



DIOCESE OF COLUMBUS

CATHOLIC TIMES

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SECOND WEEK OF EASTER
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DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

Editor's reflections by Doug Bean

Divine Mercy

Our Lord's love and mercy knows no bounds. No matter how difficult life becomes, we trust in God to take care of every person's needs.

Is it easy to surrender our own wills and give everything to Christ? Not at all. Most of us have trust issues. Human beings want to be in control.

When we are faced with despair over a family problem, a health issue, a struggle with sin, whatever it might be, it is important to remember to call upon the limitless power of the Savior.

As Catholic parishes in the Diocese of Columbus and throughout the world celebrate Divine Mercy Sunday on April 8, let's give thanks for the graces that flow from the sacred and merciful heart of Jesus.

Pope St. Pope John Paul II instituted Divine Mercy Sunday in 2000 after Sister Faustina Kowalska, a cloistered nun who received visions from Jesus that she recorded in a diary in the 1930s, was canonized. The devotion was near and dear to John Paul II's heart, in part because Our Blessed Lord worked through a fellow Pole, Sister Faustina.

Since then, that devotion has spread dramatically. In our own diocese, Divine Mercy observances on the Sunday after Easter have grown from one church in 1993 to more than 20 parishes this year. Read more about Divine Mercy events in this week's *Catholic Times* on Pages 10 and 11.

The Divine Mercy image with the inscription "Jesus, I Trust In You" is displayed prominently in many

homes today. Millions pray the Chaplet of Divine Mercy daily, using the beads of the rosary. A special nine-day novena that started on Good Friday is also popular. And yet it seems there's more work to do in spreading the word about Divine Mercy.

God's unbelievable love and mercy is seen every day, even when it seems like the world is imploding around us.

How awesome to read about Peter Lombardi, a 12-year-old student at Columbus St. Andrew School with Down syndrome, having his dream fulfilled during Holy Week to receive a kiss from the pope. He even got to ride around St. Peter's Square in the popemobile. Read about the amazing experience on Page 3.

In the March 25 issue of the *Times*, readers were touched to learn about a project initiated by Delaware St. Mary School eighth-grader Olivia Oyster. She and her classmates are writing to birth mothers of adopted children through the BraveLove organization to express gratitude and support for the decision to choose life.

Those are just a few examples of how Our Heavenly Father uses the faithful for acts of mercy. May an "ocean of graces," as Jesus promised to St. Faustina, flow through greater devotion to the Chaplet of Divine Mercy.



Diocesan Missions Office accepts donation for Propagation of the Faith

The diocesan Missions Office recently received a \$75,000 gift for the Society for the Propagation of the Faith from the Gillig and Music Endowment Fund. It was presented by Loren Brown, president and CEO of The Catholic Foundation, and will be forwarded to the national office for the Propagation of the Faith in New York and then to Rome.

The Society for the Propagation of the Faith supports the missionary work of priests, sisters, and brothers who provide shelter, food, and training to persons in need throughout the world and bring the Good News of Jesus to those who do not know Him.

"If to spread the Gospel is important to you during your lifetime, you can continue it even after you die, by leaving a portion of your estate to the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, which supports 1,500 mission dioceses in the world," said diocesan missions director Leandro M. Tapay. "The donation would be used to help meet the basic needs of missionaries and for the education of new priests in the missions.

"The cross is a daily reality for Christians in the poverty of Congo, Haiti, Bangladesh, Brazil, the Philippines, India, Vietnam, Rwanda, and Sudan, to name a few. To these nations, a donation to the Society for the Propagation of the Faith means life itself. It becomes a living tribute to the donor, a lasting praise to God, and a sign of home for the Lord's poor."

The endowment fund was established in 1991 by George Gillig of Columbus in the name of his wife of 52 years, Edna Music. Mr. Gillig died in November 2017 at age 101.

The fund provides annual financial



support for the Propagation of the Faith and for Columbus Our Lady of Victory Church, the Ursuline Sisters of Toledo, Tiffin Calvert High School, and The Catholic Foundation. Each year, a percentage of the money will be available for the organizations through the Foundation.

Gillig, a Tiffin native, served in World War II as a sergeant with the Aviation Engineers in the Pacific Theater and was awarded a battle star for the Okinawa campaign. He was a member of Knights of Columbus Our Lady of Victory Council 12900 and a fourth-degree member of Bishop Edward Hermann Assembly 2727. He also belonged to the Serra Club of Columbus, the St. Vincent DePaul Society, the American Legion, and the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

A planned gift through a will or estate plan is the easiest and usually the most impactful gift a person can leave at his or her death. If you would like to have a conversation on how you can benefit the Catholic causes that you care about through planned giving, call Scott Hartman at (614) 443-8893 or email him at shartman@catholic-foundation.org.

Photo: Leandro M. Tapay, director of the diocesan Missions Office, is presented a check for the Society for the Propagation of the Faith by Loren Brown, president and CEO of The Catholic Foundation.

April 8 correction - The pictures on Page 19 of the April 1 Catholic Times, showing students and men who mean the most in their lives, incorrectly identified the school. The students are from Columbus St. Andrew School.



Front Page photo:
The Divine Mercy image is displayed at a vigil in St. Peter's Square at the Vatican before Divine Mercy Sunday (the Sunday after Easter) in 2017.
Alexey Gotovskiy/
Catholic News Agency

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Columbus student takes a ride with the pope

BY TIM PUET

Reporter, *Catholic Times*

Twelve-year-old Peter Lombardi, a Columbus St. Andrew School student, took the ride of a lifetime during Holy Week as he and Pope Francis circled St. Peter's Square together in the popemobile.

Peter, who has Down syndrome; his parents, Brenda and Matt; and his three younger brothers were on a pilgrimage to Europe in thanksgiving for Peter's recovery from leukemia and were in the square on Tuesday, March 28 for the pope's weekly general audience. It has been a longtime dream of Peter's to kiss the pope, and with the help of Mountain Butorac, an American tour guide based in Rome, the Lombardis were able to obtain front-row seats for the event.

"The guide told us to make sure to lift Peter up when the popemobile drove by," Brenda Lombardi said in a telephone interview from Italy with the *Catholic Times*. "We did that and shouted out to the pope. The next thing you know, he saw Peter, stopped, had a security guard lift Peter, kissed him, and blessed him. Then he pointed behind him and gestured to Peter to come sit with him, and the two of them rode around together for the next 15 or 20 minutes."

During their ride, someone gave the pope a balloon shaped like a crown. Peter asked if he could have it, and the pope placed it on his head.

"I was just hoping the pope would wave at us," Lombardi said. "Having Peter ride in the popemobile was beyond anything we could have imagined."

Peter's dream of being kissed by the pope began in 2015 while receiving chemotherapy treatment, as he was watching televised coverage of the pope's appearance at the World Meeting of Families in Philadelphia.

"We were hoping to go to Philadelphia for the meeting and to celebrate my 50th birthday, but Peter got sick," Lombardi said. "While the pope was on TV, a caseworker came to Peter's hospital room to ask if he had a wish the Make-A-Wish Foundation could fulfill. Peter said, 'See that man in white kissing children? I want him to kiss me.'"



Photo courtesy Brenda Lombardi

Peter was diagnosed with leukemia in 2015 at about the time the school year ended, and was declared to be in remission from the disease this past June. Throughout that period, he continued to attend classes at St. Andrew School, where he played basketball and was named most valuable player of his team last year. He is now in fifth grade.

"St. Andrew's is not just a school, but a family," Lombardi said. "Everyone was praying for him, and when he couldn't be in school, he and his classmates stayed in touch with each other through FaceTime. They also showed their support by selling wristbands saying 'Pete's Pals, Praying for a Cure.'"

Peter has received help for several years from the state of Ohio's Jon Peterson scholarship program for children with special needs. Funds from the program allow St. Andrew School to make a full-time aide, Carol Mosso, and an intervention specialist, Jake Lombardo, available to assist Peter.

He also has benefited from the support of the school's SPiCE (Special People in Catholic Education) program, which provides tutoring for students, training for teachers, and specialized equipment to assist special-needs children. SPiCE also has helped the larger parish community by purchasing assistive listening devices so people affected by hearing loss can fully participate in Masses.

Lombardi said the work of Jenny and Danny Susco, Todd and Jenny Statczar, Katie and Mario Lombardi (no relation), and Susie Emsweller of her parish and Bob and Mary Ginn Ryan of Columbus St. Catharine Church has been instrumental in the

SPiCE program's success.

Lombardi believes the prayers of her family and friends and Peter's classmates asking the Blessed Virgin and Blessed Solanus Casey to intercede with God on Peter's behalf were responsible for his remission from leukemia.

"God Is so much bigger than us, and he has his own plans," she said. "We couldn't see the pope in Philadelphia, but that's because we were supposed to see him at St. Peter's and Peter was supposed to ride in the popemobile with him."

"Peter suffered for a while, but there was always grace that came with it, and we always knew God was there. You just have to trust him. From the time we learned Peter had Down syndrome, we've always considered it one of the greatest compliments from God that we've been allowed to raise him.

"Peter has brought us many blessings, but it's God's story, not ours. We're just his instruments. God protected Peter through his leukemia, and we hope his story will give others hope in God's power and mercy and the grace he provides to bring joy out of sorrow by trusting him," Lombardi said.

Peter has a 20-year-old brother attending the University of Cincinnati and brothers aged 18 and 16 who are students at Columbus St. Charles Preparatory School. The family is returning from its memorable pilgrimage this Saturday, April 7.

Peter has more adventure ahead. Although his dream to see the pope was fulfilled without the Make-A-Wish Foundation's aid, the organization was able to grant another of his desires – a lightsaber fight with Darth Vader. That's coming up at Walt Disney World in 2019.

Washing of the feet on Holy Thursday

Bishop Frederick Campbell washes the feet of Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral parishioner Carol Keene during the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday, March 29. The liturgy was part of the Easter Triduum celebrated throughout the Diocese of Columbus and the world last weekend.

CT photo by Ken Snow



Faith in Action

By Jerry Freewalt

Why plant a tree for the 150th anniversary of the diocese?

The Diocese of Columbus celebrates its 150th anniversary this year. This sesquicentennial provides us with an opportunity to give thanks to God for our many blessings, express our appreciation to the Catholic faithful of yesterday and today, and recommit to our pilgrim journey with hope. In fact, the theme for the anniversary is "150 Years of Gratitude, Commitment, and Hope."

There are many ways you can commemorate the anniversary. Join Bishop Frederick Campbell as he celebrates an anniversary Mass at Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral at 5:15 p.m. Sunday, April 22. Consider participating in The Shepherd's Tour, a pilgrimage through the diocese. Pray the prayer for the 150th anniversary. You also can plant a tree.

Why plant a tree for the sesquicentennial? Planting a tree is a common expression of celebrating a milestone. It is also an action to care for God's creation – a work of mercy. It is an expression of stewardship, taking care of a gift entrusted to us and passing on its good fruits to those after us. Trees are lifegiving, providing clean air for us to breathe, fruits to nourish us and other creatures, and fertile soil from decayed leaves and rotten wood. Our pioneering Catholics used trees to build churches, schools, altars, and pews. We have a history of making good use of this gift of God's creation.

Let's go a little deeper about trees. Humanity has misused trees in our turning against God and creation. Consider the cross. A cross of today is made of silver, gold, stainless steel, stone, or even plastic. But the first cross was made of wood – a tree. During the crucifixion, Jesus was joined together with a tree. His body and blood touched wood. The death of Our Lord and the death of a tree were exposed for all to see, the ultimate rejection of God and creation.

In church teaching, such as in Pope Francis' encyclical *Laudato Si'*, we are reminded about today's rejection of God and the gifts of creation. The antidote is to express gratitude to God and care for our common home, which includes human ecology and natural ecology – integral ecology.

As Catholics, we believe that through Jesus' death and resurrection, he transformed the rejected tree in the form of a cross into a symbol of hope, love, and mercy. When it comes to planting trees, we can help participate in the transformation of our community and land into lifegiving and long-lasting expressions of gratitude, commitment, and hope.

For the 150th Anniversary tree planting, parishes, schools, and ministries are encouraged to plant one tree to celebrate the anniversary. You may wish to consider additional trees, such as three to celebrate the Holy Trinity, six to celebrate the days of creation, or 12 to celebrate the Apostles. Do this at home, if you are able.

You also are encouraged to make a commitment to plant your tree(s) this year by filling out an online tree planting commitment form before the April 22 Mass recognizing the anniversary of the diocese. Your actual tree planting can happen later in the spring or fall, depending on the types of trees you are planting. The commitment form, list of recommended trees, a blessing of a tree, and other ways to commemorate the anniversary may be found at www.columbuscatholic.org/150th-commemoration.

I find it interesting that our diocesan Mass to commemorate the sesquicentennial happens to fall on Earth Day, when we are reminded to care for our common home. May our diocesan anniversary be a time when Catholics living in this 23-county area of creation show deep gratitude to God and his people and care for our common home. *Laudato Si'!* Praise Be! And plant a tree.

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



Student awarded Scanlan scholarship

Nathan Ware, a parishioner at the New Albany Church of the Resurrection and a senior at Westerville South High School, has been chosen as a winner of Franciscan University of Steubenville's Father Michael Scanlan, TOR, scholarship competition.

He was selected from among 80 competitors to receive one of two four-year full-tuition scholarships.

In addition to being an outstanding student, Ware also is a two-time all-district cross country runner and regional qualifier, and twice has re-



ceived honors for his solos and ensemble work on the French horn. In addition, he has logged more than 600 volunteer hours with his parish and other organizations. He is considering majoring in theology, philosophy, or business.

Father Scanlan, for whom the scholarship is named, served as president of Franciscan University for 26 years and was instrumental in revitalizing its Catholic identity.

Students competed for the scholarship by submitting a portfolio, video, writing an essay, and visiting campus.

Grace scholars at Delaware St. Mary

Pictured are recipients of the Carol Wurm Grace Scholarship for the 2018-2019 school year at Delaware St. Mary School. They are (from left): sixth-graders Chase Brackenridge and Lucy Ragiel and second-grade student Angelina Galuzny, with principal Gina Stull. One full scholarship is given annually to the student who can express most clearly what a Catholic education means to him or her. This year, two partial scholarships also were given.

Photo courtesy St. Mary School



Hartley plans Founders Weekend

Columbus Bishop Hartley High School, 1285 Zettler Road, will host its inaugural Founders Weekend from Friday to Monday, May 4 to 7.

All graduates of the school are invited to attend the annual Founders Day liturgy celebrated by Bishop Frederick Campbell at the school at 10 a.m. May 4. Other events on the schedule include a social and sock

hop at the school on Saturday, May 5, beginning with a happy hour at 6 p.m. with music at 7, and a golf outing at Westchester Golf Course, 6300 Bent Grass Blvd., Canal Winchester, on May 7, with a 1 p.m. shotgun start.

More information and registration links may be found on the school's website, www.bishop-hartley.org.

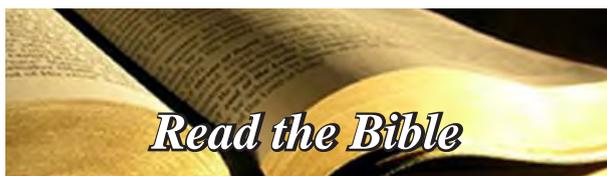
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A vocation of mercy

By Sister Constance Veit, LSP

I grew up Catholic without ever hearing about the Divine Mercy devotion, which the Church celebrates annually on the Sunday after Easter. Even after I learned about it, I didn't understand it. A few sisters in my community placed great confidence in the Divine Mercy image and chaplet, but it never really appealed to me. "Why focus on the sorrowful passion and wounds of Christ when we should be singing our Easter Alleluias?" I wondered.

Even when Pope St. John Paul II proclaimed that the whole Church would celebrate the second Sunday of Easter as Divine Mercy Sunday, I didn't grasp the beauty and relevance of this devotion – or how much I needed it. It took a few more years and several bumps in life's "school of hard knocks" to bring me to an understanding of just how precious the Divine Mercy devotion is.

Thanks to some very compelling words of Pope Francis, I began to turn to God's unfailing love as Divine Mercy. In front of the well-known image of the risen Jesus with one hand raised in blessing and the other pointing to his heart, I prayed, "Lord, in a thousand ways I have shunned your love, yet here I am once more, to renew my covenant with you. I need you. Save me once again, Lord, take me once more into your redeeming embrace" (*Evangelii Gaudium*, n. 3)."

Since I turned to Divine Mercy as a life force, I've learned that the devotion includes two primary elements – to trust in God's merciful love and to practice acts of mercy. It's that simple – trust in mercy and be merciful. Our order's foundress, St. Jeanne Jugan, based her life on these two pillars, even though she died more than 50 years before Our Lord revealed the Divine Mercy message to a young Polish nun named Sister Faustina.

In our congregation, we tend to speak of trust in terms of con-

fidence in Divine Providence, but St. Jeanne Jugan's trust extended well beyond the provision of material goods. She entrusted her whole life to God, whom she encountered as Love in the tabernacle, in the poor, and in her own heart. The following bit of advice to the young Little Sisters testifies to her complete trust in God:

"Jesus is waiting for you in the chapel. Go and find him when your strength and patience are giving out, when you feel lonely and helpless. Say to him: 'You know well what is happening, my dear Jesus. I have only you. Come to my aid.' And then go your way. And don't worry about knowing how you are going to manage. It is enough to have told our good Lord. He has an excellent memory."

Another lesser known saying of St. Jeanne Jugan also testifies to her confidence in God's merciful love, especially in moments of difficulty: "We should have no more strength against temptation than a little bird has to resist the hawk, were God not to give us his help – but that should increase our trust, since by God's power we can triumph."



Many quotes from St. Jeanne Jugan demonstrate how she practiced merciful love toward the elderly poor. The following words are especially clear: "Be kind, especially with the infirm; be a mother to them. ...

Treat the poor compassionately and God will treat you kindly until your last day."

These words of our foundress have inspired generations of Little Sisters, and they continue to speak to us today as we prepare to celebrate 150 years of service to the elderly in the United States.

The late Cardinal Francis George once remarked that our homes for the elderly are much-needed icons of mercy in today's world. Father Eloi LeClerc, a well-known French author who died recently in one of our homes, wrote that the Little Sisters are an epiphany of God's tenderness for the poor.

As we prepare for the opening of our sesquicentennial later this year, please pray that we Little Sisters of the Poor will always be faithful to our vocation of mercy.

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

St. Andrew School STEM program

Columbus St. Andrew hosted a STEM program for all grade levels in coordination with The Ohio State University. Students in grades kindergarten through eight participated and created a variety of projects. Pictured are seventh-grade students (from left) Evan Schehr, Gabe Epler, Charlie Bernotas, and Ryan Rudzinski building a heart rate monitor.



Photo courtesy St. Andrew School

Stephen Hawking and the pope; Prayer for end to terrorism?



QUESTION & ANSWER

by: FATHER KENNETH DOYLE
Catholic News Service

Q. Stephen Hawking died recently. As I understand it, Professor Hawking claimed to have proven that God does not exist. And yet the pope met with him and recognized his studies; why would the pope do that and celebrate an atheist? (central Virginia)

A. Professor Stephen Hawking, the renowned British theoretical physicist, died at age 76 on March 14 after a long battle with Lou Gehrig's disease, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis. Though many commentators called him an avowed atheist, I would see him rather as an agnostic.

He once told ABC News, "One can't prove that God doesn't exist. But science makes God unnecessary. ... The laws of physics can explain the universe without the need for a creator." The origin of the universe, in Hawking's mind, lay billions of years ago in the Big Bang theory -- and since whatever may have occurred before that could not be observed by science, it was irrelevant to him.

Over the years, Hawking met with four different popes, the last being Pope Francis in November 2016. In 1986, Hawking had been named by Pope John Paul II to the Pontifical Academy of Sciences.

That group, which includes scholars from several religions and none, exists to foster dialogue between science and faith, and its members are chosen primarily for their academic

credentials.

In the past, the academy has discussed such topics as the potential perils of nuclear war; the focus of its 2016 gathering was ecology -- the impact of technology on the planet -- and Pope Francis spoke to the group of the profound need for an "ecological conversion" in which people recognize their responsibility for caring for creation and its resources.

Hawking always respected the church's contribution to this dialogue, and upon his death, the Vatican observatory said, "We value the enormous scientific contribution he has made to quantum cosmology and the courage he had in facing illness."

Though Hawking professed no belief in an afterlife (once telling the British journal *The Guardian*, "I regard the brain as a computer which will stop working when its components fail"), the Vatican prayed at his death that the Lord would now "welcome him into his glory."

Q. Years ago, as I recall, special prayers were offered just before the end of Mass for the conversion of Russia. I believe that those prayers, to a certain extent, worked.

Why can't we say similar prayers now for the elimination of terrorism throughout the world? It couldn't hurt. I do say one myself before Mass starts for this intention, but we need several voices. (Eugene, Oregon)

A. In the 1880s, Pope Leo XIII asked that prayers be offered to St. Michael the Archangel at the end of Mass, asking for an end to violence. At the time, Pope Leo's principal concern was the rise of Masonic power in Catholic countries of Europe, where the liberty of the church was under attack by revolutionary forces.

In 1930, Pope Pius XI "redirected" those Leonine prayers and asked that they be offered for the tranquility and freedom of the Catholic Church in Russia; the practice was discontinued in the 1960s.

Since then, church leaders have from time to time authored prayers against terrorism, most notably Pope Francis during a 2016 visit to Poland for World Youth Day.

That prayer says, in part: "We come to you (God) today to ask you to keep in peace the world and its people, to keep far away from it the devastating wave of terrorism, to restore friendship and instill in the hearts of your creatures the gift of trust and of readiness to forgive. ..."

"Touch the hearts of terrorists so that they may recognize the evil of their actions and may turn to the way of peace and goodness, of respect for the life and for the dignity of every human being, regardless of religion, origin, wealth or poverty."

Thus far, there has been no call for the universal use of such a prayer at every Mass, but I think it is excellent that you are praying personally for this same intention.

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

Flaget student goes to National Spelling Bee

Chillicothe Bishop Flaget School seventh-grade student Nilla Rajan won the Regional Spelling Bee in Athens and will be southeast Ohio's representative in the National Spelling Bee in Washington at the end of May. This will be her second trip to the national event. Two years ago, she tied for 46th place.

Photo courtesy Bishop Flaget School



DeSales students in Governor's Art Show

Five Columbus St. Francis DeSales High School students had their work selected for the 2018 Ohio Governor's Regional Art Show. They are (from left): Amy Doan (photography), Abbigail Martin (painting), Abigail Leaventon (jewelry), Annie King (photography), and Brooke Williams (jewelry). Their work is being displayed at the McConnell Arts Center in Worthington through May 19.

Photo courtesy St. Francis DeSales High School



Students advance to state science fair

Sixteen Westerville St. Paul School students received superior ratings at the district science day in March at Columbus State Community College and have the opportunity to attend state science day at The Ohio State University on Saturday, May 12. The other six St. Paul participants at the event received excellent ratings. As a team, their average score was a superior. Most of the 22 team members are pictured above. Earning superior ratings were Ryan Gustafson, John Castellano, Laren Keating, Jenny Sun, Ashleigh Zehala, Libby Ruff, Anna Granata, Seamus Bonte, Norah Gustafson, Noah Kistler, Iris D'Costa, Kat Gunther, Simone Gorman, Bes Seeley, Natalie Schwartz, and Cecilia Coglianese. Excellent ratings went to Matthew Scheiwer, Brooklynn Hosey, Mia Gehrlach, Chase Jackson, Abby Olah, and Stephen Stalnaker.

Photo courtesy St. Paul School

THE EVERYDAY CATHOLIC



By: Rick Jeric

Consistent ethic of life

A very blessed and joyful Easter to all! We celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus Christ for a full 50 days. As we rejoice and fill the air once again with Alleluias, we profess our saving belief in eternal life, secured by Jesus as we recalled throughout Lent and Holy Week. It brings to mind the unquestionable sanctity of all human life. As we celebrate redemption and eternal life with our Lord, let us remember how important it is, especially for us Catholic Christians, to hold onto and model a life that calls us to a consistent ethic of life. When I was in southwest Florida recently, some good friends shared their parish bulletin with me. The pastor wrote a wonderful essay on this topic. Father John Luden is the pastor of St. John the Evangelist Church in Naples, Florida, and I will quote parts of his essay for this column.

“Since the landmark case of *Roe v. Wade* and the decision of the Supreme Court to legalize abortion on Jan. 22, 1973, millions of unborn children have been killed. As a society we have become desensitized from the horror and reality of abortion and the plight of the unborn child. People can get carried away with personal philosophies of the ‘right to choose,’ forgetting the fundamental principle that life is a gift from God. Our great nation prides itself in the pursuit of freedom and liberty. However, the rights and freedoms of the most vulnerable of society are left ignored and their cries unheard. Each life within the womb is the dream of God waiting to unfold, precious in His sight. Inscribed upon every conceived child and its life force is the dignity of life and the fingerprint of the Creator. To deny such life, or to desecrate it through abortion, is to deny the very God who has given us all life, along with the right to dream and to create. Abortion may well be legal, but the laws that allow it are immoral. Furthermore, all aspects of the social spectrum in which we live must be considered in the assault against the dignity of life. Whenever someone is ostracized, villainized, or discriminated because of their race, language, or way of life, this is an attack on God’s creation. Every man, woman, and child is made in the image and likeness of God. No one is exempt from this wonderful reality. The Gospel reminds all of us that the poor have a special place in God’s heart. We cannot ignore how Jesus says that we will be judged in the Last Judgment in the way in which we attend to the hungry, thirsty, stranger, naked, ill, and imprisoned. We are expected to recognize the dignity of all people and the dignity of God’s presence in all realities.

“What is needed today is a cultural change within society where people start to use their Faith to dialogue with each other. As Catholic Christians, our words and actions must be consistent with the life, ministry, and attitude of Jesus of Nazareth. Our discipleship must reflect the mind of Jesus which transcends any political agenda. The Church needs to ensure her prophetic voice is heard in any situation that gnaws away at human dignity. Our baptismal anointing calls us to observe a constant ethic of life in which every life matters, whether that be the richest of the rich or the poorest of the poor. God’s dream for us is that we immerse ourselves in such a shocking violence of mercy and love.” Let us live the joy of Easter each day and celebrate a consistent ethic of life!



Cristo Rey class achieves 100 percent college acceptance

Cristo Rey Columbus High School has achieved another impressive milestone.

For the second year in a row, 100 percent of Cristo Rey Columbus seniors have been accepted into at least one college or university. The 72 students of the Class of 2018 have received 344 letters of acceptance from more than 120 colleges and universities across the nation and earned \$6 million in academic scholarships.

This continues the school’s record of having every one of its students accepted by a college, an achievement first accomplished last year by the 48 members of the school’s inaugural graduating class.

The school’s president, Jim Foley, credits Cristo Rey’s proven education and business model, dedicated teachers and staff, and motivated students for its success.

“On the first day of school, we make a promise to every freshman that if they want to go to college and make the commitment to study and work hard, we will ensure that indeed, they are accepted into college,” Foley said. “Their dream of going to college is our dream, too.”

Cristo Rey Columbus is a Catholic college preparatory high school providing an affordable education to empower young men and women to graduate from college and achieve a lifetime of success.

The signature component of the school and its Cristo Rey counter-

parts nationwide is an innovative professional work-study program. Every Cristo Rey Columbus student takes a full course load of college prep classes and works five days per month for one of many business partners representing diverse industries.

Students work in entry-level clerical jobs in the offices of law firms, insurance companies, banks, hospitals, construction and manufacturing companies, public relations firms, universities, utility and energy companies, government, the Diocese of Columbus, and more. Students earn a significant portion of their education cost through the work-study program.

“Our students are working to learn and learning to work,” Foley said. “Combined with academic rigor and a focus on personal responsibility, Cristo Rey Columbus helps our students reach their full potential and prepare for college and life success.”

The Cristo Rey Columbus Class of 2018 begins its collegiate journey at commencement ceremonies on Sunday, June 10. To learn more about the school, visit www.cristoreycolumbus.org.

Photo: Cristo Rey Columbus High School students (from left) Alamonte Williams-Jeter, Jess Johnson, Malia Creel, Mario Banales, Aaron Bullard, Lyric Butler, and Diamond Wilson display a banner showing that all members of the school’s Class of 2018 have been accepted by colleges.

Photo courtesy Cristo Rey Columbus High School



Thousands expected for Divine Mercy celebration at national shrine

More than 20,000 people are expected to attend the annual Divine Mercy Weekend festivities on Saturday and Sunday, April 7 and 8 at the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy in Stockbridge, Massachusetts, the provincial headquarters of the Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception. The Marian Fathers have promoted the Divine Mercy message and devotion since 1941.

The principal celebrant for the Sunday liturgy will be Archbishop Joseph Kurtz of the Archdiocese of Louisville, Kentucky. Archbishop Kurtz, a friend of the Marian Fathers, served as president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops from 2013-16.

A live international broadcast will air on the EWTN global Catholic network beginning at noon April 8, with a one-hour program hosted by Father Joseph Roesch, MIC, and Father Chris Alar, MIC, followed by the Mass.

This year's theme will be "A Cry for Mercy," since our troubled world is in

such need. Unified by this theme, the live broadcast will include three special guests: Sammie Wood of Clayton, New Mexico, who lost her teenage daughter to suicide in 2014 and sees it as her calling to help those who grieve the loss of a loved one to suicide; Dana Scallon, an Irish singer and politician who has fought for many years for the pro-life cause through her music and in the halls of government; and Dr. George A. Harne, president of Northeastern Catholic College in Warner, New Hampshire.

Throughout the weekend, the 350-acre shrine grounds are transformed into a small tent city, providing opportunities for confessions, adoration, and visiting the Divine Mercy gift shop. The Vigil Mass at 4 p.m. on April 7 and the Sunday liturgy on April 8 will be celebrated on Eden Hill at the Mother of Mercy outdoor shrine.

One of the highlights of the weekend will be a prayer banner com-

posed of thousands of pieces of cloth inscribed with prayer intentions for Divine Mercy Sunday. Translators will be on hand to provide assistance in Spanish, Polish, Italian, French, German, and Tagalog. Approximately 600 volunteers will assist with

various responsibilities.

Online bus registration has closed, but private vehicles are welcome, with no registration required. The GPS address for the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy is 74 Pine St., Stockbridge, Massachusetts.



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Easter isn't just history

After the Resurrection, Jesus appeared over and over again to those who were closest to him. The gospel readings this week and through Sunday tell the stories. The women were the first to see him.

In Matthew's gospel, Mary Magdalene and Mary, the mother of James and John, walked in the early morning to the tomb. They were the brave ones who watched the angel appear like lightning, roll back the stone and sit on it, frightening the Roman guards into a deathlike stupor. They listened to the angel and hurried to tell the disciples what they had seen and heard. On their way, Jesus appeared to them, calmed their fears, and told them to instruct the disciples to meet him in Galilee.

In Luke's gospel, the women were again the first at the tomb. They saw it was empty and spoke to the messengers of God about what had happened. The women told Simon and John, who thought their story was nonsense, though Peter went to check it out and saw the empty tomb, just as the women had reported.

In John's gospel, Mary Magdalene walked to the tomb alone and, seeing it was empty, hurried to tell Peter and John. They ran to the tomb and saw it was as Mary had described. John noticed the neatly folded cloth that had covered Jesus' face and believed. The men returned home, but Mary remained, weeping in her grief. She entered the tomb, spoke with

the angels who appeared to her, and then turned around. She saw Jesus, though she didn't recognize him until he called her name. He instructed her to tell the others that she had seen him and to share what he had said to her. Mary was the first entrusted with the Good News of the resurrection, the first to proclaim it to the others.

Jesus continued to appear to his disciples. He walked with two travelers on the road to Emmaus who didn't recognize him until they broke bread together.

He appeared on the shore of the Sea of Tiberias, where some of his disciples had been fishing all night, to no avail. His instructions led them to an extravagant catch, and they shared breakfast on the beach. Jesus moved through locked doors where his followers were gathered in fear and confusion. He blessed them with peace and breathed the Spirit into them with his own breath. He ate with them, showed them his wounds, and later invited Thomas to put his fingers into them so he would believe.

Who do you identify with as you ponder these different accounts? Mary Magdalene, who recognized Jesus when he called her name? The brave women, fearful yet persistent as they watched the angels and then met Jesus while on their way to tell the others? Or are you more a skeptical Peter and John? Disciples who just couldn't fathom the truth of what was being

said? Would you recognize the risen Jesus or think he was a ghost? Or maybe you'd be a Thomas who needed physical proof before he'd believe.

We have the advantage of hindsight. I'd like to imagine I'd be like the brave women, bearing the light of angels, listening through my fear and proclaiming the resurrection. I'm not so sure. I would more likely have been found behind locked doors, worrying about what was next.

Reflecting on these readings and placing ourselves in the scenes can be a good meditation, but pondering where we encounter the



GRACE IN THE MOMENT
Mary van Balen

suffering and the risen Christ today in our world is also important. Do we recognize the Divine in others? What opens our eyes? Do we see the wounds of Jesus in the wounds of others? In ourselves? When we do see, how do we respond?

What we celebrate is not just history. Easter is not only an event. It is Divine activity that reverberates through time and space and all creation. And we are part of it.

We are called to follow Jesus' example in our world. To stand with the suffering. To embrace hurt and woundedness in others and in ourselves with God's transforming love.

Jesus was murdered because he was faithful to being the Love of God on a planet that just couldn't handle it. But that wasn't the end of the story. Love is dangerous. It is hard. But in the end, it prevails!

Happy Eastering!

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Heartbeat petitions for "Choose Life" stamp

Columbus-based Heartbeat International is one of several organizations jointly petitioning the U.S. Postal Service to issue a special commemorative "Choose Life" stamp in honor of the sanctity of life.

Joining Heartbeat in the petition are the Population Research Institute, the International Organization for the Family, and Human Life International.

The postal service issues commemorative stamps every year in honor of special persons and events and subjects with national appeal and significance. Each year, 30 to 40 new subjects are selected.

Russ Amerling, founder of the national "Choose Life" license plate campaign, has endorsed the pro-life postage stamp initiative.

The postal service in 1972 issued a stamp commemorating family planning. "Why not now a 'Choose Life' stamp?" asked Steven Mosher, president of the Population Research Institute. "It seems only fitting that the right to life, the first right mentioned in the Declaration of Independence, should be celebrated by having its own commemorative stamp."



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St. Faustina Kowalska and Divine Mercy

By Emily Jaminet

Catholic News Service

Known as the apostle of Divine Mercy, St. Faustina Kowalska brought the message of God's deep, passionate love for all humanity.

At her canonization, St. John Paul II said, "The life of this humble daughter of Poland was completely linked with the history of the 20th century. ... Christ entrusted his message of mercy to her. ... It is not a new message, but can be considered a gift of special enlightenment that helps us to relive the Gospel of Easter more intensely."

Faustina was born in 1905 to a poor peasant family in a small village in Poland. Named Helen, she was the third of 10 children. Her family lived on a 14-acre working farm, and her father also worked at a brewery to provide for the needs of the family. Despite their poverty, her parents taught their children the importance of living out their Catholic faith in daily life.

From a young age, Helen always felt drawn to the religious life, but she experienced many obstacles in getting to the convent. In her diary, she wrote, "From the age of seven, I experienced the definite call of God, the grace of a vocation to the religious life. ... I heard God's voice in my soul; that is, an invitation to a perfect life."

Helen joined the Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy in Warsaw on Aug. 1, 1925, where she took on the name Sister Maria Faustina. She wrote in her diary that she felt immensely happy: "A single prayer was bursting forth from my heart, one of thanksgiving."

Despite the joy she felt in becoming a religious sister, she had many trials and struggles, including tuberculosis, which led to her early death.

Considered a mystic, Faustina spread the message of divine mercy in her personal journal called *Divine Mercy in My Soul*. Over 600 pages long, the diary is full of personal insights, interactions and accounts of mystical experiences with Christ and Mary.

The diary details aspects of the Divine Mercy devotion.

The Feb. 22, 1931, entry of her diary states that Christ instructed Faustina to have an image painted like the one she saw in her convent cell that night. He told her, "Paint me an image ... with the signature: 'Jesus, I trust in you.'"

The image depicts Jesus with two bright rays of light, one red and the other white, flowing from Christ's heart. The lighter ray symbolizes water, which "makes souls righteous," and the red ray symbolizes blood, which is "the life of the souls."

According to Faustina, there are special graces for those who pray before this image. "By means of this image I shall be granting many graces to souls; so let every soul have access to it," Christ told her.

Christ also instructed Faustina that there should be a great feast day to celebrate his mercy.

Known as Divine Mercy Sunday, this feast day falls on the first Sunday after Easter, pointing to the close relationship between the paschal mystery and God's mercy. "I desire that the feast of mercy be a refuge and shelter for all souls, and especially for poor sinners," Christ told her.

Special graces are available on this feast day, and Faustina presented the conditions for receiving these graces. Most important, she writes, one must be in a state of grace, have gone to confession, and received holy Communion.

Another aspect of the Divine Mercy devotion is the Chaplet of Divine Mercy, which is prayed on the beads of a rosary.

The prayer, beginning with "I offer you the body, blood, soul and divinity of your dearly beloved Son, Our Lord, Jesus Christ," unites us to the crucifixion.

Another line from the prayer states: "For the sake of his sorrowful passion, have mercy on us and on the whole world." This powerful phrase is the backbone of the chaplet and the driving force for why we pray it: for the people in our lives, loved ones, friends, family members and



the whole world.

Another aspect of the devotion, the "hour of mercy," observed at 3 p.m., is the customary time Christians remember Christ's death on the cross.

"It was the hour of grace for the whole world – mercy triumphed over justice," Faustina recorded in her diary. Pray the Stations of the Cross, go to Eucharistic Adoration or "immerse yourself in prayer there where you happen to be, if only for a very brief instant," Christ instructed Faustina.

One other aspect of Divine Mercy is spreading the devotion and the hour of mercy. "Souls who spread the honor of my mercy I shield through their entire life as a tender mother her infant, and at the hour of death I will not be a judge for them, but the merciful savior," Christ said to her.

We are called to be an active member in sharing this message by living a life of deeds, words, and prayers of mercy. When we show mercy and love to others, Christ is merciful toward us.

The Divine Mercy message is a message of hope for all sinners, helping us to grow in trust of Our Lord and teaching us how to be people of mercy.

Jaminet is a Columbus-based author, speaker, radio personality, wife, and mother of seven children. She is the author of "The Friendship Project" and co-author of "Divine Mercy for Moms." Her website is www.emilyjainet.com.

By Tim Puet

Catholic Times Reporter

This year marks the 25th anniversary of the celebration of Divine Mercy Sunday in the Diocese of Columbus.

There have been Divine Mercy Sunday celebrations in the diocese since April 18, 1993, when now-retired Father William DeVillie began the devotion at Columbus Sacred Heart Church, where he was pastor, with assistance from Tim McAndrew and Tom Turner of Columbus.

Sacred Heart is one of more than 20 churches throughout the diocese which will mark the feast with special events this Sunday.

"Beyond that, the devotion has become part of the life of almost every parish in the diocese throughout the year, and more than 20,000 homes in the diocese display the Divine Mercy image," McAndrew said. "But it's important to remember that Divine Mercy Sunday isn't a day

for devotion as much as it's a day for sinners. The extra graces that come to anyone from praying the chaplet at any time or in a nine-day novena are significant, but Jesus just asks for confession, communion, charity, and trust.

"He wants to reach sinners with the 'ocean of graces' he promised St. Faustina would be available through the chaplet. He is talking to all of us, not just those who have turned away from him, but those of us who are striving for holiness, because we all need deeper conversion and renewal," said McAndrew, who has become one of the nation's leading promoters of the Divine Mercy devotion. This year, he has published a new edition of his newspaper-style publication on Divine Mercy.

The Chaplet of Divine Mercy was a form of prayer unfamiliar to most Catholics in the United States for several decades after its form was revealed to St. Faustina Kowalska in the mid-1930s.

But it has become widespread in this nation and throughout the world, particularly since the beginning of the 21st century. It now ranks with the rosary among the most widespread forms of daily devotion around the world, outside of the Mass itself.

One reason for that is the link between Pope St. John Paul II and the chaplet. He actively promoted the devotion throughout his 27-year papacy, which ended when he died in 2005 on the eve of Divine Mercy Sunday, the Second Sunday of Easter.

St. Faustina was a cloistered nun in Poland who lived from 1905 to 1938. She received a number of visions during the last years of her life and recorded them in a diary. One of those visions was what she described as a request from Jesus in 1931 for celebration of what is known as Divine Mercy Sunday on the Second Sunday of Easter. Another vision revealed the form of the

Divine Mercy Sunday in diocese began 25 years ago

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chaplet to her in 1935.

Catholics in the United States have been reciting the chaplet since around 1940, when it was brought to North America by a Polish priest who escaped from Poland after the Nazi invasion in 1939 that began World War II.

It took several decades for the devotion to flourish, in part because inaccurate translations of St. Faustina's diary led the Holy See to outlaw the spreading of images and writings advocating devotion to the Divine Mercy in the form she proposed.

But it remained popular among the people of Poland – in particular, with Father Karol Wojtyla, who eventually became Pope St. John Paul II. Probably even more than St. Faustina, John Paul is responsible for spreading the devotion around the world.

While he was bishop of Krakow, Poland, the future pope led

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How to pray The Chaplet of Divine Mercy

1. Make the Sign of the Cross
2. (Optional) Pray: You expired, Jesus, but the source of life gushed forth for souls, and the ocean of mercy opened up for the whole world. O Fount of Life, unfathomable Divine Mercy, envelop the whole world and empty Yourself out upon us.
3. "Our Father," Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name: Thy kingdom come: Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. Amen.
4. On the Our Father beads pray: Eternal Father, I offer You the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Your dearly beloved Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ, in atonement for our sins and those of the whole world.
5. On the Hail Mary Beads pray: For the sake of His sorrowful Passion, have mercy on us and on the whole world.
6. Pray three times: Holy God, Holy Mighty One, Holy Immortal One, have mercy on us and on the whole world.

"Hail Mary," Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee; blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

"And The Apostles' Creed," I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; He descended into hell; on the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty; from there He will come to judge the living and the dead.

Close with the Sign of the Cross. Jesus promise to St. Faustina: "Say unceasingly this chaplet that I have taught you. Anyone who says it will receive great Mercy at the hour of death. Priests will recommend it to sinners as the last hope. Even the most hardened sinner, if he recites this Chaplet even once will receive grace from My Infinite Mercy. I want to give unimaginable graces to those who trust in My Mercy."

"...When they say this Chaplet in the presence of the dying, I will stand between My Father and the dying person not as the just judge but as the Merciful Savior."

*Optional Prayers are taken from The Diary of St. Faustina.

Is there a stranger thing than Divine Mercy?



Chileans celebrate Divine Mercy Sunday. CNS photo

become annoyed.

I took my seat in the last row, and, of course, she was seated right next to me. After the announcements from the flight attendants to put electronic devices away or into airplane mode, she still was checking Instagram. Finally, after I was completely annoyed and we were speeding down the runway, she put the phone away. It was around that time that I had a strange intuition that I was go-

ing to talk to her. I picked up my book and didn't give it much more thought. After all, I'm not just going to turn to her and say, "So you're going to Columbus?"

We were in the back of the plane and the drink service arrived at our row. She asked for juice, and I asked for coffee, even though it was about 10:30 p.m. She said that coffee sounded good and changed her order. I turned to her and said, "The coffee will help with my

hour drive ahead of me after we land." That started our conversation, and I was happy to chat.

She began to tell me about herself and her line of work, and without asking what I did for a living, remarked that obviously, I was a priest. We chatted about growing up going to Catholic schools, and she said her father insisted that she attend Catholic schools. The way she described him, her father sounded very devout. Soon after that, she told me her father had died unexpectedly just when she began college.

As we made our descent into John Glenn Airport, I asked her dad's name, and said that I would pray for him that night. She thanked me; I kept talking. I said, "You know, ever since your dad died so suddenly, he's been blessing you from heaven. He's been doing nothing but bless you for years now. He sees what you've accomplished in your life. He

sees how kind you are and how you've lived your life since he passed away almost 20 years ago, and he is very proud of you."

Again, I don't often talk with people on planes, much less say that their father, who died nearly two decades ago, is proud of them. But that's when the tears started to flow, and through them, she said, "It's funny you say that, because I always have wondered if my dad is proud of me. Thank you." She wiped her tears away and let out a deep sigh of relief.

As I drove home, I reflected on the week of retreat I had just attended with Unbound Ministries. One refrain from that retreat was, "God has a plan for your life. Don't let Satan steal it."

God's plan was to impart his blessing upon that brokenhearted woman, who lost her father unexpectedly at a critical time in her young life. Satan's plan was to prevent that from hap-

pening by immediately attempting to create division between us before anyone said the first word. Satan wants us to remain in that place of doubt about God the Father's blessing and mercy in our lives.

Our Heavenly Father constantly attempts to shower us and those around us with blessings and mercy, but because of fear that our preferences won't be met or our schedules will be interrupted, we stop it like a kink in a garden hose. If Divine Mercy seems like a strange thing to us, it's because we often prevent it from shaping our lives and interactions. God's plan is to make Divine Mercy so normal that the moments without it seem strange.

Father Hartge is parochial vicar of Chillicothe St. Peter, Washington Court House St. Colman of Cloyne, Waverly St. Mary, and Zaleski St. Sylvester churches.

Diocesan Divine Mercy Sunday events

The following parishes in the Diocese of Columbus have scheduled programs for Divine Mercy Sunday:

Chillicothe St. Peter – 12:30 to 3 p.m., Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament; 3 p.m., singing of Chaplet of Divine Mercy, followed by Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. Sacrament of Reconciliation available from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. Saturday, April 7. Chaplet is being recited every day through Sunday at 3 p.m.

Circleville St. Joseph – 2 to 3 p.m., Exposition, Reconciliation; 3 p.m., Chaplet.

Columbus Holy Family – 12:30 p.m., Exposition, followed by Reconciliation; 2:30 p.m., solemn blessing and veneration of Divine Mercy image; 3 p.m., Chaplet; 4:30 p.m., Benediction; 5 p.m., Mass.

Columbus Holy Rosary-St. John – 9:30 a.m., Mass, followed by procession with Divine Mercy image, blessing of image, recital of Chaplet (using Rosary beads), and veneration of image.

Columbus Our Lady of Victory – 3 to 4 p.m., Hour of Mercy, including Chaplet, Exposition, and Reconciliation.

Columbus Sacred Heart – 1:30 to 2:30 p.m., Reconciliation; 2 p.m., blessing of Divine Mercy image, followed by Exposition and Litany of the Sacred Heart; 2:30 p.m., Stations of the Cross, followed by Benediction; 3 p.m., Chaplet; 3:20 p.m., Mass.

Columbus St. Aloysius – 3 p.m., Chaplet, followed by blessing of Divine Mercy image; 3:20 p.m., Exposition, Reconciliation.

Columbus St. Catharine – 2 p.m., Exposition; 2:05 to 3 p.m., Reconciliation; 2:05 p.m., Rosary; 3 p.m., Chaplet, led by soloist; 3:30 p.m., Benediction.

Columbus St. Cecilia – 3 p.m., Chaplet, sung by soloist; 3:20 p.m., blessing of Divine Mercy image, followed by Exposition; 3:30 to 4:15 p.m., Reconciliation; 4:30 p.m., Benediction; 4:30 to 5 p.m., veneration of Divine Mercy image.

Columbus St. Timothy – Following noon Mass, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament; 1:30 p.m., Reconciliation; 2:30 p.m., Chaplet and blessing of Divine Mercy image; 3 p.m., Benediction.

Dublin St. Brigid of Kildare – 3 to 4 p.m., Exposition, followed by Chaplet and Benediction.

Johnstown Church of the Ascension – Following 11 a.m. Mass, Benediction; 1 p.m., Stations; 2 p.m., Rosary; 3 p.m., Chaplet, followed by closing of Benediction. Reconciliation will be available.

Lancaster St. Mark – 3 p.m., Chaplet; 3:20 p.m., Mass, followed by reception.

Logan St. John – 2 p.m., movie about history of the Divine Mercy devotion in church hall; 3 p.m., Exposition in church; 3:15 p.m., Reconciliation, singing of Chaplet; 3:30 p.m., Benediction and Reconciliation of the Blessed Sacrament.

Mattingly Settlement St. Mary – 6 p.m. Friday, April 6, Mass, followed by Divine Mercy devotions; 3 p.m. April 8, Rosary procession, Adoration, Benediction, and Divine Mercy devotions.

Mount Vernon St. Vincent de Paul – 2 to 3 p.m., Adoration, with *Ave Maria* chanted by Amanda

Mayville, reflections on St. Faustina's diary, and Reconciliation; 3 p.m., chanting of Chaplet, followed by Benediction.

New Philadelphia Sacred Heart – 2:30 p.m., Exposition, Rosary, Reconciliation; 3 p.m., Chaplet, followed by Benediction.

Newark Blessed Sacrament – 10:45 a.m., Mass; 11:45 a.m. to 3 p.m., Adoration; 1:30 to 2:30 p.m., Reconciliation; 3 p.m., Chaplet, followed by Benediction. Divine Mercy Novena will be prayed at 3 p.m. daily through Saturday, April 7.

Pickerington St. Elizabeth Seton – 3 p.m., Chaplet, Exposition.

Plain City St. Joseph – 2 p.m., Exposition; 2 to 2:45 p.m., Reconciliation; 3 p.m., Chaplet; 3:30 p.m., blessing and veneration of Divine Mercy image, followed by Benediction.

Powell St. Joan of Arc – 2:30 p.m., blessing of Divine Mercy image, followed by Exposition, including Liturgy of the Word and recital of Chaplet; 3:45 to 5 p.m., Reconciliation; 4:45 to 5 p.m., closing prayer and Benediction; 5:30 p.m., Mass.

Reynoldsburg St. Pius X – 1 to 3 p.m., Exposition; 1:30 p.m., Chaplet, 3 p.m., Benediction.

Sunbury St. John Neumann – Following 11 a.m. Mass, Chaplet, veneration of Divine Mercy image, Reconciliation.

West Jefferson Ss. Simon and Jude – 1 to 3 p.m., Exposition; 1:30 to 2:30 p.m., Reconciliation; 3 p.m., Chaplet, Benediction, completion of novena prayed by parishioners at homes since Good Friday.

COLUMBUS, continued from Page 12

a successful effort to have the Vatican reconsider its ban, which Blessed Pope Paul VI eventually lifted. Bishop, and later, Cardinal Wojtyla also dedicated himself to competing an accurate translation of Faustina's diary. The conclusion of that work and the lifting of the ban allowed the Marians of the Immaculate Conception, an order of priests founded in Poland in 1673, to resume promoting the devotion, which had become their special work.

St. Faustina was canonized on April 30, 2000, which was the Second Sunday of Easter for that year. Pope John Paul at that time declared that the Sunday following Easter would be permanently known as Divine Mercy Sunday on the Church calendar.

Two years later, he granted a plenary indulgence to anyone who celebrates the feast by making a sacramental confession, receiving the Eucharist, praying for the pope and his intentions, and participates in the Divine Mercy devotions or recites the Our Father, the

Apostles' Creed, or a prayer to the merciful Jesus in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament.

A plenary indulgence remits all the temporal punishment due for sacramentally forgiven sins, meaning the condition of a person's soul is as if he or she were just baptized, and the person would be admitted to heaven immediately if he or she died at that instant.

Several churches in the diocese display the Divine Mercy image, including St. Joseph Church at 140 West Ave in Plain city.

The Blessed Sacrament is exposed there for adoration on a regular schedule each week, and Mass is offered there at 9 a.m. on Saturdays in honor of the Blessed Mother, followed by Benediction, the Rosary, the Chaplet of Divine Mercy, and confessions.

McAndrew went to Mexico in 2004 and brought back a lifesize portrait of the Divine Mercy image, as well as an image of Our Lady of Guadalupe which has touched

the original Guadalupe image and is the same size as the original. Both originally were housed at Columbus Holy Family Church, then were moved in 2005 to the former Milford Center Sacred Heart Church, which since has been torn down,

and in 2008 to Plain City.

For more information, go to www.feastofmercy.net, send an email to mcandrewfourlife@gmail.com, write to Laity for Mercy, 2168 Ransom Oaks Drive, Columbus OH 43228, or call (614) 732-0662.

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Right at Home offers **caregiving services** for almost any family and practically any situation. Our in-home care lets loved ones **enjoy life** in the comfort of a familiar environment.

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St. Andrew School Brain Blast

Columbus St. Andrew School recently conducted its brain blast, a weeklong, school-wide event that provides opportunities for students to share projects they have been working on in the classroom. Cooperative learning is emphasized, with grades kindergarten through six presenting projects to all other homerooms and the upper grades. Students and parents visit the classrooms to observe and listen. The projects include drama, writing, research, games, bookmaking, and history. The week concludes with a student variety show. Pictured are kindergarten students who wrote reports on Mount Rushmore with their fourth-grade “buddies.” They are (from left): Rowan Snapp-Williamson, Samantha Zarick, Gretchan McGowan, Ava Lombardi, Joey Lillis, Thomas King, Eliza Lyons, and Ellen Rudzinski.

Photo courtesy St. Andrew School

St. Aloysius Open House



Father Pat Toner and sacristan Judy O'Brien review items to be displayed at an open house next weekend at Columbus St. Aloysius Church, 2065 W. Broad St. The open house will take place from after the 4 p.m. Mass to 6 p.m. Saturday, April 14 and from after the noon Mass to 3 p.m. Sunday, April 15.

Photo courtesy St. Aloysius Church

THE SHEPHERD'S TOUR

Celebrate 150 years of the Diocese of Columbus with a Pilgrimage!

Take this special opportunity to join Father Joshua Wagner and tour a variety of artistic, architectural, and spiritual sites to venerate those Bishops who are interred within the Diocese of Columbus!

Tour sites include:

- St. Joseph Cathedral (Bishops Rosecrans and Herrmann)
- Mt. Calvary Cemetery (Bishop Watterson)
- St. Joseph Cemetery (Bishops Hartley, Elwell, Ready)
- St. Francis de Sales, Newark
- Church of the Blessed Sacrament, Newark
- St. Edward the Confessor, Granville
- The Pontifical College Josephinum, St. Turibius Chapel (Mass)

**Tour stops subject to change*



Tour space is limited; for dates and registration information, visit catholicchurchtour.com!

DIRECTOR OF YOUTH MINISTRY

St. Patrick Church, Columbus

St. Patrick Church, the Dominican parish in Columbus, is seeking a fulltime Director of Youth Ministry.

The Director of Youth Ministry has three chief areas of responsibility:

- 1. High school youth ministry**
- 2. Junior high youth ministry**
- 3. High school catechesis in our CCD program**

The successful candidate will be an active, committed, faith-filled Roman Catholic, possessing strong leadership, inter-personal, organizational and administrative skills. He or she will hold a bachelor's or master's degree from an accredited institution of higher learning, with coursework in Catholic theology and/or catechetics, possess a solid understanding of the Catholic Faith, adhere to all the teachings of the magisterium of the Catholic Church, and be able to teach and share the same; have a love for preaching the gospel and evangelizing youth; have a minimum of two years leadership experience, during or after college, in parish youth ministry, campus ministry or other Catholic youth organization. Regular evening and weekend work hours are required. Job offer is contingent on the successful passing of the mandatory background screening and completion of the VIRTUS “Protecting God’s Children” program.

To apply, please send your résumé with a cover letter (including salary requirements) and a list of professional references to:

Fr. Stephen Alcott O.P. • 280 N. Grant Ave., Columbus, OH 43215
 or pastor@stpatrickcolumbus.org

Second Sunday of Easter (Cycle B)

Seeing with eyes of faith

By **Jem Sullivan**/Catholic News Service

Acts 4:32-35

1 John 5:1-6 John 20:19-31

Jesus often praised the faith of ordinary people he encountered during his earthly ministry: the man born blind, the leper shunned by the community, the Samaritan woman at the well, the royal official at Capernaum whose son was ill, and the paralytic at the pool.

Each of these men and women heard about Jesus and immediately put their faith in his power to heal, reconcile and restore to life.

The Easter season is a time to journey to deeper faith in Jesus. It is a graced season when we see how our lives are patterned after Jesus' saving death and resurrection as we die to sin and rise to new life in him.

But like the apostle Thomas, we struggle with doubt. Just like Thomas, we, too, need signs and wonders, tangible and concrete proof of God's love and mercy.

After his glorious resurrection, Jesus appeared to his disciples at various places and moments. When he came to them on the lake shore, on the road to Emmaus and in the breaking of bread, they must have been astonished, joyful and afraid. Yet seeing the Lord in his risen body was a first step on their journey to Easter faith and to their witness as his missionary disciples.

Thomas was not with them when the risen Jesus appeared to the disciples. So it is not surprising that

his heart is filled with doubt when he hears the disciples speak of their encounter with the risen Lord. He wants to see, touch and hear for himself.

Jesus knew the yearning of Thomas for certitude. He understood the desire of Thomas to know for certain that Jesus' death was not the final chapter in the story of God's loving plan of salvation. And so Jesus appears to the disciples once again, in the presence of Thomas. And his words to Thomas are spoken to each one of us as well.

As we read the word of God and seek to deepen our faith in Jesus, we learn what it means to see with the eyes of faith. We come to understand that "faith is the realization of what is hoped for and evidence of things not seen" (Hebrews 11:1).

Jesus invites Thomas to place his hand in his wounded side. What an invitation to faith that must have been! And then Jesus tells Thomas to set aside doubt and believe in him. Thomas responds with the words of a true disciple: "My Lord and my God!" And then Jesus blesses all those who believe with the eyes of faith.

During this Easter season, may we find in the Lord's passion, death and resurrection the path of our journey of hope in the power of the redeeming cross of Jesus Christ as we say in faith, "Speak to me, Lord."

Reflection Question:

What does Jesus' encounter with Thomas teach us about the act of faith?

Sullivan is secretary for Catholic education of the Archdiocese of Washington.

St. Joseph's Crusade for Marriage

Desirous of affirming and interceding for the well-being of the divine gift of the Sacrament of Matrimony, the America Needs Fatima apostolate chose the Solemnity of St. Joseph, spouse of Mary, on Monday, March 19 for its annual celebration of marriage, as defined by the Catholic Church to be between one man and one woman. In conjunction with other rallies from coast to coast, the apostolate sponsored an hour-long rally, which included prayer and song, at the public square in Worthington. Passers-by were reminded of the timeless and unchanging foundation of marriage and family. The group will continue to pray for the graces to calmly and faithfully present the teachings of the Catholic Church while praying for those who have lost sight of the power, beauty, and sacredness of this basic gift of God.

Photo courtesy America Needs Fatima



The Weekday Bible Readings

MONDAY
Isaiah 7:10-14;8:10
Psalm 40:7-11
Hebrews 10:4-10
Luke 1:26-38

TUESDAY
Acts 4:32-37
Psalm 93:1-2,5
John 3:7b-15

WEDNESDAY
Acts 5:17-26
Psalm 34:2-9
John 3:16-21

THURSDAY
Acts 5:27-33
Psalm 34:2,9,17-20
John 3:31-36

FRIDAY
Acts 5:34-42
Psalm 27:1,4,13-14
John 6:1-15

SATURDAY
Acts 6:1-7
Psalm 33:1-2,4-5,18-19
John 6:16-21

DIOCESAN WEEKLY RADIO AND TELEVISION MASS SCHEDULE WEEK OF APRIL 8, 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 Coshoccon 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

Air turbulence and the Resurrection

If there's anything Catholics in the United States should have learned over the past two decades, it's that order – in the world, the Republic, and the Church – is a fragile thing. And by “order,” I don't mean the same old same old. Rather, I mean the dynamic development of world politics, our national life, and the Church within stable reference points that guide us into the future.

Many of those reference points seem to have come unstuck, and that's why we're experiencing an unusual amount of air turbulence these days. Or so I argue in *The Fragility of Order: Catholic Reflections on Turbulent Times*, which has just been published by Ignatius Press. The book collects 13 essays on world history and politics, American history and politics, and the post-Vatican II Church that I've written in recent years. The setup is a new essay on the ways things seem in 2018 contrasted to the way they looked a quarter-century ago, with the Cold War won and the Church beginning to experience the renewal John Paul II defined and promoted in his authoritative interpretation of Vatican II.

It was a heady moment and, in retrospect, perhaps too heady. I was always skeptical of my friend Francis Fukuyama's notion that “the end of history” had dawned with the triumph of democracy and the market over communism; as I wrote at the time, in 1990, there's far more to “history” than politics and economics, and the human propensity for making a mess of things would continue to give all us pause, and plenty to work on. But the rapidity with which the post-Cold War order has



**THE CATHOLIC
DIFFERENCE**
George Weigel

unraveled throughout the world, and the speed with which American political culture has decayed into unbridled bombast on all sides, have surprised me – and, I expect, many others. Exploring how that happened in a generation, in both world politics and our national public life, is one thread tying *The Fragility of Order* together.

As for the air turbulence in the Church, I must confess that I'm somewhat less concerned about that than others seem to be. Why? For one reason, I don't confuse the Catholic blogosphere and its neo-Darwinian, survival-of-the-shrillest antics with the realities of Catholic life, here and throughout the world Church. For another, it strikes me that the most vital parts of the Church – parishes, dioceses, seminaries, religious orders, lay renewal movements, evangelization groups – are getting on with the business of being a Church permanently in mission, tuning out as much of the static as they can and pursuing what they know to be effective ways of spreading the joy of the Gospel.

These vital parts of the Church are, uniformly, the parts that have embraced All-In Catholicism and rejected Catholic Lite. And that is, or should

be, another source of confidence and hope amid the current ecclesiastical turbulence. Those who don't remember the two decades immediately after Vatican II and haven't taken the trouble to learn that history are understandably upset at the fragility of order in the Church today. But they should also understand that this is not 1968, or 1978, or even 1988, and that a lot of ballast was put into the Barque of Peter during the pontificates of John Paul II and Benedict XVI. For all the challenges it faces, and despite the determination of some to revisit what they regard as the glorious '70s, the Church in the U.S. is in far, far better condition to withstand the air turbulence of the moment that it was 40 years ago. And that's because truth, spoken winsomely and in charity, but without fudging, has proven a powerful instrument of evangelization and spiritual growth in a culture wallowing in various confusions.

At the bottom of the bottom line is the Resurrection. It's entirely possible to hold fast to the truth that Jesus of Nazareth was raised by God to a new form of bodily life after his crucifixion and be deeply concerned about the state of the Church today. But it's not possible to know the Risen Lord and to indulge in despair. Despair died on the cross and unshakable hope was born at Easter. That's why Easter faith is the surest anchor for all of us in turbulent times.

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

Bethesda Healing Ministry benefit dinner set for April 26

Jesus became fully man when he came in his Father's name with a mission of mercy. He is the divine physician who died in the perfect sacrifice, so we could be forgiven for our sins and hope to spend eternity in the divine presence. Each person experiencing the residual effects of abortion seeks God's mercy, love, and forgiveness.

The Bethesda Healing Ministry helps women, men, and families who are seeking healing from an abortion experience as they find their way to accepting God's merciful forgiveness. It walks with them through the steps of spiritual and physical healing.

The ministry's annual benefit dinner will take place Thursday, April 26 at Columbus St. Agatha Church, 1860 Northam Road, starting with Mass at

5:30 p.m., with Bishop James Wall of Gallup, New Mexico, as celebrant and keynote speaker.

The master of ceremonies will be Gary Anderson, president of the Bethesda board. Kathleen Tully, music director of Columbus St. Patrick Church, will provide selections on the harp.

Tickets are \$30 each and may be purchased online at www.bethesdahealing.org or by calling Diana Davis at (614) 718-0277. An appeal will be made at the dinner for help in continuing this ministry of hope and healing.

Bethesda is based in Columbus Christ the King Church's former convent, which includes a chapel with the Blessed Sacrament in the tabernacle. During healing sessions, the chapel is used for devotions includ-

ing Mass, Eucharistic adoration, and the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

The ministry took its name from the healing pool of Bethesda in Jerusalem, where Jesus healed a man who had suffered from an infirmity for 38 years and had no one to put him into the healing waters. The pool area was known as Five Porticos, and that name was given to the building where Bethesda is based.

Bethesda sponsors post-abortion healing ministry sessions on the second and fourth Mondays of each month. For each session, a light is on, a warm dinner is waiting, and quiet prayer is said. The sessions begin with dinner provided by volunteers at 6:30 p.m. and end at about 8:30. Everyone seeking post-abortion healing is invited to all ministry sessions.

The sessions are conducted by a pastoral team of priests, seminarians, and people who are going through healing. These companions provide their experience of hope, faith, and love outside the formal healing sessions.

Since its founding 24 years ago, the companions of Bethesda Healing Ministry have answered calls on its confidential ministry line, which is available 24 hours, seven days a week. The calls are answered with kindness, caring, and an offering of hope for healing.

If you would like more information about the ministry, call its executive director, Laurence Mily, at (614) 314-2125 or its administrator, Diana Davis, at (614) 718-0277, or visit www.bethesdahealing.org.

Pray for our dead

BALTZ, Dorothy, 92, March 26
St. Mary Church, Lancaster

BASINSKI, Diane M. (Bowen), 85, April 1
St. Joan of Arc Church, Powell

BUTLER, John P., 85, March 26
St. Mark Church, Lancaster

CAMPFIELD, Earl F. Jr., 75, March 20
St. Pius X Church, Reynoldsburg

EDIE, Loretta (Kopp), 96, March 24
Sacred Heart Church, New Philadelphia

GEYER, Cheryl L. (Wilkins), 69, March 24
Resurrection Cemetery Chapel, Lewis Center

HANLEY, Hugh, 87, March 26
Sacred Heart Church, Coshocton

KING-HENRY, Venetta, 58, March 14
Sacred Heart Church, New Philadelphia

LOHR, Robert E., 86, March 27
St. Pius X Church, Reynoldsburg

McLAREN, Betty J. (Pouliot), 90, April 1
St. Elizabeth Seton Parish, Pickerington

MOTSCH, Bruce R., 60, March 27
St. Joseph Cathedral, Columbus

PETERS, Marie (Johnson), 96, March 30
Our Lady of Victory Church, Columbus

PRICE, Joseph R., 71, March 23
Our Lady of Peace Church, Columbus

RUDD, Elaine (Zimmer), 77, March 23
Sacred Heart Church, New Philadelphia

SPIRES, Patricia (Wolf), 83, March 30
St. Pius X Church, Reynoldsburg

WETZEL, William D., 85, March 27
St. Elizabeth Church, Columbus

Norbert Smithberger

Funeral Mass for Norbert Smithberger, 88, who died Sunday, March 25, was held Monday, April 2 at Reynoldsburg St. Pius X Church.

He was born on March 8, 1930, in Bethel, Ohio, to Hattie and Ernest Smithberger.

He was a longtime employee of the state auditor's office, retiring in 1986, and a two-time grand knight of Father

Andrew H. Homan Council 5253 of the Knights of Columbus.

He was preceded in death by his parents and his wife, Rita. Survivors include sons, Deacon Marion (Carol) Smithberger, who serves Columbus St. Timothy Church, and Paul; daughter, Meg (Dan) Root; brother, Robert (Mary); five grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Trinity students learn from chickens



Columbus Trinity Elementary School third-graders use science, technology, engineering, and math skills to investigate the life cycle of an embryonic chicken egg, from monitoring living eggs to observing fluffy chicks. Pictured are (from left) Molly Wendel, Maura Nye, principal Kimber Moehrman, and Zach Tibbs.

Photo courtesy Trinity Elementary School

Coach reads to students at St. Anthony



Columbus St. Francis DeSales High School boys basketball coach Pat Murphy stopped by Columbus St. Anthony School to read the book "Dr. De Soto" by William Steig to a group of second-graders. Murphy volunteered for St. Anthony's "Read with a Stallion" program that encourages and promotes reading, volunteering, and a partnership with DeSales' feeder schools, one of which is St. Anthony.

Photo courtesy St. Anthony School



AM 820

CATHOLIC RADIO



Lend an ear!

H A P P E N I N G S

CLASSIFIED

FOR SALE

Single burial plot in Garden of Four Chaplains (Veteran's Section) located at Kingswood Memorial Park, 8230 Columbus Pike, Lewis Center, Ohio (Delaware County). Asking price is firm (\$2400.00) which includes cemetery transfer fee.

Payment is by Cashier's Check and transfer would be done at the cemetery's offices at a convenient time.

Items such as vault, monument and opening/closing of the site are not included in this price. Living outside area now and have new site.

Please contact me at 513-290-4552 or Ehiell@cinci.rr.com for information. Earl

An Evening of Prayer & Song with BOB HURD

Friday, April 20, 7:00 p.m.

St. John XXIII Church
Canal Winchester

No charge for admission

Freewill offering to benefit Bloom Twp.

Crisis Fund and offset cost of concert
<http://www.npmcolumbus.org>

APRIL

6, FRIDAY

St. Cecilia Adoration of Blessed Sacrament
St. Cecilia Church, 434 Norton Road, Columbus. Begins

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 Douglas Bean at 614-224-6530.

'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: The Catholic Times

Happenings,

197 East Gay St., Columbus, OH 43215

Fax to: 614-241-2518

E-mail as text to tpuet@columbuscatholic.org

after 8:15 a.m. Mass; continues to 5 p.m. Saturday.

Monthly Adoration of Blessed Sacrament

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

First Friday Masses at Holy Family

12:15 and 7 p.m., Holy Family Church, 584 W. Broad St., Columbus. First Friday Masses in honor of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. 614-221-4323

Catholic Men's Luncheon Club

12:15 p.m., St. Patrick Church, 280 N. Grant Ave., Columbus. Catholic Men's Luncheon Club meeting, with Jerry Freewalt of the diocesan Office for Social Concerns speaking on the ARCH (Accompanying Returning Citizens with Hope) ministry, which helps released prisoners readjust to society.

Labyrinth Walk at Shepherd's Corner

7 to 8:30 p.m., Shepherd's Corner Ecology Center, 987 N. Waggoner Road, Blacklick. Labyrinth walk led by labyrinth caretaker John Seryak. Theme: "Alone With Each Other." Suggested donation \$5. 614-866-4302

Eucharistic Vigil at Holy Cross

Holy Cross Church, 205 S. 5th St., Columbus. 7:30 p.m. Mass, followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament with various prayers, ending with Benediction around 11.

All-Night Exposition at Our Lady of Victory

Our Lady of Victory Church, 1559 Roxbury Road, Columbus. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament from 8 p.m. until Mass at 8 a.m. Saturday.

6-8, FRIDAY-SUNDAY

Divine Mercy Novena at Blessed Sacrament

3 p.m. April 6-7, Blessed Sacrament Church, 394 E. Main St., Newark. Novena of Divine Mercy, concluding on April 8 with Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament from end of 10:45 a.m. Mass until 3 p.m., when chaplet will be recited, followed by Benediction. Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. 740-345-4290

Divine Mercy Chaplet Recital at Chillicothe St. Peter

3 p.m., St. Peter Church, 118 Church St., Chillicothe. Daily recital of Chaplet of Divine Mercy, concluding on April 8 with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament from end of 11:30 a.m. Mass until singing of Chaplet, with procession and Benediction, at 3 p.m. Confessions heard from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. April 7. 740-774-1407

7, SATURDAY

Fatima Devotions at Columbus St. Patrick

7 a.m., St. Patrick Church, 280 N. Grant Ave., Columbus. Mass, followed by devotions to Our Lady of Fatima, preceded by confessions at 6:30. 614-240-5910

Mary's Little Children Prayer Group

Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal Church, 5225 Refugee Road, Columbus. 8:30 a.m., confessions, 9 a.m., Mass, followed by Fatima prayers and Rosary (Shepherds of Christ format); 10 a.m., meeting. 614-861-4888

First Saturday Devotion at St. Joan of Arc

8:30 a.m., St. Joan of Arc Church, 10700 Liberty Road, Powell. Mass, followed by rosary in reparation to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, concluding with Fatima prayers.

Scouting International Awareness Program

8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. (8:30 to 11 a.m. for grades one to five), Holy Resurrection Melkite Catholic Church, 4611 Glenmawr Ave., Columbus. Annual international awareness program sponsored by diocesan Catholic Committee on Scouting, giving all diocesan youths and adults a chance to learn more about the Catholic Church's Eastern rites. Fee \$15 for shorter program, including snack; \$25 for longer program, including lunch.

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.

Lay Missionaries of Charity Day of Prayer

9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Sacred Heart Church, 893 Hamlet St., Columbus. Monthly day of prayer for Columbus chapter of Lay Missionaries of Charity. 614-372-5249

First Saturday Mass at Holy Family

9 a.m., Holy Family Church, 584 W. Broad St., Columbus. First Saturday Mass for world peace and in reparation for blasphemies against the Virgin Mary. 614-221-4323

Centering Prayer Group Meeting at Corpus Christi

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

Filipino Mass at St. Elizabeth

7:30 p.m., St. Elizabeth Church, 6077 Sharon Woods Blvd., Columbus. Mass in the Tagalog language for members of the Filipino Catholic community.

8, SUNDAY

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.

Seasons of Hope Bereavement Ministry

2 to 4 p.m., St. Francis of Assisi Church, 386 Buttles Ave., Columbus. First meeting of North High Deanery's six-week Seasons of Hope Bereavement Ministry for those who have lost a loved one. Contact michaeljameschmidt@yahoo.com or mjulian@columbus.rr.com.

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

9, MONDAY

Bethesda Post-Abortion Healing Ministry

6:30 p.m., support group meeting, 2744 Dover Road, Columbus (Christ the King convent, first building west of the church). 614-718-0277, 614-309-2651, 614-309-0157

Our Lady of Peace Men's Bible Study

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

9-11, MONDAY-WEDNESDAY

Parish Mission at Cardington Sacred Hearts

5:30 p.m., Sacred Hearts Church, 4680 U.S. Route 42, Cardington. Parish mission with Father Thomas Blau, OP. Theme: "Understanding God's Mercy." Divine Mercy chaplet at 3 p.m. daily, and Reconciliation available each day. 419-946-3611

10, TUESDAY

Calix Society Meeting

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

Holy Hour at Columbus St. Francis of Assisi

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

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.

EnCourage Ministry Monthly Meeting

6:30 p.m., EnCourage, an approved diocesan ministry for families and friends of persons who experience same-sex attraction. EnCourage respects

the dignity of every person, promotes the truth of God's plan for each of us, and focuses on sharing our love. Confidentiality is maintained. Call for site.

614-296-7404

11, WEDNESDAY

Center for Dominican Studies Lecture Series

Noon to 12:30 p.m., St. Catherine of Siena Room, Erskine Hall, Ohio Dominican University, 1215 Sunbury Road, Columbus. Center for Dominican Studies lecture with Sister Thoma Swanson, OP, speaking on "Art -- A Special Way to Preach." 614-251-4722

Turning Leaves and Tea Leaves

2 to 3:30 p.m., Martin de Porres Center, 2330 Airport Drive, Columbus. Turning Leaves and Tea Leaves book club with Dominican Sisters Marialein Anzenberger and Colleen Gallagher. 614-416-1910

'The Wild Goose Is Loose' Seminar

6:30 to 8:30 p.m., St. Elizabeth Church, 6077 Sharon Woods Blvd., Columbus. First meeting of four-week "The Wild Goose Is Loose" seminar on the attributes of the Holy Spirit and how to respond to the Spirit. Sponsored by Columbus Catholic Renewal. Child care available on request. 614-500-8178 or 614-614-989-7890

11-14, WEDNESDAY-SATURDAY

Three Bags Full Consignment Sale

6 to 9 p.m. Wednesday, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Thursday, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and 6 to 9 p.m. Friday, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday (selected items half-price Friday night and Saturday), Franklin County Fairgrounds, 5035 Northwest Parkway, Hilliard. Three Bags Full consignment sale of children's items. Unsold and unclaimed items are donated to Catholic and pro-life charities. 614-561-5300

12, THURSDAY

Women to Women Listening Circle at Corpus Christi

11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Corpus Christi Center of Peace, 1111 E. Stewart Ave., Columbus. Women to Women program for women of all ages and life circumstances. Begins with soup lunch until noon, followed by listening circle. No child care available on-site. 614-512-3371

Cenacle at Holy Name

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

Eucharistic Holy Hour at Sacred Heart

7 p.m., Sacred Heart Church, 893 Hamlet St., Columbus. Eucharistic Holy Hour with the intention of deepened holiness and an increase in the virtue of fortitude for the Holy Father, bishops, and priests, concluding with Benediction, social period, and refreshments. 614-372-5249

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 Father Nick Droll, administrator of West Portsmouth Our Lady of Sorrows, Pond Creek Holy Trinity, and Otway Our Lady of Lourdes churches speaking on "Ordinary Extraordinary: A Discussion on the Forms of the Mass." RSVP to cbustheologyontap@gmail.com or Columbus Theology on Tap Facebook page.

13-15, FRIDAY-SUNDAY

DCCW Silent Retreat at St. Therese's

St. Therese's Retreat Center, 5277 E. Broad St., Columbus. Women's silent retreat sponsored by Diocesan Council of Catholic Women, led by Father Sean Dooley, parochial vicar at Chillicothe St. Peter, Washington Court House St. Colman of Cloyne, Waverly St. Mary, and Zaleski St. Sylvester churches. Theme: "Being Present in the Here and Now." Cost \$130. 614-228-8601



PLAN OF LIFE

Catholic News Agency

Praise abounds for Father Roger Landry's engaging book *Plan of Life: Habits to Help You Grow Closer to God*. Heavy-hitters who are defenders of the faith – such as George Weigel and Mary Eberstadt – as well as influential Church leaders, including Boston's Cardinal Sean O'Malley, New York's Cardinal Timothy Dolan, and the apostolic nuncio to the U.N., Archbishop Bernardito Auza, have joined to recommend this charming guidebook for making a plan to better know, love and serve God.

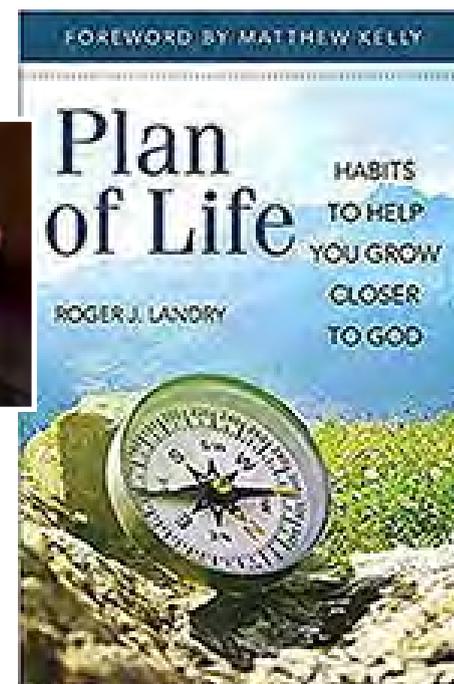
In the book's introduction, Landry recalls that "Saint John Paul II summed up the Church's wisdom regarding attaining union with God by naming six pillars of 'training in holiness': grace, prayer, Sunday Mass, Confession, listening to the word of God, and proclaiming that word." Making sure these pillars are present in our spiritual lives requires a genuine commitment to living a "plan of life."

For those not familiar with the term, Father Landry explains that a "plan of life" is a "series of practices given to us by the saints and spiritual directors to help people to translate their desire to grow closer to God from a vague aspiration into a reality."

Like turning on the GPS when you do not quite know the way – or even when you know the way but don't want to risk getting lost or delayed – Landry's *Plan of Life* offers concise synopses of the traditional Catholic norms of piety that make up a Catholic's plan of life. Not wanting to overburden the souls he is caring for, Landry's book serves as a guide for making each of these a habit.

Beginning with the role of the Holy Spirit in carrying out the work of sanctification, Landry encourages us to "allow the Holy Spirit to guide the nitty-gritty details of our daily life." He then introduces the practical steps to "live the disciplined life of a Christian disciple." These steps include living the "heroic

BOOK REVIEW



moment" of getting out of bed immediately, consecrating our day to God and asking for His help to live it well through our Morning Offering prayer, and ending the day well with a general examination of conscience – that "prayerful daily evaluation that assesses our faithfulness to the consecration we made at the start of the day."

Filling in these bookends of our day are the customs and practices of Catholics throughout the ages. Foundational practices include regular mental prayer, reading and meditating upon Sacred Scripture, and living Sunday well by "celebrating our weekly little Easter together -- not only liturgically but also in communal activities." Other keys are frequent Confession, Eucharistic adoration, and the Rosary.

Finally, *Plan of Life* identifies norms which go "beyond the basics" – daily Mass, spiritual communion, Marian devotions, penitential practices, the particular examination of conscience, offering one's daily work to God, spiritual reading, and retreats and days of recollection.

Peppered throughout the book are citations to Scripture, writings of doctors of the Church and her saints, and reflections of many popes of the modern era. In so doing, Father Landry reveals the seamlessness of the Church's guidance for the faithful.

More than a dry manual of directives, *Plan of Life* reads like a perfect combination of collected correspondence from a dear friend sharing his own personal encounter with God, a TED talk on the fundamental elements of faith and Catholic tradition, and the unequivocal encouragement of a "personal trainer" for how to better treat Our Lord with all of our heart, soul, and mind. As Landry so concisely explains, "a Plan of Life is much more than discrete prayers and practices: it's a cohesive whole that forms us to live consciously and continuously in God's presence."

There are specific sections in *Plan*

of Life particularly helpful for Lenten preparation. For example, Landry directs the reader to understand charity and almsgiving as reflecting "Christ-like compassion" for those in need. He cautions that "random acts of kindness ought to be encouraged, but they are not enough." Reaffirming the general theme that "the spiritual life is too important to wing," Landry presses us to "plan and grow our charity more than a business owner seeks growth in profits."

Plan of Life also addresses Holy Week – inviting readers to "enter the center of history." Landry explains:

Holy Week is holy because of all Jesus Christ did during this week. From his triumphal entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, to his teaching in the Temple, to the Last Supper, to his prayer in Gethsemane, to his arrest, torture, crucifixion, preaching, and death on Good Friday, to his rest in the tomb and his glorious resurrection on the third day, this week contains the central events of our faith.

This invitation to live fully the "most faith-filled week of the year" is an invitation to be transformed by the week's holy character – to be made more holy.

Included as an appendix are traditional prayers and a guide for pre-Confession examination of conscience. Also included are prompts for the reader to draft a plan of life. While a helpful app is also referenced, Landry's "old school" option to write down our plan is a lovely touch.

Plan of Life, much like coming in contact with the book's well-formed and attentive author, is a wonderfully fresh resource for any person seeking to grow in the interior life.

Youth choir to appear with pianist

The Columbus St. Christopher Church youth choir will appear in a concert with 16-year-old pianist Ethan Bortnick at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, April 14 in the Lincoln Theater, 769 E. Long St., Columbus.

Recognized by the Guinness Book of World Records as the world's youngest solo musician to headline a concert tour, Bortnick has been performing around the world, raising more than \$50 million for charities worldwide. He is best-known for his three fundraising specials for the Public Broadcasting Service, which have appeared locally on WOSU-TV.

When he was three years old, the Hollywood, Florida, native asked his parents for piano lessons and discovered an ability to hear a song once and play it back note for note. He soaked up the music of such di-

verse artists and composers as Beethoven, Mozart, jazz pianist Bill Evans, Little Richard, Billy Joel, and Elton John, and began creating original compositions at age five. A few years later, he began making television appearances and touring, connecting with audiences in the United States, Japan, Brazil, Canada, South Africa, and Australia.

When he was five, his younger brother had three heart surgeries, and that inspired him to use his musical talents to benefit charity.

A \$500 donation will be made to the St. Christopher choir if it sells 100 tickets to the concert. To purchase tickets, go to <https://ethanbortnick.com/events>. Find the Columbus concert listing and click on "Buy Tickets," then click on "See Tickets," and use the promotional code CHOIRETHAN02 when ordering.

Confirmation strengthens our identity as children of God

Catholic News Service

The sacrament of confirmation is perhaps the most mysterious of all the sacraments. Many Christians find it difficult to understand what benefit it brings. Isn't the Holy Spirit received at baptism?

Yes, baptism makes us "a member of Christ and a temple of the Holy Spirit" (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, No. 1279). Then why do we need to receive the Holy Spirit again in confirmation?

And, isn't baptism "valid and efficacious" without confirmation? Yes (No. 1306). Then why do we say that "confirmation is necessary for the completion of baptismal grace" (No. 1285, 1288) or that it brings an "increase and deepening of baptismal grace" (No. 1303), its "strengthening" (No. 1289)?

What do we mean when we say confirmation "perfects baptismal grace" (No. 1316)? Isn't baptismal grace perfect enough?

Of course, to answer the first question, all the sacraments are "actions of the Holy Spirit" (No. 1116) and all "sacramental grace" is the grace of the Holy Spirit, though in a way "proper to each sacrament" (No. 1129). So the Holy Spirit is received in every sacrament, not just baptism, but in each in a different way.

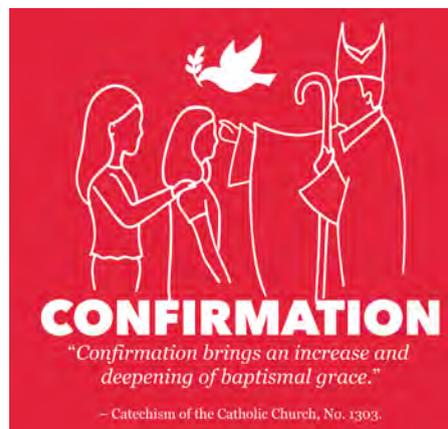
We can ask, "What is the special relationship between confirmation and the Holy Spirit? What is the action of the Holy Spirit in baptism, and what is the action of the Holy Spirit in confirmation?"

To address the second question, baptism is valid and efficacious without the Eucharist also, and someone who dies immediately after baptism is saved without the help of any other sacrament.

And yet we would not say that the Christian life on this earth attains its full exercise apart from the Eucharist.

The Eucharist, too, completes baptismal grace, in the sense that baptismal grace is ordered toward the Eucharist. Baptism is the "gateway to life in the Spirit ... and the door that gives access to the other sacraments" (No. 1213); by baptism we are "born of water and the Spirit" (No. 1225, John 3:5), given freedom as "the children of God" (No. 1250).

We are given "a share in the common priesthood of all believers" (No. 1268). This priesthood is exercised first in our participation in the Eucharist and in the eucharistic life it forms in us, as our



whole life and all of our acts become more and more a living sacrifice of praise (Hebrews 13:15) in Christ and for Christ.

This can help us understand the function of confirmation. Just as baptism is the sacrament of dying with Christ and rising with him to the new life of a child of God, and so is especially associated with the cross and resurrection, so confirmation is especially associated with Pentecost. In fact, it is "the special outpouring of the Holy Spirit as once granted to the apostles on the day of Pentecost" (No. 1302).

The Holy Spirit was poured out upon the apostles to strengthen them for

their apostolic mission. Confirmation "perpetuates the grace of Pentecost in the church" (No. 1288). The sacrament thus has a unique connection to the apostles, and indeed the original rite of confirmation consisted of the apostles' laying on of hands of the newly baptized, to strengthen them for their mission with the same special outpouring of the Spirit that they received.

In baptism, the action of the Holy Spirit configures us to the passion, death and resurrection of Christ, bringing about our death to sin and our rebirth in the love and the life of Christ. We have a new identity as children of God.

In confirmation, the action of the Holy Spirit is to strengthen us in our new identity, imparting an "apostolic" character. It associates us more fully with the apostolate, or the active mission of the church.

It is baptismal grace itself that in a sense seeks its own maturity, its own growing up, its own perfection, just as the natural life of a child, in a sense, seeks its own maturity, completion, growing up. Baptismal grace, precisely because it is a rebirth, is ordered toward the "growing up" and strengthening of the newly born in Christ.

Anointing with holy oil: Consecration and promise, from Moses to Jesus

By Mike Nelson/*Catholic News Service*

In the Catholic tradition, to be confirmed is to be chosen -- chosen by God to be a sign of God's presence in the world.

"Be sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit," declares the bishop (or sometimes, a priest) who ministers the sacrament, as he traces the sign of the cross -- a sign of consecration -- with the sacred chrism oil -- representing health and strength -- on the recipient's forehead.

With this action, the newly confirmed person "shares more completely in the mission of Jesus Christ and the fullness of the Holy Spirit with which he is filled," so that his life may emanate "the aroma of Christ," reads the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* (No. 1294).

Scripturally, we find many instances where someone has been anointed (or chosen) with holy oil. In the Book of Exodus (29:7), God instructs Moses in the consecration of priests -- in this case, Moses' brother Aaron: "Take the anointing oil and pour it on his head, and anoint him."

Perhaps no anointing in the Old Testa-

ment is more profound as that of David, youngest son of Jesse, by the prophet Samuel:

"The Lord said: 'There -- anoint him, for this is the one!' Then Samuel, with the horn of oil in hand, anointed him in the midst of his brothers, and from that day on, the spirit of the Lord rushed upon David" (1 Samuel 16:12-13).

That the Lord passed up David's older brothers before instructing Samuel to anoint David suggests that anointing is not administered randomly, but only to those God chooses to do his work. "You love justice and hate wrongdoing," declares the Book of Psalms (45:8). "Therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness above your fellow kings."

Jesus himself makes known the power and purpose of anointing in one of his first public actions, the teaching and proclamation of Scripture in the synagogues, for which he was well-received -- at least, initially.

Then, in his hometown of Nazareth, he quotes Isaiah -- "The Spirit of the Lord

The action of the Holy Spirit in baptism orients us toward his own further action in conferring the further apostolic grace of Pentecost. Thus we are empowered to live out the eucharistic life toward which baptism, and indeed all of the other sacraments, are ordered, with a "Pentecost" identity, an identity analogous to that of an apostle.

Thus baptism and confirmation are closely linked. Originally, confirmation immediately followed baptism, and it still does in the Eastern Catholic churches (and in the Latin Church for adult baptisms). But in both Eastern and Latin churches, the connection with Pentecost was never left behind. In the Eastern churches, confirmation makes use of the special holy chrism blessed by the bishop, the successor of the apostles, while in the Latin Church, the ordinary minister of the sacrament is still the bishop.

Because the bishop cannot be present at every baptism, the post-baptismal anointing of confirmation is delayed, but that should only serve to remind us that this sacrament is our participation in Pentecost, a privilege and fulfillment that our baptismal grace seeks and for which it makes us fit.

is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor" -- and adds, "Today this Scripture passage is fulfilled in your hearing" (Luke 4:18, 21). The ensuing uproar causes those assembled to drive him out of the town -- a lesson to Jesus' followers of the risks awaiting the anointed ones who seek to do God's will.

St. Paul, for one, took that lesson to heart, fearlessly proclaiming the good news despite enduring persecution and punishment throughout his ministry. "The one who gives us security with you in Christ and who anointed us is God," Paul tells the people of Corinth. "He has also put his seal upon us and given the Spirit in our hearts as a first installment" (2 Corinthians 1:21-22).

And the catechism echoes that promise: "This seal of the Holy Spirit marks our total belonging to Christ, our enrollment in his service forever, as well as the promise of divine protection in the great eschatological trial" (No. 1296).

Catholic journalist Mike Nelson writes from southern California.



1868 2018

DIOCESE of COLUMBUS

SESQUICENTENNIAL COMMEMORATION

150 Years of Gratitude, Commitment & Hope

150TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION MASS

All clergy and members of the faithful are invited to join Bishop Frederick F. Campbell, in a special Mass of Thanksgiving for the 150th anniversary of the Catholic Diocese of Columbus.

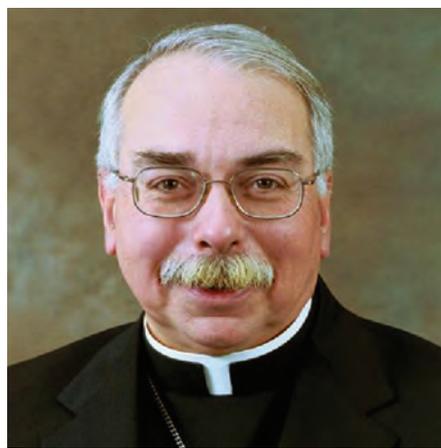
SUNDAY

APRIL 22, 2018, 5:15 P.M.

St. Joseph Cathedral

212 E. Broad St.

Columbus, Ohio 43215



CELEBRANT

The Most Reverend Frederick F. Campbell
Bishop of Columbus

For more information about
150th Anniversary activities,
visit columbuscatholic.org/150th-commemoration.