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COURAGEOUS FAITH, CONTAGIOUS JOY
AT CATHOLIC WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

The Editor's Notebook

Hearing and Doing the Word

By David Garick, Editor

“Be doers of the word and not hearers only, deluding yourselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks at his own face in a mirror. He sees himself, then goes off and promptly forgets what he looked like. But the one who peers into the perfect law of freedom and perseveres, and is not a hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, such a one shall be blessed in what he does. ... Religion that is pure and undefiled before God and the Father is this: to care for orphans and widows in their affliction and to keep oneself unstained by the world.”

James 1:22-27

That important command from St. James never should be far from our minds as Catholics. Christ calls us to heed His words, to take them into our hearts, and then to express those words in our actions, to carry His love to the world around us. Every time we participate in the Holy Eucharist, we should be motivated to do just that. But sometimes it does us good to get additional motivation and reinforcement.

That's what went on last weekend at the 2017 diocesan Catholic Women's Conference, and it will be repeated this weekend when Catholic men gather for their annual conference in the same facility at the Ohio Expo Center.

This edition of *Catholic Times* will

share with you a small taste of the important message shared at the Women's Conference. I am reminded of the story of the time Jesus went to visit His friends Mary and Martha at their home. Martha became perturbed when she was busy cooking for Our Lord, while her sister just sat at His feet, listening to what He had to say. Jesus defended Mary, saying it was important for her to hear these things. He did not say that Martha was wrong to work hard at serving. But first, we must hear the message. Then we can go forth and do the work of living the message.

That's what a conference like this helps accomplish. It reminds us of the Word made flesh in Christ, who dwells within each of us. But it also motivates us to action. As St. James tells us, we can truly be part of His eternal body on Earth only if we reach out every day, living as Christ taught us and serving those around us. And when looking into the mirror, we should see Christ. But when we walk away from the mirror and live the Word, we will not forget who we really are, and the world will see that as well.

If you have not attended a women's or men's or youth conference, put it on your schedule for the future. It is not the only way to grow in holiness, but it is a wonderful tool to bring us closer to Christ and to help us bring Christ to a waiting world.



USCCB leaders urge Trump to protect religious liberty

By Catholic News Service

Catholic Church leaders said on Feb. 16 they were encouraged that President Donald Trump may be considering an executive order to protect religious freedom. They also said they would be grateful if he would move forward with the pledge that his administration would “do everything in its power to defend and protect religious liberty.”

“As Christians, our goal is to live and serve others as the Gospel asks. President Trump can ensure that we are not forced from the public square,” said a statement from committee chairs of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

The statement was jointly issued by: New York Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan, chairman of the committee on pro-life activities; Philadelphia Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, chairman of the committee on laity, marriage, family life, and youth; Baltimore Archbishop William E. Lori, chairman of the ad hoc committee for religious liberty; and Bishop Frank J. Dewane of Venice, Florida, chairman of the committee on domestic justice and human development.

The church leaders said the proposed executive order would “implement strong protections for religious freedom across the federal government in many of the areas where it has been eroded by the preceding administration, such as health coverage, adoption, accreditation, tax exemption, and

government grants and contracts.”

“We ourselves, as well as those we shepherd and serve, would be most grateful if the president would take this positive step toward allowing all Americans to be able to practice their faith without severe penalties from the federal government,” they said.

A draft version of the executive order, called “Establishing a Government-Wide Initiative to Respect Religious Freedom,” was leaked in late January. When it failed to appear on the president's desk, rumors were circulating that a scaled-back version might be issued, but there has been no word about it from the Trump administration.

The statement stressed that U.S. Catholic bishops have long supported religious liberty, adding that during the last several years, “the federal government has eroded this fundamental right,” most notably with the Affordable Care Act's contraceptive mandate for religious employers who do not fit the mandate's narrow exemption, including the Little Sisters of the Poor.

The USCCB leaders urged Trump to keep his promise and put an end to regulations and other mandates by the federal government “that force people of faith to make impossible choices.

“We express our fervent hope that with new leadership in the executive branch, basic protections for religious practice may be restored and even strengthened,” they said.

Correction - The Feb. 19 Catholic Times did not list specific dates for women's auditions for the spring musical “Zombie Prom” at Columbus St. Charles Preparatory School. The dates are Tuesday and Wednesday, Feb. 28 and March 1, at 4 p.m. at the campus theater, 2010 E. Broad St.



Front Page photo: A portion of the crowd of 3,500 women at the annual diocesan Catholic Women's Conference in the new Cardinal Hall at the state fairgrounds.

CT photo by Ken Snow



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DOMINICAN FRIARS TO LEAVE ZANESVILLE'S ST. THOMAS AQUINAS CHURCH

The departure of the Dominican Friars from Zanesville St. Thomas Aquinas Church has been announced by Father Kenneth Letoile, OP, prior provincial of the Dominican Province of St. Joseph, and Columbus Bishop Frederick F. Campbell.

“The Dominican Friars have served St. Thomas Parish for almost 200 years and have built up the household of faith from pioneer days to the present,” Bishop Campbell said. “Although the reasons for the withdrawal of the Dominican Friars from St. Thomas are certainly valid and have been carefully considered and judiciously weighed, this does not make their departure easy. Still, the reality cannot be changed.”

Father Letoile said, “We came to this decision carefully, prayerfully, and as part of a provincewide planning process. It was of utmost importance to work closely with Bishop Campbell to plan this transition in a way to ensure that the pastoral needs of the people of St. Thomas continue to be met.” The friars have served the Zanesville community since their arrival in the area in 1820.

This change was necessitated by a refocusing of ministries more suited



to the mission of the Dominicans, especially relating to teaching, itinerant preaching, and campus ministry. For the past several years, the province has favored larger communities of friars over smaller communities, such as that at St. Thomas.

“St. Thomas Aquinas, while a worthy and viable parish, is not able to sustain a community of (our) desired size. Other ministries needed to occupy the friars and support our costs simply are not to

be found within a reasonable distance to make that kind of community life for us possible,” Father Letoile said.

Moving forward, St. Thomas Aquinas will continue normally as a parish within the Diocese of Columbus. Bishop Campbell will assign a diocesan priest to be the next pastor of St. Thomas, where he will begin to serve in July.

“Over the next several months, with the help of the Priests’ Personnel Board, the next pastor of St. Thomas Aquinas

Church will be chosen,” Bishop Campbell said. “It is my intention to choose a priest who will serve the pastoral needs of the people of St. Thomas Parish with diligent care and sensitivity.”

Father Letoile preached at St. Thomas at all Masses this past weekend and conducted parish informational meetings regarding the transition on Tuesday, and Wednesday, Feb. 21 and 22.

“I am certain that I speak for our pastor, Father Peter Fegan, OP, and all the friars who have joyfully served at St. Thomas in expressing my sincere gratitude for the many ways that you have supported the parish and the friars in our service to you,” Father Letoile added. “I hope that our Dominican heritage, which will remain in the art and architecture of this beautiful church and in the memories that we cherish, will continue to be a blessing for the people of the parish.”

Bishop Campbell said, “In the coming weeks, I ask you to pray for the Dominican Friars past and present who have served St. Thomas Aquinas Parish, and to praise and thank God for their ministry and service these past two centuries. Also pray for God’s blessings upon the future of St. Thomas Parish.”

Life, conversion of Roe v. Wade’s Norma McCorvey remembered

CNA/EWTN News

The woman at the center of the case legalizing abortion in the United States has died. Pro-life leaders hailed her ultimate conversion on the issue and her ensuing struggles to promote life.

“Ultimately, Norma’s story after *Roe* was not one of bitterness, but of forgiveness. She chose healing and reconciliation in her Christian faith,” Marjorie Dannenfelser, president of the pro-life group Susan B. Anthony List, said on Saturday, Feb. 18 after Norma McCorvey’s death earlier that day.

“She overcame the lies of the abortion industry and its advocates and spoke out against the horror that still oppresses so many,” Dannenfelser said. “In her memory and in her honor, we will carry on that work and we pray for her eternal peace.”

McCorvey, the woman identified as “Jane Roe” who was the plaintiff in

the U.S. Supreme Court’s *Roe v. Wade* decision that legalized abortion nationwide, was 69 when she died.

She had sued the state of Texas after she became pregnant with her third child in 1969 and wanted an abortion, which was illegal in the state. “I was a very confused 21-year-old with one child and facing an unplanned pregnancy,” McCorvey said in a recent interview posted by VirtueMedia.

Her pregnancy supposedly resulted from being raped, but she later revealed she had lied about the circumstances.

“Many believe that she was very much coerced into that situation and was encouraged to lie about the situation being the result of a rape,” Jeanne Mancini, president of the March for Life, said. There was “a lot of manipulation and lies and pressure” behind the case, she added.

McCorvey’s case went to the Supreme

Court, which on Jan. 22, 1973 issued the *Roe* decision, allowing abortion in all 50 states. Since 1973, there have been more than 50 million abortions in the U.S.

Another abortion case – *Doe v. Bolton* – was decided on the same day as *Roe*. Neither of the plaintiffs had an abortion, and both women eventually “had this radical conversion to the truth and dedicated their lives to really protecting the inherent dignity of the human person,” Mancini said.

McCorvey, the mother of three daughters, ended up carrying her third child to term before giving her up for adoption.

She worked at an abortion clinic and later revealed herself as the “Jane Roe” of the Supreme Court decision, then had a sudden turn in the 1990s, joining the pro-life movement and becoming a Christian.

“Norma suffered tremendously at the hands of those who cared more about the institution of abortion than this courageous woman’s life,” Dannenfelser said.

McCorvey started a group known as Roe No More, which was dedicated to overturning the *Roe* decision and reversing its cultural consequences. She also was involved with the pro-life group Operation Rescue for a time.

McCorvey said that “upon knowing God, I realized that my case which legalized abortion on demand was the biggest mistake of my life.” She said she learned that “abortion scars an untold number of post-abortive mothers, fathers, and families, too.”

After being baptized a Christian, McCorvey felt called to enter the Catholic Church. As she related in a story for the group Priests for Life, she had at

Faith in Action

By Erin Cordle

**Encounter Lent with the
CRS Rice Bowl
Family Challenge**

We are called to build a culture of encounter. Jesus made this clear from the way he lived and the message he preached. Pope Francis makes this clear with his own daily examples. Now it's our turn. With the spiritual pillars of Lent (prayer, fasting, and almsgiving), we are about to set out on our own 40-day journeys of encounter with ourselves, our neighbors, and God.

In his apostolic exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium*, Pope Francis writes, "I invite all Christians, everywhere, to this very moment, to a renewed personal encounter with Jesus Christ, or at least an openness to letting him encounter them; I ask all of you to do this unfailingly each day. No one should think that this invitation is not for him or her since 'no one is excluded from the joy brought by the Lord.'"

A familiar opportunity for encounter during Lent is the CRS Rice Bowl. This Catholic Relief Services Lenten faith-in-action program for families and faith communities is an invitation through which our prayers and sacrifices can change lives here and around the world. Each day of Lent, individuals and families are invited to use the CRS Rice Bowl Lenten calendar (included with every CRS Rice Bowl and available online at www.crsricebowl.org/families) to guide their Lenten almsgiving.

This year, we have added a twist – a CRS Rice Bowl family challenge, which is being supported by the diocesan Marriage & Family Life and Social Concerns offices. Families can participate in two ways: at home and/or through our Catholic schools. At home, just download the Rice Bowl calendar from the CRS website and the family challenge form from the diocesan website (<http://socialconcerns.colstdioc.org>). Keep track of the activities you do as a family and report them to the Office for Social Concerns by Friday, April 28. Completed family forms will be included in a drawing for one of 10 CRS Fair Trade baskets.

There is a separate challenge for Catholic schools. Based on the percentage of student participation, the winning elementary or high school, will be given \$1,000 to donate to hunger projects (\$750 for CRS and \$250 for local projects, split just as the regular CRS Rice Bowl donations). That school will decide which nation and which local projects will be funded. For additional information, contact me at ecordle@columbus-catholic.org or call the Office for Social Concerns (614-241-2540) or the Office of Marriage & Family Life (614-241-2560).

Lent offers us an opportunity for new beginnings. Lent calls us to conversion. We are asked to return to God "with all our hearts" (Joel 2:12), to refuse to settle for mediocrity, and to grow in friendship with the Lord.

Consider the parable of the rich man and Lazarus (Luke 16:19-31) as it provides a key to understanding what we need to do in order to attain true happiness and eternal life. Lazarus teaches us that "the other" is a gift. A right relationship with people consists in gratefully recognizing everyone's value. Even the poor person at the door of the rich is not a nuisance, but an opportunity for conversion. The parable invites us to open our hearts to encounter those in need and recognize in them as the face of Christ. Each life that we encounter is a gift deserving acceptance, respect, and love.

Lent is the season for renewing our encounter with Christ, living in His word, in the sacraments, and in our neighbors. How will you contribute to the culture of encounter this Lent? You can start by participating in the CRS Rice Bowl family challenge.

Erin Cordle, Associate Director/Diocesan Office for Social Concerns

**NCEA leader says school choice support
can help Catholic parents**

By Valerie Schmalz

Catholic News Service

The Trump administration's apparent endorsement of parental school choice could be a great benefit for Catholic schools, the president of the National Catholic Educational Association told a group of Catholic high school teachers in San Francisco.

"This could be a huge opportunity for parents wanting to choose the right school for their children," Thomas Burnford told participants at the Archdiocese of San Francisco's annual high school teachers' consortium on Feb. 3.

"Whatever your politics, the current administration proclaims some understanding or belief in support of school choice," Burnford said. In his remarks, the NCEA president did not mention President Donald Trump directly, saying in later comments that he did not want to politicize the subject of parental choice.

His speech was given four days before Betsy DeVos was confirmed by the Senate as the nation's education secretary following a tiebreaking vote by Vice President Mike Pence in his capacity as president of the Senate. DeVos, former chairman of the American Federation for Children, a school-choice advocacy group, has long been an advocate of school choice. "Parents no longer believe that a one-size-fits-all model of learning fits the needs of every child," she told senators during her confirmation hearing.

When he was running for president, Trump endorsed parental choice in an October letter to the Catholic Leadership Conference and on his campaign website, where he promised to "establish the national goal of providing school choice to every one of the 11 million school-age children living in poverty."

At least 27 states have some form of parental school choice. Although the programs affect a relatively small percentage of children, Burnford said that in areas with school-choice programs, Catholic school enrollment tends to be stable or on the rise.

The U.S. bishops advocate tax-credit and voucher programs that allow pub-

lic education funding to follow the child to private, parochial, or public schools and have made it one of their priorities for the current Congress.

"The church has been very clear" that it is "parents who have the primary and inalienable right to educate their children," Burnford said, but to do so, they "must enjoy true liberty in their choice of schools," which he said does not happen in most of the nation.

He said that choice is only real when funding is made available for everybody and follows the student to the school of his or her choice, as he said occurs in other nations.

Burnford said that tuition remains an obstacle for many parents to enroll their children in Catholic schools.

Since 2006, 20 percent of Catholic schools have closed, and while there are bright spots and innovations that are working, such as the Cristo Rey work-study high schools, Burnford said the situation is serious, noting that there has been a 27 percent decline in Catholic school enrollment since 2000. About 1.9 million of the 55 million school-age children in the U.S. attend Catholic schools.

About 60 percent of school-age Catholic children are Latino, but only three percent are in Catholic schools, Burnford said. That is "clearly a funding issue," he said.

The NCEA president said the track record of Catholic schools in educating children of every background is outstanding, pointing out that 99 percent of Catholic high school students graduate and 86 percent attend four-year colleges. "A child who is black or Latino is 42 percent more likely to graduate from high school and two and a half times more likely to graduate from college if they attend Catholic school," he said.

Burnford stressed that Catholic schools "need a growth mindset in this day and age."

"It is a matter of faith and knowing that God will deliver," he said.

Schmalz is assistant editor of Catholic San Francisco, the newspaper of the Archdiocese of San Francisco.



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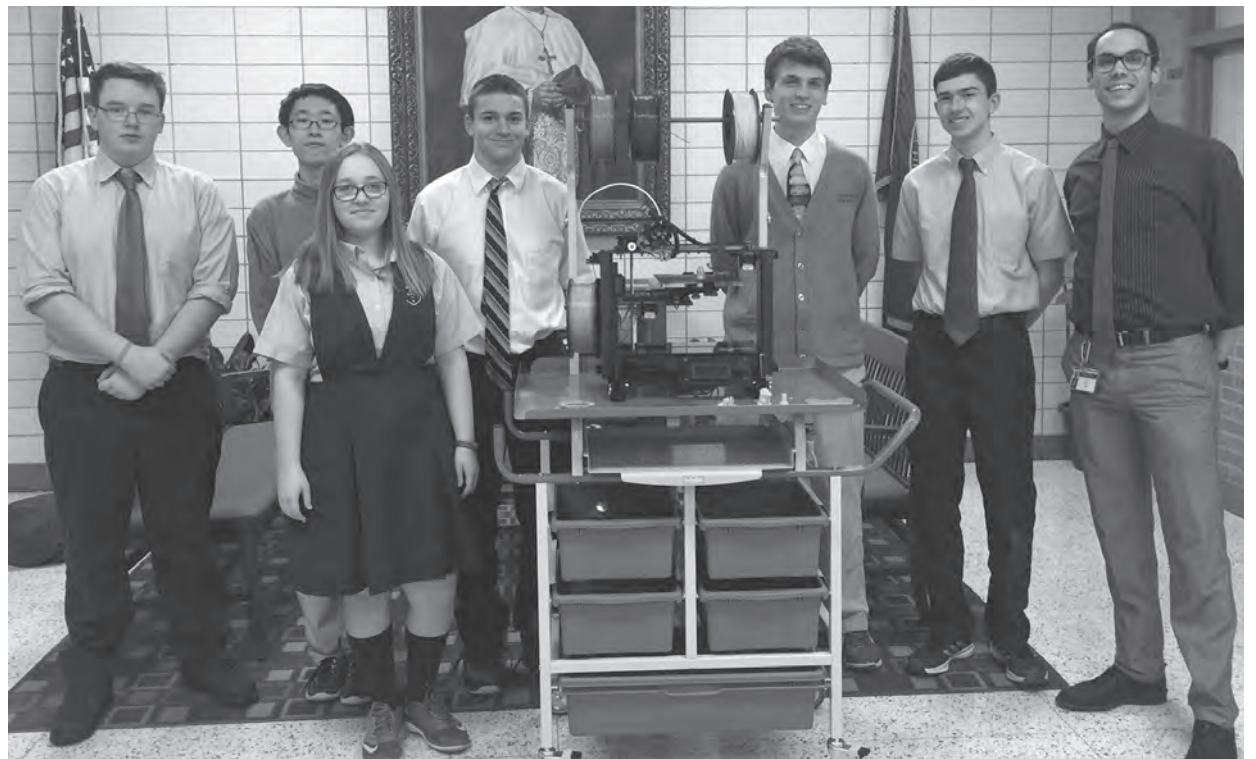
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Bishop Ready Club Builds 3D Printer

The Columbus Bishop Ready High School Tech Club, a student-led club that meets weekly to work on technology projects, recently completed work on a 3D printer. School technology director Tim Nunn (right) said the building of the printer was 100 percent led and initiated by the students. Eleven club members, including (from left) Finnegan Hardenbergh, Xuesi Ma, Lucia Beickman, Matthew Frye, Dominick Hamlin, and Connor Nagy, followed an instruction manual of more than 50 pages to build the printer part-by-part. Photo courtesy Bishop Ready High School

Leadership Transition at PDHC

Tim Welsh, executive director of Pregnancy Decision Health Centers since 2008 and a member of Lancaster St. Mary Church, is leaving that position. He plans to start a new nonprofit organization focusing on long-term services to help single mothers break the cycle that keeps them from becoming the best they can be.

Ron Thomas, PDHC board chair, said “All of us at PDHC thank Tim for his many years of leadership, and we intend to build on what he has accomplished here. We look forward to having even better faith-based long-term resources in the community for our heroic mothers who choose life, despite the woundedness in their lives and the barriers they face.”

PDHC has appointed Peggy Hartshorn of Columbus St. Mary Church, who founded the orga-

nization and is chairman of the board of Heartbeat International, as transition team leader during the search process for a new executive director.

Opened on Jan. 22, 1981, Columbus-based PDHC has a long history of saving and changing lives. Under Welsh’s leadership, it grew from four to six locations in central Ohio, including an office next door to Planned Parenthood in the Ohio State University area.

Its 24-hour hotline remains strong, and ultrasound services and client visits have resulted in more life-saving decisions. About 7,000 students in Franklin County schools are taught abstinence each year through the PDHC Common Sense Culture program.

Welsh also has spearheaded the growth of PDHC abortion healing programs, which in-

clude one-on-one counseling, small-group support, and weekend healing retreats. PDHC is bringing the Catholic post-abortion healing program Rachel’s Vineyard to Columbus for a weekend in February. PDHC’s unique “Me Too” annual luncheon for women who have experienced abortion is becoming a model in other cities.

PDHC recognizes Welsh’s leadership in forging vital partnerships and collaborations with The Catholic Foundation, the diocesan Office of Social Concerns, Catholic Social Services, St. Paul’s Outreach, and the Knights of Columbus, who recently delivered 4,000 diapers to PDHC.

The trust of the Catholic community has resulted in The Catholic Foundation making grants totaling \$182,450 available over the years to PDHC.

Distractions during prayer; Crediting parish with diocesan donation



QUESTION & ANSWER

by: FATHER KENNETH DOYLE
Catholic News Service

Q. I have heard that it is sinful to let oneself be distracted in prayer. This makes sense to me as regards prayers that are obligatory: e.g., Sunday Mass, the *Divine Office* for priests and religious, or the penance assigned during confession.

But what if one is not required to say that prayer in the first place: the morning offering, for example, or weekday Mass? Would it be better not to say those prayers at all, because then there would be no sin?

And at what point do distractions become sinful -- when they are intentional, of course, but what about a quick thought regarding something I must remember to do when I get home from church?

Also, when I have a weighty decision to make or a stressful situation on my hands, I like to say the rosary because it seems to help me to think clearly and be calm. But should I not be using that time (in the context of prayer) to think things through? (Omaha, Nebraska)

A. Relax and don't be as tough on yourself. Distractions during prayer are not necessarily sinful -- even during prayers that are obligatory. They come to everyone -- even to the saints, who have written often about this.

The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* recognizes the universality of the problem, calling dis-

traction "the habitual difficulty in prayer" (No. 2729).

Purposely to allow one's mind to wander during prayer onto nonspiritual paths would be wrong, and the distracted thought itself might be sinful: dwelling deliberately on thoughts of adulterous pleasure, for example, or thinking vindictive thoughts.

But much more often, the distraction is a neutral one morally -- such as in the example you offer of thinking of something you need to do as soon as you get home. When distractions occur, the strategy is simply to pause, refocus, and move forward.

St. Paul of the Cross said, "Concerning distractions and temptations that occur during holy prayer, you don't need to be the least bit disturbed. Withdraw completely into the upper part of your spirit to relate to God."

As for your practice of "thinking things through" while you pray the rosary, I have no problem with that: You are using the soothing backdrop of the repeated words of prayer to commune with the Lord in a meditative way and to seek his guidance.

Q. I attend a very large Catholic parish that has 4,000 families and 10,000 parishioners. Would it be appropriate for me to assign my contribution for our archbish-

op's annual appeal to a nearby smaller church that I sometimes visit?

Our own parish always exceeds its obligation comfortably, while I suspect that the smaller parish is challenged to do so. (To be completely honest, I would probably join that other parish if it were a bit closer.) (Atlanta area, Georgia)

A. I heartily endorse your idea and can speak from my own experience. In our diocese -- and I suspect this is replicated widely -- each parish is given a specific assessment for the annual diocesan appeal. If a parish does not make that figure during the campaign, it supplies the difference from its own parish funds.

But if it exceeds the assigned amount, 50 percent of the excess is rebated to the parish. In the parish from which I recently retired (after 24 years as pastor), parishioners were exceedingly generous and always pledged considerably more than the assessed figure.

More than once, people who were enrolled in our parish but sometimes attended Mass elsewhere would ask if they could credit their bishop's appeal donation to that other parish, knowing that it was struggling to make its quota.

I always encouraged them to do exactly that. The church is wider than one's own parish, and blessings should be shared.

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

Handshake America college scholarship winners

Columbus St. Francis DeSales High School seniors Anthony Salmeron and Kayla Orzechowski each received a \$1,500 scholarship toward their freshman year in college as a result of their completion of the Handshake America program. The program pairs student-athletes who exhibit leadership and sportsmanship with a local business executive for a year of

mentoring, leadership training, and a college scholarship.

Photo courtesy St. Francis DeSales High School



Men's and Women's Retreat

A weekend retreat with Father John R. Hadnagy, OFM Conv, of the National Shrine of Our Lady of Consolation in Carey, will take place from Friday to Sunday, March 17 to 19, at St. Therese's Retreat Center, 5277 E. Broad St., Columbus. Its theme will be "Empowered for Ministry."

Participants will be able to choose among five breakout sessions with gift-developing exercises. Topics will include prayer ministry, evangelization, the spiritual gift of teaching, prophetic word gifts, and leadership.

Interactive breakout sessions will be mixed with quiet reflection, Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament,

and opportunities for the Sacrament of Reconciliation and individual prayer. A Sunday vigil Mass will be celebrated Saturday evening by Father William Hritsko, pastor of Heath St. Leonard and Buckeye Lake Our Lady of Mount Carmel churches. Praise and worship for the weekend will be led by Yglesias Worship.

The retreat is being sponsored by Columbus Catholic Renewal, also known as Catholic Charismatic Renewal Inc., which is under the authority of Bishop Frederick Campbell through his appointed liaison, Father Dean Mathewson.

For more information or to register, visit www.cccolumbus.org or call (614) 582-1721.

SPICE St. Patrick Party at St. Catharine

The SPICE program of Columbus St. Catharine Church will host its annual St. Patrick party on Saturday March 11 at the parish school, 2865 Fair Ave.

SPICE (Special People in Catholic Education) was founded 17 years ago at St. Catharine Church, with the mission of raising awareness of special-needs students in Catholic schools, raising funds to help those students, and serving as a model to other schools and parishes in the Diocese of Columbus. To date, St. Catharine SPICE has raised more than \$1.1 million to help with the cost of serving special-needs students in the parish.

More than 10 other parishes within and beyond the diocese have

started SPICE programs of their own. SPICE has helped create a culture in which the parish community realizes that while everyone is different, everyone has much to offer to the parish family. Students with special needs and their families realize that they are not alone and that they are vital parts of the parish community. "We are all different, yet parts of the same body" (1 Corinthians 12:12).

The party will include corned beef and cabbage, Irish stew, a cash bar, a silent auction, and entertainment with Irish step dancers and the Hooligans. For reservations, donations, or questions contact Kevin and Gini Ryan at (614) 598-1958 or theyanfam427@gmail.com.

THE EVERYDAY CATHOLIC



By: Rick Jeric

Joyful Sorrow

Lent begins this Wednesday. While I am not sure when the first Ash Wednesday actually occurred, it probably began with the Council of Nicaea in 325. Much of our Lenten practices are a contribution of the prayer and fasting that was common to the Jewish faith and culture at the time of Jesus Christ. We know of His fasting and praying in the desert for 40 days and the ensuing temptations from Satan. We do our best to follow Our Lord into the desert experience of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving for the next 40 days. I think all of us have a pretty good handle on the expectations for us as Catholics during Lent. And if we are really in touch, we know the specific requirements for Lent, such as Reconciliation, fasting and abstinence, etc. Whatever our personal obsessions or challenges are, we work very hard to achieve our goals and overcome our obstacles. We work out and exercise, we work hard at our jobs to get ahead, we study hard in school, we strive to do better with our relationships, whether with a spouse, a family member, or a friend, and we simply try to be good people. Lent offers us an annual opportunity to do the same for our souls.

This Lent, I am truly sorry for all the times I could have prayed, even for just a few minutes, but found other, more important things to do, such as watching television, being on the Internet, socializing, shopping, or sleeping. I am sorry for all the times I take my spouse for granted. She does so much for me with great love and humility. What would I do without her? I am sorry for my foul language at times, using words that disgust me when I hear other people use them. Using words that I know disgust my God. I am sorry for being so lazy at times. There are so many opportunities to help someone, to get a project done around the house, to volunteer, or to get my body and spirit in better shape, but I choose otherwise. I am sorry for the number of times I have a vocally abusive opinion about a particular driver on the road, a politician, an enemy, a rival, or someone upon whom I simply decide I am going to render judgment. I am sorry for all the lies, or, better yet, all the half-truths I can use to make it seem as though I am smarter and more attractive to others than I really am. Finally, at times I am sorry for burying my talents, for keeping my Christian light under a basket, for looking the other way, for not fearlessly witnessing my faith, and for pretending to be someone I am not.

This Lent, I will joyfully and faithfully attend Mass, pray regularly, visit Our Lord in the Eucharistic chapel, and turn off the Internet and television. I will joyfully remind my spouse that she is the best person to help me get to Heaven, and that is something we can do together every day. I will joyfully use constructive language. If I cannot control myself, words like “darn,” “crap,” and “geez” will suffice. I will joyfully help accomplish things around the house, and will also see what I can do to help others in need. I will joyfully show patience on the road, and will stop the judgmental criticism of others simply because I disagree with them. I will joyfully stop the lies and half-truths. Period. Finally, I will joyfully light a Christian fire by using my God-given talents and abilities while being true to myself and fearlessly witnessing my Catholic Faith.



Poetry competition winners

Columbus St. Francis DeSales High School junior Abbey Dop (right) was the winner of the school's Poetry Out Loud competition. Frankie Bonte (left), a freshman, was runner-up. Dop competed in the Ohio regional competition on Sunday, Feb. 19 at the Ohio History Center.

Photo courtesy DeSales High School

ODU to host preview day

Ohio Dominican University will host a preview day from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, April 1, in the Bishop Griffin Center on ODU's main campus at 1216 Sunbury Road, Columbus.

Interested high school students and their families may register for the free event by visiting ohiodominican.edu/Preview.

During the day, students will take a tour of campus, explore available majors, discuss available financial aid options, enjoy a complimentary meal, learn about student clubs and honors programs, meet with professors in their field of interest, and talk with current ODU students.

“Our preview day is a one-stop shop for students and their families, so they can get the most out of their visit and feel confident in their decision to attend ODU,” said Julie Burdick, ODU vice president for enrollment management. “The best way to determine if a university fits is to experience it firsthand, and we're excited to share our campus with the next generation of ODU students.”

Students who are not able to attend preview day are invited to schedule a private visit to campus at ohiodominican.edu/visit or to call ODU's office of undergraduate admission at (614) 251-4500.

Evangelization conference set for Chillicothe

Chillicothe St. Peter Church will host an evangelization conference with St. Paul Street Evangelization, a grassroots, nonprofit organization, dedicated to responding to the mandate of Jesus to preach the Gospel to all nations by taking the Catholic faith to the streets in a nonconfrontational way.

The conference will be from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, March 4 at the parish center, 285 W. Water St. The cost is \$20 and includes lunch. To register, go to <http://www.stpeterchillicothe.com/evangelization-conference>. For more information, contact Chris Hiles at yec@stpeterchillicothe.com or (740) 774-1407.

Catholic Men's Luncheon Club

The Catholic Men's Luncheon Club meeting on Friday, March 3 will feature a talk by Jim Foley, president of Columbus Cristo Rey High School, on the school's four-year history in Columbus and its unique work-study curriculum.

The meeting will follow the 11:45 a.m. Mass at Columbus St. Patrick

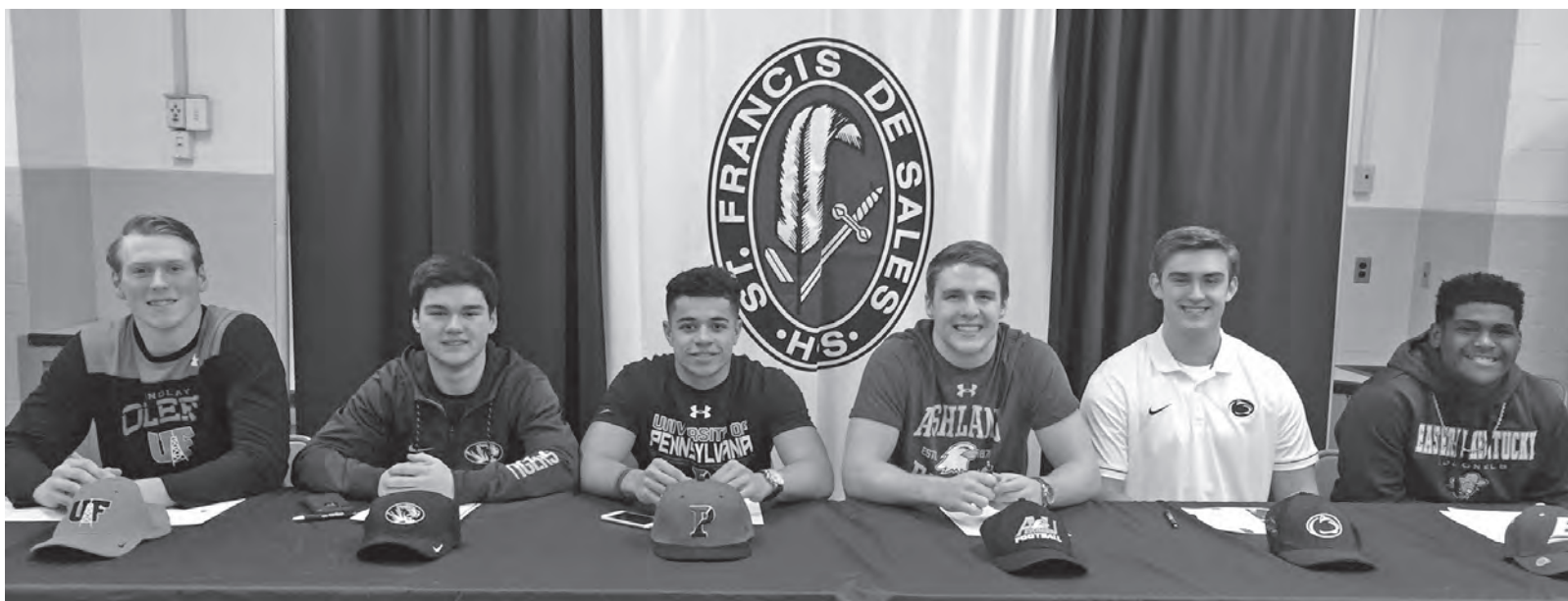
Church, 280 N. Grant Ave., and will end around 1 p.m.

No reservations are necessary. A donation of \$10 is requested to cover lunch and meeting costs. For information on Catholic men's luncheons, visit www.CatholicMensMinistry.com or contact Tim Merkle, CMLC president, at htm@ejhlaw.com.

DeSales Signees

Six Columbus St. Francis DeSales High School seniors have signed letters of intent to continue their football careers in college. They are (from left): Drew McLuckie, Findlay; Dominic DiMaccio, Missouri; Jared Noble, Pennsylvania; Ryan Corkrean, Ashland; Chris Stoll, Penn State; and Alonzo Booth, Eastern Kentucky.

Photo courtesy St. Francis DeSales High School



ODU appoints new admissions director

Ohio Dominican University has appointed Michael Halligan as director of undergraduate admissions. He will be responsible for planning, coordinating, and implementing strategic student recruitment efforts for ODU's undergraduate programs at the local and national levels.



Most recently, Halligan was interim director of admissions at St. Leo University in Florida. He and his team achieved record enrollment, generating the largest class of students in the history of the university. Halligan also developed high-level reports in customer relationship management software to optimize student recruitment and data analysis efforts.

He also has served as a sales and marketing coordinator for Waltz Business Solutions in Edgewood, Kentucky, and a marketing coordinator for Orlando Harley-Davidson.

"Michael brings with him a vast amount of knowledge, enthusiasm, and experience in the area of undergraduate student recruitment and systems knowledge, and we are thrilled to welcome him to Ohio Dominican," said Julie Burdick, ODU vice president for enrollment management. "I am

confident that Michael and his team will identify and implement effective steps to increase the number of students admitted and enrolled at ODU, as well as continue to increase the outstanding academic profile of ODU's students."

Halligan earned a bachelor of science degree in marketing with a certificate in sports marketing from the University of Central Florida, and a master of business administration degree, with a concentration in marketing, from St. Leo University.

RECORD SOCIETY MEETING

The next quarterly meeting of the Catholic Record Society will be at 2 p.m. Sunday, March 5 in Ryan Hall of Columbus Sacred Heart Church, 893 Hamlet St.

James E. Kraus will speak on the churches designed by his late father, Robert E. Kraus, the architect for many of the churches built in the Diocese of Columbus under the direction of

Bishop James Hartley, who was spiritual leader of the diocese from 1904-44. Sacred Heart is one of those churches.

After the talk, there will be a brief reception, followed by a business meeting at which new officers will be elected for a two-year term. For more information, contact Mike Finn at fcoolavin@aol.com or (614) 268-4166.

REMAKE OF THE 1945 OSCAR WINNING MOVIE

Don't miss the block-buster remake of the "Bells of St. Mary's"

found on the back page of The Catholic Times.

Starring Father Kevin Lutz as Father O'Malley;

Sister Vianneya as Sister Benedict; Sister Paulina as Sister Michael; Sheila Lutz as Patsy; Eddie as himself;

the dog as himself; Mr. Bogardus as himself and you;

SEE IT ALL ON PAGE 24!

(from L-R front row: Sister Leonarda, Sister Paulina - L-R back row: Frank Wickham, Linda Sisson, Michaelleen Wesley, Donna Grundey, Kayla Walton, Nikki Budd, and Ann Anderson (as the smiling nuns). Missing is bookkeeper Chris Davis (due to the worried look on her face because of the cost of repairs, we thought it best not to include her picture).

PLEASE HELP US SAVE ST. MARY'S

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THE LOST SHEEP

The group of adults who I have the privilege of teaching to use kettlebells vary in their athletic backgrounds. Some people pick up the skill of lifting heavy things very quickly. Most students make steady progress over time. Every now and then, someone really struggles to learn to move well for a variety of reasons.

I find the greatest joy in helping that struggling student progress. The student has to first have the courage to start, then the persistence to persevere and practice, and finally the patience to allow his or her body to adapt to the movement over time.

We have a supportive, non-competitive gym environment, but it can still be tough when you feel like you're the only uncoordinated student in the group.

So that student is the one who makes my day when he or she steps up to a challenge or improves in a weak area. That one improvement is more exciting to me than if the entire group lifted heavier than they ever did before. That one student is the one my husband will

hear about when we have dinner together that evening.

That may be why one of my favorite Scripture passages is Luke 15: 3-7 about the one lost sheep:

“Then Jesus told them this parable: ‘Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Doesn't he leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it? And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders and goes home. Then he calls his friends and neighbors together and says, ‘Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.’ I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent.”

An interesting thing about the one lost sheep in the gym is that the other sheep also rejoice when that person makes progress. They might even applaud. That one lost sheep might inspire others to accept new challenges or develop a spirit of gratitude for what their bodies can do.

Aren't we all lost sheep at some point in our



HOLY AND HEALTHY

Lori Crock

lives, whether spiritually, physically, emotionally, or intellectually? Aren't we happy when someone notices and comes after us?

We can ask the Holy Spirit to show us who needs us and how we can help. One person, powered by God's grace, can do great things to help another.

“Never worry about numbers. Help one person at a time and always start with the person nearest you”
~St. Teresa of Calcutta.

Lori Crock is a wife, mother, Plain City St. Joseph Church parishioner, strength and movement coach, and owner of MoveStrong Kettlebells in Dublin. Lori is online at movestrongkbs.com and hollyandhealthycatholic.com.

FACE FORWARD LAUNCHES MOBILE APP

Mobile App Brings Understanding to the Catholic Faith

The Face Forward program of the diocesan Vocations Office has announced the launch of its first mobile app. The free app puts valuable information for Catholics right at their fingertips, and includes features titled Verse of the Day, Pray for Priests, Care for the Common Home, and Saint of the Day, and the Face Forward blog.

The Vocations Office recognizes the importance of being able to reach young Catholics where they are, and that place is on their mobile devices, where 73 percent of those aged 5 to 19 are connected within an hour of waking up. Face Forward wanted to give them something meaningful to read when they powered up.

“Face Forward enables us to provide young people a place online where they can explore questions about their life vocation, what they hope to do with their lives,” said Father Paul Noble, diocesan vocations director. “The creation of this app makes it available right from their mobile device.”

Discerning a vocation and what God is calling

you to do can be a long journey full of questions. Having easily accessible information is invaluable to the discernment process. This new app provides that.

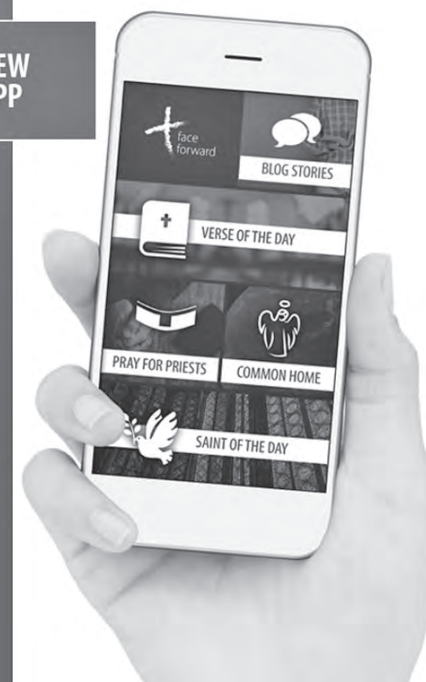
Face Forward will continue to add fresh, relevant content to the app daily, with the goal of getting users to come back day-to-day for new offerings. Through repeat visits and use of the app, the hope is that users will gain more love, knowledge, and understanding about the Catholic faith, and clarity on what God is calling them to do.

The Face Forward app is available now in the iTunes store.

Face Forward is a program that allows for interaction with young people in the Diocese of Columbus and provides platforms for communication, events, and opportunities to learn more about the Catholic faith and life in a religious vocation. More than 12,000 people are part of the Face Forward community.

For more information about the Face Forward app, contact Anne Harkin at (614) 787-2377 or anne.harkin@mj2marketing.com.

DOWNLOAD THE NEW
FACE FORWARD APP



face
forward

Scholarship winners to attend St. Charles

Eight Westerville St. Paul School eighth-grade boys were among 48 central Ohio students selected by Columbus St. Charles Preparatory School to receive scholarships to attend the institution this fall. The scholarships the eight received amounted to \$66,000 collectively. A total of 190 eighth-graders participated in the scholarship competition.

Deke Hocker, St. Paul dean of students (left) is pictured with St. Paul scholarship recipients (from left): Chris Caito, Kian Haghazari, Jacob Lewis, Nicholas Lusky, Sam Nori, John Protz, and Nathan Stevenson. Luke Blubaugh, who also received a scholarship, is not pictured.

Photo courtesy St. Paul School



Rube Goldberg machine competition

Columbus St. Anthony School sixth- through eighth-graders were asked by their teacher, Brandon Garrick, to participate in a Rube Goldberg machine competition. The project required the students to use physics concepts such as gravity, Newton's Laws of Motion, friction types, and energy types and relate them to real-life situations. The competition refers to a cartoonist whose career extended from the early 1900s to the 1960s and whose most famous character was an inventor who created extremely complicated machines to perform simple tasks. Pictured with one of the machines the students developed are (from left) Makayla Shuey, James Jackson, Adriana Moon, Morgan Rieser, and Garrick.

Photo courtesy St. Anthony School

Palm Sunday Retreat

The Catholic Laymen's Retreat League will sponsor its annual Palm Sunday weekend retreat from 5 p.m. Friday, April 7 to noon Sunday, April 9 at St. Therese's Retreat Center, 5277 E. Broad St., Columbus.

The retreat director will be Father Ricardo Pineda of the Fathers of Mercy, who is associate pastor of several churches in western Kentucky. He will speak on the subject "Fight the Good Fight: Forming Men for Spiritual Battle."

He will look at stories in the Gospels about seemingly ordinary men who discovered, often to their astonishment, new and unsuspected directions when they opened themselves to Christ's

friendship. These men, swept away by their love for him, ultimately broke the boundaries they may have set for themselves and went to the ends of the earth to spread the good news of the boundless happiness they found.

All men of the Diocese of Columbus are invited to attend. A contribution of \$160 covers the cost of the retreat; however, the retreat league takes up the offering in unmarked envelopes and depends on the generosity of those men who can take up the slack for anyone who cannot afford this amount.

For more information, go to www.retreatleague.org or call Dave Ball at (614) 753-1696 or Bob Muetzel at (614) 299-7700.

Msgr. Frank Lane Anniversary Celebration

Msgr. Frank Lane will celebrate the 50th anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood at the 10:30 a.m. Mass on Sunday, March 5 at Columbus St. Margaret of Cortona Church, 1600 N. Hague Ave.

There will be a reception honoring him immediately after Mass.

Each family attending is asked to bring a dessert. The parish will provide

the rest of the food for the luncheon.

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

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





CATHOLIC WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

BY TIM PUET, *Catholic Times Reporter*

Those in attendance at this year's diocesan Catholic Women's Conference heard strong messages telling stories of both courageous faith and contagious joy — the combined theme for the event.

Principal speakers were Magnus MacFarlane-Barrow, whose Mary's Meals program has brought joy to hundreds of thousands of children because of a simple conversation in a pub that led to a courageous decision; Father Mathias Thelen, who noted that it sometimes takes great courage to recognize our own brokenness and accept the need for healing prayer; Jeff Cavins, who talked about the courage of Jesus' first disciples and the joy they received from follow-

ing in his steps; and Kerri Caviezel, whose courage in adopting three special-needs children led to joy she never expected.

Their stories were told to a record-setting crowd of about 3,500 women at the 10th annual conference, which took place for the first time at Cardinal Hall on the state fairgrounds. This is the fourth site for the event, with each move necessary because attendance kept growing. The number of exhibitors has grown as well. This year, more than 75 church-related organizations had tables displaying their activities or items for sale.

The conference started in 2008 at Columbus St. Andrew Church with about 500 women on hand, then moved to the Lausche Building on the fairgrounds the following year and to the fair's Voinovich Center in 2014. Its counterpart men's conference has experienced similar growth and also will be at Cardinal Hall for the first time this coming Saturday, Feb. 25.

"This building Center can hold as many as 6,000 people, so it should meet our needs for the foreseeable future, but given what's happened in the past 10 years, you never know," said conference co-chair Julie Naporano. "This all grew out of a women's Bible study at St. Andrew's and keeps getting bigger.

"Women are craving to hear the kind of messages about their faith they have been receiving at the conferences. The organizing committee knows it's the grace of God that's doing this, not us. People who want to organize similar conferences in other dioceses are coming here to see how we do it, so the spark which started at St. Andrew's keeps on growing. This year, besides people from all over Ohio, we had women registering for the conference from Canada, New York, Pennsylvania, Illinois, Texas, and other states.

"Cardinal Hall opened this past July and is a perfect venue for us because it's designed specifically with conventions and trade shows in mind, rather than as a building to be shared with the fair's traditional livestock events. That last fact also makes it a more pleasant place to be," she said.

The conference opened with a Mass celebrated by Bishop Frederick Campbell (*pictured at left above*), whose homily focused on the story of Jesus' transfiguration, as told in the Gospel for that day's liturgy.

He described that event as "a call to be startled by the sheer beauty of God's revelation and to allow it to be manifested in our lives," in the manner expressed by Mary, the Mother of God, in her *Magnificat*, the prayerful response to her cousin Elizabeth's recognition of her as the mother of the Messiah.

"We have to train our eyes and ears to see God's glory in our lives and allow his beauty to shine forth, and as we do, we leave behind the mundane realities of life," the bishop said. "We pass over the vulgar and cling to what is real and true. We allow our lives to have purpose and to touch the face of God. This is where we are going."

As Mary, Queen of Scots, faced her execution in 1587, "Just before the ax fell, she said a memorable phrase: 'My end is my beginning,'" Bishop Campbell said. "She recognized that her real, eternal life would begin with her death. This has a profound meaning for all of us. Look at that phrase, and it's a call to realize that unless we know the end and purpose of our lives, we can't make a beginning of living as we ought."

MacFarlane-Barrow, the day's first speaker, is the founder of Mary's Meals, a worldwide mission that provides a daily meal in a place of education for about 1.2 million children daily.

"This all started one rainy evening in 1992, when my brother Fergus and I were in a pub in our hometown in Scotland, watching a news bulletin on the war in Bosnia," he said. "We began to think 'Wouldn't it be wonderful to do one small thing to help?' so we began to ask friends and family for donations. Three weeks later, we had a truckful of food and clothing, which we drove to a refugee camp.

"That was the first of many miracles that happened





CONFERENCE, continued from Page 11

because of that conversation with my brother – the first and only time I’ve ever hatched plans over a beer that ever led to anything,” he said.

When the brothers came back from Bosnia, they found “a mountain of food and clothing” had accumulated in their absence as people continued to respond with donations. As the response continued, they drove back and forth to Bosnia about two dozen times, “encountering many blessings and mistakes” along the way, MacFarlane-Barrow said. On one of those trips, MacFarlane-Barrow met his wife, a nurse who was his co-driver. The couple have seven children.

“We learned about working with the poorest of the poor, and how to do this well. It’s not just about material goods, but loving people,” he said.

He eventually left his fish farming business to devote full time to his charity, then known as Scottish International Relief. People from other impoverished nations began contacting him, and his work spread to Romania and South America, where it began building homes in addition to providing food and clothing.

Its current mission began in 2002 after a visit to the African nation of Malawi. “I went to see a mother of six children who was dying of AIDS,” MacFarlane-Barrow said. “I asked her oldest child, who was 14, what he hoped for. His response was ‘I’d like to have enough food to eat and to be able to go to school one day.’

“His words sparked something in me. I’d met other kids like him who were struggling to eat and were missing out on school. Mary’s Meals is a simple response to that,” he said. The organization is built on three basic premises: working with residents of a particular place who believe in the organization’s goal and take responsibility for it; use of locally grown food as much as possible; and a conviction that the work belongs to the Blessed Mother.

Mary’s Meals, still based in a shed in MacFarlane-Barrow’s

hometown, now operates in 12 nations in Africa, Asia, Latin America, and the Caribbean. He has received many honors, including the Order of the British Empire and recognition as one of the world’s 100 most influential people by *Time* magazine in 2015. “Every morning, I awake with a sense of surprise that God has given me this opportunity,” he said. “I must have the best job in the world.”

Mary’s Meals received proceeds from the offertory collection at the opening Mass. Brooke Taylor, a Cleveland radio personality who was master of ceremonies for the day, said the amount collected was enough to feed about 2,000 children for a year at an average cost of \$19.50 per child.

More than 40 priests were on hand to administer the Sacrament of Reconciliation to anyone in attendance who wished to receive it. Father Thelen, spiritual director and theology instructor at Sacred Heart Major Seminary in Detroit, prepared people for the sacrament with a message emphasizing God’s healing power and his desire to heal each one of us.

Quoting Pope Benedict’s words in his book *Jesus of Nazareth*, Father Thelen said, “When understood at a sufficiently deep level, healing expresses the entire content of Christian redemption.”

He noted that after the Second Vatican Council, the Catholic Church changed the emphasis on what had been known as the Sacrament of Penance, or Confession, “to emphasize what really happens in the sacrament. We are being reconciled to a loving, trusting relationship to God which has the power to transform us.

“We can be sure of this, but it’s sometimes where we stop,” he said. “He can also heal us emotionally and physically, not just of our sins. This can be where we experience incredible interior healing, but first we need to understand how we have been broken so we can submit ourselves to the healing he wants for us.”



Catholic Women’s Conference speakers (from left): Father Mathias Thelen, Magnus MacFarlane-Barrow, Jeff Cavins, Brooke Taylor, and Kerri Caviezel. CT photos by Ken Snow

Father Thelen said the biggest obstacles to healing are the blocks we put on it in our hearts. He said people deal with their need for healing in three ways.

“Some don’t know the depths of this need because of the depths to which they’ve been hurt,” he said. “They’re just surviving, not thriving. Other people recognize they need healing, but live with little hope they can receive it.

“Then there are people who realize that need and refuse to listen to the devil’s lies that God doesn’t love us or to the messages of insecurity in which pride, envy, anger, and bitterness are rooted. If we follow this path and allow Jesus to come into the place of our historical woundedness, we can allow him to bring healing to our lives.”

“Holiness is wholeness,” Father Thelen said. “It’s not ‘doing everything right,’ but allowing God to love you. It requires extraordinary vulnerability and lots of courage. Embrace your weakness and woundedness so you can allow him to embrace you.”

He offered seven tips to those preparing for Reconciliation: Take your masks off; stop blaming others for the way you feel; forgive from a place of pain; stop condemning yourself for your sinfulness and weakness; invite Jesus to speak to you in your deepest fears; go with Jesus to the place of pain; and ask the Holy Spirit to convict you of your sins.

Cavins’ talk on discipleship was based on the knowledge he has gained through leading 50 pilgrimages to the Holy Land and

in his work as author of Catholic adult education programs including the *Great Adventure Bible Timeline* series.

He noted that Jesus was a Jewish rabbi or teacher, and that, like all rabbis, he had disciples – people who followed his teachings and followed the teacher from place to place. Cavins said rabbis of that time had an average of five disciples, while Jesus had 12 apostles who were his closest followers, plus others who followed him and spread his teachings in their towns.

Cavins said the process of becoming a disciple began for interested Jewish males between the ages of six and 10, when they were part of what was known as the House of the Book. During that period, they would study the five books of Moses known as the Torah and memorize verses. From age 10 to 14, they would be part of the House of the Talmud, when they went deeper into the Torah and learned the Jewish system of religiously based laws.

They also learned the Jewish tradition of displaying knowledge of a subject by answering a question in *Jeopardy* style, with another question that showed you knew the answer to the original (Q: “What is 2+2?” A: “What is 8-4?”).

“When a great rabbi came to town, he knew who the leading young prospects to be a potential disciple were,” Cavins said. “He would talk to them and respond in one of two ways. For most, it was ‘Go follow your father’s trade,’” as was customary at the

time, which meant they were not chosen. “For those chosen, it was ‘Come, follow me.’ And when a rabbi invited you to follow him, it had nothing to do with your looks, money, or last name. It meant the rabbi believed you had what it took to follow him.”

“Every rabbi also told his followers, ‘Take my yoke upon you and follow me,’” Cavins said. “This had nothing to do with being yoked like oxen. It meant ‘Take my world view and see things as I see them.’ When Jesus said these things to his disciples, he was following Jewish tradition, and they knew exactly what this meant.”

He asked those in attendance to consider what their answer would be if they were asked why they are Catholic. “You could answer by talking about what you consume – the books you’ve read, your knowledge of Catholic teaching – but there’s a difference between consuming the faith and doing the faith, living the story, going beyond what you’ve learned.

“Being called to be disciples requires tenacity and endurance in our life, like that of the disciples. Most of the disciples weren’t among ‘the chosen.’ They were fishing when Jesus said to follow him. He chose the unchosen to change the world,” Cavins said. “You don’t have to be great to do great things. Just be with Jesus every day and listen for his voice whenever it may come. It may even be at a Buckeye game. ... Say to him ‘Have mercy on me. Do what you want.’ He is desperate to hear that from you, and

then he can move on your heart.”

Caviezel is the wife of actor Jim Caviezel, best-known for playing Jesus in the movie *The Passion of the Christ* and for his role as John Reese on the CBS television series *Person of Interest*. But she spoke only in passing of the couple’s celebrity status, emphasizing their 20-year marriage and the story of their three adopted children, Bo, Lele, and David.

All three have survived life-threatening conditions. Bo and Lele had brain tumors and David had a leg tumor which eventually was diagnosed as sarcoma.

“God takes us along different avenues than we might expect, through times of suffering, sacrifice, and solace,” she said. “He wants to give us signal graces as a touchstone to our faith. In every situation, we can find joy in the moment.”

“My babies came on Stork 747,” flying from China to the United States, she joked as she explained that before adopting Bo, she and Jim had been childless for nine years. “It was hard to decide whether to be bitter or to say to God ‘You’re bigger than this,’” she said. “We all become bitter at times, but if we stay there too long, we miss a chance for grace in the moment that God may have given us.”

Caviezel said that when she and her husband were asked in 2005 to be foster parents to Bo, “God spoke to me and said ‘Take care of the ones I send you.’ When Bo came here, he had a tumor on his head that looked like a zucchini. Now he’s 17, a high school junior, and looking at colleges.

“If it were not for our experience with Bo, we wouldn’t have Lele. If not for Lele, we wouldn’t have David,” she said. “When I learned David’s tumor was cancerous. I wasn’t ready for it. I didn’t sign up for a child with cancer, but he turned out to be exactly what I asked for.

“I went to the hospital 13 times with David and held him every day for nine months. We were fostering him and the authorities in China had plans to send him back, but the cancer allowed him to stay with us. He turns seven Monday. He’s funny. He’s joyful. He runs.

“When we don’t have God answering in the way we want, we don’t think he’s listening. But my experiences have taught me that he sees beyond what we do,” Caviezel said. “I have three miracles to show for it.”

Between the talks by Cavins and Caviezel, Father Thelen conducted a Holy Hour of Adoration (pictured, Page 11), with music by Taylor Tripodi. A choir of parochial school students led music at the Mass. Liturgical decorations, including a 500-pound marble altar which formerly was located in Columbus Sacred Heart Church, were provided by the Jubilee Museum and Catholic Cultural Center of Columbus.

Next year’s conference will take place on Feb. 17 at the same site and will feature Lisa Hende, founder of CatholicMom.com; Mother Olga Yaqob, founder of the Daughters of Mary of Nazareth; and Uku Ekeocha, founder and president of Culture of Life Africa.



Annual

FINANCIAL

Report



My Dear Friends in Christ,

I am pleased to present to you the financial reports of the Diocese of Columbus for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2016.

As Bishop, I have a responsibility to provide all Catholics in the Diocese of Columbus with an annual view of our financial position and activity. I am pleased to inform you that our independent accounting firm has completed their procedures on our reports and have issued unqualified opinions thereon.

2016, was a year of significant events in the financial marketplace. The stock market and overall investment environment was significantly impacted by the Brexit vote at the end of June. As a result of Brexit, we experienced a much lower return than the prior fiscal year for both our investment and endowment accounts. We continue to manage closely the prudent expenditure of funds at a Diocesan level, as well as the issuing of grants to parishes and other Diocesan entities in need.

The market challenges at the end of the fiscal year, along with changes in actuarial assumptions, also resulted in a significant increase in our pension liability.

On a positive note, our High Schools recorded positive results even with much lower earnings on endowments. For the Parishes, overall it was a positive year with funds generated for repayment of debt and major capital expenditures.

We, the Church, continue to be blessed by the continued generous stewardship of the faithful, giving their time, talent and treasure, for the benefit of others.

As we look to the future, our ability to work as one Church, continuing the good works of the Church by assisting those in need, can only occur with the assistance of those in the community, like yourselves, who possess the talents required to meet the challenges that will present themselves.

I continue to be grateful for the generosity of all those who support the work of the Church, and I greatly appreciate as well the many volunteers and committee members, both at the parish and diocesan levels, who assist in this work. With every best wish, I remain,

Sincerely yours in Christ,
Most Reverend Frederick F. Campbell, D.D., Ph.D.
Bishop of Columbus

DIOCESAN ORGANIZATION FINANCIAL REVIEW FOR FYE JUNE 30, 2016 & 2015

The financial statements entitled Catholic Diocese of Columbus – Diocesan Organization, represent the combined financial position and activity for the Chancery, the Catholic Cemeteries, the Diocesan Offices and funds managed at a diocesan level (i.e. Parish Aid, Self Insurance and Varia Trust Funds). The information presented was extracted from audited financial statements. These statements do not include the financial position or activity of our parishes or schools, or agencies that are governed by their own boards, as each reports their financial information separately to their communities.

The financial statements for the Diocesan Organization are audited by the independent CPA firm of Schneider Downs & Co., Inc. The audit was conducted according to auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. For the fiscal years ended June 30, 2016 and June 30, 2015, the auditors provided an unqualified opinion.

For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2016, Net Assets decreased from the previous fiscal year. Our financial position and results were negatively impacted by two factors.

First, by “Pension-related changes other than net periodic pension cost”. In accordance with current accounting principles, we are required to measure our defined benefit pension liability using current economic factors although this liability will be funded and paid well into the future (over the next 40 years or more). When the Brexit vote occurred at the end of June, 2016, markets were severely impacted (even though they recovered in the following quarter) which impacted both our Pension investments but more importantly the discount rate used to value the liability. The impact of these changes has been recognized as a decrease in net assets in the Statement of Activity. Although for financial reporting purposes we reflect an overall liability for pension benefits, our actuaries have confirmed that our pension fund is sound.

The second negative impact on Net Assets was due to the decrease in market value of our endowments, again primarily due to the impact on the market from the Brexit vote. For the year ended June 30, 2016, the change in the fair market value was a decrease of \$1.3 million, versus a gain of \$1.5 million in the prior year.

CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF COLUMBUS - DIOCESAN ORGANIZATION

Combined Statements of Financial Position

| ASSETS | As of 6/30/2016 | As of 6/30/2015 |
|---|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Cash & cash equivalents | \$ 13,099,320 | \$ 10,249,205 |
| Accounts receivable, net | 2,591,045 | 2,335,781 |
| Pledges receivable, net | 1,677,970 | 1,758,044 |
| Inventory | 956,055 | 887,884 |
| Prepaid expenses | 741,572 | 353,607 |
| Investments | 87,641,033 | 83,921,021 |
| Loans and advances receivable, net | 31,983,019 | 32,337,900 |
| Land under sale contract | 8,074,251 | 939,842 |
| Property and equipment, net | 15,503,967 | 22,928,369 |
| Beneficial interest in perpetual trusts | 37,722,226 | 39,399,559 |
| Total Assets | \$ 199,990,458 | \$ 195,111,212 |
| LIABILITIES | | |
| Accounts payable | \$ 1,638,384 | \$ 1,628,926 |
| Agency funds | 176,230 | 195,736 |
| Deposits payable | 73,766,091 | 70,489,604 |
| Accrued expenses | 1,308,913 | 1,328,009 |
| Deferred revenue | 447,517 | 472,462 |
| Retired priests accrued costs | 14,188,424 | 13,279,131 |
| Liability for pension benefits | 87,623,875 | 56,934,028 |
| Self-insurance reserve | 2,307,000 | 2,112,800 |
| Total Liabilities | 181,456,434 | 146,440,696 |
| NET ASSETS | 18,534,024 | 48,670,516 |
| Total Liabilities & Net Assets | \$ 199,990,458 | \$ 195,111,212 |

CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF COLUMBUS - DIOCESAN ORGANIZATION

Combined Statements of Activities

| | Year Ended 6/30/2016 | Year Ended 6/30/2015 |
|--|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| REVENUES: | | |
| Bishop's annual appeal, net | \$ 5,910,069 | \$ 5,677,474 |
| Investment income, net | 1,722,370 | 1,527,679 |
| Realized/unrealized (loss) gain on investments | 734,139 | (262,643) |
| Change in fmv of beneficial interests in perpetual trusts | (1,277,667) | 1,483,476 |
| Operating revenue | 4,246,915 | 4,186,723 |
| Diocesan assessment | 4,213,502 | 3,927,047 |
| Gain on sale of property and equipment | 1,270,725 | 288,952 |
| Other | 181,765 | 562,954 |
| Contributions & other additions | 3,153,127 | 2,731,882 |
| Total Revenues, Gifts, & Grants | 20,154,945 | 20,123,544 |
| EXPENSES: | | |
| Operating expenses | 13,650,492 | 13,114,805 |
| Net periodic pension cost | 827,786 | (1,206,722) |
| Other post-employment benefit costs | 1,162,240 | 1,620,626 |
| Diocesan support | 3,861,299 | 4,359,639 |
| Interest | 927,559 | 734,982 |
| Total Expenses | 20,429,376 | 18,623,330 |
| Change in net assets prior to pension-related changes other than net periodic pension cost | (274,431) | 1,500,214 |
| Pension-related changes other than net periodic pension cost | (29,862,061) | (8,065,324) |
| Changes In Net Assets | (30,136,492) | (6,565,110) |
| NET ASSETS | | |
| Beginning of year | 48,670,516 | 55,235,626 |
| End of year | \$ 18,534,024 | \$ 48,670,516 |

**DIOCESAN HIGH SCHOOLS FINANCIAL REVIEW
FOR FYE JUNE 30, 2016 & 2015**

The financial statements entitled Catholic Diocese of Columbus – High Schools, represent the combined financial position and activity for the Diocesan High Schools.

The financial statements for the High Schools are reviewed by the independent CPA firm of Schneider Downs & Co., Inc. The review was conducted according to Statements on Standards for Accounting and Review Services issued by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants.

For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2016, enrollment decreased by 0.6%, excluding the impact of adding another class to Cristo Rey High School. Although overall tuition income increased, our ability to increase tuition to offset rising costs continues to be tempered by the reality of the economic challenges being faced by our families.

Total Net Assets increased \$1.0 million. The majority of which was related to an increase in cash. Overall net income was consistent with the prior year. The most significant fluctuations between years were related to the increase in Tuition income, offset by an increase in salary and benefit costs and a decrease in realized and unrealized gains on our endowment accounts.

CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF COLUMBUS - HIGH SCHOOLS

Combined Statements of Financial Position

| ASSETS | As of 6/30/2016 | As of 6/30/2015 |
|--|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Cash & cash equivalents | \$ 22,467,122 | \$ 21,014,806 |
| Restricted Cash | 617,695 | 678,779 |
| Accounts receivable, net | 893,665 | 766,089 |
| Note receivable | 5,939,520 | 5,939,520 |
| Pledges receivable, net | 1,020,871 | 1,843,815 |
| Prepaid expenses | 39,259 | 24,925 |
| Buildings, leasehold improvements & equipment, net | 55,911,939 | 55,842,155 |
| Beneficial interest in perpetual trust | 24,990,161 | 25,198,805 |
| Total Assets | \$ 111,880,232 | \$ 111,308,894 |
| LIABILITIES | | |
| Accounts payable | \$ 1,414,894 | \$ 1,657,606 |
| Accrued liabilities - operations | 2,729,686 | 2,551,303 |
| Deferred revenue | 358,679 | 219,676 |
| Prepaid tuition & fees | 5,279,698 | 5,537,499 |
| Notes payable - related party | 14,505,950 | 14,854,126 |
| Notes payable - other | 9,860,000 | 9,760,000 |
| Total Liabilities | 34,148,907 | 34,580,210 |
| NET ASSETS | | |
| Net assets - controlling interest | 71,695,646 | 70,441,360 |
| Net assets - noncontrolling interest | 6,035,679 | 6,287,324 |
| Total Net Assets | 77,731,325 | 76,728,684 |
| Total Liabilities & Net Assets | \$ 111,880,232 | \$ 111,308,894 |

CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF COLUMBUS - HIGH SCHOOLS

Combined Statements of Activities

| | Year Ended 6/30/2016 | Year Ended 6/30/2015 |
|---|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| REVENUES AND SUPPORT: | | |
| Tuition | \$ 33,216,425 | \$ 31,541,183 |
| Extracurricular activities and cafeteria | 8,485,079 | 7,704,013 |
| Contributions & grants | 3,949,819 | 3,153,776 |
| State of Ohio administration cost reimbursement | 1,693,333 | 1,632,597 |
| Net realized and unrealized gains | (736,976) | 450,129 |
| Parish support | 1,233,160 | 1,224,000 |
| Other school income | 500,245 | 401,762 |
| Fundraising, net | 547,377 | 692,296 |
| Gift and grants - Diocese | 574,927 | 513,546 |
| Investment income, net | 238,879 | 360,579 |
| Interest income | 206,459 | 167,735 |
| Total Revenues and Support | 49,908,727 | 47,841,616 |
| EXPENSES: | | |
| Salaries | 22,134,639 | 21,268,120 |
| Extracurricular activities and cafeteria | 8,988,960 | 8,752,329 |
| Benefits | 7,255,952 | 7,042,792 |
| Depreciation and amortization | 3,836,959 | 3,728,403 |
| Utilities | 1,320,209 | 1,431,017 |
| Maintenance | 1,050,119 | 945,807 |
| Other | 1,336,441 | 1,246,094 |
| Departmental costs | 740,278 | 704,837 |
| Office supplies | 852,761 | 817,810 |
| Interest | 564,818 | 510,787 |
| Insurance | 258,805 | 229,541 |
| Bad debt expense | 351,776 | 123,320 |
| Central administration fees | 99,149 | 92,068 |
| Total Expenses | 48,790,866 | 46,892,925 |
| Net Revenues in Excess of Expenses | \$ 1,117,861 | \$ 948,691 |



DIOCESAN PARISHES FINANCIAL REVIEW FOR FYE JUNE 30, 2016 & 2015

The financial statement entitled Catholic Diocese of Columbus – Parishes, represents the consolidation of the receipts and disbursements for the parishes and associated elementary schools of the Catholic Diocese of Columbus. This statement was compiled from the unaudited financial reports submitted by those organizations.

For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2016, Total Parish Receipts increased 1.5%. Offertory rose 2.2% compared to the prior year. Fund Drive receipts decreased slightly. School Income rose 1.7% while school costs rose 1.0%

Total Parish Disbursements increased 1.8% year to year mainly due to increases in Parish Salary & Benefits (6.0%), Diocesan Assessment (9.3%) and Religious Education Salary & Benefits (5.8%). The increase in Diocesan Assessment resulted from the increase in Fund Drive receipts in 2015, which is assessed in 2016.

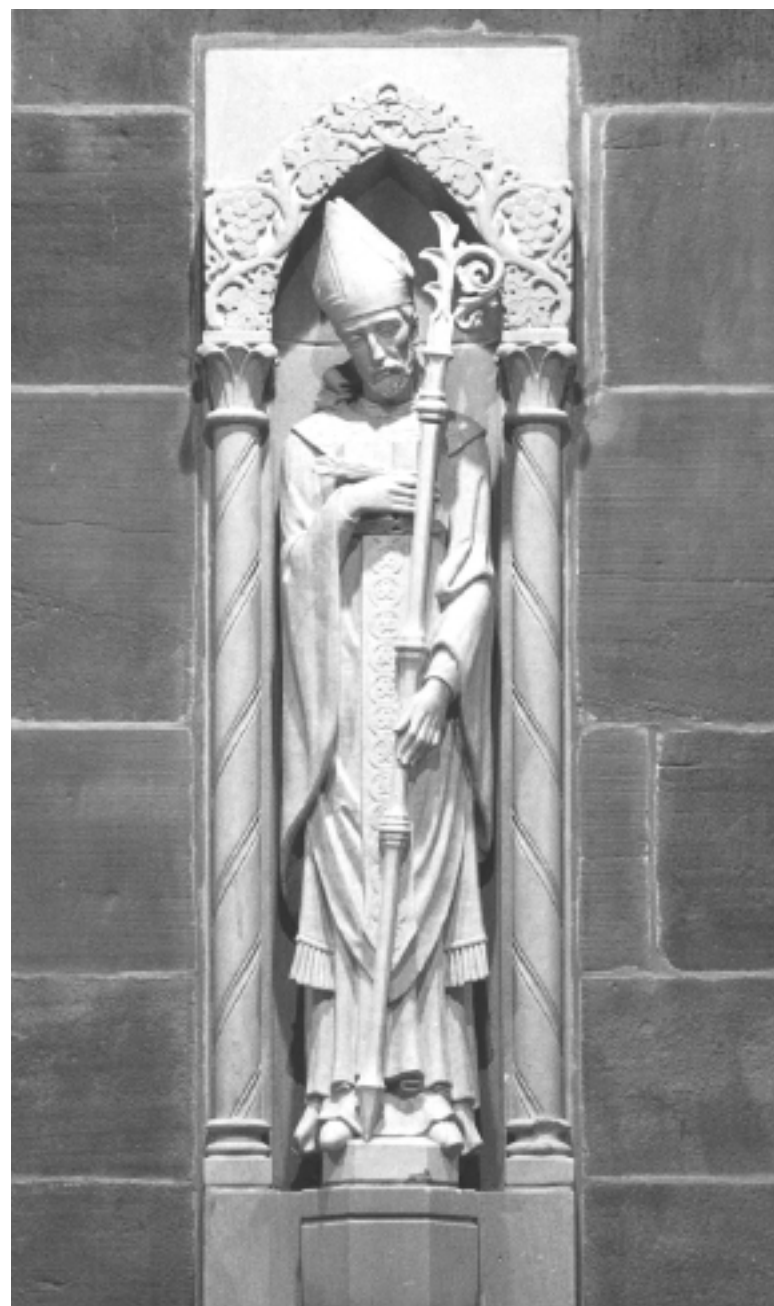
Overall, Excess Receipts over Disbursements increased by 2.1%. It should be noted that much of this Excess is used to retire debt and for major capital expenditures, which is outlined below.

For those interested in the financial results for a particular parish, please contact that parish directly.

CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF COLUMBUS - PARISHES

Combined Statements of Activities

| | Year Ended 6/30/2016 | Year Ended 6/30/2015 |
|---|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| RECEIPTS: | | |
| Offertory | \$ 55,027,016 | \$ 53,863,037 |
| Fund Drives | 7,961,631 | 8,661,001 |
| Gifts & Bequests | 3,372,519 | 3,264,779 |
| Diocesan Support | 3,502,952 | 3,323,978 |
| Other Parish Income | 6,227,459 | 5,732,804 |
| Religious Education Income | 1,766,451 | 1,923,332 |
| School Income | 45,145,885 | 44,404,347 |
| Total Receipts | 123,003,913 | 121,173,278 |
| DISBURSEMENTS: | | |
| Parish Salary & Benefits | 23,693,588 | 22,359,687 |
| Parish Operating Expenses | 20,252,702 | 20,546,305 |
| Diocesan Assessment | 4,162,202 | 3,806,333 |
| Depreciation | 2,944,949 | 3,312,044 |
| Debt Interest Payments | 654,560 | 909,420 |
| Religious Education Salary & Benefits | 4,524,490 | 4,278,422 |
| Other Religious Education Costs | 2,076,025 | 2,047,954 |
| School Salary & Benefits | 44,533,181 | 44,026,902 |
| Other School Costs | 6,345,393 | 6,350,659 |
| Total Disbursements | 109,187,090 | 107,637,727 |
| Excess Receipts over Disbursements | \$ 13,816,823 | \$ 13,535,550 |
| New Loan Funds | \$ 1,854,440 | \$ 854,126 |
| Payments on Loans | \$ 3,269,720 | \$ 4,807,533 |
| Major Capital Expenditures | \$ 14,083,816 | \$ 9,468,915 |



Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Cycle A)

Do not be anxious, for the Father knows our needs



Father
Lawrence L. Hummer

**Isaiah 49:14-15; 1 Corinthians 4:1-5;
Matthew 6:24-34**

Today is the last Sunday in Ordinary Time until June 25. Lent beckons, beginning with Ash Wednesday this week. Meanwhile, the Lord, through the prophet Isaiah, has promised to deliver Israel from its present exile and suffering. Yet Israel (Zion) complains: "The Lord has forsaken me; my Lord has forgotten me."

Invoking the image of a mother caring for her infant, the prophet asks whether such a mother ever could be without tenderness for the child. Even if such an unthinkable thing were possible, the Lord promises, "I will never forget you."

One of the reasons this image is particularly striking in today's world is because all too often, infants are dispatched from the womb like unwanted appendages. We really must ask ourselves whether we have become so hard-hearted that we fail to appreciate the protective image the Lord promises to be for Israel. Life is cheap. What's a little torture, we ask? Kill the evildoers so we do not need to look at them any more. They've lost their right to be, we say. We want nothing to do with poor people and immigrants because "We are the Masters of our Destiny." We are number one and we will take care of number one, and only number one. Numbers two and three are losers. Get them out of our sight.

The psalmist speaks for us and to us: Only in God is my soul at rest; from the Lord comes my salvation. From the Lord comes my hope.

Jesus provides more for us from the Sermon on the Mount. "No one can serve two masters. He will either

hate one and love the other, or be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon." *Mammon* meant money, wealth, or property. It should be obvious that if a person is consumed with the one, there is little or no time for the other.

Possessions themselves are not the problem, but worrying about either acquiring or maintaining them is where the problem lies. The example of the birds in the sky, who daily find something to eat because "your heavenly Father feeds them," should be a lesson to us that the Lord will see to it that we are fed, too, even if it means we must rely on others, who feed us in the Father's name.

Jesus points to those who are anxious about clothes, by looking at the wildflowers and how beautiful they are because of God's action. As beautiful as they are, they are here today and gone tomorrow, so how much more will the Father care for those "of little faith."

"Do not worry about what you are to eat, or drink, or wear. All these things the pagans seek." More important still, the Father knows our needs. "But seek first the kingdom of God ... and all these things will be given you besides. Do not worry about tomorrow." It will take care of itself. How many poor souls still remain trapped by their own cares and anxieties? Think how many people will hear this Gospel this weekend and walk out still fixated on their goods or their property or their desires.

Jesus teaches as he does to free us from enslavement to all these things that too often fill our plates. These considerations give us a perfect lead-in to Lent, a time when we forget about ourselves and turn outward to others and to God. There never has been a better time to look at God's tenderness and loving care for us than right now. Anxiety is rife among many people about many things. May this Lent be a fruitful time of prayer and reflection for us all!

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

LIFE, continued from Page 3

tended Catholic masses as a child with her mother, who was a Catholic.

When McCorvey decided to enter the Church, she received the sacraments of holy Communion and Confirmation. After the Mass that day, she recalled what she felt during the Liturgy of the Eucharist: "I had been taught what this meant. Jesus was not dying again. Rather, He was drawing us all into His sacrifice, making it present to us, allowing us to join our lives, our sufferings, to His. This was and is the sacrifice that saves the world, that conquers the power of death and destroys the power of abortion. There and then I could place in the chalice all the tears I had ever shed over the aborted babies, all the shame

I ever felt from having worked in an abortion clinic and having been a poster girl for the pro-death movement. There and then, just as the bread and wine were being transformed into the Body and Blood of Christ, the former Jane Roe could once again rejoice in her own transformation into a new creature in Christ."

Catholics and pro-life leaders offered prayers for McCorvey, her family, and all the victims of abortion. "Now with Norma's passing, we certainly pray for the repose of her soul. We certainly pray for her and the aborted babies and the mothers who have passed away, and are now in heaven or purgatory to pray for our country during this pivotal time," Peterson said.

The Weekday Bible Readings

MONDAY

Sirach 17:20-24
Psalm 32:1-2,5-7
Mark 10:17-27

TUESDAY

Sirach 35:1-12
Psalm 50:5-8,14,23
Mark 10:28-31

WEDNESDAY

Joel 2:12-18
Psalm 51:3-6b,12-14,17
2 Corinthians 5:20-6:2
Matthew 6:1-6,16-18

THURSDAY

Deuteronomy 30:15-20
Psalm 1:1-4,6
Luke 9:22-25

FRIDAY

Isaiah 58:1-9a
Psalm 51:3-6a,18-19
Matthew 9:14-15

SATURDAY

Isaiah 58:9b-14
Psalm 86:1-6
Luke 5:27-32

DIOCESAN WEEKLY RADIO AND
TELEVISION MASS SCHEDULE
WEEK OF FEBRUARY 26, 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.

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.

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

Why Did Jesus Tell Us to Be Like the Mustard Seed?

We are all somewhat familiar with the famous parable Jesus told of the mustard seed – the smallest of seeds, which ends up being a healthy and medicinal plant large enough that birds can land and shelter in it. Jesus spoke about this to help us realize that we can do mighty things, even if we think we aren't very mighty at all. It resonated with Jew and Gentile in the ancient world and still grips our imagination in the 21st century.

We all know family and friends who are good people and sometimes go to church. They admit that they believe there is a God and that it is good for children to understand the basic message of Jesus and the church, but they don't spend much time with the concept. What would happen if they did the same thing every day at work or school?

Imagine a doctor, nurse, or first responder who thought this way about his or her job. Imagine if famous athletes, actors, or actresses told everyone that they thought their profession was just something to get through in a routine way and that they didn't think about doing their best in their respective roles. There would be an uproar among their teammates or fellow cast members. Anyone who continued having that attitude would be dismissed for lack of effort and probably would never work again in that profession. Yet this is the attitude many people have about faith – not only those who don't go to church,



THE TIDE IS TURNING TOWARD CATHOLICISM

David Hartline

but also some who do.

You might ask "What can we do about this problem. If it really doesn't concern us, than is it really our problem?" It may not be a personal problem, but as a society, it is our problem.

Jesus calls us to grow the faith by using the tools he gave us. The sad thing is that too few answer the call. Imagine what would happen if pro sports franchises had a hard time fielding teams because of little interest, or if record companies or film studios pleaded for people to go to New York or Hollywood because they needed people to make music and movies, but there just didn't seem to be enough interest. The idea seems ludicrous, and yet in the realm of religion, it absolutely happens.

We are called to spread the message of the Gospel by teaching the faith and helping those in need. You might wonder, "What can I do? I am no theologian and I don't have the financial resources to help those in need locally, let alone in far-off places." Jesus always gives us a way. We can start with prayer. We can show others the way to find the assistance they may

need. There are many charities and foundations that help the needy or those with health problems. The Charity Navigator website (www.charitynavigator.org) tells us which organizations spend most of their money on those in need and which have excessive overhead.

I don't know how many times I have been stopped by people telling me they don't know what to say or do about their children, wife, husband, brothers, sisters, niece, nephew, or someone else who has left the Catholic Church or no longer has any religious beliefs. First, you can start with prayer. Then direct the unbelieving person to the works of someone like Bishop Robert Barron, whom you may remember from the *Catholicism* series which aired extensively on public television.

Bishop Barron has been putting out weekly five- to 10-minute YouTube videos on all types of subjects which touch on faith, ranging from popular television shows and movies to the music of rock bands and other topics of widespread interest. There is no intellectual issue too great or no pop culture item too small that Bishop Barron won't touch.

Many people, especially the young, have been brought back to the faith because of him. Simply instruct the curious to go Google or any Internet search engine and type in "Bishop Barron Videos." This is another simple thing we can do to answer the call of Jesus in the spirit of his mustard seed parable, making our faith-filled steps, however small, seem large.

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

www.columbuscatholic.org



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Pray for our dead

ADKINS, Bryce S., 66, Jan. 28
Sacred Heart Church, Columbus

BAKER, Anton C., 73, Feb. 12
St. Patrick Church, London

BEUM-THOMAS, Connie M. (Galilei), 90, Feb. 13
St. Matthias Church, Columbus

CONRAD, Lucille (Ellis), 97, Jan. 31
St. Rose Church, New Lexington

CULLEY, Phyllis, 79, Feb. 16
Corpus Christi Church, Columbus

DORIAN, Barbara (Huntley), 70, Feb. 13
St. Brigid of Kildare Church, Dublin

DOYLE, James T., 86, Feb. 16
St. Pius X Church, Reynoldsburg

EWING, Sheila A. (Bodish), 78, Feb. 15
St. Matthew Church, Gahanna

GERSTNER, Marguerite A. (Studer), 91, Feb. 3
St. Matthew Church, Gahanna

GOTTSHALL, Donald E., 87, Feb. 9
Our Lady of Victory Church, Columbus

HARR, George, 85, Feb. 17
St. Joseph Church, Dover

ISON, Rosalind M. (Borowitz), 78, Feb. 16
St. Timothy Church, Columbus

JOHNSTON, Joseph J., 67, Feb. 11
St. Matthias Church, Columbus

KARPIK, Charles D., 65, Feb. 12
St. Patrick Church, Columbus

MATYSKELLA, John X., 90, Feb. 14
St. Cecilia Church, Columbus

McTEAGUE, Jerald, 89, Jan. 31
St. Rose Church, New Lexington

NEFF, Judith A. (Cunningham), 70, Feb. 17
St. Thomas More Newman Center, Columbus

RICHARDSON, Neva F., 85, Feb. 15
Holy Spirit Church, Columbus

ROUSSEAU, Betty L., 90, Feb. 13
Immaculate Conception Church, Columbus

SHERMAN, Norma J. (Bisutti), 84, Feb. 13
St. Matthew Church, Gahanna

SMALL, Alpheratta J. (Henkel), 80, Feb. 12
St. Stephen Church, Columbus

UHRMAN, Dr. George H. Jr., 57, of Galloway,
Feb. 16
Little Flower Church, Toledo

Deacon Francis X. McDevitt

Funeral Mass for Deacon Francis X. McDevitt, 84, who died Wednesday, Feb. 15, was held Monday, Feb. 20 at Columbus St. Elizabeth Church. Burial was at Kingswood Memorial Cemetery, Lewis Center.

He was born June 5, 1932 in Reading, Pennsylvania, to William and Anna (Henke) McDevitt, was a 1949 graduate of Reading Catholic High School, and studied business law at the University of Tennessee and the University of Wisconsin.

He served in the Air Force from 1951-71, then was employed with Liquid Carbonic Corp. in Elizabeth, New Jersey, and Oconto, Wisconsin.

He began his diaconal formation at the Sacred Heart Center in Oneida, Wisconsin, in 1974 and was ordained a deacon in May 7, 1977 by Bishop Aloysius J. Wycislo at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral, Green Bay, Wiscon-



sin. He was assigned to diaconal ministry at St. Joseph and St. Peter churches in Oconto, Wisconsin, until his job transferred him in 1984 to Columbus, where he applied for faculties and was granted incardination to the diaconate for the Diocese of Columbus.

Bishop James Griffin appointed him to diaconal ministry at Columbus St.

Ladislav Church, where he served until 2000, when he was assigned to St. Elizabeth Church. He served there until his retirement in 2010. From 1988-92, he was associate director for ordained deacons in the diocesan Office of the Diaconate.

He was preceded in death by his parents; wife, Joan (Sylva); and son, Edwin. Survivors include sons, Gregory, Kevin, and Michael; daughter, Christine; and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Sister Marilyn Archer, OSF

Funeral Mass for Sister Marilyn Archer, OSF, 96, who died Wednesday, Feb. 8, was held Tuesday, Feb. 14 in the chapel of the Sisters of St. Francis of Penance and Christian Charity in Stella Niagara, New York.

She was born Maryanne Archer on Jan. 22, 1921 in Somerset to Urban and Bernice (Harris) Archer.

She was a graduate of New Lexington St. Aloysius Academy and received a bachelor of arts degree in 1952 from St. Mary of the Springs College (now Ohio Dominican University), a master of arts degree in 1960 from Assumption College in Worcester, Massachusetts, and a doctorate in French literature in 1974 from the Sorbonne in Paris.

She joined the Stella Niagara Franciscan congregation on Aug. 18, 1941 and professed her perpetual vows on Aug. 19, 1944.

In the Diocese of Columbus, she was a teacher at Columbus St. John the Evangelist School (1944-46), Columbus St. Peter School (1946-47), St. Aloysius Academy (1948-51), and Columbus Father Wehrle High School (1981-82). She also served in New York, West Virginia, Colorado, Arizona, California, Alaska, and Guam. From 1990-92, she was a member of the discernment work whose efforts led to establishment of the congregation's mission in Palenque, Mexico. She lived in Columbus in retirement from 1993-2007, when she moved to Stella Niagara.

She was preceded in death by her parents; brothers, Raphael, James, and Daniel; and sisters, Sister Urban Archer, OSF, Carol Weiland, and Ellen Miller. She is survived by several nieces and nephews.

Sister Rosemary Anthony, OSF

Funeral Mass for Sister Rosemary Anthony, OSF, 85, who died Saturday, Feb. 11, will be held Saturday, Feb. 18 in the chapel of the Sisters of St. Francis of Penance and Christian Charity in Stella Niagara, New York.

She was born April 14, 1931, in Buffalo, New York to Anthony and Louise (Corey) Anthony.

She was a 1949 graduate of the Academy of the Sacred Heart in Buffalo and received a bachelor of science degree in education in 1960 from Rosary Hill College (now Daemen College) in Amherst, New York.

She joined the Stella Niagara Fran-

ciscan congregation on Sept. 4, 1949 and professed her first vows on Aug. 18, 1952, taking the name Sister Augusta, and final vows on the same day three years later.

She was principal of Columbus Sacred Heart School from 1968-70. She also served in New York and New Jersey. She retired in 2006 and became a resident of the Stella Niagara Health Center in 2016.

She was preceded in death by her parents and a sister, Anne. Survivors include brothers, Ronald and John (Katherine); sisters, Sister Donna Marie Anthony, OSF, Dolores, and Gloria Paz; and 10 nieces and nephews.

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

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Fried Ocean Perch, Baked Cod, Fries, Macaroni, Coleslaw, Applesauce, Rolls, Dessert & Beverage

LENTEN FISH FRY

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St. Michael Church

5750 N. High St., Worthington

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

Macaroni-Cheese Dinner: \$7

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St. Christopher Church**LENTEN PASTA DINNER**

1420 Grandview Avenue / Trinity School Cafeteria

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

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

Pasta Sauce Provided by local area restaurants

March 3 — LaScala Italian Bistro

March 10 — ZCucina Ristorante

Our Lady of Victory Catholic Church

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

Fresh Ocean Perch (fried)

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Fries, Baked Potato, Macaroni & Cheese, Cole

Slaw, Applesauce, Roll & Butter,

and homemade Desserts.

Free coffee!

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

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

Pop, Beer, Seconds & Carryouts available.

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FEBRUARY

23, THURSDAY

Ohio Dominican Natural Sciences Open House

6 to 7:30 p.m., Battelle Hall, Ohio Dominican University, 1216 Sunbury Road, Columbus. Open house for high school students interested in university's science- and health care-related majors. 614-251-4500

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.

Talk by Father Wagner at St. Joan of Arc

6:30 to 8 p.m., St. Joan of Arc Church, 10700 Liberty Road, Powell. Talk by Father Joshua Wagner, pastor of Columbus St. Dominic and Holy Rosary-St. John churches, on "Loving and Forgiving." 614-761-0905

Frascati Society Meeting at Columbus St. Patrick

7 p.m., St. Patrick Church, 280 N. Grant Ave., Columbus. Meeting of parish's Frassati Society for young adults. "Christ in the City" program with Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, confessions, Taize chant, and night prayer, followed by refreshments at Claddagh Irish Pub. 614-224-9522

23-26, THURSDAY-SUNDAY

St. Charles Presents 'The Diviners'

8 p.m. Thursday-Saturday, 3 p.m. Sunday, St. Charles Preparatory School, 2010 E. Broad St., Columbus. School's theater department presents "The Diviners" by Jim Leonard Jr., a play about a farm town in Depression-era Indiana. Admission \$10 adults, \$5 students. 614-252-6714

24-26, FRIDAY-SUNDAY

Bishop Ready Presents 'Arsenic and Old Lace'

7 p.m. Friday and Sunday, 2 p.m. Saturday, Bishop Ready High School, 707 Salisbury Road, Columbus. School's theater department presents the comedy "Arsenic and

Old Lace." Admission \$10 adults, \$9 seniors, \$8 students. 614-276-5263

25, SATURDAY

Columbus Catholic Men's Conference

8 a.m. to 3 p.m., Cardinal Building, State Fairgrounds, Columbus. 20th annual Columbus Catholic Men's Conference, with talks by Deacon Harold Burke-Sivers, Father Jonathan Morris, and Steve Bollman. Details at www.columbuscatholicmen.com.

Women of DeSales Mass and Breakfast

9 a.m., St. Francis DeSales High School, 4212 Karl Road, Columbus. Mass for all women associated with school, followed by free breakfast, with talk by Jeanne Lennon, owner of Lennonheads Salon. 614-267-7808

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.

Bishop Hartley Luncheon and Style Show

11 a.m. to 2 p.m., Jefferson Country Club, 7271 Jefferson Meadows Drive, Blacklick. 26th annual luncheon and style show benefiting Hartley Parents Organization, featuring students modeling prom fashions and mothers modeling spring wear, with silent auction. Tickets: \$40 adults, \$15 students. 614-580-7381

Our Lady of Perpetual Help School Alumni Mixer

6:30 to 8 p.m., Plank's, 4022 Broadway, Grove City. Mixer for all alumni and current and former faculty and staff of Grove City Our Lady of Perpetual Help School to benefit school's tuition assistance fund. Admission \$10 per person, includes pizza and soft drinks. Cash bar available. 614-875-3322

26, SUNDAY

St. Agatha Adult Education

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

St. Christopher Adult Religious Education

10 to 11:20 a.m., Library, Trinity Catholic School, 1440 Grandview Ave., Columbus. "Virtues: Spiritual Aids to a Life of Holiness" with Susan Bellotti, pastoral associate, Westerville St. Paul Church.

Praise Mass at Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal

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

World Marriage Day at Cols. Immaculate Conception

1 to 4 p.m., Marian Hall, Immaculate Conception Church, 366 E. North Broadway, Columbus. Diocesan World Marriage Day celebration, featuring talk by Deacon Harold Burke-Sivers on "Male & Female He Created Them: Complementarity and Intimacy in Marriage," concluding with Holy Hour. 614-241-2560

St. Catherine of Bologna Secular Franciscans

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

Prayer Group Meeting at Christ the King

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

Spanish Mass at Columbus St. Peter

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

27, 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.

28, TUESDAY

Padre Pio Prayer Group at St. John the Baptist

12:30 p.m., St. John the Baptist Church, 168 E. Lincoln Ave., Columbus. Padre Pio Prayer Group meeting, including rosary, devotions, and 1 p.m. Mass. 614-294-5319

MARCH

1, WEDNESDAY

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Novena at St. Elizabeth

7 p.m., St. Elizabeth Church, 6077 Sharon Woods Blvd., Columbus. Mass and monthly novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help, with Father Ramon Owera, CFIC. 614-891-0150

Lenten Vespers Service at St. John Chrysostom

7 p.m., St. John Chrysostom Byzantine Catholic Church, 5858 Cleveland Ave., Columbus. Lenten Vespers service with Holy Eucharist. Byzantine Catholic churches do not celebrate daily Divine Liturgy during Lent. 614-882-7578

1-APRIL 9, WEDNESDAY-SUNDAY

40 Days for Life

7 a.m. to 7 p.m., sidewalk in front of Founder's Women's Health Care Center, 1243 E. Broad St., Columbus. 40 Days for Life campaign of daily vigils at clinic. Individuals may sign up for one- or two-hour shifts. Churches, schools, and other organizations may select one day in which their representatives will cover all shifts. 614-445-8508

2, 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.

Holy Hour at Holy Family

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

Sung Vespers at St. Margaret of Cortona

7 p.m., St. Margaret of Cortona Church, 1600 N. Hague Ave., Columbus. Sung Vespers, following Stations of the Cross during weekly Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, continuing every Thursday through April 6. 614-279-1690

3, FRIDAY

St. Cecilia Adoration of Blessed Sacrament

St. Cecilia Church, 434 Norton Road, Columbus. Begins after 8:15 a.m. Mass; continues to 5 p.m. Saturday.

Monthly Adoration of Blessed Sacrament

Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal Church, 5225 Refugee Road, Columbus. Begins after 9 a.m. Mass; continues through 6 p.m. Holy Hour.

Catholic Men's Luncheon Club

12:15 p.m., St. Patrick Church, 280 N. Grant Ave., Columbus. Catholic Men's Luncheon Club meeting, with Cristo Rey Columbus High School president Jim Foley talking about his faith journey and the school's story.

Stations, Simple Supper at Portsmouth St. Mary

6 p.m., St. Mary Church, 524 6th St., Portsmouth. Stations of the Cross, followed by simple supper. 740-354-4551

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.

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Physician-author finds God in studies of near-death experiences

By Nancy L. Roberts
Catholic News Service

“God and the Afterlife: The Groundbreaking New Evidence for God and Near-Death Experience” by Jeffrey Long, MD, with Paul Perry. HarperOne (San Francisco, 2016). 213 pages, \$25.99.

Since the beginning of time, death has posed the ultimate enigma. Where exactly do we go after our physical demise? Catholic tradition points to heaven or hell (and, sometimes, purgatory). While earlier generations seemed to accept these beliefs on faith, medical advances in our age have made near-death experiences comparatively common.

Everyone has heard of near-death survivors, often called NDEers -- those whom modern medicine has brought back from the very brink of death. In fact, a 1992 poll by Gallup, cited by the Near Death Experience Research Foundation, found that 13 million Americans, or five percent of the nation's population, had a near-death experience.

These survivors of horrendous car accidents, heart attacks, and the like actually have flatlined, meeting the clinical definition of death. And when doctors revive them, these patients often tell similar stories of out-of-body experiences that include meeting deceased loved ones, crossing through a tunnel

into a brilliant light, and feeling cocooned by an overwhelming love, often from a distinct, supernatural personage who many of them conclude is God.

Not surprisingly, the sizable cohort of survivors of a near-death experience has inspired a popular literature that ranges from collections of anecdotes to more “scientific” explorations of the subject.

In 1975, when Raymond Moody, a physician and philosopher, published his book *Life After Life*, a collection of interviews with and anecdotes about NDEers, it became a best-seller and sparked much popular interest in the subject. However, some critics dismissed Moody's lack of scientific rigor; for example, he provided no statistical analysis of the data he collected about the experiences of those who seemingly died and were revived.

Dr. Jeffrey Long's new exploration of NDEers seems to try to address some of the limitations of earlier studies, such as Moody's. *God and the Afterlife* reports on more than 4,000 near-death experiences cataloged by the nonprofit Near Death Experience Research Foundation founded in 1988 by Long, a radiation oncologist in Houma, Louisiana. He also established a website, nderf.org, to collect near-death accounts for scientific study.

In this book, Long reveals some of the experiences near-death survivors “of diverse backgrounds and religious traditions” consistently report, such as feeling out-of-body and encountering

BOOK REVIEW

GOD and the AFTERLIFE

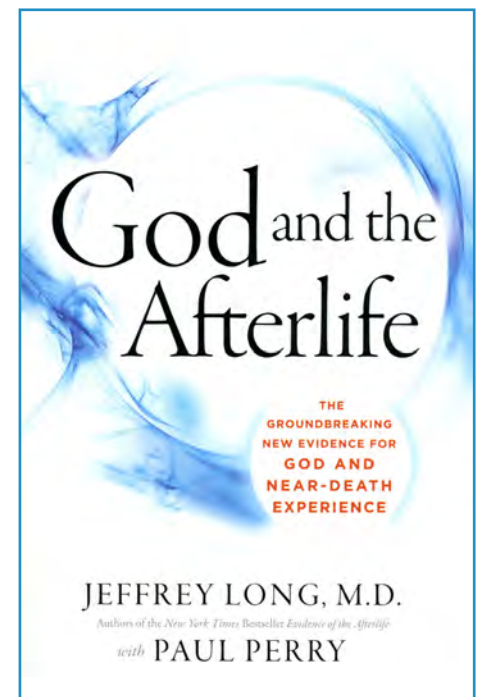
a loving, mystical, divine being. Commonly, survivors also note their passage through a tunnel, the presence of a brilliant light, and encounters with deceased relatives and friends.

Long presents many first-person accounts of near-death experiences, such as this one from a nurse who experienced severe blood loss during a cesarean section: “I looked down at my son's incubator and wondered ‘Am I dead?’ But I was also thinking that it was OK if I were dead, because my son was all right. I was later given a photograph of him post-birth that looked exactly the same as what I saw, even though he was on the other side of the curtain.”

Long found that many people who survive these close calls with death report feelings of extraordinary peace and calm, as did a survivor of two cardiac arrests, who described how, “On the other side, the arms of my loved ones welcomed me home. The intense love just can't be described in words. ... I felt content and safe, like I was in the care and love of God. And that love of God felt like the first time you see your baby or the first time you fall in love -- multiplied by 10,000.”

The book is a follow-up to Long's earlier New York Times best-seller, *Evidence of the Afterlife: The Science of Near-Death Experiences* (2010). Intriguingly, it addresses less common aspects of near-death experiences, such as “hellish encounters” (reported by fewer than four percent of Long's sample), which may seem “unworldly, frightening and suggestive of classical concepts of hell.”

Long concludes that there is no correlation between one's relative “goodness” and the chance of encountering what he calls “a walk through the Valley of Death.” All kinds of people have reported such experiences. Long prefers not to characterize them as “negative,” because they seem to spur survivors to live transformed, more meaningful lives as much as the more common, pleasant



near-death experiences do.

“There is historical literary evidence that past saints and holy men and women have experienced descent into hell,” he observes. “And, although this brush with evil may be hard on them it also often provides the grist for a deeper spirituality, one that moves them to greater spiritual wholeness.”

With many engaging first-person accounts culled from this large near-death study, *God and the Afterlife* is easy to read and probably will interest many. Long's conclusion is unequivocal – that this data set of more than 4,000 near-death experiences offers “overwhelming evidence of God.”

Some skeptics might question whether the reported tunnel, the light, and the encounters with dead relatives and with a divine being actually occur during the period when the NDEer is judged to be clinically dead. Or could these experiences possibly occur in the seconds as consciousness (and life) is being regained? The latter explanation might cast doubt on the claims of Long and other researchers.

Ultimately, despite this and other attempts to study what happens after we die, we may just have to take it on faith. At the very least, *God and the Afterlife* leads us to ponder the reality of God, if not to find a definitive answer.

Roberts is the author of two books about Dorothy Day and “The Catholic Worker” and teaches journalism at the State University of New York at Albany.

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St. Joan of Arc Church  Find us on Facebook www.bestfishfry.com March 3 - April 7



BOSCO BASH 2017

CT photos by Ken Snow

About 500 middle-school students, along with adult chaperones, parents, and youth ministry leaders attended the annual Bosco Bash on Saturday, Feb. 11 at Columbus St. Timothy Church. The theme for the event, sponsored by the diocesan Office of Youth & Young Adult Ministry, was “Fire and Water,” taken from the first reading for that weekend’s Saturday vigil and Sunday Masses. The young people were encouraged to live their baptismal promises faithfully and to embrace the guidance and wisdom of the Holy Spirit.

The Bosco Bash takes its name from St. John Bosco, the patron saint of youth, who was known in 19th-century Italy for his lifelong dedication to young people, especially those on the margins of society. It is celebrated close to his feast day, Jan. 31, and has taken place for about 10 years. Holly Monnier, youth ministry coordinator at Columbus St. Peter Church, planned and directed the event in collaboration with



several parish youth ministry leaders and the Diocesan Youth Council.

Paul Kim (pictured at upper right), a nationally known speaker and musician, was the keynote presenter. He entertained with a unique style of “beatbox” music and shared his story of coming to know Jesus personally as he encouraged those in attendance to live daily for Christ.

The Station 14 worship band provided music throughout the day and for the closing Liturgy of the Eucharist, at which Father Tim Lynch presided.

Diocesan Youth Council members performed skits, and three council members offered personal witness. During the dinner break, the young people in attendance participated in games and other activities, visited display booths, made blankets, and donated \$500 for children in foster care through the My Very Own Blanket organization.

Next year’s Bosco Bash will be at Westerville St. Paul Church on Feb. 3,



The Bells of 'Grand Old St. Mary's' in German Village



Father: St. Mary's is old and needs help.
Sr. Paulina: The trusses have moved.
Sr. Vianneya: More than a trifle...



We have to fight for St. Mary's!



Raphael (the late parish cat) brings the first collection basket to Fr. Lutz.



Sr. V: We're going to need a bigger hat, Father. This project is expensive.
Father: God will provide, and I know the people of the diocese will help.



Sr. V: Eddie, *this* is the proper way to hold a collection basket.



Sr. V: Sheila, you don't say, "I want to be a nun" in order to help St. Mary's. You just get donations.



Father: Sheila, why is your hat askew?
Sheila: It's brimming with donations, Father.



We're smiling at how beautifully you make zeros. Don't forget to put a "1" in front.



Mr. Bogardus: Lord, give me a sign to know if I should donate.

Dog: Here's your sign...



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672 S. Third St

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Our bells are silent and our church doors are closed due to trusses in the roof shifting several inches compromising the structural integrity of the church. The cost of this is more than one parish can bear. Please help us save St. Mary's.