchak), 89, Jan. 30**  
Sacred Heart Church, New Philadelphia

**ARGENTO, Twila (Steinmetz), 86, Jan. 29**  
Sacred Heart Church, New Philadelphia

**BECHT, Shirley A. (Lannert), 83, Jan. 27**  
St. Pius X Church, Reynoldsburg

**BENNETT, Jo Ann (Jones), 92, Jan. 30**  
St. Margaret of Cortona Church, Columbus

**CANTER, Cynthia H. (Jones), 78, Feb. 3**  
Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, Grove City

**CORROTO, Josephine, 92, formerly of Columbus, Jan. 30**  
St. Angela Merici Church, Youngstown

**FABRO, Joan C. (Travis), 80, Feb. 3**  
Sacred Heart Church, Columbus

**GRIESENBRÖCK, Robert, 85, Feb. 3**  
Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, Grove City

**HAMME, Kay E. (Wallar), 78, Jan. 29**  
St. Thomas Aquinas Church, Zanesville

**HAMSHER, Eleanor A., Feb. 3**  
Christ the King Church, Columbus

**LYNCH, Jerome J., 65, Jan. 25**  
St. Brigid of Kildare Church, Dublin

**MATHIAS, Louise M. (Grabowski), 78, Jan. 28**  
St. Bernadette Church, Lancaster

**PARSONS, James L., 75, Jan. 27**  
Our Lady of Peace Church, Columbus

**POSEY, Reynold E., 88, Jan. 31**  
St. Nicholas Church, Zanesville

**SHEEHAN, Robert G. "Buckey," formerly of Columbus, Jan. 24**  
St. Gregory the Great Church, Bluffton, S.C.

**SPICER, Ricnard B., 51, Jan. 29**  
St. Brigid of Kildare Church, Dublin

**SPIKER, Cassandra E., 13, Jan. 25**  
St. Thomas Aquinas Church, Zanesville

**SULLIVAN, Claudia (Matuszak), 78, Jan. 31**  
St. Andrew Church, Columbus

**WILLIAMS, Charlotte M. (Byrne), 92, Jan. 30**  
St. Philip Church, Columbus

## John J. Gordon

Funeral Mass for John J. "Jack" Gordon, 94, who died Wednesday, Feb. 1, was held Monday, Feb. 6 at Columbus St. Matthias Church.

He was born April 16, 1922 to John and Angelena (Schrader) Gordon.

He started his work life selling newspapers for a penny and ended it as president of Teamsters Local 413. He also served in the Navy in World War II.

He was a board member for Catholic Social Services, St. Stephen's Community House, the United Way of Central Ohio, and Huckleberry House,

and a member of the Alpha Athletic Club, Charity Newsies, Knights of Columbus Council 3727, and Amvets Post 89.

He was preceded in death by his parents; daughter, Joy Patterson; brother, Dick; sisters, Sis Belisle and Anna Delfino; and a grandson. Survivors include his wife of 73 years, Edna; sons, John (Kathi) and Joe (Mary); daughters, Jeri Rod and Joni (Tom) Pietrzak; sisters, Jeannie Metzger and Dorothy Bingham; 15 grandchildren; and 22 great-grandchildren.

## Sharon O. Wing

Funeral Mass for Sharon O. Wing, 73, who died Wednesday, Feb. 1, was held Saturday, Feb. 4 at Columbus Holy Family Church. Burial was at St. Joseph Cemetery, Columbus.

She was born May 10, 1943 in Columbus to John and Vera Wickle.

She was a case manager in the community services department of the Gladden Community House in Columbus' Franklinton area for 28 years until 2012, when she became director of the nearby Holy Family Soup Kitchen, succeeding longtime

director Frances Carr. The kitchen serves a meal to more than 350 people every weekday and provides groceries weekly to more than 125 families.

She was preceded in death by her parents and a brother, Danny O'Keefe. Survivors include her husband, Gary; children, Angie (Lewis) Buzzard, Tony (Melanie) Colombini, Maggie Sturgill, Chris Pfeil, and Barry Wing; brother, John (Kathy); sister, Barb Hutton; 12 grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

## Margaret Brock

Funeral Mass for Margaret "Peg" Brock, 80, who died Sunday, Jan. 29, was held Saturday, Feb. 4 at Reynoldsburg St. Pius X Church. Burial will be at Holy Cross Cemetery, Pataskala.

She was born Aug. 26, 1936, in Meadville, Pennsylvania, to Francis and Margaret (Nicklin) Rogers and was a 1955 graduate of Meadville Area High School.

She served as custodian at St. Pius X Church and a cafeteria worker at the parish school, was a member of the Elizabethan Guild and the Women of

Knights of Columbus Council 5253, and was a volunteer for 40 years with the Franklin County Board of Elections. She was employed by National Revenue Corp. for 27 years.

She was preceded in death by her parents; daughter, Debra Boggs; brothers, Francis and Thomas; and sisters, Marilyn (John) Carey and Carolyn (Jacob) Osdyke. Survivors include her husband of 60 years, Lee; sons, David (Susan), Dean (Carol), Douglas, and Daniel (Janiece); and 12 grandchildren.

## CSS Helps Develop Community Report on Aging

Catholic Social Services played a significant role in the development of the recent "Age-Friendly Columbus: Findings Report," which is helping the city of Columbus and the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission plan for the growing population of older adults.

In an effort to ensure that the voices of senior citizens, especially those with low incomes, were heard, CSS hosted focus groups for the communitywide study.

Participants in the groups included 100 Senior Companions – volunteers who visit low-income, homebound seniors.

The report found that older residents find the city to be a good place to age. It also said older residents want to be engaged as partners for making age-friendly improvements.

The surveys were weighted to four targeted neighborhoods – the Hilltop, Linden, the Near East Side, and Beechwood – which are among the city's areas that are most in need and have the largest concentration of older adults.

Catholic Social Services has served people of all faiths and backgrounds since 1945 and is dedicated to helping seniors age with grace and dignity.

Through the Senior Companion program, low-income senior citizens can volunteer to visit other seniors for 20 or more hours a week.

The CSS Friendly Visitor program matches people of all ages and socioeconomic backgrounds with a senior friend in Franklin and Delaware counties.

Catholic Social Services also offers a supportive services program which bridges the gap for many seniors who need assistance to remain safely in their own homes; a money management service to assist seniors who are having difficulty with their daily finances; payee services, which provide individual financial management to those who are unable for various reasons to manage their financial situation; transportation to non-emergency medical appointments for seniors and veterans in Licking County; and the HOME Choice program, which moves clients out of hospitals, nursing homes, and other long-term facilities into their own homes or community settings.

In 2016, Catholic Social Services served 3,074 individuals in the Diocese of Columbus through all of its programs for senior citizens.

"The number of seniors aged 85 and older in central Ohio will increase by 160 percent by 2050," Lustig said. "Catholic Social Services will play a vital role in responding to the growing population of seniors."

"In 2015, we adopted a strategy to Go Wider for Seniors, which means that we will expand our services to more people. Currently, we have eight senior programs, and our services are a scalable solution to care for our growing population of seniors and to help them age with grace and independence."

**For more information on all of CSS' programs for seniors and families, go to [www.colssc.org](http://www.colssc.org).**

# H A P P E N I N G S

## CLASSIFIED

**50th Annual Spaghetti Dinner**  
**St. Anthony Parish**  
**Sunday, February 26, 2017**  
**12:00 — 6:30 pm**  
 ~ Dine-in or Carryout ~  
 1300 Urban Drive ~ Columbus, Ohio  
 stanthonykofc14093@gmail.com

## FEBRUARY

### 9, THURSDAY

#### Cenacle at Holy Name

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

#### Theology on Tap Meeting

7 p.m., El Vaquero restaurant, 3230 Olentangy River Road, Columbus. Theology on Tap discussion and social group for young Catholics, with Pam Heil of Empowered to Love Ministries speaking on relationships. RSVP to cbustheologyontap@gmail.com or Columbus Theology on Tap Facebook page.

#### Catechism Uncorked in Delaware

7 p.m., Amato's Woodfired Pizza, 6 S. Sandusky St., Delaware. Catechism Uncorked social for 36- to 64-year-olds, sponsored by Delaware St. Mary Church adult faith formation program, featuring social time, question-

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

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

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

### 'Happenings' submissions

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

Items not received before this deadline may not be published.

Listings cannot be taken by phone.  
 Mail to Catholic Times Happenings,  
 197 E. Gay St., Columbus OH 43215  
 Fax to 614-241-2518

E-mail as text to  
 tpuet@columbuscatholic.org

answer session with speaker, and food for purchase.  
 740-513-3325

### 11, SATURDAY

#### Life and Mercy Mass in Plain City

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

#### Dominican Learning Center Tutor Training Workshop

9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Dominican Learning Center, 1111 E. Stewart Ave., Columbus. Training workshop for volunteer tutors needed to teach adults seeking basic education skills, GED readiness, or English as a Second Language.  
 614-444-7330

#### Bosco Bash Youth Rally at St. Timothy

2:30 p.m., St. Timothy Church, 1088 Thomas Lane, Columbus. Annual Bosco Bash rally for sixth- to eighth-graders, sponsored by diocesan Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry. Theme: "Fire and Water," featuring musician Paul Kim as keynote speaker, with music by Station 14, skits, games, dinner, and evening Mass. Cost: \$25 students, \$15 adults.  
 614-241-2565

#### Our Lady of Bethlehem Diamond Jubilee Gala

6:30 p.m., St. Charles Preparatory School, 2010 E. Broad St., Columbus. Diamond jubilee gala marking 60th anniversary of Columbus Our Lady of Bethlehem School and Childcare, with silent and live auctions, dinner, dancing. \$75 per person.  
 614-444-7330

### 12, SUNDAY

#### St. Agatha Adult Education

9:30 a.m., St. Agatha Church, 1860 Northam Road, Columbus. Second of four talks with Father Edmund Hussey on a modern theology of the Church. Topic: "You Celebrate Our Faith."  
 614-488-6149

#### St. Christopher Adult Religious Education

10 to 11:20 a.m., Library, Trinity Catholic School, 1440 Grandview Ave., Columbus. "The Gospel of Judas" with Scripture scholar Angela Burdge.

#### Kateri Prayer Circle at St. Mark

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

#### Lay Fraternities of St. Dominic Meeting

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

#### Concerts in a Country Church

3 p.m., St. Colman of Cloyne Church, 219 S. North St., Washington Court House. Concert with Christopher Urbiel, organist at Newark St. Francis de Sales Church, as part of parish's "Concerts in a Country Church" series. Tickets \$10.  
 877-232-2751

#### Prayer Group Meeting at Christ the King

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

#### Catholic Conversations Series

6 to 8 p.m., Sports on Tap, 4030 Main St., Hilliard. Monthly Catholic Conversations series for anyone 21 and older, sponsored by Columbus St. Margaret of Cortona and Hilliard St. Brendan churches. Speaker: Father Nathan Cromly, CSJ, of Eagle Eye Ministries, on "Joy." RSVP to nancywhetstone@gmail.com or julienaporano1@gmail.com.

#### Spanish Mass at Columbus St. Peter

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

### 13, MONDAY

#### Bethesda Post-Abortion Healing Ministry

6:30 p.m., support group meeting, 2744 Dover Road, Co-

lumbus (Christ the King convent, first building west of the church).  
 614-718-0277, 614-309-2651, 614-309-0157

#### Our Lady of Peace Men's Bible Study

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

### 14, TUESDAY

#### Calix Society Meeting

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

#### Holy Hour at Columbus St. Francis of Assisi

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

#### EnCourage Ministry Monthly Meeting

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

### 15, WEDNESDAY

#### Abortion Recovery Network Group

9:30 to 10:30 a.m., Westerville Area Resource Ministry, 150 Heatherdown Drive, Westerville. Abortion recovery network group meeting for anyone interested in recovering from abortion or who has been through a recovery program and wants to stay connected.  
 614-721-2100

#### Open House, Information Night at Holy Spirit School

9:30 to 11 a.m., Holy Spirit School, 4382 Duchene Lane, Columbus. Open house for prospective students, followed by information night at 7 p.m.  
 614-861-0475

### 16, THURSDAY

#### Cenacle at Holy Name

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

#### Abortion Recovery Network Group

7 to 8 p.m., Gateway Center, 2670 N. Columbus St., Lancaster. Abortion recovery network group meeting for anyone interested in recovering from abortion or who has been through a recovery program and wants to stay connected.  
 614-721-2100

#### Frassati Society Meeting at Columbus St. Patrick

7 p.m., Aquinas Hall, St. Patrick Church, 280 N. Grant Ave., Columbus. Meeting of parish's Frassati Society for young adults. Talk on "The History, Practice, and Spirituality of the Liturgy of the Hours" with Michael Murphy of the Lay Fraternity of St. Dominic, followed by questions and answers.  
 614-224-9522

#### Michael Coleman Talk at Ohio Dominican

7 p.m., Alumni Hall, Ohio Dominican University, 1216 Sunbury Road, Columbus. Former Columbus Mayor Michael B. Coleman talks about "Being Human: Civic Engagement, Civility and Community." Free; seating limited. Go to www.ohiodominican.edu and click "News & Events" and "Current News."

### 16-19, THURSDAY-SUNDAY

#### Bishop Hartley Presents 'Footloose'

7:30 p.m. Thursday-Saturday, 2:30 p.m. Sunday, Columbus Performing Arts Center, 549 Franklin Ave., Columbus. Columbus Bishop Hartley High School theater department presents the musical "Footloose." Admission \$7 to \$10; Hartley students free with ID.  
 614-237-5421

### 17-18, FRIDAY-SATURDAY

#### Marriage Preparation Program at St. Elizabeth

6 to 9 p.m. Friday, 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Saturday, St. Elizabeth Church, 6077 Sharon Woods Blvd., Columbus. "The Joy-Filled Marriage," diocesan Marriage & Family Life Office marriage preparation program. \$175 fee per couple includes meals.  
 614-241-2560

### 17-19, FRIDAY-SUNDAY

#### Marriage Encounter Weekend at St. Therese's

St. Therese's Retreat Center, 5277 E. Broad St., Columbus. Worldwide Marriage Encounter weekend, for couples who want to make good marriages better.  
 614-834-6880

### 18, SATURDAY

#### Columbus Catholic Women's Conference

8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Cardinal Building, State Fairgrounds, Columbus. Tenth annual Columbus Catholic Women's conference, with talks by Jeff Cavins, Magnus Macfarlane-Barrow, Kerri Caviezel, and Father Mathias Thelen. Details at www.columbuscatholicwomen.com.

#### 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.

### 19, SUNDAY

#### St. Agatha Adult Education

9:30 a.m., St. Agatha Church, 1860 Northam Road, Columbus. Third of four talks with Father Edmund Hussey on a modern theology of the Church. Topic: "You Are the Missionaries of Our Church."  
 614-488-6149

#### Blessing of St. Gerard Majella at Holy Family

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

#### Angelic Warfare Confraternity at Columbus St. Patrick

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

#### St. Padre Pio Secular Franciscans

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

#### 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.  
 614-861-1242

#### Spanish Mass at Columbus St. Peter

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

### 20-23, MONDAY-THURSDAY

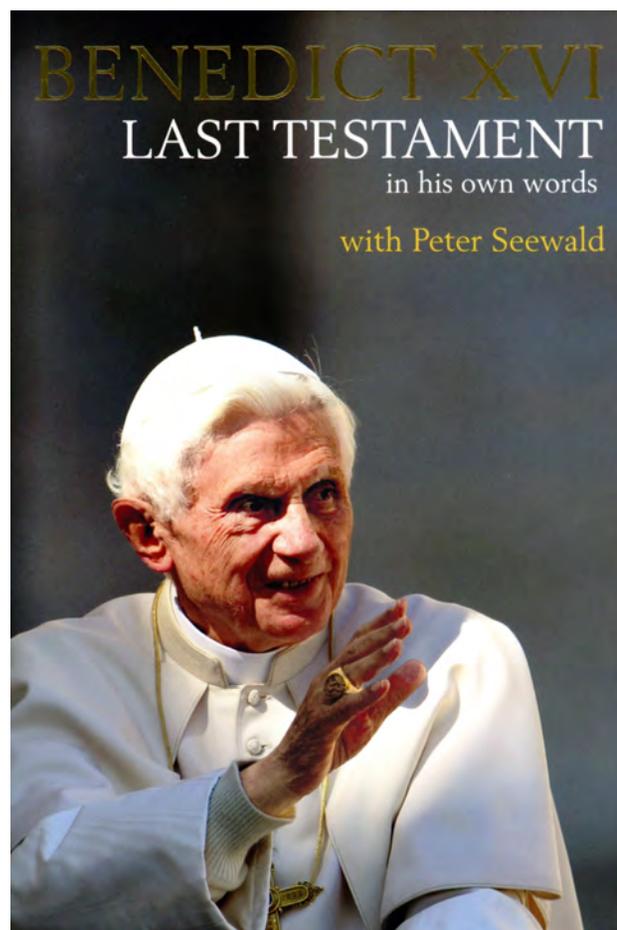
#### Parish Mission at Coshocton Sacred Heart

7 p.m., Sacred Heart Church, Walnut Street and Park Avenue, Coshocton. Parish mission with Father Thomas Blau, OP, of Columbus St. Patrick Church and papal missionary of mercy. Theme: "Life in Christ." (Thursday evening pending for questions and answers.)  
 740-622-8817

### 21, TUESDAY

#### 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.



*Readers offered journey through the theological life of the retired pope*

**By Brian Welter/Catholic News Service**

*Last Testament: In His Own Words* by Pope Benedict XVI with Peter Seewald. Bloomsbury Continuum (London, 2016). 257 pages, \$24.

Peter Seewald's interview of Pope Benedict, which follows from previous interviews and works including *Salt of the Earth*, offers readers a journey through the theological life of the retired pope. This includes thoughts on significant individuals such as Jesuit Father Karl Rahner, Father Hans Kung, and Pope St. John Paul II.

The first part of the book highlights a world radically different from our own -- that of Bavarian Catholicism in the mid-20th century. Its piety centered on family, village, and Christ.

Joseph Ratzinger stepped out of this world into the seminary and then higher theological studies in Munich. He relished this world.

Though the Nazi and immediate postwar eras brought deep change, the pontiff explains how the faith endured: "Despite the intrusiveness -- where the atmosphere of war was still somehow in the air -- there was a joy that we were now together. The being with one another, the encountering each other, the companionship, was subsequently something deeply moving for me in my consciousness." Such words also convey the sense of connection that people enjoyed back then, with a shared sense of place and belief.

Readers of *Last Testament* meet the lecturers who impacted the future pope, such as professor Georg

## BOOK REVIEW

# Last Testament: In His Own Words

Angermair, whom Pope Benedict qualifies as someone who rejected 19th-century pieties, a common practice of the time. As a seminarian, Ratzinger, like so many of his classmates, it seems, wanted something fresh.

Progressivism comes up many times in the book regarding his pre-Second Vatican Council, conciliar, and postconciliar experiences. Pope Benedict never denies his progressiveness. He notes that "progressive" meant something different from the Kung perspective, something that always remained faithful to the deposit of the faith.

In this sense, Pope Benedict sounds like a typical forward-oriented 20th-century thinker, along the lines of fellow personalist St. John Paul: "I didn't want to operate only in a stagnant and closed philosophy, but in a philosophy understood as a question -- what is man, really? -- and particularly to enter into the new, contemporary philosophy. In this sense I was modern and critical." While Cardinal Ratzinger shared John Paul's personalist viewpoint, this interview clearly shows that the former's Augustinian roots provide an alternative view to his predecessor's Thomism.

The interview also highlights philosophy's key role in the pontiff's spiritual and theological journey, including the importance of ancient Greek philosophy and its symbiotic relationship with theology, but extending to later thinkers such as Pascal. As at many points in the book, the pontiff here conveys the harmonious whole of the Catholic faith.

*Last Testament* includes many of the pope's thoughts on the nature of the church. He ties this in with the office of the papacy: "I, too, always wanted the local churches to be active in and of themselves, and not so dependent on extra help from Rome. So the strengthening of the local church is something very important." Words such as these portray a much softer, more flexible person than the

one portrayed in the media or by certain theologians.

Though he says that he never pursued power, he met and worked with the most powerful Catholic thinkers and leaders of the past 60 years. He calls Swiss theologian Father Hans Urs von Balthasar and French Jesuit Father Henri de Lubac his favorite theologians, and recalls working with Father Rahner at Vatican II and teaching with noted philosopher Josef Pieper at Munster, Germany. Pope Benedict qualifies Pieper and himself as progressives before adding, "Only later did he go in the same direction as I did, and Lubac. We saw that the very thing that we want, something new, is being destroyed. Then he (Pieper) energetically opposed it." Such words convey the simplicity and clarity of Pope Benedict's view of Vatican II and its aftermath. Readers also see the consistency in his thought.

The pope's serenity clearly comes from trusting in God. His answers never convey defensiveness, even concerning Vatileaks or the abuse scandals. Benedict is humble, as when he acknowledges Father von Balthasar's intellectual superiority. Regarding the present, he expresses great confidence in Pope Francis. Above all, Benedict's critics will be surprised at his open-mindedness -- the openness of someone confidently anchored in his beliefs who carries no secrets.

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## 2017 CATHOLIC MAN OF THE YEAR

**BY TIM PUET**

*Reporter, Catholic Times*

Josef Banks of Columbus St. Dominic Church says his selection as the Catholic Men's Luncheon Club's 2017 diocesan Catholic Man of the Year was a surprise to him because he never felt he did anything to merit such an honor.

"I was just trying to improve things," he said after accepting the award from Bishop Frederick Campbell.

It was evident from the size of the crowd honoring him that many people would disagree with his assessment. About 250 people filled Patrick Hall at Columbus St. Patrick Church on Friday, Feb. 3 to honor Banks, with Bishop Campbell and several friends paying tribute to his work with the church and the community.

"I couldn't be more pleased when I learned of his nomination," the bishop said. "I'm not in favor of human cloning, but in Joe's case, I might have to make an exception."

Banks spent much of his time at the microphone giving thanks to his parents, friends going back to his grade school days, priests, coaches, and parishioners of his parish and Columbus Holy Rosary-St. John Church, both of which he serves as a staff member.

In 2014, when St. Dominic was undergoing significant renovation, Banks spent countless hours on scaffolding removing the building's drop ceiling, plastering and painting the original ceiling, installing carpeting, and performing other work.

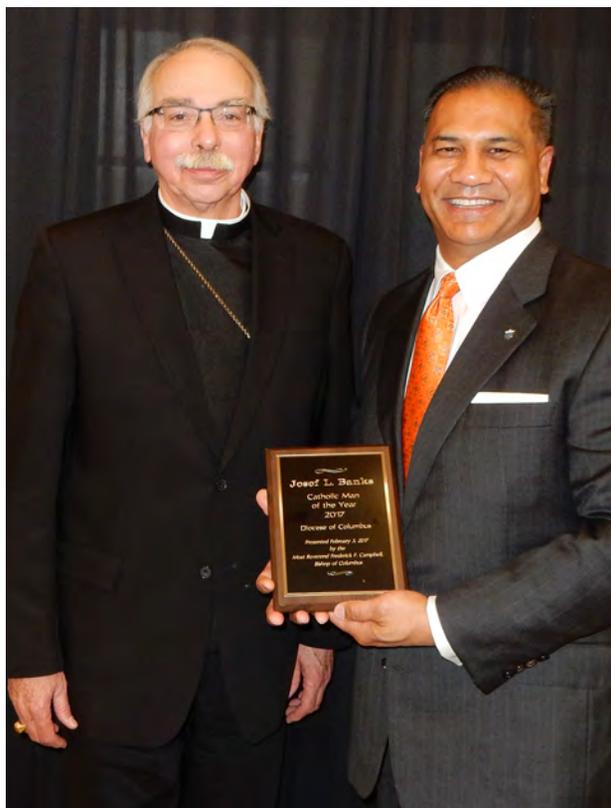
Banks, 53, also is a professional photographer with a degree in photography from The Ohio State University. He volunteered in 2009 as a photographer on a pediatric medical mission to Enugu, Nigeria, documenting the activities of a 12-member medical team which assisted about 880 infants and children.

The graduate of Columbus Corpus Christi School and Columbus Father Wehrle High School was a track star at OSU and has coached track at Columbus St. Charles Preparatory School and boys basketball at Pickerington Central High School.

Banks' talk was mostly upbeat, but it turned serious when he described two incidents in his life. Banks, who is African American, did not say they were racial in nature, but the inference was clear, and the silence among the audience as he spoke made it apparent his words had impact.

"I didn't want to accept this award," he said. "But I accepted it because it was going to give me an opportunity to voice my concerns about some things."

One of those incidents was in church, when someone refused to shake his hand at the sign of peace. "It really burned me," he said. "Unfortunately, throughout life, in certain situations you're not wel-



come just because of who they think you are or who you're not."

Banks said he also occasionally has signed autographs before OSU football games, then taken a bus home. "It was bizarre how they treated me when they wanted my autograph and how they treated me at the bus stop," he said. "They didn't know who I was. It's real sad.

"If they know who you are, they treat you different. If they think you're just a guy at a bus stop, they can say anything to you, throw stuff at you."

In 1997, Banks was severely beaten and suffered a traumatic brain injury while helping a family restore an apartment. He had to relearn everything from walking and reading to performing his photography work. Banks made frequent references to the power of prayer during his talk, particularly how the prayers of Father Thomas Petry, pastor of St. Dominic at the time, and many others brought him through the crisis.

In closing, Banks requested prayers for Chad Nelson, a recent Ohio Dominican graduate who formerly played basketball for him at Pickerington Central. Banks is serving as a mentor for Nelson as he continues to work on his game in an attempt to play professionally in Europe. "He's like a son to me," Banks said. "Little by little, I'm getting him to understand the power of prayer. I believe once he makes it to the next level, he will realize how much it means."

Father Joshua Wagner, pastor of St. Dominic and Holy Rosary-St. John, said "I could not do what I

do as pastor but for people like Joe," because of the work he does and Banks' willingness to listen to his pastor's concerns. "I always feel better when I talk to Joe," Father Wagner said. "He simply reflects the light of Christ in everything he does. He follows the words of St. Therese of Lisieux – 'Do small things with great amounts of love.'"

"He will do anything for anybody at any time," said a friend, Sandra Davis. She quoted from a letter written in support of Banks' nomination by Father Barry Eneh, a priest formerly in residence at St. Dominic and now with the Veterans Administration in Palo Alto, California, who was at the luncheon. "Over the years, I have fondly called him 'Gentle Joe' because of his gentle demeanor and passion for serving others," Father Eneh wrote.

Another friend, Curt Matthews, compared Banks to a stainless-steel elevator – "It's always ready to serve those who are willing to push the buttons, and if you don't push, it's going to come down anyway. It's efficient, productive, smooth, and always works, just like Joe," he said.

Linda Waddell, who has known Banks for the past six years, spoke of his devotion to prayer and of how his relationship with Nelson is one example of how he maintains strong ties with his friends and many of the athletes he has coached. She said he is proud of all of them, yet keeps them in line when needed with the remark, "You're special, but you're not that special."

Banks also is a member of the Knights of Peter Claver and of the Parish Council and welcoming committee at his church, participates in his parish men's prayer breakfast and men's Bible study and the Building Responsibility, Equality, and Dignity (BREAD) organization, and regularly visits the sick, particularly others who have suffered traumatic brain injuries.

He was chosen for the award by a selection committee consisting of two representatives each from the Catholic Men's Retreat League, the Catholic Men's Ministry, the Serra Club, the Knights of Columbus, and the luncheon club.

The club established the honor in 1957 and has presented it in each year since. The 2016 recipient was Jeff Bernard of Gahanna St. Matthew Church.

*Also nominated for the award this year were Len Barbe, Thom Lisk, and Eric Yang of Columbus St. Peter Church; Frank Hartge, Dave Eldrige, and Jim Gernetzke of St. Matthew; Mike Melliere and David Szarko of St. Patrick; Brad Burchfield and Matt Palmer of Columbus St. Catharine; James Garland of Washington Court House St. Colman of Cloyne; Hugh Dorrian and Carl Connor of Columbus St. Timothy; Jim Merckling of Columbus Sacred Heart; and Tom Laughery of Pickerington St. Elizabeth Seton.*

## Tragedy prompts family to turn to saints, start company to share devotion

By Connor Bergeron

Catholic News Service

Small, colorful plastic Catholic saints can be seen hanging from keychains, zippers, and backpacks alongside Hello Kitty and Pokemon.

They're called Tiny Saints, and resulted from Joe and Colleen Klinker's attempt to explain the death of their stillborn daughter, Melody Paige, to her older siblings.

The loss of their daughter was unexpected and devastating. It also prompted questions from their children – Gracie, 9, and JT, 8. Death was a topic the Klinkers had not anticipated discussing until much later, but it opened a conversation about heaven and who Melody was with there.

Joe and Colleen, former parishioners of the Church of the Nativity in Burke, Virginia, who now live in Florida, began to tell their children stories about saints. But the images they found online didn't resonate with their children. To bridge the gap, they created tiny, simplistic images of saints.

"Most saints don't have the appeal to children, unlike Disney or Hello Kitty," Joe told the *Arlington Catholic Herald*, the newspaper of the Diocese of Arlington, Virginia.

Their digital drawings captured their children's gaze. JT imagined St. George playing swords with his little sister, while Gracie pictured Melody chasing after butterflies with St. Kateri



Photos (clockwise): Joe Klinker, founder of Tiny Saints, stands in front of a display of his products; two children from Haiti are seen wearing Tiny Saints necklaces. A St. Teresa of Kolkata necklace is on the left and St. Martin de Porres is on the right; Tiny Saints are seen on keychains.

CNS photos/Connor Bergeron, Arlington Catholic Herald

Tekakwitha.

"We weren't going to fall down as a family, and we weren't going to allow our children to miss out on the grace that comes from a loss like that," Joe said.

Noticing their children's reaction, the Klinkers decided there was a potential market. In 2013, they created Tiny Saints. Joe's brother, Mark, joined the team and guided the artistic vision.

A few weeks after they started their online store, [tinsaints.com](http://tinsaints.com), the products were available in 10 stores. Today, Tiny Saints can be found in about 175 bookstores and gift shops nationwide. The product line includes rosaries, bracelets, and a children's book.

Mark has left the company and Colleen has taken on his role in the business. In 2015, Joe left the Coast Guard after 12 years and moved the family to Winter Garden, Florida, to run Tiny Saints full time.

"There's a tremendous amount of freedom, but there is still this uncertainty. Eventually, I had to stop worrying," Joe said. "Worrying implied that I didn't trust in God."

Tiny Saints changed from a necklace to a charm, about the size of a quarter, with a clip above the saint's head to make it very portable.

"To say that it is a keychain gave it one value, but calling it a charm gave it multiple values," said Joe. "I'm piggybacking on a century-old concept (of saints' medals)."

The communion of tiny saints numbers more than 100. The Klinkers add saints to the lineup and suggestions come via email from their website. Two factors are taken into consideration: how helpful the charm will be to people, and how profitable it will be.

"A good example: St. Mary and St. Michael, they were no-brainers," said Joe. "Then you get ones like St. Dymphna. Because (she's the patroness) of mental illness, this saint has a significant role to people."

The design process begins with research and prayer as Joe gets to know the saint. He reviews popular imagery of the saint and sometimes takes creative liberties, such as putting St. Agatha in pink clothing to reflect her role as the patron saint of breast cancer.



Once the design is finished in Adobe Illustrator, Joe sends the digital file to the overseas manufacturer of the charms, whom he credits with bringing them charms to life.

Sometimes, a particular saint is selected because he or she relates to current affairs, such as St. Thomas More during the presidential election.

"One of my favorites is St. Sebastian," he said. "Obviously, we had to put the arrow in his chest." St. Sebastian was put to death in the third century by a troop of archers.

The Klinkers hope to double the roster of saints to 200. The newest saint is St. Francis de Sales, the patron of writers and journalists.

Their company has donated hundreds of its products to missions in areas, including Haiti. Because the charms are weatherproof, they can withstand harsh climates.

Tiny Saints can be an introduction to a saint that might lead to a conversation or a prayer. Joe said that if the church were a swimming pool, Tiny Saints could lead people deeper into their faith.

He admits that until he created Tiny Saints, he had no special devotion to the saints. He credits Melody for introducing them.

"This beautiful church that we're a part of can be overwhelming and terrifying after 2,000 years. I think that's what Pope Francis is getting at: Go back to these simple things, get to know the saints," he said.

*Bergeron is a staff writer at the Arlington Catholic Herald.*

