



DIOCESE OF COLUMBUS

CATHOLIC TIMES

A journal of Catholic life in Ohio

JANUARY 14, 2018
THE SECOND WEEK IN ORDINARY TIME
VOLUME 67:15



ST. ALOYSIUS CHURCH: THE 'MOTHER CHURCH'
OF COLUMBUS' HILLTOP NEIGHBORHOOD

Editor's reflections

DON'T LOSE HOPE FOR LIFE

By Doug Bean, Editor



In a few days, the annual March for Life in Washington, the Respect Life Mass at Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral, and the *Roe* remembrance at the Ohio Statehouse will take place.

As our country approaches the 45th anniversary of the Supreme Court's disastrous *Roe v. Wade* decision that flung open the floodgates for abortion, Americans in the past year have seen some encouraging signs that this egregious law one day may be overturned. Thanks be to God for that.

There's a new Supreme Court justice who appears to be on the side of life; solidly pro-life officials have been appointed to key government offices; and right here at home, abortions reached a 40-year low in 2016.

The Ohio Legislature has passed several bills that offer protections for the unborn. The first is the Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act that went into effect this past March. The law restricts abortions at 20 weeks and beyond when the unborn child can feel pain. The second and most recent was the Down Syndrome Non-Discrimination Act. This law, signed by Gov. John Kasich in December, prohibits abortions based solely on a fetal diagnosis of Down syndrome.

Every piece of pro-life legislation is important, and the lawmakers should be thanked personally for their votes. They simply confirm what the Catholic Church and natural law tell

us – that every life is sacred and a gift from God from the moment of conception until natural death.

But the greatest reason for optimism is not politicians or policies. It is the proliferation of young people who recognize the sacredness of life and the fact that abortion is robbing their generation of brothers and sisters, cousins and friends whose lives were ended in the womb before they could meet them.

For those who rely mostly on the mainstream press or watch network television for news, you are left with the impression from their reporting that the opposite is true – that abortion supporters are winning. Unfortunately, celebrities and Planned Parenthood use the media in many instances for fearmongering.

We're led to believe that if federal funding to Planned Parenthood is cut, women will be denied vital healthcare services and no longer have easy access to abortion. In reality, Planned Parenthood does not provide the services that it purports to offer but exists simply because abortion is its profit center. We don't need to get into the sordid details of the reported immoral and unethical activities of Planned Parenthood here.

What we do want to do is to give you encouragement to defend life at all stages, because you might be the only person in your family, in your neighborhood, at your high school or college who is passionately pro-life.

You might feel alone, like you're the only one who believes abortion is wrong. It can be discouraging. But that's why events like the annual March for Life in Washington, D.C., and other pro-life rallies in cities and towns all across the world, including Columbus, are so great.

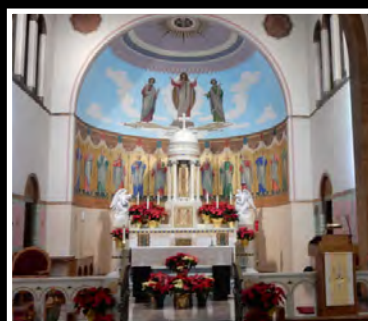
If you feel like you're fighting an uphill battle defending the sanctity of human life and need some encouragement, a pilgrimage to the March for Life or a local event is highly recommended. Several diocesan parishes and groups sponsor bus trips to Washington that make the trip doable. If you have the ability to attend, you will not be disappointed. There may still be time to sign up.

For anyone who has ever been blessed with the opportunity to attend the March for Life or events closer to home, such as the annual Respect Life Mass at St. Joseph Cathedral on Jan. 22, you come away saying, 'Wow, there really are lots of pro-life people like me.' These people come from all walks of life. Some

of their stories are amazing. Some of the women have experienced abortions themselves. Some of them once worked for abortionists and had a change of heart.

To see hundreds of thousands of like-minded people at the March for Life – from babies to young adults to seniors who come from every part of the country to be there – is as uplifting as anyone could imagine. The massive nature of the gathering at the March and at the Masses in Washington is difficult to comprehend without physically being there. You can watch on Catholic television (most mainstream media ignore it), but to feel the energy and witness the throngs of people coming together is something special when you experience it in person.

Let us continue to fervently pray for anyone affected by abortion that one day soon the culture of life will prevail.



Front Page photo: The sanctuary at Columbus St. Aloysius Church, which was dedicated in 1928. Murals of the 12 Apostles, the Transfiguration, and the Holy Spirit are behind the altar.

CT photo by Tim Puet

CATHOLIC TIMES

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

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Subscriptions (614) 224-6530 FAX (614) 241-2573

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

Follow Jesus like the Magi, pope urges on Epiphany

By **Cindy Wooden**/*Catholic News Service*

To follow Jesus, one must set out like the Magi, leaving comfort behind, following the light and offering the Lord gifts without expecting anything in return, Pope Francis said on Jan. 6 during Mass on the Feast of the Epiphany.

In his homily, the pope asked people to think about the Gospel story of the Three Kings and why no one else seemed to see and follow the star to Bethlehem.

Perhaps, he said, it was because “few people raised their eyes to heaven.” Today, too, people think it is enough “to have our health, a little money and a bit of entertainment. I wonder if we still know how to look up at the sky. Do we know how to dream, to long for God, to expect the newness he brings, or do we let ourselves be swept along by life, like dry branches in the wind?”

At the Mass in St. Peter’s Basilica, Pope Francis asked people to think about what star they choose to follow in their lives.

“Some stars may be bright, but they do not point the way. So it is with success, money, career, honors and pleasures when these become our life,” he said. They are like meteors, blazing for a time, but burning out.

“The Lord’s star, however, may not always overwhelm by its brightness, but it is always there: it takes you by the hand in life and accompanies you,” he said. “It does not promise material reward, but ensures peace and grants, as it did to the Magi, ‘exceedingly great joy.’”

Following the star, he said, requires freeing oneself “from useless burdens and unnecessary extras that only prove a hindrance, and accept unforeseen ob-



Pope Francis kisses a figurine of the baby Jesus at the conclusion of Mass marking the Feast of the Epiphany in St. Peter’s Basilica at the Vatican on Jan. 6.

CNS photo/Paul Haring

stacles along the map of life.”

“If we want to find Jesus, we have to overcome our fear of taking risks, our self-satisfaction and our indolent refusal to ask anything more of life,” the pope said.

In the Gospel story, he said, it is clear that Herod fears losing his power, many of the townspeople fear what is new, and the priests and scribes, who know the prophecy about the Messiah’s birth, are content just to talk about it.

“Theirs can be the temptation of those who are used to being believers. They can talk at length about the faith they know so well, but will not take a personal risk for the Lord,” he said. “They talk, but do not pray; they complain, but do no good. The Magi, on the other hand, talk little and journey much.”

Like the Magi, Pope Francis said, Christians are called to imitate the Lord in offering gifts without expecting anything in return.

God, who became “small for our sake, asks us to offer something for the least of his brothers and sisters,” the needy, the hungry, the stranger and the prisoner, he said.

“We give a gift pleasing to Jesus when we care for a sick person, spend time with a difficult person, help someone for the sake of helping, or forgive someone who has hurt us,” the pope said. “These are gifts freely given, and they cannot be lacking in the lives of Christians.”

The next day, celebrating the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord and baptizing 34 infants in the Sistine Chapel, Pope Francis urged parents to speak the language of love and transmit the faith to their children with the “dialect” of the family.

“Catechists will come later to develop this first transmission of faith with ideas and explanations,” the pope told the parents of the 16 boys and 18 girls, including two sets of twin girls. But if the children have not first received an education in faith at home, “if at home parents don’t speak the language of love,” the transmission of faith is very difficult.

Children, too, have a “dialect,” the pope said. Although none of the babies was crying at that point, Pope Francis asked the adults to allow their prayers to be as simple as the cries of the little ones.

And, as he has done each time he’s baptized babies, Pope Francis assured the mothers that even in the Sistine Chapel, if their babies are hungry, they should not be afraid to breastfeed them, “because this, too, is the language of love.”

Pope Francis: The world needs stable families, relationships

Catholic News Agency

Pope Francis said in a speech to diplomats that the stability of the family is integral for the future, and that such stability is created when founded upon the faithful and lasting relationship of a man and a woman.

“Today, fleeting relationships are preferred to the stability of a definitive life project. But a house built on the sand of frail and fickle relationships cannot stand,” the Pope said on Jan. 8.

“What is needed instead is a rock on which to build solid foundations. And this rock is precisely that faithful and indissoluble communion of love that joins man and woman, a communion that has an austere and simple beauty, a sacred and inviolable character and a natural role in the social order.”

Therefore, he said, it is urgent that government policies support the family, on which “the future and the development of states depend,” and without which future challenges cannot be met.

Pope Francis’ words were addressed to ambassadors and other members of the diplomatic corps in a message for the start of the new year.

The Holy See has diplomatic relations with 183 states, as well as the European Union and the Sovereign Military Order of Malta, after having established diplomatic ties with Burma – also known as the Republic of the Union of Myanmar – in May 2017.

Of these, 89 states maintain embassies to the Holy See in Rome, including the embassy of South Africa, which was established last year.

In his lengthy speech, which centered on human rights, Pope Francis emphasized not only the importance of the family, but also the right to life, beginning in the womb.

Seventy years after the creation of the United Nations’ Universal Declaration of Human Rights, it’s painful to see the many ways the fundamental rights of human beings continue to be violated, he said.

The first among these, he noted, is the right of every human person to life, liberty and personal security, which are frequently destroyed not just by war and violence, but by even more “subtle means,” such as abortion.

“I think primarily of innocent children discarded even before they are born, unwanted at times simply because they are

ill or malformed, or as a result of the selfishness of adults,” the pope stated.

This disregard for life and the family has had an immense effect, particularly in those parts of the world experiencing a decline in birth rate, which has led to a true “demographic winter,” he said.

The pope also pointed to the waning birth rate as a sign of societies which are struggling to face present challenges, growing even more fearful of the future.

Discussing the importance of the right to life, Pope Francis also drew attention to the maltreatment of the elderly, who are often seen as a burden, and of women, who repeatedly suffer from violence and oppression.

See **STABILITY**, Page 9

Faith in Action

By Erin Cordle

Feast of God's "Whole" Family

We recently celebrated the Feast of the Holy Family (Dec. 31). In this new year, I'd like to think about another "wholly" family – God's whole family. Scripture tells us little of the first years and boyhood of the Child Jesus. Popes, especially the far-sighted Leo XIII, recognized the delicate nature of the family and promoted this feast with the hope that it might instill into Christian families something of the faithful love and the devoted attachment that characterized the family of Nazareth. This celebration demonstrates Christ's humility and obedience with respect to the fourth commandment, while highlighting the loving care His parents exercised in His keeping. Consequently, the Feast of the Holy Family speaks to us of the fond and loving care we must render to the Body of Christ as guardians of the domestic church and all of God's children.

In 1943, the Roman Catholic bishops of the United States established Catholic Relief Services (CRS) to be family and guardians to help war-torn Europe and its refugees recover. CRS' early work focused on the resettlement of war refugees in Europe. Today, more than 70 years later, its mission continues to focus on refugees and the poor overseas by continuing to use the Gospel of Jesus Christ as its mandate.

In the 1950s, as Europe regained its balance, CRS began to look to other parts of the world, seeking out those who could benefit from the assistance of Catholics in the United States. For the next two decades, the agency expanded into Africa, Asia, the Middle East, and Latin America. During this time, CRS built on its tradition of providing relief in emergency situations and sought additional ways to help people in the developing world break the cycle of poverty through community-based sustainable development initiatives. These programs (which today include agricultural initiatives, community banks, health, education, and clean water projects) ensure that the local population is the central participant in its own development and that a project can be sustained through the effort and resources of the local community.

The Wise Men crossed continents to share their gift with the Holy Family. Today, CRS continues to share the gifts of U.S. Catholics in creating a more just and prosperous world for all. Since the early 2000s, CRS has applied a theory of change grounded in the concept of Integral Human Development (IHD) that protects life and promotes the good of the whole person. IHD, as found in Catholic social teaching, supports the ability of everyone to realize his or her full potential in the context of just and peaceful relationships, a thriving environment, and solidarity with others. IHD is the sustained growth that everyone has the right to enjoy and represents an individual's cultural, physical, natural, economic, political, social, and spiritual wholeness.

True IHD is a long-term, dynamic process based on human dignity and right relations. Progress toward IHD is achieved through active engagement with others in a just and peaceful society that respects the sacredness of life and the dignity of every person. The IHD concept is relevant for both the poor served overseas and the Catholic community and other people of good will in the United States.

For the new year, I offer this prayer: "O God, let us be shining examples of the Holy Family to the poor, vulnerable, and marginalized through our prayers and with our support of Catholic Relief Services' staff here and around the world. Grant that we may imitate the virtues of family life and the bonds of charity. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen."

Erin Cordle, Associate Director Office for Social Concerns



St. Brendan men's retreat at Maria Stein

Hilliard St. Brendan Church is sponsoring a men's retreat from Friday to Sunday, Jan. 26 to 28, in the Maria Stein Spiritual Center at Maria Stein in Mercer County.

The retreat begins Friday evening and will conclude by noon Sunday. The theme is "The Christian Vocation in *The Lord of the Rings*."

Lord of the Rings author J.R.R. Tolkien was a devout Catholic and said his faith was reflected in every page of his writing. The retreat will reflect on some important truths for Catholic men.

Previous reading of the *Lord of the Rings* trilogy will be helpful, but even those who never have read the books or

seen the movies still can benefit from learning more deeply about important aspects of our lives as Christian men.

The retreat will be led by Father Ben Cameron, CPM, who joined the Fathers of Mercy in 1992 and was ordained to the priesthood on May 31, 1997. Since 2000, he has been serving as a full-time parish mission preacher and retreat master.

The cost of the retreat is \$170, which includes all homestyle cooked meals and a private room with bath. All men are welcome.

For registration information, contact Gerry at (614) 946-8117 or email geryliz90@gmail.com.

St. Thomas Aquinas Convocation

Ohio Dominican University's Center for Dominican Studies and Office of Academic Affairs will host their annual St. Thomas Aquinas convocation at 11 a.m. Thursday, Jan. 25 at the Matesich Theater in Erskine Hall on ODU's campus, 1215 Sunbury Road.

The keynote speaker, Father Brian Davies, OP, will present a talk on "St. Thomas Aquinas on God and Evil."

Following the lecture, Bishop Frederick Campbell will celebrate Mass at Christ the King Chapel in Sansbury Hall.

Father Paul Colloton, OSFS, university chaplain, will concelebrate.

Father Davies, a Dominican priest, is distinguished professor of philosophy at Fordham University in the Bronx, New York.

His book *Thomas Aquinas on God and Evil* offers an in-depth study of Aquinas' thoughts on God and evil, revealing that these can be traced through his metaphysical philosophy, his thoughts on God and creation, and his writings about Christian revelation and the doctrines of the Trinity and the Incarnation.

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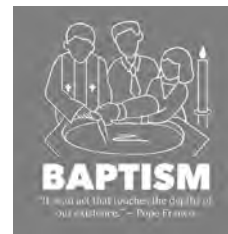
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Why baptism is no mere formality

By David Gibson
Catholic News Service



Baptism is no mere “formality” in Christian life. “It is an act that touches the depths of our existence,” Pope Francis remarked in January 2014, speaking four days before the feast of the Baptism of the Lord, when contemporary popes customarily baptize babies in the Vatican’s Sistine Chapel.

I do not know all the reasons Pope Francis accented the word “formality” in telling what baptism is not. But obviously, to regard baptism as a formality, something like an academic society’s initiation ceremony, would be to misunderstand it entirely.

The pope was concerned that some Christians may view baptism only as “a formal act of the church to give a name” to a child. More than that, he wanted to call attention to baptism’s far-reaching effects.

Baptism, along with the sacraments of confirmation and the Eucharist, “configures us to the Lord and turns us into a living sign of his presence and of his love,” said the pope.

Mentioning baptism on another 2014 occasion, Pope Francis observed that it “regenerates us in Christ, renders us a part of him and unites us intimately among ourselves as limbs of the same body, of which he is the head.”

The risk in viewing baptism as a formality is that it might also be considered unimportant. This is a genuine concern in times when reports of a decreasing number of infant baptisms often have been heard.

The underlying causes of this decline undoubtedly are complex. Some new parents may harbor anger or disappointments related to the church. Many may be unaware of what others find rewarding about life in the Christian community.

There are parents, too, who make no firm decision one way or the other about baptism after a child’s birth; no baptism takes place. Years later, the question arises again, and

for some the answer now is affirmative.

Something like this happened for a participant in a parish class I lead to prepare parents for their child’s baptism. At one point, this parent appeared about to apologize to me for delaying his child’s baptism so long.

But I did not think he owed me an apology. Instead, I encouraged him to be happy about the decision now reached by his family and to look forward to a happy, heartfelt celebration of the fast-approaching baptismal day.

Christians always considered baptism an event to celebrate. Yes, the weeks leading up to Easter, the principal occasion for baptisms during the church’s early centuries, were a time of penitence. We know these weeks as Lent.

Afterward, however, it was time to rejoice. Jesuit Father Josef Jungmann, an important 20th-century historian of the church’s worship and sacramental life, wrote that “as early as the second century, people regarded ... the entire seven weeks which followed Easter as a festal time.”

But what is celebrated? Baptism “grafts” believers “as a living member onto Christ and his church,” Pope Francis said. In the language of St. Paul, each baptized person becomes part of Christ’s body.

Paul had much to say about Christ’s living body and its members’ diversity -- their varied backgrounds, roots, talents and needs. But “we were all baptized into one body,” Paul said (1 Corinthians 12:12-29).

The living body of Christ, therefore, “is not a single part, but many.” Yet each part is needed, valued. Paul illustrated this point by writing:

“If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? ... But as it is, there are many parts, yet one body.”

Notably, all these parts are con-



cerned “for one another,” and “if (one) part suffers, all the parts suffer with it.”

Whenever I think of Christ’s living body, I remember the warm, inviting words of Pope Benedict XVI when he baptized 10 infants in January 2006. “Through baptism,” he stressed, “each child is inserted into a gathering of friends, who never abandon him in life or in death, because these companions are God’s family.”

He added, “This group of friends, this family of God ... will always accompany him, even on days of suffering and in life’s dark nights.”

Isn’t becoming grafted onto such a community reason enough to celebrate baptism?

Baptized Christians celebrate the rewards of life in Christ’s living body. But they also are charged with doing their part to ensure that the faith community actually is “a gathering of friends” and “companions” for others who suffer and experience dark times.

In the thinking of many, a formality refers to life’s red tape. It is inconsequential, something quickly to consign to the past. But baptism cannot be consigned to the past.

That is why Pope Francis encourages Christians to discover and remember the date of their baptism. Otherwise, he fears, they could “lose awareness of what the Lord has done” in them and think of their baptism only as a past event.

However, the pope stated, “we are called to live out our baptism every day.”

THREE-MASS LIMIT?; GOD PRESENT IN PRISON



QUESTION & ANSWER

by: FATHER KENNETH DOYLE
Catholic News Service

Q. Recently I visited my home parish in Ohio (Diocese of Toledo). I was there to attend the 8:30 a.m. Mass on Dec. 24. Before Mass, the regular priest announced that there would be a substitute priest for that Mass because of the limit of “three Masses a day.” (The regular priest was scheduled to do a different Mass that morning and then two Christmas Eve Masses later in the day.)

My question is this: Is this “three-Mass rule” a strict law of the church or a guideline? (I had never heard of it before.) If it’s a law, could it be overturned in an emergency? For example, say a large parish with two priests had one get sick and no substitute could be found. Would a Mass (or two) have to be canceled? (Williamsburg, Virginia)

A. It may come as a surprise for some Catholics to learn that there is any limitation at all on the frequency with which a priest may celebrate Mass. The truth, however, is that for centuries the church has regulated that number -- primarily, to ensure that the Eucharist is celebrated with the dignity and devotion it deserves.

The current *Code of Canon Law* says that “if there is a shortage of priests, the local ordinary can allow priests to celebrate twice a day for a just cause, or if pastoral necessity requires it, even three times on Sundays and holy days of obligation” (No. 905.2).

In many dioceses, bishops have given their priests blanket permission to invoke this “twice on weekdays, three times on Sunday” option. The date to which you refer -- Dec. 24, 2017 -- was a Sunday, and so your local pastor was not “making up” a rule; the three-Mass limit was in place.

(Interestingly -- for many Catholics do not know this -- a priest is not strictly required to celebrate Mass every day. Canon 904 says simply that “priests are to celebrate frequently” -- although the same canon goes on to say that “daily celebration is recommended earnestly.”)

For genuine pastoral emergencies, a bishop is empowered to grant a dispensation even beyond the “three-Mass limit” -- such as the situation you raise where a sudden sickness and lack of a substitute might compromise the need of the faithful for the Eucharist.

Q. A recent letter in your column from an inmate in Jefferson City, Missouri, has been in my heart in such strong way that I had to write.

(Editor’s Note: That letter was from someone who had been in prison for 25 years and was seeking to have his sentence changed from life to the death penalty because of what he termed his “unbelievable suffering” and the fact that his heart was “hardened” and he could not discover any role that God might possibly have for him to play in prison.)

I, too, am an inmate; I have served 23 years of a 15 years-to-life sentence. I have been denied three times by the parole board because of the “nature of the crime” -- which is a constant, unchanging fact, although I have changed positively from the very core of my being.

God comes to me often in the darkness and reminds me of his love. I trust him and know that he has forgiven me, even though the system has not. Even in prison, he brings people into my life to encourage my spirit, so that I can live for him and with the hope of pleasing him somehow.

Mr. Jefferson City should ask to see a priest who can offer him some counseling and the help of the sacraments. The death penalty would mean that Satan won, the prison system won and God lost. It would be cheating the Lord out of the redemptive life he wants to give.

Let Mr. Jefferson City know that he is worth so much to God. He should help God by working with him, not against him. God loves this man and is on his side. (Marysville, Ohio)

A. I have chosen to run this letter not simply for the advice it offers to the prisoner in Missouri, but for a larger purpose: It shows that every person is worthy of redemption and capable of it. The Marysville inmate -- obviously incarcerated for a serious crime -- has evidently found a spiritual core deep within his soul.

I am reminded of what Pope Francis said in 2015 while visiting a prison in Philadelphia: “The Lord goes in search of us; to all of us he stretches out a helping hand. It is painful when we see prison systems that are not concerned to care for the wounds, to soothe the pain, to offer new possibilities.”

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

Student attends leadership program

Columbus Trinity Elementary School eighth-grade student Kira Weaver attended the Youth to Youth Leadership Program, a community-based drug prevention program focused on middle and high school students and sponsored by Youth to Youth International.

Photo courtesy Trinity Elementary School



Evening with the PA program

Ohio Dominican University will host an Evening with the PA (physician assistant) program from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 16 in St. Albert Hall on ODU’s campus at 1216 Sunbury Road, Columbus.

Attendees can register for the free event at ohiodominican.edu/PAEvent.

During the session, those in attendance will have an opportunity to learn more about ODU’s master of science in physician assistant studies program. Attendees will be able to speak with current students, faculty, and staff, and take a tour

of the program’s state-of-the-art facility, which includes a new simulation lab.

Graduates of ODU’s PA program have achieved a 98 percent first-time pass rate on the physician assistant national certifying exam. Certified physician assistants are in demand across the nation. The Bureau of Labor Statistics says the field is expected to grow by nearly 29,000 jobs by 2024.

To learn more about ODU’s PA program, visit ohiodominican.edu/PA, email grad@ohiodominican.edu, or call (614) 251-4615.

‘The Gospel According to Football’

This month’s topic for the Catholic Conversations series sponsored by Columbus St. Margaret of Cortona and Hilliard St. Brendan churches will be “The Gospel According to Football,” presented by Father Thomas Blau, OP.

The event will take place from 6 to 8 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 14 in the second-floor upper room of Sports on Tap, 4030 Main St., Hilliard.

The talk is designed to give a bit more hope to people watching a football game as they see the subtle ideas found in both

football and the spiritual life. As a Cleveland Browns fan, Father Blau says he has benefited from this insight in that at least spiritually, he can find joy and hope as he watches the team’s endless struggle on the field.

There is no charge, but those interested in attending are asked to make reservations to ensure adequate seating.

To register, visit EventBrite and search for “Catholic Conversations” or send an email message to tojnaporano1@gmail.com.



THE EVERYDAY CATHOLIC

By: Rick Jeric

What to pray for

Given the fact that 2017 is so recently in the rear view mirror, and looking ahead to the “construction zone” that is 2018, I have to believe that there is an awful lot of praying going on around the world. At least I hope there is. Everyone

prays differently, and our Faith dictates some of the procedural issues. But we all pray in a way that is most comfortable for our own unique situation. I also would bet that the great majority of all prayer is some form of petition. We want God to hear us, to answer us, and to satisfy us. So we indeed have to ask. Above all, I hope we all pray each day, and not only when we really need something. There is prayer before we get out of bed each morning, thanking God for another day of life. There may be other prayer throughout the day, such as a rosary in the car on the way to work, but at the very least, there is grace before each meal, thanking God for His goodness. Then there is prayer before we get into bed each night. We thank God for the blessings of the day. The greatest form of prayer we have is the celebration of the Eucharist at Mass. It is all about thanksgiving. We have opportunities throughout this great prayer to ask for forgiveness and to pray for one another. When the priest says, “Let us pray,” do we? What should we pray for?

2017 was littered with some very interesting and impactful news stories around the world. In January, there was terrorism in Turkey and a budding election scandal with Russia, and Volkswagen was caught cheating. We can pray for peace and honesty. It all starts with each of us. In February, people were being ostracized in Myanmar (used to be Burma) and even killed because of their Faith, and the leader of North Korea saw his oldest son murdered. We can pray for world leadership, and yes, we even can pray for the tragedies that affect those who we might not like very much. What a concept that is. In March, we had CIA documents leaked to the public, and the process of Brexit began in the UK. We can pray for our government and our neighbors in other parts of the world. It is not always just about us. The U.S., as the world leader, directly impacts others, and we need to pray for guidance and wisdom. We could use another King Solomon right about now. In April, North Korea and the cheering throngs welcomed their first ominous missile test. We can pray for a number of things here, but “peace” remains the key word. That white dove needs to be around all year, not just on Christmas cards. In May, FBI Director James Comey was fired. We certainly can pray for an end to corruption, along with leaders who are focused on honesty and integrity. I hope this is possible. In June, there were huge and violent anti-corruption protests in Russia. We are not the only ones with these issues, and we can pray for all. In July, a group of scientists published a warning on mass extinction of certain species of animals. We can pray for better care and stewardship of all the gifts God has given to us on this earth. In August, we were all captivated by a full solar eclipse. We can pray that all of us retain a full appreciation of God as creator. In September, North Korea successfully tested a hydrogen bomb. We can pray for so many things here, not the least of which is sanity and restraint. In October, we were horrified by the mass shooting in Las Vegas. We can pray for so much here. Take your pick. In November, we celebrated Thanksgiving. Even with the aforementioned list, we have so much for which to be thankful. We pray for everyone and everything that we have by God’s grace and goodness. We are so very blessed. In December, we celebrated the start of our salvation with the Incarnation. We pray for the same peace, love, and joy that the Christ Child brings each December to permeate all 12 months. So indeed, what is there to pray for in 2018?

ODU to host national security expert

Renowned national defense analyst Lawrence Wilkerson will speak on “National Security in the Age of Trump” at 7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 15 in rooms 258 and 260 of the Bishop Griffin Student Center at Ohio Dominican University, 1216 Sunbury Road. The event is free, but seating is limited. To register, go to <https://ohiodominican.formstack.com/forms/wilkerson>.

Wilkerson is distinguished visiting professor of government and public policy at the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, Virginia. At the State Department, he was chief of staff to Secretary of State Colin Powell and associate director and a member of that department’s policy planning staff under Ambassador Richard Haass.

Earlier, he served 31 years in the Army as both enlisted man and officer. His final assignments were as special assistant to Powell, who at the time

was chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, from 1989-93 and as deputy director and director of the Marine Corps War College from 1993-97.

He has written for several major newspapers and magazines and has appeared on television with Stephen Colbert, Bill Maher, Chris Hayes, Ed Shultz, Lawrence O’Donnell, Rachel Maddow, Wolf Blitzer, Chris Cuomo, Alisyn Camerota, the BBC’s *Hardtalk* and *Newsnight*, and other programs.

His talk is sponsored by ODU’s PATRIOTS program and *Sua Sponte*, the university’s student veterans association.

For more information on ODU’s office of military services, visit ohiodominican.edu/Military or contact (614) 251-7400 or military@ohiodominican.edu. The PATRIOTS program may be contacted at (614) 251-4705 or laichd@ohiodominican.edu.

www.columbuscatholic.org

PARISH OFFICE MANAGER

St. Matthew the Apostle Parish Gahanna

Position Summary: The Office Manager coordinates and facilitates the day-to-day operations and the activities of the Parish. This position offers the flexibility and opportunity to make use of particular gifts and talents of the individual such as computer skills, programming, scheduling of various ministries.

Qualifications: The ideal candidate must be self-motivated to complete the responsibilities of the job with minimum supervision; ability to multi-task and establish priorities, to maintain flexible attitude and approach towards assignments, write correspondence and memos; effectively communicate with staff, parishioners and visitors to the parish, exercise discreet judgment in maintaining all information highly confidential, exhibit initiative. To perform this job successfully, an individual should have knowledge of MS Office (Word, Excel, and Outlook) systems.

Education/Experience: A high school degree is required, a college degree is preferred. Previous experience or equivalent combination of education and experience will be considered.

Offer of position is contingent upon successful completion of a mandatory background screening and the VIRTUS “Protecting God’s Children” program. Practicing Catholic Preferred.

Salary is commensurate with education and experience. Benefits are according to Diocesan policy.

Send cover letter, resume and references by January 19, 2018 to:

Leo S. Grimes, Parish Business Manager at:
Lgrimes@stmatthew.net

Coaching is a family affair for the Geyers

By Doug Bean, *Catholic Times* Editor

At a junior high holiday basketball tournament game late last month, most of the players and spectators had no idea that a coaching legend was present in the gym at Westerville St. Paul School.

As the seventh-grade boys' teams from St. Paul and St. Brigid of Kildare School squared off on the court, one of the coaches watching the action intently from the bench was a man whose name should be familiar to anyone who follows high school sports in central Ohio.

Even though Dick Geyer retired 10 years ago at Columbus Bishop Hartley High School after a long, successful run as a Hall of Fame coach and teacher, he still is working with young people and sharing his expertise with a younger generation of players from St. Brigid.

What makes this season extra special for him is not that he continues to coach basketball after all these years, but that he's joined by his son, Tom, and one of his granddaughters, Emily. They represent three generations of the Geyer family guiding the lads from St. Brigid.

And that's not all. Two other granddaughters, Bridget and Ellen, show up occasionally to be with the team and help out when they're home on school breaks from the University of Notre Dame.

This is the 11th season that the father-and-son duo has been involved with junior high basketball in the Diocese of Columbus. They started at Hilliard St. Brendan School, coaching the three Geyer girls, then accepted an invitation four years ago to move over to St. Brigid to work with the boys.

This season, Emily has joined her father and grandfather after graduating last spring from Notre Dame, where she played soccer and earned a degree in neuroscience. She's working this year, applying for medical school, and assisting her father and grandfather.

"It's been a blast. It's awesome," Emily said. "I don't think it's an opportunity that many people get to do, and so I just really feel lucky and blessed to be around them and work with them and see my grandpa a couple times a week."

She has been able to observe "how they interact with the guys and each other, always using every opportunity as a learning experience and just find-



ing ways to make the guys better both on and off the court."

As a former college athlete, she also is able to share with the team from her own experiences what it takes to be successful.

"I try to instill it in doses and make sure they're still having a good time," she said. "But I would say overall, I just try to stress the focus and the intensity and to use every practice not only as an opportunity to get better personally, but as an opportunity to make your teammates better."

When she was the players' age, she was just beginning to understand her grandfather's stature as a coach.

"When we would play at Watterson or at Hartley or at Ready, it was people always saying your grandpa this and your grandpa that. Having the gym named after him at Hartley kind of gives you an idea," she said. "But I think it's still continually amazing to see the number of people who know him and the reach that he had as a coach and as a teacher. It's incredible."

His best advice to her and all of his players has been to "put your best self forward, use every opportunity to learn and grow as a person, and be your best all the time."

Tom, who played at Hartley and was an assistant coach under his father, has absorbed volumes of wisdom and basketball knowledge over the years.

"One of the reasons I like coaching besides being with my family is that I had such a good experience with coaches

that I played for, including him," Tom said. "So to get to pay that forward and to get to use some of those same principles that I remember him saying clear as a bell at Hartley, kind of the same things either will come out of his mouth or my mouth, and it's a real flashback. It just shows that those principles are just timeless in terms of helping kids get better."

"It's been a blessing. The chance to get to spend more time with him, to get to spend more time with Emily, it's really enjoyable."

Their team had a 2-5 record through the first week of January, but junior high basketball is not so much about the wins and losses. It's more about the process of learning to play together as a team and to develop the fundamental skills that will help a young player succeed in high school sports and in life. Through the years, those guiding principles have never changed.

"It's great to see him still have the energy and still have those coaching principles and let him interact with a younger generation of kids," Tom said of his father. "It's really amazing that he relates so well to them because he can break it down and take it to a level they understand. He's probably saying the same things on the sidelines that you would have heard back in the '70s or '80s or '90s in terms of some of those fundamental principles."

Dick Geyer is still as humble as he was while coaching at Hartley. He shies away from the spotlight and talking about himself, preferring to let oth-



Left: Three generations of Geyers are coaching Dublin St. Brigid of Kildare School's seventh-grade basketball team this season. Above: Dick (left), Tom, and Emily Geyer watch the St. Brigid of Kildare team play Westerville St. Paul at a holiday tournament last month. CT photos by Doug Bean

ers speak. But his accomplishments are impressive.

At Hartley, he spent 16 years as an assistant football coach and 27 years as head football coach, 23 years as head basketball coach, and 21 years as a baseball assistant. Geyer is the only member of the state high school coaching halls of fame for football, basketball, and baseball.

His Hartley football teams compiled a 181-112-1 record that included a state championship in 1986 and a runner-up finish in 1984. In basketball, the Hawks went 208-219 under Geyer and reached the state championship game in 1974. The baseball team made it to the state semifinals in 1991.

"The thing that stood out most about Dick was his humility. He never sought to bring attention to himself and his accolades," said Steve Blackledge, long-time high school sports reporter for *The Columbus Dispatch*. "He just went about his business in a quiet, unassuming manner. In fact, he was so shy, he often looked down when he spoke."

"In line with many old-school coaches of his era, Dick coached several sports and was successful in all of them. He seemed to relate well with all of his athletes, regardless of their personalities. Not only was Dick versatile, he was open to new ideas. After being a conservative, run-oriented team much of his career, in his final years he switched to a very innovative, new-age spread offense that produced some prolific quarterbacks and receivers. Dick was a coach for the ages."

LIVING Faith

Becoming who we are made to be

Samuel paid attention. His heart was “awake” even as he slept. One night, in the shrine at Shiloh where he lived under the care of its aged high priest, Eli, Samuel heard someone call his name. He didn’t turn over and go back to sleep. “Here I am,” he responded, hurrying to Eli, assuming the summons had come from him.

But it hadn’t. Eli instructed the boy to go back to sleep. After this happened two more times, Eli realized that the Lord was speaking to Samuel and instructed him to reply, “Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening” if he were to hear the call again.

God did call again, and the boy responded as Eli had instructed. I wonder if Samuel had any expectations of what he might hear that night or if he was surprised to learn that the Lord planned to fulfill the Divine threats made against Eli and his family for their abuse of priestly duties, dishonoring the God they were to serve.

Samuel listened, then went back to sleep. In the morning, he had the courage to answer Eli’s question about what the Lord had said, and Eli had the humility to accept it. Samuel had spoken and been heard as the prophet God made him to be.

Scripture provides no definite age for Samuel at the time of this call. He is called “a boy.” He was the son of Hannah, a faithful woman embittered by long years of barrenness and the derision she suffered as a result. While on her family’s annual pilgrimage to



GRACE IN THE MOMENT
Mary van Balen

the shrine at Shiloh, she laid her anguish before the Lord, weeping and imploring God to give her a male child. If so blessed, she vowed to give him to God’s service for as long as he lived. She had a son and, true to her word, when he was of appropriate age, Hannah brought him to Shiloh and left him in Eli’s care.

No matter Samuel’s age, this story of a youth hearing and responding wholeheartedly to the call of God is captivating and is one of my favorites. How had Samuel become so “wide awake,” so attentive and receptive to God?

Surely, as with all of us, his early years were formative. Growing up in a family of faith, nursed and nurtured by a mother who loved and trusted God, and living in the shadow of the ark of God in the tabernacle in Shiloh must have influenced his relationship with the Holy One.

But Samuel’s life sounds rosier than it was. (Don’t we often idealize the lives of others in comparison with our own?). Remember, his father had two wives who didn’t get along, and Eli and his sons were not

faithful to the demands and requirements of their priestly ministry.

In the midst of it all, Samuel was able to attend to the call of God. He was a contemplative, aware of the Presence within and without, in the good and not so good, as he went about his duties. He must have taken time for solitude, resting in God and deepening his ability to hear and recognize the Holy Mystery that was the Source of his life and identity.

No matter the differences in time and circumstance between our lives and Samuel’s, we share the call to be people of prayer and to grow in our relationship with God. God has placed the gift of Divine Self in every one of us. Identifying that bit of Divinity and living into it, becoming the reflection of God we are made to be and remaining faithful to it is our life task. That’s why the story of young Samuel grabs our hearts. It is the story of all of us.

As 2018 unfolds, we can choose practices that will deepen our openness and help us “pay attention.” In the midst of life’s busyness, suffering, and challenges, we can take time to be still and rest in God, hearing God’s call however it comes. We can allow the Holy Mystery dwelling within to move and transform us and in doing so, can participate in transforming the world. We can say, like Samuel, “Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.”

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STABILITY, continued from Page 3

Defending the right to life also includes “safeguarding the right to health on the part of individuals and families,” he said, as well as “actively striving for peace, universally recognized as one of the supreme values to be sought and defended.”

Commenting on maintaining peace, particularly in the relationships between states, he quoted Pope John XXIII’s 1963 encyclical *Pacem in Terris*, which says that “love, not fear, must dominate the relationships between individuals and between nations.”

In light of this, Francis made note of places which are experiencing difficult moments and are in need of special attention, including the Korean peninsula, Syria, Jordan, Turkey, Lebanon, Iraq, Yemen, Afghanistan, Israel, Palestine, and Ukraine.

He also drew attention to the situation in Venezuela, and the violence in many parts of Africa, especially South Sudan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Somalia, Nigeria and the Central African Republic.

Relations between nations, like all human relationships, “must likewise be harmonized in accordance with the dictates of truth, justice, willing cooperation, and freedom,” Francis stated, quoting from the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

“The basic premise of this approach,” he said, “is the recognition of the dignity of the human person.” It is a disregard and contempt for that dignity, he continued, which has resulted in “barbarous acts that have outraged the conscience of mankind.”

Faith and business program at St. Matthew

Father Nathan Cromly, CSJ, will be coming to Gahanna St. Matthew Church, 807 Havens Corners Road, on Sunday, Jan. 14 for a program examining the relationship between faith and business practices.

He will celebrate Mass at 5 p.m., followed by discussion from 6 to 8 on “The Vocation of the Business Leader” and “An Integrated Life: Bridging the Gap Between Our Faith and Our Daily Business Practice.”

Father Cromly, a speaker at the 2016 Columbus Catholic Women’s Conference, is the founder of Eagle Eye Ministries and president of the St. John Institute in Englewood, Col-

orado. The institute has partnered with Walsh University in North Canton to offer students a fully accredited master of business administration program in entrepreneurial business.

The program is being organized by St. Matthew parishioner Jim Gernetzke, founder of Nos Lumine, a business leadership network for Catholics, and chair of the Columbus chapter of Attollo, a business leadership development organization rooted in Catholic social teaching.

For more information, contact Gernetzke at jimgernetzke@noslumine.com or call (614) 352-1191.

BY TIM PUET/Catholic Times Reporter

St. Aloysius Church: A beacon of hope on the Hilltop

Columbus St. Aloysius Church is known as “The Beacon on the Hill” because of its commanding position on West Broad Street (U.S. 40) in the city’s west-side Hilltop neighborhood, making it a familiar sight for local residents and travelers, and because



Top: Columbus St. Aloysius Church exterior. Middle: Parishioners (from left): first row, Marvin and Margaret Houston, Ruth Sayre, Cindy Oddi, Janice Salvatore; second row, Joe Woodrum, Judy O'Brien, Father Patrick Toner, priest moderator; Deacon Tom Phillips. Bottom: Parish Women's Guild officers.



of the light in the church’s tower.

Parishioner Marvin Houston adds to that description by calling it a “beacon of hope.” Deacon Tom Phillips, parish administrator, says it’s “a beacon of love – love of church and love of community.”

Population shifts have made it a much smaller parish. When it celebrated its 50th anniversary in 1956, it had about 850 families. Today, membership is at 130 families, “but those who are members are active ones,” said Cindy Oddi, secretary for both St. Aloysius and nearby St. Agnes Church.

Most of those families have roots in the parish that go back several generations, with many continuing to take part in parish activities even though they live elsewhere.

“My wife and her family have been part of St. Al’s for so far back I can’t count,” said parishioner Joe Woodrum. “My wife’s uncles laid the marble floor of the church building. We live in Grove City and should be attending Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church there, but we feel we’re part of St. Al’s forever.”

“My mom and dad went here. I was raised here, and my kids were raised at St. Mary Magdalene Church (also located on the Hilltop),” said parishioner Ruth Sayre. “Then we moved to the east side. I came back to the parish one day after the kids were grown, and felt as soon as I walked in that this is where I should be. I’ve been here ever since because everyone here is so caring and giving.”

Marvin Houston and his wife, Margaret, joined the parish 18 years ago. “It’s home. That’s the best way I can put it,” Marvin said. “It has a way of drawing you in. We were members of Columbus St. James the Less Church for many years, then attended Columbus Ss. Augustine & Gabriel. We started coming to St. Al’s because my mom lived here. The more we came, the more we wanted to come back.”

Besides its longtime members, the parish in recent years has added about 10 families from Myanmar, once known as Burma. “I’m not sure exactly how it happened, but they have found a home at St. Al’s,” Oddi said. “Their kids came to the summer camp St. Agnes hosts for their parish and ours,

and that’s what started it. The children didn’t know English, but that didn’t seem to matter. Kids are resilient.

“All the children from those families are involved in the Children’s Liturgy of the Word program during the noon Mass on Sunday, and nearly all the families attend Mass. We also have some families from the Philippines who come to Mass.”

The Houstons are among the founding members of a three-year-old parish organization known as Hilltop Heroes. Its goals are to have social activities every month for all children of the Hilltop, help inactive Catholics return to the church, and attract new members to the parish.

Programs sponsored by the group have included ice cream socials in the summer and “trunk or treat” activities during Halloween. Margaret Houston said plans for the coming year include a “Hilltop then and now” project, a neighborhood barbecue, and more activities for children. “It’s so important to give the young an alternative in this neighborhood,” which has one of the highest crime rates in the city, she said. “It brings great joy to find ways to steer them on the right paths and away from trouble.”

Hilltop Heroes also has sponsored tours honoring distinguished Columbus residents Arthur Boke and Alfred Tibor.

Boke was the first African American child born in Columbus. His mother was a slave for surveyor Lucas Sullivant and his wife, Sarah, and the Sullivants raised him as their own child. Sullivant founded the settlement known as Franklinton, which is now the west side of Columbus and includes the Hilltop.

Boke became a surveyor and remained part of the Sullivant family until his death in 1841 at age 38. He is buried in the Sullivant plot at Green Lawn Cemetery in Columbus. He has 19 sites named for him at various places in Columbus and elsewhere, including a bridge which connects

Souder Avenue with U.S. 33 in Columbus. The Hilltop Heroes tour visited several of those sites.

Tibor was a Holocaust survivor who came to Columbus in 1972 and had become an internationally known sculptor by the time of his death last year at age 97.

One of his best-known works, titled “Celebration of Life,” shows a woman lifting a child over her head to the sky. It is dedicated to Boke and the Sullivant family and is located at the site for the future National Veterans Memorial and Museum in Columbus, just across the Scioto River from downtown at the former Franklin County Veterans Memorial location. Several other Tibor sculpture sites in the city also were part of the Hilltop Heroes tour.

Perhaps the best-known event at St. Aloysius is the annual Thanksgiving Day dinner it has hosted for more than 40 years at the family center in the church basement. Each year, more than 500 meals are served there, with Catholic Social Services delivering dinners to another 200 to 300 people.

“The location of the parish is a blessing to the community at large, a great opportunity for outreach and evangelization,” said Sandy Bonneville of St. Mary Magdalene Church, who has co-ordinated the dinner for the past 12 years. “St. Al’s welcoming environment, the generosity of the parishioners, and the caring team of volunteers from the parish help assure that hundreds of folks are served on the holiday.”

St. Aloysius Church is known as “the mother church of the Hilltop” because St. Agnes, St. Mary Magdalene, and Columbus St. Stephen churches all branched off from it. Bishop James Hartley founded it in 1906 and named it for St. Aloysius Gonzaga. The current church was built in 1928 at 2165 W. Broad St. Its former school, built in 1961, closed in 1976. The building remains part of the church property and is the location of a charter school operated by the Education Academy

for Boys and Girls.

The church is constructed of grey stone and brick and is of a modified Renaissance design, with exterior walls inlaid with red and green tile designs and a roof covered with red clay tile. The interior is spanned by large arched oak beams, which were decorated during a 1943 remodeling with painted highlights that remain bright today. The pews, confessionals, and choir loft also are of solid oak.

The church’s three altars are of reddish French and white Italian marble. The 1943 remodeling added murals of the 12 Apostles, the Transfiguration, and the Holy Spirit behind the altar. The Stations of the Cross are of a baked-on-glass technique, were made in Munich, Germany, and are one of three such sets in the world.

The stained-glass windows are of particular interest. They depict the Apostles’ Creed and are the work of Dr. Heinrich Oldtmann, a German artist who designed the windows of the pope’s private chapel in the Vatican. Painted medallions above the windows depict titles of the Virgin Mary, as listed in the litany to her.

Sayre, chair of the parish arts and environment committee, said the windows are Oldtmann’s only works in the United States.

“This is one of the premier sanctuaries and churches in the Diocese of Columbus,” she said. “Our committee decorates it seasonally throughout the year. The committee helps promote the beauty of the gifts we have and is raising awareness of the church through sales of items such as notecards, bookmarks, T-shirts, and sweatshirts bearing the church logo. Money raised through these sales will be used for refurbishing the windows, which are in great need of repair because the lead is starting to separate.”

The parish Women’s Guild meets monthly. Parishioner Judy O’Brien said the guild’s major annual event is a holiday bazaar

which takes place every November and includes craft booths and baked goods, “especially our cinnamon rolls. We made 700 last year.” Money raised by the club pays for liturgical items including hosts and candles, as well as flowers for special occasions. The guild’s bereavement committee assists with dinners following funeral Masses on request.

The parish St. Vincent de Paul Society collects funds on the four “fifth Sundays” of the year and provides neighborhood residents with rent and utility payments, bus passes, birth certificates, and other items, working in cooperation with other groups, including the Joint Organization for Inner-City Needs and St. Mary Magdalene and Our Lady of Perpetual Help churches.

The Parish Council assists Deacon Phillips and is planning its second annual March Madness chili cookoff this spring. Besides addressing regular organizational and maintenance concerns at its monthly meeting, it also provides volunteers for the Mid-Oho Foodbank’s produce market at the St. Agnes food pantry.

The parish’s music program consists of a choir, a contemporary music group consisting of a pianist, vocalist, and guitarist, and cantors. Organist Mary Hankle has served the parish for more than 50 years.

“What’s unique about our groups is that they rotate,” said music director Janice Salvatore. “We don’t have groups that are limited to playing at one Mass. The choir sings on the fourth Sunday of the month during the school year, the contemporary group is at the Masses on the first Saturday and the third Sunday, and the cantors serve at the other weekend Masses. This gives everyone a chance to experience different types of music at our two weekend Masses” at 4 p.m. Saturday and noon Sunday. Weekday Masses are at 9 a.m. Monday, Wednesday, and Friday.

Oddi said the parish has received funds from The Catholic Foun-

ation to host a seminar this year on opioid addiction, a subject of particular interest in the Hilltop because of the neighborhood’s status as a high-crime area.

“We are working with the Ohio attorney general’s office on how to help adults and teachers deal with children who are affected by addiction, possibly because their own parents were addicts,” she said.

“We can identify children with attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder, but not those with opioid addiction. We see addicts walking around the neighborhood, and we recognize the area’s crime problems. As a church, we need to do something about this. In September, parish staff members attended a drug awareness seminar sponsored by several diocesan offices. This parish event will be more specific.”

Oddi said she usually applies to the Foundation each year for money to purchase Bibles for the Parish Religious Education Program (PREP), which serves children in kindergarten through eighth grade who attend the three Hilltop parishes and is based at St. Mary Magdalene. This year, she chose instead to ask for a grant for the seminar.

“Bibles are important, but helping teachers and other trusted adults recognize children traumatized by the opioid epidemic is more important at this time,” she said.

The Foundation assists St. Aloysius and the other Hilltop parishes in a number of other ways. Foundation grants pay in full or in part for activities such as the Thanksgiving dinner; hot meals for PREP participants once a week; replacement of the church floor in 2013 (“It was black, now it’s cream-colored,” Oddi said); creation and stocking of a room in the church for the Children’s Liturgy of the Word program; and the St. Aloysius/St. Agnes youth ministry. This group sponsors activities including a lock-in for young people this week-

Columbus St. Aloysius Church members decorate the sanctuary. The priest pictured is Father Dennis Stevenson.



end in connection with Martin Luther King Day on Monday, Jan. 15 (“Some kids don’t eat on holiday weekends,” Oddi said) and the summer day camp for children at St. Agnes.

Father Patrick Toner has served as priest moderator of St. Aloysius since Oct. 1. He grew up in the parish and is one of four current priests of the diocese who come from St. Aloysius. The others are Msgrs. George Schlegel and Carl Claggett and Father Raymond Larussa. Gordon Mott of St. Aloysius is a first-year theology student at the Pontifical College Josephinum.

Father Toner had been living in retirement at Plain City after serving St. Joseph Church there as pastor for 18 years. He maintains his Plain City home, but lives in the St. Aloysius rectory.

“Praise God I have a parish again!” he said. “I was busy in retirement, but I missed parish life. I was preaching on weekends for the Food for the Poor program, which I continue to do, but it was a case of greeting people and, in effect, saying ‘Good to see you! I’ll never see you again!’”

“I was accustomed to parish life, to seeing familiar smiles and faces. I asked Bishop Campbell for a job, and he had one for me,” Father Toner said. In addition to his work at St. Aloysius, he is a chaplain on call and on the floors of The Ohio State University Hospitals and Riverside Methodist Hospital and celebrates Mass once a week at Columbus Bishop Ready High School.

He also is continuing his work

with Food for the Poor on some weekends. Celebrating Mass at St. Aloysius on recent weekends when he has been away have been Msgr. Schlegel and Father Dennis Stevenson, who had been in residence at St. Aloysius for 22 years and now is in residence at Columbus Christ the King Church.

Father Toner said he is looking toward the future of the parish and working on details of a legacy campaign which will involve both current and former parishioners.

“One of the first things that struck me on coming here to the Hilltop was the great awareness people have of the history of the parish and the neighborhood,” he said. “We will be reaching out to the alumni of the parish to bring them back as part of a circle of connectedness. This church building is a great gift, and we hope this campaign will allow it to continue to thrive and live up to its slogan as ‘The Beacon on the Hill.’”

For more information on St. Aloysius, go to www.staloyiuscolumbus.org, address emails to StAls32@yahoo.com, or call (614) 276-6587.

Priest's hospital room mixup allows dying woman to receive sacraments

Catholic News Agency

Shortly before midnight on New Year's Eve, Father Gergorio Hidalgo went to a hospital to give Communion to a patient. But a "mistake" in room numbers allowed him to administer the sacraments to a dying woman as well.

"Last night I went to the hospital at 11:32 pm for an emergency. By mistake, I go to the wrong room. Patient is dying. Confession, anointing, communion and then she passed away 2 hours later. Best mistake I have ever made. THANK YOU GOD FOR USING MY MISTAKES," the priest, better known as Father Goyo, posted on Twitter.

Father Goyo, 44, is the vicar of St. Rose of Lima Parish in Simi Valley, California, which is part of metropolitan Los Angeles. He was born in La Villa de Don Fadrique, a Spanish municipality in Spain's Toledo Province, and was ordained on June 4, 2016.

The Archdiocese of Los Angeles assigned him to Simi Valley Hospital to spiritually care for patients.

He explained what happened that day at the hospital.

"The person in charge of the office told me there was someone who wanted to receive Communion. It wasn't an emergency, but that woman wanted to receive Communion because it was the last day of the year," he said.

However, the staff member accidentally wrote down the wrong room number.

When he got to the room, Father Goyo saw a woman lying in the bed and thought she was the one who had called for a priest.

"A person there, who could have been a relative, told me she was very sick and that she was dying. I approached the woman and asked her if she wanted to go to confession and she told me 'Yes,'" he said.

After hearing her confession, Father Goyo gave her the Anointing of the Sick, as well as a tiny fragment of the Eucharist.

"In my mind, I thought she was the person they had called me for," the priest said. "For me, it was a very

normal moment, very much from God, full of joy, because I thought that it was very beautiful to bring God to someone at the end of the year."

As he left the room, Father Goyo asked a nurse the last name of the person he had visited. When the nurse told him the name, the priest realized he had gone into the wrong room. He then went on to see the person he was originally called to visit.

"It seemed even more beautiful to me. That God had used a mistake of mine, that I didn't even know about until afterwards, in order to do something so wonderful. It was amazing because it wasn't spectacular," the priest said.

Father Goyo said that the dying woman's face showed "a lot of peace and tranquility."

"It was a great way to start the year, remembering that God is with us, not just in the Nativity scene we have in the church, but also in everyday things."

This article was originally published by ACI Prensa. It has been translated and adapted by CNA.

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Pro-Life Mass, program, conference scheduled

Several pro-life activities are scheduled in the Diocese of Columbus during the week of Jan. 22. On that date in 1973, the U.S. Supreme Court issued its *Roe v. Wade* decision legalizing abortion.

The annual diocesan Respect Life Mass will take place at 10:30 a.m. Monday, Jan. 22 at Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral, 212 E. Broad St. Bishop Frederick Campbell will be the celebrant. The Diocese of Columbus will join the dioceses of the United States in observing Jan. 22 as a day of prayer for the legal protection of unborn children.

Following the Mass, Greater Columbus Right to Life will sponsor its annual *Roe* remembrance program from noon to 1 p.m. in the Ohio Statehouse atrium.

Please allow extra time for Statehouse security measures. Stickers, signs, and weapons are prohibited inside the Statehouse.

For more information, go to www.gcrtl.org/roe.html.

A conference with the theme "Building a Culture of Life: Respect Life, Bioethics and Leadership" will take place from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday and Saturday, Jan. 26 and 27, at Columbus St. Peter Church, 6899 Smoky Row Road. It is being sponsored by Greater Columbus Right to Life, the diocesan offices for Social Concerns and Marriage and Fam-

ily Life, and the FEMM Women's Health Center of Columbus.

The program will feature talks by more than 20 educators and leaders in the pro-life movement. Speakers include Anna Halpine, founder of the FEMM health centers; Alex Schadenberg, executive director, Euthanasia Prevention Coalition; Dr. Lindsay Rerko of FEMM Women's Health in Columbus; Father Robert Penhallurick, pastor of Hilliard St. Brendan Church and chaplain of the Columbus chapter of the Catholic Medical Association; Danielle White, legal counsel for Heartbeat International; and Dr. Ashley Fernandes, associate director, The Ohio State University Center for Bioethics and Medical Humanities.

Admission is \$50 for both days or \$35 for one day. Student admission is \$15 daily. There is no charge for clergy and Religious. The cost includes a continental breakfast and lunch both days. Scholarships are available for those who cannot afford the fee. The registration deadline is Tuesday, Jan. 23. **For additional information, visit www.gcrtl.org/lifeconference or call the Office for Social Concerns at (614) 241-2540.**

Ben Hartings, author of the book *A Return to the Altar: A Sacred Journey Through Grief and Joy*, will give a Defender of Life testimony at 7 p.m. Jan. 26 at St. Peter Church in a separate event not connected with the conference. Admission is free.

Harting's son, James, was given a fatal diagnosis at 21 weeks gestation while still in the womb. His mother, Lynn Hartings, chose to carry the child full term. The book tells of how this experience changed the couple's lives.



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Columbus Catholic Women's Conference 2018

The 12th annual Columbus Catholic Women's Conference is just weeks away.

An estimated 4,000 women will gather on Saturday, Feb. 17 in the Cardinal Building at the state fairgrounds for the largest conference of its kind in the United States.

This year's theme, inspired by Pope Francis, is "Ask Jesus What He Wants From You and Be Brave."

Tickets for the conference are just \$35 if purchased before Sunday, Jan. 21. Student tickets are \$20 if purchased before the same date. (After Jan. 21, prices are \$40 and \$25, respectively.) Religious Sisters will be admitted free.

The conference promises to be a spiritually empowering day of Mass, confession, Eucharistic Adoration, and fellowship, with the following lineup of powerful, top-notch Catholic speakers:

Matt and Kristin Laboda of Tampa, Florida, are the young parents of five children (*pictured*). They survived a harrowing ordeal when their 19-month-old daughter, Joy, fell into a fish pond during a visit with extended family.

The couple will tell the riveting story of discovering their lifeless daughter floating in the water, the frantic efforts to revive her, the swift help of the paramedics, the rush to the emergency room, and the constant and urgent prayers throughout the process.

The Labodas' story did not end in tragedy, but in a miracle. Their daugh-



ter recovered without permanent repercussions. This is a true testament to the power of intentional prayer and the intercession of God's grace. It's a story you won't forget.

Father Ignatius Mazanowski is a Franciscan friar who felt called to co-found a new Franciscan charismatic community in the Diocese of Phoenix. In a little more than a year, the Church officially recognized and affirmed this discernment as an authentic call from God. Today, the community is known as the Franciscan Friars of the Holy Spirit (FHS) and Bishop Thomas Olmsted is its superior.

A predominant mission of the friars is to serve people on the margins, including indigenous populations. Though the community resides at its missions, its work is not limited to those areas.

Father Mazanowski also works with students on the campus of Grand Canyon University and conducts well-received retreats throughout his diocese on mercy and forgiveness and on healing, which will be the subject of his Columbus presentation.

Lisa Hendey is the founder of CatholicMom.com, a missionary, and



Lisa Hendey



Father Mazanowski



Obianuju (Uju) Ekeocha



Matt and Kristin Laboda

Catholic Foundation continues its support of Columbus men's and women's conferences

The Catholic Foundation will sponsor the 2018 Columbus Catholic Men's and Women's Conferences. Each year, thousands of Catholics gather at these events for the opportunity to deepen their relationships with God and strengthen their commitments to serve as disciples of Christ. These annual events have fostered transformative spiritual growth for thousands of men and women.

Through its sponsorship of the conferences, The Catholic Foundation has provided funding for bus reimbursements for parishes located outside Interstate 270. In addition, the Foundation awarded grants to assist with

scholarships for men and women who otherwise would be unable to attend because of financial limitations.

Interested parishes should contact the conferences directly for both bus reimbursement and scholarship information. It is the Foundation's goal to eliminate all barriers that would prevent anyone from attending the conferences.

Registration for both events is available online. The women's conference will take place on Saturday, Feb. 17, followed by the men's conference on Saturday, Feb. 24. Both events will be at Cardinal Hall at the state fairgrounds and include a lineup of dynamic, inspiring speakers.

the author of several books including *The Grace of Yes: Eight Virtues for Generous Living* (the topic of her talk), *The Catholic Mom's Prayer Companion*, and the *Chime Travelers* children's fiction series that dynamically combines time travel and the lives of the saints. She serves at editor-at-large at Ave Maria Press.

As a board member and frequent host on KNXT Catholic Television, Hendey has produced and hosted multiple programs and has appeared on EWTN, CatholicTV, and as a part of the *Momnipotent* DVD series. She serves as technology contributor for EWTN's *SonRise Morning Show* and is a regular family correspondent on Relevant Radio. She blogs at a variety of online venues and her articles have appeared in *Catholic Digest*, *National Catholic Register*, and *Our Sunday Visitor*.

Hendey travels internationally, giving workshops on faith, family, and Catholic technology and communications topics. She was selected as an Elizabeth Egan journalism fellow, attended the Vatican bloggers meeting and the "Bishops and Bloggers" meeting, and has written internationally on the work of Catholic Relief Services and Unbound. Hendey

lives with her family in the Archdiocese of Los Angeles.

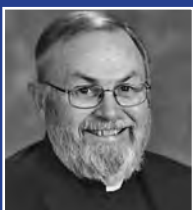
Obianuju (Uju) Ekeocha is an internationally acclaimed pro-life speaker and strategist who lives in the United Kingdom. She is the founder and president of Culture of Life Africa, an initiative dedicated to the promotion and defense of the African values of the sanctity of life, beauty of marriage, blessings of motherhood, and the dignity of family life.

She has advised many African members of Parliament, African United Nations delegates, ambassadors, and other decision makers concerning pro-life and pro-family issues. Ekeocha also has worked closely with many African religious leaders to promote pro-life values in many nations. She has co-authored pro-life declarations with various African Catholic bishops' conferences to promote the message of life in Africa.

Her writings and blog posts have been published on many online outlets, including the website of the Vatican's Pontifical Council of the Laity, Catholic Online, Catholic Exchange, Catholic Stand, and LifeSite News.

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time (Cycle B)

Very often in John's Gospel, seeing is believing



Father
Lawrence L. Hummer

**1 Samuel 3:3b-10,19;
1 Corinthians 6:13c-15a,17-20;
John 1:35-42**

The first reading for the Second Sunday in Ordinary Time details the call of Samuel to be a prophet of the Lord. He had become an apprentice to the priest Eli at the temple in Shiloh after his mother dedicated him for that purpose, in thanksgiving that the Lord had given her a son. When Sunday's incident happens, Samuel is a "young boy," which could have been anywhere from a child to someone as old as 20 to 25. Often, the word is similar to "servant," which is Samuel's status in relation to Eli. This also explains Samuel's running off to Eli after hearing his name called.

It is Semitic style to use the "three and a fourth scheme." For example, the prophet Amos began his prophecy with a series of accusations along this line: "For three crimes of Damascus, and now four. ... For three crimes of Gaza and now four. ..." Amos continues that style well into chapter two. The scheme is meant to stress that there were many crimes.

Samuel hears the call four times, highlighting the importance of the voice he is hearing. By the third time, Eli recognizes what is happening and tells Samuel to wait for another call, after which, should it come, he should respond as he eventually does. Prior to this, we never are told that Samuel had any encounters with the Lord, explaining why he thought his master Eli was calling him. When he finally acknowledges the Lord's voice, saying "Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening," he becomes a prophet of the Lord from that time on.

In the Gospel, John points to Jesus for the second time as "the Lamb of God." In John 1:29, he had added that this lamb "takes away the sin of the world." Here, "sin"

is in the singular and is used as a generic reference to sin as a condition. It is that condition which the lamb will remove.

After this second announcement, two unnamed disciples leave John to follow Jesus. In the cryptic dialogue which follows, Jesus turns and stares at them following him, then asks "What are you looking for?" Their response raises more questions than it answers. They call him "Rabbi," which means, literally, "my great one" and was used in speaking of teachers and, by the time John's Gospel was written, of leaders of synagogues outside of Jerusalem.

They then ask him "Where are you staying?" This verb "remain" is used 40 times in John and only 12 times in the other gospels combined. This means the word has added significance for John. It strongly suggests his continuing presence, especially because John is more focused on the glorified state of Christ, rather than his mere human presence. Like the Word at the beginning of this gospel, the Word became flesh and pitched his tent among us. So, too, Christ continues to dwell with the community of John and with those who believe.

Jesus responds, "Come and you will see." Here again, the word "see" is another word used far more often in John than in the other gospels. There are five different verbs John uses for "to see," amounting to 120 uses throughout the Gospel. Although some uses have the simple meaning of "see or look," most of the uses of "to see" suggest seeing with the eyes of faith. So here, implied in the statement "Come and you will see" is also the meaning "Come and you will believe." Very often in John, seeing is believing.

After this, the disciples "remained" with Jesus for some time. One of the disciples was named Andrew, brother of Simon Peter. The other is unnamed. They obviously recognized who Jesus was because Andrew went to his brother and announced, "We have found the Messiah." Peter then comes with Andrew, and Jesus names him *Cephas*, the Aramaic word for rock, *Petros* being the Greek word for the same thing.

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

ODU to host adult education information session

Ohio Dominican University will host an information session for its adult education program on Tuesday, Jan. 23. The free event will take place from 6 to 7 p.m. in Room 274 of the Bishop Griffin Center on ODU's campus at 1216 Sunbury Road, Columbus. To register, visit ohiodominican.edu/InfoSession.

Those attending will have an opportunity to learn about Ohio Dominican's wide range of high-demand degrees and certificates that are available online and on campus during the evening. ODU offers programs

in various fields, including business, insurance, and risk management and supply chain management. Attendees also can take advantage of ODU's on-the-spot admission review, where they can learn how many previously earned credits will transfer and can receive an unofficial admission decision.

For more information, contact adult@ohiodominican.edu or (614) 251-7400.

Explore all of ODU's degree and certificate offerings at ohiodominican.edu/adult.

The Weekday Bible Readings

MONDAY
1 Samuel 15:16-23
Psalm 50:8-9,16-17,21,23
Mark 2:18-22

TUESDAY
1 Samuel 16:1-13
Psalm 89:20-22,27-28
Mark 2:23-28

WEDNESDAY
1 Samuel 17:32-33,37,40-51
Psalm 144:1-2,9-10
Mark 3:1-6

THURSDAY
1 Samuel 18:6-9; 19:1-7
Psalm 56:2-3,9-14
Mark 3:7-12

FRIDAY
1 Samuel 24:3-21
Psalm 57:2-4,6,11
Mark 3:13-19

SATURDAY
2 Samuel 1:1-4,11-12,19,23-27
Psalm 80:2-3,5-7
Mark 3:20-21

DIOCESAN WEEKLY RADIO AND TELEVISION MASS SCHEDULE WEEK OF JANUARY 14, 2018

SUNDAY MASS

10:30 a.m. Mass from Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral on St. Gabriel Radio (AM 820), Columbus, and at www.stgabrielradio.com.
Mass with the Passionist Fathers at 7:30 a.m. on WWHO-TV (the CW), Channel 53, Columbus, and 10:30 a.m. on WHIZ-TV, Channel 18, Zanesville. Check local cable system for cable channel listing.
Mass from Our Lady of the Angels Monastery, Birmingham, Ala., at 8 a.m. on EWTN (Spectrum Channel 385, Insight Channel 382, or WOW Channel 378).
(Encores at noon, 7 p.m., and midnight).
Mass from the Archdiocese of Milwaukee at 6:30 a.m. on ION TV (AT&T U-verse Channel 195, Dish Network Channel 250, or DirecTV Channel 305).
Mass from Massillon St. Mary Church at 10:30 a.m. on WILB radio (AM 1060, FM 94.5 and 89.5), Canton, heard in Tuscarawas, Holmes, and Coshocton counties.

DAILY MASS

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

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

Recompense for a serious mistake

I won't venture into classical Roman literature, which is not my forte, but I will say with assurance that the greatest modern Latin pun was the result of a schoolgirl prank. In 1844, General Charles James Napier, commanding a British army during the heydays of imperialism in South Asia, was ordered to subdue the province of Sindh (which is now in Pakistan). His methods were criticized in Parliament, and young Catherine Winkworth remarked to her teacher that Napier's report to his superiors should have been a one-word double-entendre, *Peccavi* (literally, "I have sinned," but also, phonetically, "I have Sindh"). Miss Winkworth sent her pun to the humor magazine *Punch*, which then published it as a factual report from Napier under the headline, "Foreign Affairs." General Napier later commented that, "If this was a piece of rascality, it was a noble piece of rascality."

Alas, I can claim no such nobility for my own recent fall into grave literary sin, which involved my annual books-for-Christmas column. There, I described my old friend, Leon Kass, as a lifelong Chicago Cubs fan. This was very, very bad. For as I have long known, Dr. Kass is a lifelong Chicago White Sox fan, and to ascribe enduring Cub fanhood to a Chisox partisan is the baseball equivalent of describing Ronald Reagan as a lifelong communist. I can only imagine my reaction if some scribe had, stupidly, described me as a New York Yankees fan; but Dr. Kass, a true gentleman, merely noted that, when his beloved Pale Hose finally won the World Series in 2005, he had written that this miracle "proved ... that not all hope is foolishness."

So may my fingers freeze on the keyboard before I ever again locate Leon Kass's baseball rooting interests on the North Side of Chicago: *Mea culpa, mea culpa, mea maxima culpa!*

In addition to a firm purpose of amendment, though, a confession of grave sin should also include a suitable penance. My self-chosen penance, which is really no penance at all, is to make my unconscionable error the occasion to suggest that my readers use all those unexpired Christmas gift cards to Amazon, Barnes & Noble,



THE CATHOLIC DIFFERENCE
George Weigel

or whatever, to thicken their personal libraries with three more books written or edited by Leon Kass.

First among equals here is *Toward a More Natural Science: Biology and Human Affairs*. Bioethics is a cottage industry today, and far too much of the bioethics professoriate functions as a permission-slip industry for those advancing dubious projects under the banner of the new genetics. In sharp contrast, *Toward a More Natural Science* offered a brilliant introduction to deep thought at the intersection of science and moral reasoning, just as bioethics was taking off. Decades after its first publication, it remains an essential primer in a crucial field of reflection, the moral health of which is critical to the human future.

Then there is *Wing to Wing, Oar to Oar: Readings on Courting and Marrying*, an annotated anthology Leon Kass assembled and edited with his late wife, Amy. Leon and Amy Kass were the premier husband-and-wife teaching team of the past half-century; they knew how to summon from university students the best thinking of which they were capable; and one result of those labors at the University of Chicago is this collection of readings from a host of sources on some of the most important questions of life. Unapologetically pro-marriage, this mini-library between two covers – which includes selections from Jane Austen and Thomas Aquinas, Erasmus and Shakespeare, Homer and C.S. Lewis, and many others – also revives the notion of "courtship;" a concept and experience some may be willing to reconsider after our national dog-paddle through the cesspool of sexual harassment.

The Beginning of Wisdom: Reading Genesis is another by-product of Leon Kass's exemplary teaching: a fresh exploration of the first book of the Bible, undertaken without theological presuppositions, in or-

der to unpack what Genesis has to say about the perennial human struggle to find the truth, live in it and through it, and chart a decent, honorable path through history. Agree or disagree, wrestling with Kass's interpretations of this foundational text in the civilization of the West will armor those willing to fight for that civilization's future with some tools necessary for the battles ahead.

And once more, with feeling: White Sox, not Cubs!

George Weigel is Distinguished Senior Fellow of the Ethics and Public Policy Center in Washington, D.C.

St. Pius X School open house

Reynoldsburg St. Pius X School, 1061 S. Waggoner Road, will host an open house from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 30. This event is an opportunity for members of the school's surrounding communities to explore the value of a Catholic education and to experience a sampling of the many things that happen at the school each day.

Current and prospective parents and students, parishioners, and community members can tour classrooms, meet principal Darren Smith and the faculty and staff, discover the school's technology lab, hear its choirs and ukulele band, and make a small project with the art teacher. The recently renovated Hohman Hall, which houses St. Pius X Church's youth ministry and an after-school latchkey program, will be open for tours, and representatives from the school's athletic association and school board will be present.

The school serves students in preschool through eighth grade from St. Pius X, Pickerington St. Elizabeth Seton, and other parishes, and from seven public school districts.

CONFERENCE, continued from Page 13

She has spoken at pro-life events at 40 cities in 15 nations and at a United Nations event, and has been heard on many broadcast networks, including BBC television and radio, EWTN television and radio, Ave Maria Radio, and Relevant Radio.

Music for this year's conference will be provided by

His Own, a group of three talented women who seek to inspire other women in their faith journeys.

Returning as master of ceremonies is Brooke Taylor, a speaker, writer, radio personality, and host of the Good Things Radio podcast.

Don't miss this unforgettable spiritual experience. To register for the Columbus Catholic Women's Conference, visit www.columbus-catholicwomen.com.

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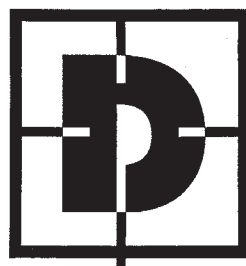
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Pray for our dead

BECKER, Marguerite "Evelyn," 91, Jan. 5
St. Paul Church, Westerville

BIGGS, Robert L., 79, Jan. 2
St. Michael Church, Worthington

BOHLMANN, Rebecca (Ellwanger), 72, Dec. 29
St. Christopher Church, Columbus

BROSEMAN, Keith, 77, Jan. 7
St. Matthew Church, Gahanna

COMORETTO, Caterina E., 95, Jan. 3
St. Pius X Church, Reynoldsburg

COSENTINO, Augustine M., 87, Jan. 2
St. Catharine Church, Columbus

DeVERE, Paul F., 94, Dec. 31
St. Anthony Church, Columbus

ESCHLEMAN, Norma J. (Ford), 96, Jan. 2
Our Lady of Peace Church, Columbus

IZZIE, Josephine (Moreno), 96, Jan. 4
St. Andrew Church, Columbus

KARTAVICH, Lynn (Gelpi), 83, Jan. 6
Holy Cross Church, Columbus

KELLER, Brandy C. (Ernst), 39, Jan. 3
St. Patrick Church, London

KOELBL, Lucy (Durbin), 85, Dec. 20
St. Vincent de Paul Church, Mount Vernon

LONGWELL, Andrea (Mohr), 83, Jan. 2
Our Mother of Sorrows Chapel, Columbus

MICHEL, Veronica "Bonnie," 81, Jan. 6
St. Ladislav Church, Columbus

MITCHELL, Myrtle V. (Stagg), 85, Dec. 27
Church of the Resurrection, New Albany

MOWERY, Bill E., 93, Jan. 1
St. Mary Church, Portsmouth

MURLEY, Marcella (Weilbacher), Jan. 7
Our Lady of Victory Church, Columbus

NEFF, Cecilia (Green), 82, Dec. 31
St. Andrew Church, Columbus

NILES, Air Force Maj. (Ret.) Peter J., 79, Dec. 29
St. Pius X Church, Reynoldsburg

NOLL, Michael S. "Shane," 48, Jan. 1
St. Nicholas Church, Zanesville

PINTER, Richard J., 68, Dec. 28
St. Francis of Assisi Church, Columbus

PORGINSKI, Judy (Schaefer), 81, Nov. 8
St. Mary Church, Portsmouth

PSCHIBUL, Ingeborg (Griesenbrock), 84, Jan. 4
St. Matthew Church, Gahanna

REED, Anita M., 81, Dec. 26
Holy Redeemer Church, Portsmouth

RILEY, Homer L., 96, Jan. 5
St. Matthias Church, Columbus

ROACH, William P., 76, Jan. 5
St. Matthew Church, Gahanna

SARTORI, Philomena (Ranalli), 96, Jan. 2
St. Matthias Church, Columbus

SMALLEY, Daniel L. Jr., 45, Jan. 3
St. Joseph Cathedral, Columbus

SMITH, Mary N. (Neville), 92, Jan. 3
St. Andrew Church, Columbus

VALENTINE, Fern A. (Neuhauser), 96, Dec. 31
St. Matthias Church, Columbus

VANKE, Ronald A., 71, Jan. 2
Church of the Resurrection, New Albany

WELPE, Catherine, 78, Dec. 31
Immaculate Conception Church, Columbus

WELSH, Richard, 66, Nov. 17
St. Mary Church, Portsmouth

Anne V. Weldon

Funeral Mass for Anne V. Weldon, 95, who died on Friday, Dec. 29, was held Saturday, Jan. 6 at Columbus St. Agatha Church. Burial was at St. Joseph Cemetery.

She was born on July 3, 1922, to TJ and Anna Duffy.

She graduated from Columbus Rosary High School in 1939 and the College of St. Mary of the Springs (now Ohio

Dominican University) in 1943 and served as parish secretary at St. Agatha Church for many years.

She was preceded in death by her parents and five siblings. Survivors include her husband, William; son, William (Mary); daughters, Marilyn (Raymond) Pongonis and Susan (David) Bennett; six grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

Martin Luther King Day at Holy Rosary-St. John

The Rev. Joel L. King Jr. will be the featured speaker for the annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day celebration at Columbus Holy Rosary-St. John Church, 660 S. Ohio Ave. The event will take place from noon to 1:30 p.m. Monday, Jan. 15.

The speaker has been in ministry for 34 years. He is a first cousin of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., the civil rights leader whom the holiday honors. The speaker's father, the Rev. Joel L. King Sr., was a brother of the Rev. Martin Luther King Sr.

Rev. Joel King Jr. has been a pastor for various Baptist churches in Ohio, including Union Grove Baptist Church in Columbus. He has been ac-

tive in organizations such as the Ohio Dr. Martin Luther King Holiday Commission, the Columbus Baptist Pastors Conference, the Columbus Baptist Ministerial Alliance, the Ohio Baptist General Convention, the Columbus NAACP, and Directions for Youth and Families. He also has been chaplain to the Columbus and Gahanna police.

Holy Rosary-St. John Church has been celebrating Martin Luther King Day every year since 1986, the first year the holiday was observed, making the observance one of the oldest Martin Luther King Day events in Columbus. For additional information, email hrsjevents@gmail.com or call (614) 252-5926, extension 7.

Catholic Foundation to accept scholarship applications

The Catholic Foundation's online scholarship application period will open on Monday, Jan. 29. The application deadline is Friday, March 9, and recipients will be notified in May.

Scholarship recipients are selected based on the criteria established by donors who created the funds to support gifted and deserving students by assisting them with the cost of their education. Donors often establish

scholarship funds to honor or memorialize friends, teachers, family members, or other loved ones.

For detailed information and the full list of scholarships, visit <https://grants.catholic-foundation.org/scholarships>. If you would like to learn more about setting up your own scholarship fund contact Scott Hartman at shartman@catholic-foundation.org or (614) 443-8893.

AM 820
CATHOLIC RADIO

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H A P P E N I N G S

JANUARY

11, 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. **'Growing in Faith' Talk With Deacon Burke-Sivers** 6:30 to 7:30 p.m., St. Francis de Sales Church, 40 Granville St., Newark. Deacon Harold Burke-Sivers speaks on "Growing in Faith." 740-345-9874

Theology on Tap Meeting

7 p.m., St. Therese's Retreat Center, 5277 E. Broad St., Columbus. Theology on Tap discussion and social group for young Catholics, with Bishop Frederick Campbell speaking. RSVP to cbustheologyontap@gmail.com or Columbus Theology on Tap Facebook page.

Awakening Faith Program at St. Paul

7 to 9 p.m., Room 1, lower level, St. Paul Church, 313 N. State St., Westerville. First session of six-week Awakening Faith program for inactive Catholics who wish to reconnect with their Catholic roots. 614-882-2109

12, FRIDAY

Downtown Serra Club Luncheon

Noon to 1 p.m., St. Charles Preparatory School, 2010 E. Broad St., Columbus. Father Stewart Wilson-Smith, CSP, of the Columbus St. Thomas More Newman Center speaks to Downtown Columbus Serra Club. 614-486-4293

Theology of the Body Talk With Deacon Burke-Sivers

7 to 8 p.m., St. Francis de Sales Church, 40 Granville St., Newark. Deacon Harold Burke-Sivers speaks on "Meeting Jesus: Theology of the Body." 740-345-9874

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

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

For more information, call Doug Bean at 614-224-5195.

'Happenings' submissions

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

Items not received before this deadline may not be published.

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

Fax to 614-241-2518

E-mail as text to

tpuet@columbuscatholic.org

13, SATURDAY

Men's Breakfast With Deacon Burke-Sivers

7 to 8 a.m., St. Francis de Sales Church, 40 Granville St., Newark. Men's breakfast with Deacon Harold Burke-Sivers. Topic: "Men's Spirituality: Spiritual Fatherhood." Registration required. 740-345-9874

Women's Retreat at St. John Neumann

8 a.m. to 8 p.m., St. John Neumann Church, 9633 E. State Route 37, Sunbury. Women's retreat with talks by Father William Ferguson, Father Anthony Davis, Father Paul Noble, and parishioner Kathie Bowman. Theme: "Mary's 'Fiat,'" -- her saying "Yes" to being the mother of Jesus. Begins with Mass. Includes Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, reflection, Sacrament of Reconciliation, and three meals, concluding with wine and dessert social. 740-965-1358

St. Joan of Arc Men's Retreat at Grove City

8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, 3730 Broadway, Grove City. Men's retreat sponsored by Powell St. Joan of Arc Church. Includes talk by Deacon Harold Burke-Sivers on "Your Sins Are Forgiven" and concludes with Mass. 614-761-0905

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 Admissions Testing

9 a.m., Bishop Hartley High School, 1285 Zettler Road, Columbus. Admissions testing for prospective members of the Class of 2022. 614-237-5421

Frassati Society Volunteers at Holy Family Soup Kitchen 11 a.m., Holy Family Soup Kitchen, 57 S. Grubb St., Columbus. Columbus St. Patrick Church Frassati Society for young adults assists Columbus Relief organization with outreach activities. Those interested must register at www.columbusrelief.org.

Deacon Burke-Sivers at St. Catharine

7 to 8 p.m., St. Catharine Church, 500 S. Gould Road, Columbus. Talk with Deacon Harold Burke-Sivers on "The Pursuit of Happiness." 614-231-4509

14, SUNDAY

St. Christopher Adult Religious Education

10 to 11:20 a.m., Library, Trinity Catholic School, 1440 Grandview Ave., Columbus. Part 6 of seven-part video series on "Wisdom: God's Vision for Life" by Jeff Cavins and Thomas Smith.

Lay Fraternities of St. Dominic Meeting

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

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. 614-237-0401

Mass, Talk by Father Nathan Cromly at St. Matthew

5 p.m., St. Matthew Church, 807 Havens Corners Road, Gahanna. Mass, followed by presentation from 6 to 8 p.m. by Father Nathan Cromly, CSJ, president of the St. John Institute in Englewood, Colorado. Topic: "The Vocation of the Business Leader" and "An Integrated Life: Bridging the Gap Between Our Faith and Our Daily Business Practice." 614-352-1191

Catholic Conversations Series

6 to 8 p.m., Sports on Tap, 4030 Main St., Hilliard. Catholic Conversations series for anyone 21 and older, sponsored by Columbus St. Margaret of Cortona and Hilliard St. Brendan churches. Topic: "The Gospel According to Foot-

ball," with Father Thomas Blau, OP. RSVP to jnaporano1@gmail.com.

Spanish Mass at Columbus St. Peter

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

15, MONDAY

Martin Luther King Day Event at Holy Rosary-St. John

Noon to 1:30 p.m., Holy Rosary-St. John Church, 660 S. Ohio Ave., Columbus. Parish's 33rd annual Martin Luther King Day commemoration. Speaker: The Rev. Joel L. King Jr., first cousin of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. 614-224-9226

Mass of Healing and Healing Service at Cathedral

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

16, TUESDAY

Evening With the PA Program at Ohio Dominican

4:30 to 6:30 p.m., St. Albert Hall, Ohio Dominican University, 1216 Sunbury Road, Columbus. Evening With the PA event with information on university's master of science in physician assistant studies program. 614-251-4615

'Clean Greener' Program at Shepherd's Corner

6 to 7:30 p.m., Shepherd's Corner Ecology Center, 987 N. Waggoner Road, Blacklick. "Clean Greener" program led by Miranda Land and Sister Marguerite Chandler, OP. Suggested donation \$5. Registration deadline Jan. 12. 614-866-4302

Rosary for Life at St. Joan of Arc

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

17, WEDNESDAY

Abortion Recovery Network Group

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

18, 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

Abortion Recovery Network Group

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

Frassati Society Meeting at Columbus St. Patrick

7 p.m., Aquinas Hall, St. Patrick Church, 280 N. Grant Ave., Columbus. Meeting of parish's Frassati Society for young adults. "Mass and a Meal" monthly event. Bring side dishes, desserts, or beverages. 614-224-9522

20, SATURDAY

Life and Mercy Mass in Plain City

9 a.m. Mass, St. Joseph Church, 140 West Ave., Plain City.

Saturday Life and Mercy Mass, followed by rosary and confession.

Alcohol Server Training Program at Bryce Eck Center

10 a.m., Bryce Eck Center, St. Andrew Church, 3880 Reed Road, Columbus. Ohio Investigative Unit's Alcohol Server Knowledge training program, providing information to parish staff and volunteers about laws and guidelines for serving alcohol at church events. 614-224-2251

21, SUNDAY

St. Christopher Adult Religious Education

10 to 11:20 a.m., Library, Trinity Catholic School, 1440 Grandview Ave., Columbus. Conclusion of seven-part video series on "Wisdom: God's Vision for Life" by Jeff Cavins and Thomas Smith.

Frassati Society Mass, Brunch

10:30 a.m., St. Joseph Cathedral, 212 E. Broad St., Columbus. Columbus St. Patrick Church Frassati Society for young adults attends Mass, followed by brunch at Jimmy John's, 325 E. Long St. 614-224-9522

Blessing of St. Gerard Majella at Holy Family

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

Angelic Warfare Confraternity at Columbus St. Patrick

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

Kateri Prayer Circle at St. Mark

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

St. Padre Pio Secular Franciscans

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

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

Polish Mass at Holy Family

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

Taize Evening Prayer at Corpus Christi

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

Prayer Group Meeting at Christ the King

5 to 7 p.m., Christ the King Church, 2777 E. Livingston Ave., Columbus (enter at daily Mass entrance). Weekly parish prayer group meets for praise, worship, ministry, and teaching. 614-237-0401

Spanish Mass at Columbus St. Peter

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

22, MONDAY

Respect Life Mass and Rally

10:30 a.m., St. Joseph Cathedral, 212 E. Broad St., Columbus. Bishop Frederick Campbell celebrates Mass in observance of the day of penance for violations to the dignity of the human person committed through abortion, followed by pro-life rally sponsored by Greater Columbus Right to Life at noon in the Ohio Statehouse atrium,



BOOK REVIEW

NARNI

By Catholic News Agency

NARNI, Italy – The magical realm of Narnia is the setting of C. S. Lewis' beloved children's book *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*. There, four children discover a land of talking animals, mythological creatures, the White Witch, and "the Great Lion" Aslan.

This Narnia is fictional, but more than 2,000 years ago, when Romans ruled the civilized world, Narnia was a real-life city on the Italian peninsula – and it still exists today.

The ancient hill town of Narnia, now called Narni, lies in the central Italian region of Umbria, about 50 miles north of Rome. In the city, you can see remnants of the town's extensive history, from its pre-Roman identity as Nequinum, to antique and medieval Narnia, to the present Narni.

Lewis, author of *The Chronicles of Narnia*, never visited Narni, but he likely knew about the ancient Narnia from reading Roman history, where it is named by such famous writers as Tacitus, Livy, and Pliny the Elder.

In 2009, the town received confirmation of Lewis' knowledge of the place when the Christian author's biographer and former personal secretary, Walter Hooper, gifted Narni's local historian, Giuseppe Fortunati, a copy of a Latin atlas owned by Lewis on which the Belfast-born author had underlined the town named "Narnia."

Hooper also relayed that Lewis had told him the name on the atlas had inspired him in the writing of his *Chronicles*. And while the two places

aren't the same – it very rarely snows in Narni, for example – there are connections between the imaginary realm and the real-life city that can still be seen today.

One of these connections is the presence of a large stone table, which recalls the stone table in *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*, upon which the lion Aslan, a representation of Christ in the book, sacrifices himself to save Edmund, one of the four children in the story.

Found near the Via Flaminia, an ancient road which leads from Rome to the Adriatic Sea, and which also passes by Narni, stands an ancient stone table believed to date from pre-Roman times, and to have been a place of animal, and possibly even human, sacrifice.

The town was founded around 1,000 years before Christ by the Osco-Umbrian people as Nequinum. It was conquered by the Roman Republic in the fourth century BC, and its name was changed to Narnia, after the nearby Nar River.

"Nar," Fortunati said, "means 'water that flows,'" noting that this may also be a reason why Lewis chose the name for his imaginary land, since "water is the source of life."

The Diocese of Narni was established in the 4th century; in the 20th, it was united with a nearby diocese, and is now part of the Diocese of Terni-Narni-Amelia.

Around 1930, during repair work on a road, workers discovered a statue of a lion dating from the Roman era, when it was common for the emperor always to have a statue of a lion "guarding" his

tent at camp, Fortunati said.

The figure of a lion had also been adopted by the Jewish religion. The Lion of Judah became a symbol of the Hebrew tribe of Judah, the first association found in the Book of Genesis, chapter 49, where Jacob blesses his son Judah, calling him "a lion's cub."

In Christianity, the Lion of Judah represents Christ, as in the Book of Revelation, it says, "Weep not; behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered. ..."

Fortunati pointed out how it is difficult not to make the connection between the lion statue and other lion symbols found in Narni, and Aslan from *The Chronicles of Narnia*.

Lewis himself confirmed the connection in a letter he wrote to a child reader in 1961. He said he was inspired to make the figure of Christ a lion in the stories for two reasons: because the lion is supposed to be the king of the beasts, and because Christ is called "the Lion of Judah" in the Bible.

Another link between the real and fictional towns can be found in the real-life Lucia of Narnia. In *The Chronicles of Narnia*, Lucy Pevensie is the youngest child of four siblings, and she is the one who first sees the fantastical land and believes.

Blessed Lucy Brocadelli of Narni was a mystic who lived from the end of the 15th to the mid-16th century and who was born in the city. She was known as a very pious child, and from a young age is said to have seen visions of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Child Jesus, and other saints, particularly St. Dominic.



Her first vision was at the age of five, and at 12 years old, she made a private vow of virginity, deciding to join the Dominicans. As a young teen, she was married off by her uncle to a family friend, Pietro, the count of Milan, though they lived as brother and sister at her request.

She continued to experience visions throughout her life, and was particularly dedicated to the poor, including making them bread with the help of saints who visited her. By the age of 18, she had separated from her husband, then becoming a Dominican tertiary. Her husband eventually joined the Franciscans.

She became the prioress of a convent and is one of only a few female saints to have ever received the stigmata. Shunned and mistreated by other sisters for her strange experiences, she spent the last 40 years of her life locked up in isolation by a successor prioress.

She died in 1544, and her body was discovered to be incorrupt a few years after that. She was beatified in 1710 by Pope Clement XI. In 1935, her remains were returned to her hometown of Narni and interred in the cathedral.

Today, around 20,000 people live in Narni; if you visit, you will find the town's Romanesque cathedral, a late-medieval fortress called the Rocca, the old town square, and a plaque marking the "Center of Italy," among other sites.

Also scattered around the city, you'll find images of lions and of Blessed Lucia of Narnia, reminders of its connection to the mythical land of C.S. Lewis' imagination and his beloved stories.

Father Gregory Boyle to speak at Ohio Dominican

Father Gregory Boyle, SJ, will discuss his *New York Times* best-selling book, *Tattoos on the Heart: The Power of Boundless Compassion*, at 7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 8 in the Alumni Hall gymnasium at Ohio Dominican University, 1216 Sunbury Road, Columbus.



gang members in a range of social enterprises and provides critical services to 15,000 men and women who walk through its doors every year, seeking a better life. He previously served as pastor of Dolores Mission Church in the Boyle Heights neighborhood of East Los Angeles and as

Tattoos on the Heart is the common book being read by all ODU students during the 2017-18 academic year.

Boyle is also the founder of Homeboy Industries in Los Angeles, the largest gang intervention, rehabilitation, and re-entry program in the world. The organization employs and trains former

chaplain at the Islas Marias Federal Penal Colony in Mexico and at Folsom State Prison in California.

Father Boyle entered the Society of Jesus (the Jesuits) in 1972 and was ordained a Catholic priest in 1984. He holds a bachelor's degree in philosophy and English from Gonzaga University, a

master's degree in English from Loyola Marymount University, a master of divinity degree from the Weston School of Theology, and a master of sacred theology degree from the Jesuit School of Theology in Berkeley, California.

This presentation is one of several during the 2017-18 academic year to be based on the university's academic theme, "The Common Good."

ODU's core curriculum is a series of

courses that provide a unifying academic experience throughout each student's academic journey. The curriculum is unique to Ohio Dominican and is a combination of four seminar courses and the general degree requirements. In the core seminars, students draw from all their courses to engage in thought-provoking interdisciplinary discussions, readings, and experiences about themes such as the common good, justice, truth, and what it means to be human.

St. Therese's offers weekend retreat

A weekend retreat titled "All Will Be Well – No Matter What" will be offered at St. Therese's Retreat Center, 5277 E. Broad St., Columbus, from Friday to Sunday, Feb. 9 to 11. Sister Louis Mary Passeri, OP, and Dominican Associates Mary Reichley and Anita Davidson will lead the retreat.

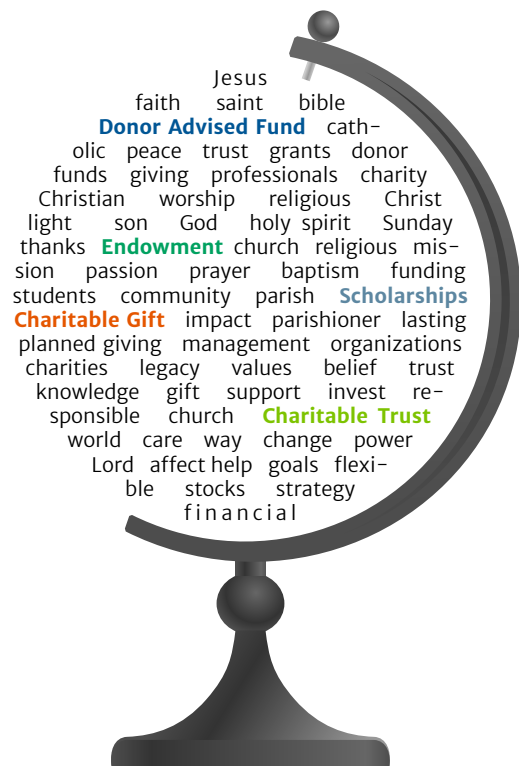
Watching the evening news, reading the newspaper and online news services, or listening to radio talk shows can be overwhelming. Stories of seemingly endless pain, fear, suffering, and death

can wear on even the most optimistic of us. Can we believe the truth in Julian's proclamation "All will be well. And all will be well. And all manner of things shall be well"?

All are invited to spend a quiet weekend reflecting on how we might learn to live more fully as people of the good news, being more aware of the precious presence of God around us, among us, and within us.

Call the retreat center at (614) 866-1611 for registration information.

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Order of Malta opens Center of Care at Holy Rosary-St. John

The Columbus Region of the Order of Malta has worked hard during the past year to provide for the needs of the sick and hungry in the community and to assist areas impacted by natural disasters.

For several years, the Region tried to find a charitable work in which members could participate. That proved difficult because of a dearth of opportunities and a lack of “critical mass” in the size of the Region’s membership. The Region decided in 2016 to open a free general-care medical clinic to serve the poor, staffed by members of the Order. The intent was that the clinic would be the signature work of the Columbus Region.

The Order of Malta Center of Care opened its doors and saw its first patients on Aug. 24, 2017. It is located on the second floor of the parish hall at Columbus Holy Rosary-St. John Church, above a soup kitchen and food pantry that serves more than 200 people a day. The center has space for many projects, but mainly operates as a free clinic.

Volunteer doctors have been available at the clinic to treat the sick and the poor on every second and fourth Thursday of the month. Starting this month, it will be open every Thursday. Medical screenings (blood pressure, blood sugar/diabetes), wound care, and checkups will be provided. There also are plans to offer dental care, hearing screenings, podiatry, health care fairs, and grooming services (haircuts and pedicures).

The Columbus Region has only a few members who are doctors or medical professionals. To provide access to a larger pool of doctors needed to operate the clinic, the group partnered with the Catholic Medical Association. The CMA has been given two of the five positions on the clinic’s board, and volunteers are actively recruited from the association’s membership.

The Order of Malta Center of Care is located in one of the poorest areas in the state, with high unemployment and one of the highest infant mortality rates in Ohio. In addition to serving the sick and homeless who come to the soup kitchen, the Order hopes to lower the infant mortality rate in the area by providing prenatal care to expectant mothers, as well as early childhood health care services.

The Order of Malta Center of Care has undertaken other projects that fit its charism of serving the sick



Above: Charles Mifsud, regional hospitaller of the Order of Malta, and Father Thomas Blau, OP. Right: Dr. William Miely (left) and medical student Ansell Nalin participate in the dedication of the Center of Care to Dr. Francis V. Dono.

Photos courtesy Order of Malta



and the poor.

In June, volunteers from the center delivered medical supplies and first aid materials to Sister Maria Lukaszuk, LSIC, a nurse who sees patients in a basement storeroom at the Columbus Holy Family Soup Kitchen, which serves hot meals to approximately 300 people each day and provides groceries for more than 125 families every week. Arrangements also were made for installation of a new laminate floor, and a locking cabinet full of medical supplies was purchased and delivered. In addition, new signs and a first-aid kit were put in place, a new hand sanitizer station was installed, and a professional medical examination table was purchased and set up to assist in the care of Sister Maria’s patients.

In August, volunteers from Order of Malta Center of Care attended the annual book bag giveaway at Holy Rosary-St. John. Annually, the parish gives out free book bags full of school supplies to needy families with children in the parish. This year, the Center of Care was allowed to participate and gave away more than 150 first-aid kits. Additionally, on Thanksgiving, volunteers at the center spent time washing the feet of clinic visitors and gave away more than 200 gift bags with lotion, lip balm, and socks.

The Order of Malta Center of Care also has been very active in organizing relief efforts to the U.S. Vir-

gin Islands.

In November, a 40-foot long shipping container carrying almost 21,000 pounds of medical equipment left the loading dock of Franciscan Mission Warehouse for the Virgin Islands to help the Roy Schneider Hospital in St. Thomas, which suffered damage in the recent hurricanes. The donation of supplies was in cooperation with various entities in the Order of Malta and was made possible through a partnership with the Order of Malta Center of Care, the American Association of the Order of Malta, the Virgin Islands Area of the American Association, the Federal Association of the Order of Malta, the Columbus Region of the Federal Association, the Kansas City Region of the Federal Association, Malteser International Americas, and the Franciscan Mission Warehouse. This partnership also coordinated and funded a project to send a doctor and a nurse to the Roy Schneider Hospital. Other donations of medical equipment and much-needed drugs are in the process of being made.

The Order of Malta Center of Care also has partnered with The Catholic Foundation in Columbus.

On Oct. 3, the leadership of the center and the Catholic Medical Association gave a presentation on the center at the Foundation’s headquarters to a large group of Foundation donors, helping raise awareness and funds for the project.

The Order of Malta Center of Care was started to provide opportunities for the membership of the Columbus Region to care for the sick and the poor. According to its bylaws, the purpose of the Center of Care is to “carry out the charism of the ... Order of Malta ... namely, *Tuitio Fidei Et Obsequium Pauperum* (Defense of the Faith and Care for the Sick and the Poor), while strictly upholding the teachings of the Magisterium of the Catholic Church in all matters.” Its intention is to grow and further develop programs to provide health care and material goods to the sick and poor, the homeless, and families of the working poor in the area.



From left, Marilyn Dono, Mari Kay Dono, Dr. Richard Mena, Linda Miely, Don Hempson, Dr. Bill Miely, Dr. Lindsay Rerko, and John Reiner gather for the blessing and dedication of the main meeting room.