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Guadalupe Youth Summit: The third annual Guadalupe Youth Summit brought together 300 Hispanic high school students from the diocese on Feb. 24 at New Albany Church of the Resurrection for Mass, fellowship and inspiration, Page 8



CATECHUMENS FIND PEACE, JOY, TRUTH IN BECOMING CATHOLIC

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Rescue Project Live! to feature Father Riccardo

By Lori Crock

Radio personality Father John Riccardo and ACTS XXIX are launching The Rescue Project Live! on June 18 and 19 at the Celeste Center of the Ohio Expo Center (state fairgrounds) in Columbus.

Adults and youth from freshmen in high school and older are invited to hear the Gospel proclaimed by Father Riccardo, who will help attendees “make sense of it all and answer the deepest cry of our hearts.”

Father Riccardo, a priest of the Archdiocese of Detroit, is the founder and executive director of ACTS XXIX, a non-profit apostolate that seeks to help get God’s world back by equipping clergy and lay leaders to meet today’s challenges.

The Rescue Project is the outgrowth of his work with nearly 2,000 priests during the past three years, and he is inviting and preparing lay people to spend two days with him praying and learning about God’s plan.

Father Riccardo said, “God wants not only the world back, but He wants Columbus back. Not just those in the pews, but all of Columbus. Bring everyone. Bring your family, friends, co-workers and neighbors.



Father John Riccardo, a popular radio host, will be coming to the diocese in June to lead The Rescue Project Live! at the Ohio Expo Center.

Photo courtesy ACTS XXIX

“God has begun a movement to draw people closer to Himself, to shatter fear and anxiety, to give us hope, to give us confidence, to give us a language to use to go out on mission.”

The event will include music by the Damascus Catholic Mission Campus worship team, talks by Father Riccardo, time to pray and reflect, food and

fellowship. Father Riccardo hopes that Columbus will fill the Celeste Center with 5,000 people who want to “put on the mindset of Christ.”

In August, Father Riccardo and the ACTS XXIX team will follow up The Rescue Project Live! with a free video series and training booklet that will continue to help people surrender their lives to Jesus Christ.

He said that people are “rescued” by faith and are called to share it with others. The goal of The Rescue Project is to bring Jesus into relationships.

Tickets for The Rescue Project Live! cost \$30 for the two-day event. It is being organized and presented by St. Gabriel Catholic Radio in cooperation with The Catholic Foundation, the Damascus Catholic Mission Campus, the Diocese of Columbus, the Columbus Catholic Women’s Conference, the Columbus Catholic Men’s Ministry, Young Catholic Professionals, Sacred Heart Enthronement Network, St. Paul’s Outreach, FOCUS, Serra Clubs of Columbus and the Knights of Columbus.

In a video interview with Father David Sizemore, pastor of Newark St. Francis de Sales Church, Father Riccardo said, “A person should be gradually overwhelmed by the Gospel to surrender their whole life to Jesus. Only Jesus is Lord. We should be passionately convinced that He conquered sin and death, and we should want to share Him with others.”

To register for The Rescue Project Live!, visit www.stgabrielradio.com.

Lori Crock is a parishioner at Plain City St. Joseph Church and a regular columnist for The Catholic Times.

CORRECTION

Columbus St. Andrew Church is not hosting fish fries this year. The parish was incorrectly listed in the fish fry guide for the diocese in the Feb. 27 issue of *The Catholic Times*.

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Front Page photo:
BECOMING CATHOLIC
Sponsor Pawel Cappel (left) puts his right hand on the right shoulder of Mason Gilbert during the Rite of Election at Westerville St. Paul Church. Gilbert is preparing to become Catholic on the Easter Vigil at Columbus St. Christopher Church.
CT photo by Ken Snow

Diocese, conference issue call to pray for Ukraine

Statement from the Diocese of Columbus:

With the outbreak of war in Ukraine, the Diocese of Columbus urges all to join together today and every day in deep prayer for an immediate end to hostilities and a return to diplomatic dialogue that assures a real and lasting peace for all people in Ukraine, Europe, and the world.

With his call for fervent prayer around the world, Pope Francis also noted that, “Once again the peace of all is threatened by partisan interests” and appealed for those “with political responsibility to examine their consciences seriously before God, who is the God of peace and not of war, who is the Father of all, not just of some, who wants us to be brothers and not enemies.”

Statement from the Catholic Conference of Ohio:

The Catholic Conference of Ohio joins the Most Reverend Bohdan Danylo of the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of St. Josaphat in Parma and the Holy Father in calls for peace in Ukraine.

The Holy Father Pope Francis encourages believers in a special way to dedicate themselves intensely to prayer and fasting for peace in Ukraine. Archbishop José H. Gomez of Los Angeles, president of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, echoed the call from the Holy Father for prayer and fasting to end the war in Ukraine.

To donate to the Eparchy’s aid drive visit <https://stjosaphateparchy.com/support-ukraine/>

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Ukrainian student at diocesan school worries about family

By Tim Puet
For *The Catholic Times*

Anastasia Didenko, a junior at New Philadelphia Tuscarawas Central Catholic (TCC) High School, had bigger concerns on her mind as she took the ACT college readiness test on Tuesday morning, March 1.

While she is attending TCC as an exchange student this year, her parents and 12-year-old sister are living in an apartment building in Novomoskovsk, a city of about 70,000 people in east-central Ukraine.

She said that after the Russian invasion of Ukraine started on Wednesday, Feb. 23, they and about 50 other people sought shelter in a basement of the building whenever they heard the wail of air raid sirens announcing an air attack.

"I talked to them yesterday and later got a text saying they had to sleep in the basement again, as they've done many times since the invasion began," she said in a telephone interview from the school on March 1. "The closest any of the bombing has come is about 20 minutes from our home, but they can hear bombs going off and windows shattering."

After taking the ACT test, Anastasia began preparing for a retreat being conducted for TCC's sophomore, junior and senior classes last Wednesday through Friday at the Damascus Catholic Mission Campus in Knox County.

"A lot of people say the retreat will be good for me," she said. "I agree that I need the distraction. I need to do things here and to think of myself. I think it will be good to be away from



Anastasia Didenko, an exchange student at New Philadelphia Tuscarawas Central Catholic High School from Ukraine, is keeping in close contact with her family back home during the invasion by Russia. Photo courtesy Tuscarawas Central Catholic HS

school, breathe fresh air and try to think of what God wants me to do at a time like this."

But she knows that won't be easy.

"I am not here right now in my thoughts but back in Ukraine," she said. "I can't sleep well. I can't do anything without thinking of my family. It's hard to concentrate, so paying attention to the ACT questions was a real challenge. It's the longest I've put my phone down since the invasion began, and I'll have to do it even longer at the retreat. No one in Ukraine

knows what's going to happen in the next 15 minutes."

Her father is a lawyer, and her mother is an accountant. They were in different cities when the invasion began, but her mother was able to return to the family on Feb. 24. "That was a great relief," she said.

"My father has been in the army. He is in line to be called up and is ready to serve," she said. "No one is going to work unless they are in the government. They're just preparing themselves and trying to do everything possible to be ready for an attack."

Anastasia said she first heard of the invasion while preparing to go to sleep on Feb. 23.

"Friends texted me and said they were hearing planes and explosions," she said. "I called my dad immediately, and he said, 'Everything's OK. Go to sleep.' Then in the next 30 minutes, everything changed. Everyone was awake all over Ukraine."

TCC students and other young people have mobilized to help the people of Ukraine. A dress-down day organized by the school's senior class officers raised more than \$1,400 for the CARE Ukraine Crisis Fund on Monday, Feb. 28. Students were asked to wear clothes in the yellow-and-blue colors of the Ukrainian flag rather than their regular uniforms. The school also is praying a novena for peace in Ukraine.

Tuscarawas County's two parochial grade schools, TCC Elementary in Dover and Immaculate Conception in Dennison, have joined in the novena and fundraiser. A post on the TCC Facebook page reads, "Our hearts

break for her, her family, her friends, and her country. ... Some of her friends have already been put in refugee camps. Please pray for Anastasia, her family, and Ukraine."

Students of the Conotton Valley school district at Bowerston in Harrison County organized four days of fundraisers to support Anastasia, including a dress-down day similar to the one at TCC. The New Philadelphia school had a dress-down event to benefit the families of Conotton Valley students involved in a fatal car crash in mid-February.

Bobby Eddy and Heather Jones of Bolivar are Anastasia's host parents. A hair salon in Bolivar where Jones works is collecting items for Ukraine to be sent to a humanitarian group in New York.

Anastasia is in Ohio through the Future Leaders Exchange Program funded by the U.S. State Department. The program provides scholarships so that high school students from Europe and Asia can spend an academic year in the United States.

"She is an exceptional student, strong and inspirational," said TCC principal Jennifer Calvo. "It's remarkable to watch her be so knowledgeable and poised. I told her she didn't have to take the ACT today because two radio stations and *The Catholic Times* wanted to talk to her, but she said no, she wanted to speak. We're doing whatever we can to support her physically and spiritually."

Calvo said Anastasia is a cheerleader and a member of the school's Academic Challenge team and is considering joining the track team.

Ukrainian eparch of Parma asks for prayers

By Tim Puet
For *The Catholic Times*

The spiritual leader of the Ukrainian Catholic eparchy, which includes Ohio, asked the state's Catholics to pray for the people of Ukraine and to urge stronger sanctions against Russia, which has staged a military invasion of the eastern European nation.

"Life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, which are the foundation of each life, today are being taken from the people of Ukraine," said Eparch Bohdan Danylo of the St. Josaphat Eparchy, based in the Cleveland suburb of Parma. His position is equivalent to that of the bishop of a Roman Catholic diocese.

"We are continuing to pray for peace in Ukraine and for an end to a Russian aggression which has no justification. I

ask the people of the Diocese of Columbus and the other dioceses of Ohio to join us.

"With no provocation, (Russian President Vladimir) Putin has recognized two Ukrainian provinces as part of Russia and has sent thousands of troops to enforce that claim. This is as absurd as having Canada deciding on its own to recognize Ohio and Indiana as part of that nation and sending in troops to support the idea," Eparch Danylo said.

"This is all the decision of one man, and it has happened before. In 2008, Russia decided to annex (the nation of) Georgia. In 2014, it was Crimea. Who knows what Putin has his eye on next?"

"I urge President Biden and all other world leaders to put more pressure on



Eparch Bohdan Danylo is the spiritual leader of the Ukrainian Catholic eparchy based in the Cleveland suburb of Parma.
Photo courtesy Facebook

Conference speakers remind men they are called to discipleship

By Tim Puet
For *The Catholic Times*

Jesus' message that He has given all Christians a call to be missionary disciples in their own way was a common topic among speakers at the Columbus Catholic Men's Conference.

About 1,700 men attended the 25th annual conference, which returned on Saturday, Feb. 26 to Kasich Hall at the state fairgrounds after taking place by videoconference last year because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Principal speakers were Sister Miriam James Heidland, SOLT; author and podcaster Matthew Leonard; and Curtis Martin, founder of FOCUS, the Fellowship of Catholic University Students.

Sister Miriam, a member of the Society of Our Lady of the Most Holy Trinity and a speaker at the diocesan women's conference in the past, gave a presentation to the men's conference for the first time and focused on how the power and gift of men's masculine nature allow them to serve others.

She said that as King David of the Old Testament was called "a man after God's own heart," men are called to be men after the heart of Christ. "From the beginning of time, from Adam and Eve, out of everything that's come and gone, God has only ever created male and female. That is a beautiful reality. Every one of you is a man called to be a man after God's heart, to give the gift of yourself and to bear your most mature identity, that of father.

"Have you ever as a father thought, 'I have no idea what this is all about?'" she asked. "I'm here to tell you that you don't need to figure it out on your own. God will give you everything you need. ... God has given you a mission. There is a particular way He is calling you to



A call to prayer was one of the messages that approximately 1,700 attendees heard at the Columbus Catholic Men's Conference on Saturday, Feb. 26 in Kasich Hall on the state fairgrounds.

reveal the face of God the Father. That is through the gift of masculinity."

She said Pope St. John Paul II's Theology of the Body describes how "God has made you as men in a particular way to show how God loves. Trying to redefine the roles of men and women destroys masculinity and femininity as God intended them to be. Jesus Christ is inviting you to give of yourself, not by the acquisition of territory but by revealing who you are – that you can love with Christ's heart through the heart of Jesus. He reveals very deep things to us and enables us to give the gift of ourselves.

"It takes a particular kind of man to go on a journey so God can make him whole," she said. "That is the very thing God wants you to do – to order creation so that the gifts of God can flourish. We often tend to settle for mediocrity, but I don't believe in this."

She spoke of how easily a sense of

failure can lead to addiction – in her case to alcohol and lust in the years before she became a religious sister. "It nearly broke me," she said.

"Addiction, in whatever form it takes, is a traumatic response to where the heart is broken. Christianity is not sin management, but a transference into glory that occurs when we become honest in deep places. ... The Lord is not ashamed of you. His heart aches for you to be integrated with the whole truth and goodness that comes from receiving Christ in the center of your being."

Her talk was interrupted by loud applause when she said, "Your masculinity is not toxic. It is glorious. We need you as men, the gift of who you are," she continued. "We women need the Lord to come into your heart so we can give the gift of ourselves.

"The whole story of the garden of Eden was about a lie" told by Satan, she said. "The enemy still whispers to



Sister Miriam James Heidland, SOLT was the first speaker of the day at the conference.
CT photos by Ken Snow

you that God is not good for you. ... There is no other way to healing than through the paschal mystery, the suffering and death of Jesus Christ. He brings us home.

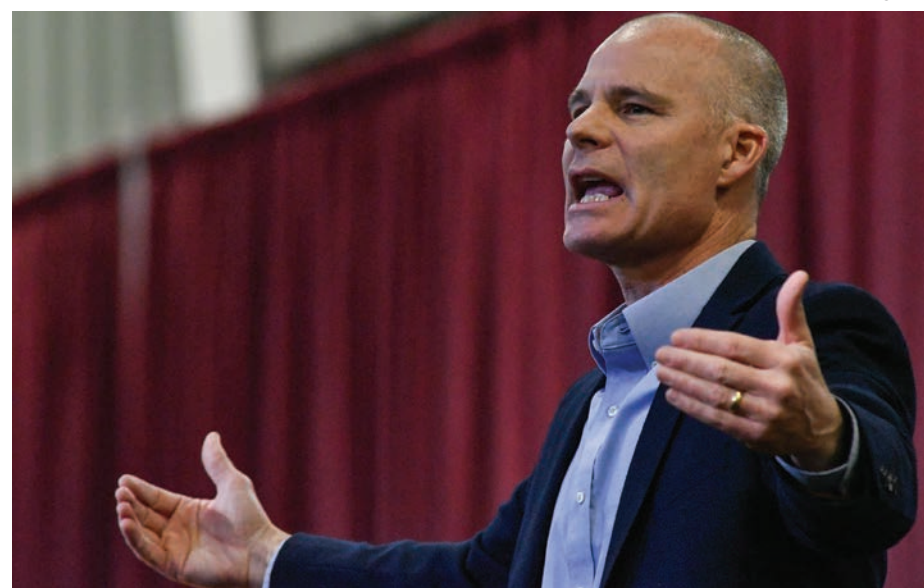
"Allow me, on behalf of the women in your life who haven't loved you well, to tell you how sorry I am," Sister Miriam said. "I just want to come to you as an emissary of their hearts, to tell you we want you to be fully alive. We want you to know who you are, as is revealed in the heart of Christ.

"There are places where we don't know what to do, and we are rehashing ourselves, getting stuck in a corner and settled in our ways. But Jesus comes to us and says, 'I'm not afraid of you. I want to come to you so you can give of your power and strength and be a blessing to others.' He will never force His

See CONFERENCE, Page 5



Curtis Martin



Matthew Leonard

CONFERENCE, continued from Page 4

way on you. He will just invite you.”

Leonard’s presentation centered on the forms and power of prayer. “Being in a relationship with almighty God will result in a fundamental change in the trajectory of your life,” he said. “The Catholic life isn’t rocket science. Jesus has given you everything you need.”

Prayer takes on many forms, including prayers of adoration, thanksgiving, sorrow and petition. “Why so many forms of prayer?” he asked. “It’s because we talk to God in different ways, depending on the situation. We should pray in both our trials and our joy.

“As the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* says, ‘God thirsts for you, and prayer is an encounter with that thirst.’ You pray differently when your child is lost in the mall than you would in praying for a promotion at work. Prayer is what changes our conversation from self-centered to God-centered.”

The three major types of prayer are vocal (praying aloud or silently and using words to express our thoughts), meditative (attempts to reflect on Jesus Christ, led by something exterior, such as a book) and contemplative (“the most difficult to explain because it’s supernatural,” Leonard said. “God pours Himself into you and becomes one with you, the consummation of spiritual life”).

He said the three types of prayer “form a type of ladder on the way to which the goal is God.” He compared prayer to a longtime marriage that starts with a couple talking to each other constantly about many things and continues over the years with the husband and wife communicating those same things to each other through a look or a gesture without saying a word, because they have grown to know each other intimately.

Leonard gave several suggestions on how to deepen one’s prayer life. “First, pick a good place and time,” he said. “There’s never a point in time when you’re not in a relationship with God, but the relationship will grow if you put aside a specific time for it. This will help you learn to order your time in general.”

Also important in prayer is maintaining an atmosphere of silence, eliminating all distractions. Leonard said this is one of the benefits of Eucharistic Adoration or of entering a church for prayer.

“Set aside 10 or 15 minutes for prayer,” he said. “In the beginning, it will be the longest 10 or 15 minutes of your life, but the more you do it, the easier it is, and in time it becomes 15 minutes, then 20, then a half-hour. Remember, this is what you were made for.

“Recollect yourself,” he continued. “Put your concerns at the door. Put yourself at the feet of Jesus. Get up a little early if you can. The best time for me to pray is before dawn.

“If you’re using a book to aid your



Men kneeling in prayer during the conference.

prayer, don’t rush through it. The goal isn’t to finish. The goal is God. Find something, pause and reflect. Let the Lord speak to you and respond to it.

“Prepare yourself and realize that prayer isn’t just about you, but about everyone else in your life, both friends and enemies. Prayer leads to peace, to hope and to God. You can’t find yourself otherwise. You get to know God through your prayer life. That’s why the saints say you have to pray every day. You get holy, or you die trying.”

Leonard said he has put together a video series for Lent on St. Teresa of Avila’s nine levels of prayer. It is available at www.scienceofsainthood.com.

Martin, speaking at the event for the fourth time, concluded the conference’s speaking program with a talk on “Making Missionary Disciples – Know, Grow and Share.”

“How do we share the faith we’ve been given as Catholic men?” he asked. “What you do is less important than who you are, but you can’t do what you’re supposed to do unless you let Christ change who you are. Do you have virtue? Are you honest? Do you have a life of prayer? Grace builds on that foundation.”

Martin recounted Jesus’ calling of the apostle Philip and his brother Nathanael as described in the first chapter of the Gospel of John. Nathanael was at first skeptical of Jesus, saying, “Can anything good come out of Nazareth?”

Verses 47 to 49 of the chapter read, “When Jesus saw Nathanael approaching, he said, ‘Here truly is an Israelite in whom there is no deceit.’ ‘How do you know me?’ Nathanael asked. Jesus answered, ‘I saw you while you were still under the fig tree before Philip called you.’ Then Nathanael declared, ‘Rabbi, you are the Son of God, you are the king of Israel.’”

“In two verses, Nathanael goes from ‘How do you know me?’ to ‘You are the



Father Dan Dury, pastor at Sunbury St. John Neumann Church, processes with the Blessed Sacrament.
CT photos by Ken Snow

Son of God,” Martin said. “Nathanael encounters Jesus, and Jesus does all the work. We’re also going to know Jesus by encountering Him. As Sister Miriam and Matthew (Leonard) said earlier today, we let Christ in by talking to Him every day.

“Think of Easter night in the Upper Room,” he said. “Thomas the Apostle wasn’t there. He said later that he would believe Jesus was in the room only if he could place his fingers in Jesus’ wounds. One week later, Jesus show up in the room again and tells Thomas He wasn’t there physically when He heard Thomas express his doubts, but He heard Thomas. Then Thomas presses his fingers into Jesus’ wounds and says, ‘My Lord and my God.’

“As with Thomas, Jesus hears your every word, even your thoughts. Your relationship with Him changes everything. He’s a life-giving spirit. The key to a relationship with Him is if we will encounter Him and allow Him into the room that is our heart. I invite you to make an appointment with God, preferably in the morning.”

Martin said Jesus presents “a crazy model” for success. “He came out of the middle of nowhere, found 12 guys and went camping with them for three years. That’s not a business plan that should work, but it did, and it works with FOCUS,” which Martin founded in 1998. The group places young lay missionaries at colleges, including Ohio State University, and uses them to evangelize among their peers.

Martin said one way everyone can serve as missionary disciples is to follow the Little Way of Spirituality described by St. Therese of Lisieux. “Just take little everyday tasks – in her case, it was folding napkins and mopping the floor – and do them with great love.

“Use the model Jesus used. Live the model Jesus lived in deep unity with the Father, Son and Holy Spirit,” Mar-

tin said. “I invite you into a deep, deep conversation and encounter with Christ through prayer and to find the Little Way. By doing this with God’s grace, as St. Catharine of Siena has said, you can set the world on fire.”

Former Columbus Bishop Robert Brennan, who has been bishop of Brooklyn, New York since late November, greeted conference participants by video. “I miss you an awful lot,” he said. “In a diocese with 4 million people living in 180 square miles, it takes about as long to drive from one end of the diocese to another as it took to go from Columbus to Tuscarawas County.”

Referring to the conference theme, “Called to Be Saints,” he said, “I’m surrounded by saints in Brooklyn and Queens, just as I was in Columbus. It’s always inspiring to see men and women who try to be saints, ... to do the best they can with the help of God. The world desperately needs saints. It needs your witness. It needs you to be the saint next door.”

The conference program also included brief conversations between master of ceremonies Matt Palmer and Father Stash Dailey on enthronement of the Sacred Heart and between Palmer and Loren Brown, president and chief executive officer of The Catholic Foundation; a talk by Father Michael Hartge on the diocesan Real Presence Real Future initiative; and a video invitation by Father John Riccardo of Detroit to The Rescue Project, an event he will lead at the fairgrounds on Saturday and Sunday, June 18 and 19.

Father Dan Dury, pastor of Sunbury St. John Neumann Church, the conference’s host parish, said the opening prayer. Msgr. Stephan Moloney, diocesan administrator and vicar general, celebrated the Mass that closed the conference. Music was provided by The Neumann Project of St. John Neumann Church.

Missionary chose diocese 'alive in faith' for sabbatical

By Tim Puet
For The Catholic Times

Father Elias Udeh, CSSp, could have picked anywhere in the United States to spend a sabbatical from his missionary work in Brazil, and he chose Columbus.

"After spending nine years in Brazil, I recently reached a point where it was time for me to take the sabbatical period which many missionaries spend every few years as a period of both rest and education," said Father Udeh, 45, who has been in residence at Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral for a little more than a month.

"I wanted to experience another culture and never have been to the United States and was given permission to spend my sabbatical there.

"When many people from elsewhere think of America, they think of large cities like New York, Chicago or Los Angeles. But I wanted to go somewhere smaller and was especially attracted by the Midwest region. As I did an online study of the dioceses in that area, Columbus stood out. It seemed to be a diocese that was very much alive in the faith.

"I was especially attracted by your Real Presence Real Future initiative for renewing the Church because it seemed like you were making a great effort to listen to the people and have them help determine the diocese's future direction.

"So I got in touch with the diocese and said I would like to spend a sabbatical period there working with the poor and counseling people, as I do in Brazil. My

ANSWERING GOD'S CALL

Answering God's Call profiles the life of a priest, deacon or professed religious sister in the Diocese of Columbus.

request was granted, and I was invited to live at the cathedral."

Father Udeh flew from Brazil to Columbus via Chicago, arriving here on Saturday, Feb. 5, a day when the high temperature was 19 degrees. "I come from Nigeria and served in Brazil, so the cold weather when I arrived was enough to make me think, 'Wow! What a difference!'" he said.

"As I've gotten familiar with the city, people have been very welcoming to me, and I am adapting quickly to life here. As a missionary, your home is wherever you happen to be. As Jesus said in Chapter 28 of St. Matthew's Gospel, 'Go and make disciples of all nations.'

"In my heart, I love listening to people and have learned that most people are looking for a priest to listen to them, not for a dictator who will just tell them what to do. I'm looking forward to listening to many people in this diocese and to seeing the large area and the many types of communities it contains."

The length of his sabbatical has not been determined, but most such periods last for about a year.

Father Udeh was born in Enugu, a city of 700,000 people and the capital of the state of the same name in southeast Nigeria. He is the third of five children (three boys and two girls) born to the late Jeremiah and Virginia Udeh. His father was a civil engineer, and his mother was a textile worker who also trained women to make and sell clothes.

"My family were very strong Catholics," he said. "My mother may never have used the word, but in her work with other women she was performing acts of evangelization. My uncle Joseph, who died in 2017, was a Cistercian monk in Nigeria, and I had an aunt who died in 2005 who was a lay member of the Congregation of the Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary."

Father Udeh went to primary and secondary schools in Nigeria, then attended a technical college for three years and afterward went to work at a Mercedes-Benz plant in Enugu that makes buses, trucks and small parts.

"It's a very good company, and I was doing very well and making plans to perhaps work at one of the Mercedes plants in Germany," he said. "But as peo-

ple say, the Lord works in mysterious ways.

"I had been a lector at my church since I was 16 and had been doing a lot of spiritual reading, and this was having more and more influence on me. It was really my first formation as a priest. I began to feel more powerfully the words of Luke 4:18: 'The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor.'

"When I told my colleagues at work I had decided to study for the priesthood, most of them said, 'You're crazy!' But my family accepted the decision because of their religious background."

Father Udeh is a member of the Congregation of the Holy Spirit, known familiarly today as the Spiritans and earlier as the Holy Ghost Fathers. The congregation was founded in 1703 in France and has more than 2,600 priests and brothers serving in 60 nations, mainly in Africa. This year, it is celebrating its 150th anniversary in North America, where it is best known for operating Duquesne University, which the congregation founded in Pittsburgh in 1878.

He studied for the priesthood from 2001 to 2012, attending Spiritan schools of philosophy and theology in Enugu state that were affiliated with the University of Nigeria-Nsukka. He completed work on his master's degree in theology in 2012 in Enugu, but his diploma is from Duquesne, though he has yet to visit there.

"Many Spiritans devoted their lives to the people of Nigeria, and many are buried in a basilica there," he said. "Their presence enlightened my people. I became a Spiritan because I wished to be part of that enlightenment."

Father Udeh was ordained as a priest in Nigeria on Aug. 4, 2012 by Bishop Richard Pates of Des Moines, Iowa. His first assignment was at St. Anthony Parish in Oji River, Nigeria, where he spent a year before going to Brazil, where he served in the communities of Niteroi, across Guanabara Bay from Rio de Janeiro; Belo Horizonte, and Governador Valadares.

"As a missionary in Brazil, I needed to speak the language of the people, Portuguese," he said. "I had problems with the language at first, but gradually I learned it." He also is fluent in English, Igbo and Hausa, all of which are commonly spoken in Nigeria, "and I know a little Yoruba and Spanish," he said.

"What I did in Brazil consisted mainly of approaching the poor, empowering youths and young parents who thought they couldn't make it in life, going to places where the Church is finding it difficult and where listening is so important.

"I'm not a professional counselor and don't try to



Father Elias Udeh, CSSp

POSITION AVAILABLE

Office Manager St. Francis DeSales High School

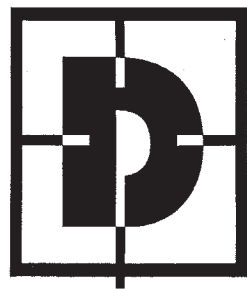
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See GOD'S CALL

How much pain management medication is too much?

To help people navigate some of the complex decisions involved in end-of-life situations, the National Catholic Bioethics Center offers a free and confidential consultation service via e-mail or phone. Often we are asked about the appropriate use of morphine and other opioids. Family members may be understandably concerned about the potential for overdosing their loved ones, as hospice workers appear to “ramp up” the morphine rapidly, especially in the last few hours of life.

What principles can guide us in the appropriate use of morphine near the end of life? It can be helpful to summarize a few key points here.

Morphine and other opioids can be very useful — indeed, invaluable — in controlling pain and reducing suffering for many patients near the end of life. Morphine is also used to alleviate anxiety and labored breathing. Opioids are highly effective pain management tools in the tool box of palliative care and hospice specialists.

These drugs need to be used carefully, since very high doses are capable of suppressing a patient’s ability to breathe, which can lead to death.

Medically appropriate use of these drugs for pain management will involve the important concept of titration. Dosage titration means giving enough medication to dull or limit the pain, but not going so far as to cause unconsciousness or death. This implies continually assessing and adjusting the balance of a drug to assure it is effective and not unduly harmful. In other words, pain medications should be dispensed in response to concrete indicators of pain and discomfort, so that patients can have their pain-relief needs met but not be unnecessarily over-medicated.

Practically speaking, it is important to pay attention

MAKING SENSE OUT OF BIOETHICS

Father Tad Pacholczyk



Father Tadeusz Pacholczyk, PhD, earned his doctorate in neuroscience from Yale and did postdoctoral work at Harvard. He is a priest of the Diocese of Fall River, Massachusetts, and serves as director of education at The National Catholic Bioethics Center in Philadelphia. See www.ncbcenter.org.

to signs of discomfort that a patient may be manifesting, whether grimacing, twitching, crying, flailing extremities, or other movements. Such objective indicators should guide those making dosing decisions as they seek to control pain and limit discomfort.

As families receive advice about how to care for their loved ones, and try to make good decisions on their behalf, one question that should be asked is, “What is the reason someone is being given (or is being advised to receive) pain medication?” Is the medication being provided because the patient is actually experiencing pain, or for some other reason, such as an intent to hasten death? This can be an important factor in determining whether the administration of a particular pain medication would be ethical or not.

By carefully dispensing pain medications without rendering patients lethargic or semi-comatose, to the extent possible, we afford them the opportunity to make preparations for their death while still conscious. In general, patients should not be deprived of alertness or consciousness except to mitigate excruciating or otherwise unbearable pain.

In order to address situations of escalating pain, it may become necessary to administer higher and high-

er doses of morphine or other opioids. At a certain point, we may face the prospect that the next dose we provide to properly control the pain will be so high that it will suppress the patient’s breathing, leading to death. The principle of double effect can guide and assist us in such cases. When the clinical requirement of proper titration of pain medications is carried out, and the other conditions of the principle are satisfied, a strict and appropriate use of pain medication in this manner can be allowable, even when it may indirectly or unintentionally contribute to an individual’s demise.

This has been helpfully summed up in Directive 61 of the Ethical and Religious Directives of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, which reminds us that, “Medicines capable of alleviating or suppressing pain may be given to a dying person, even if this therapy may indirectly shorten the person’s life so long as the intent is not to hasten death. Patients experiencing suffering that cannot be alleviated should be helped to appreciate the Christian understanding of redemptive suffering.”

In situations of truly intractable pain, it can be legitimate to employ “palliative sedation,” which involves the decision to render a patient unconscious during his or her final hours. This should be done with proper consent, obtained from the patient or the designated surrogate. It is important to avoid any suicidal intention and to ensure that other duties, such as receiving the last sacraments and saying goodbye to loved ones, have been fulfilled.

Such careful attention to pain management is of paramount importance in end-of-life care and supports both the patient and the family in a dignified way during the dying process.

Needed: An ecumenical reset

In the early 1990s, I met Kirill, now Patriarch of Moscow and All Rus’, when the man christened Vladimir Mikhailovich Gundyayev was chief ecumenical officer of the Russian Orthodox Church. The occasion was a dinner hosted at the Library of Congress by the late, great James H. Billington, whose history of Russian culture, *The Icon and the Axe*, remains the classic work on the subject. Metropolitan Kirill, as he was then styled, struck me as a sophisticated cosmopolitan, not unused to the finer things of life; there was nothing of the Dostoevskian ascetic or mystic about him. And if he seemed less a churchman than a suave and worldly diplomat in ecclesiastical garb, one had to be impressed by the cool composure with which he played that role. Much of the table talk and subsequent conversation over postprandials revolved around the possibility of Russia’s becoming a functioning democracy — a prospect for which, if memory serves, Kirill showed considerable, if urbane, skepticism.

Investigating his biography later, certain things about Kirill came into sharper focus.

In 1971, at the tender age of 25, then-Archimandrite Kirill was sent by the patriarchate of Moscow as a Russian Orthodox representative to the World Council of Churches in Geneva. Ten years earlier, the Soviet regime, then conducting a draconian persecution that shut down half the country’s Orthodox churches, had “allowed” the Russian Orthodox Church to join the World Council. The regime’s motives were hardly ecumenical, however. Russian Orthodox representatives at the World Council were carefully selected by the KGB, the Soviet secret intelligence service; their task was to block any challenge to the Soviet Union’s violations of

THE CATHOLIC DIFFERENCE

George Weigel

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religious freedom, while turning the World Council into a constant critic of the West. All this is detailed in *The Sword and the Shield: The Mitrokhin Archive and the Secret History of the KGB*. And from that invaluable resource, it is impossible not to conclude that Kirill was, at the very least, a KGB asset; he may well have been a KGB agent like another Vladimir, Mr. Putin.

Kirill’s ecclesiastical career prospered during the Putin decades and he reportedly became a wealthy man — if not on the colossal scale of Putin himself, then to the point where he was once photographed, to his embarrassment, wearing a \$30,000 Breguet watch that he assumed was hidden beneath his robes. (The Russian Church put up a fusillade of propaganda suggesting that the photograph had been doctored, although what seems to have been a subsequently airbrushed photo, deployed in Kirill’s defense, clumsily showed the watch’s reflection on a shiny tabletop.) Whatever his financial circumstances, it is indisputable that Kirill has been a faithful servant of the Russian state since his election as patriarch in 2009. And while he got blowback from reactionary Russian Orthodox circles for his meeting with Pope Francis in Havana in 2016, he must have known that, whatever internal opposition he faced

from anti-Roman clergy and congregants, the Kremlin and its master — without whose green light the Havana meeting would not have happened — had his back.

Thus it should be no surprise that Patriarch Kirill has attempted to provide cover for Putin’s unprovoked and brutal aggression against Ukraine, which Kirill has long insisted is part of the Russkiy mir, the “Russian world.” The war in Ukraine, he said on the fourth day of the Russian invasion of its neighbor, had been caused by “dark and hostile external powers,” the “forces of evil,” and “the attacks of the evil one.”

For Kirill to act as an instrument of Russian state power is nothing new. He has been doing that for decades. His Feb. 27 statement set a new low, however, deliberately invoking Christian imagery to falsify what was going on in Ukraine. The technical word for such willful, aberrant use of the things of God is blasphemy. Kirill’s profane agitprop also undercut his own Church in Ukraine, whose leader, Metropolitan Onufry, condemned the Russian invasion.

Ever since the early 1960s, the Vatican has been infatuated with the idea of a bilateral entente with Russian Orthodoxy. Whatever its noble intentions, that has been a fool’s errand and it is past time for an ecumenical reset. If two of the most venal, corrupt organizations on the planet — the International Olympic Committee and FIFA, the world soccer hegemon — can sever relations with Russia because of its lethal aggression, the Vatican can surely inform Patriarch Kirill that the Holy See’s ecumenical contacts with Russian Orthodoxy are suspended until Kirill condemns the invasion of Ukraine, thereby proving himself something other than Putin’s puppet.

Hispanic youth attend Guadalupe summit

By Ken Snow

Close to 300 Hispanic high school students from across the Diocese of Columbus attended the Guadalupe Youth Summit ¡Mi Presencia Real! (My Presence is Real!) on Feb. 24 at New Albany Church of the Resurrection.

It was the third Youth Summit, the first taking place in 2019 at Columbus St. Elizabeth Church, and the second in 2021 as a virtual event. The summit wasn't held in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Students attended from Columbus St. Francis DeSales, Bishop Ready and Bishop Hartley high schools, Columbus St. Charles Preparatory School and Columbus Cristo Rey High School. Also participating were members of Columbus St. Thomas the Apostle and Marion St. Mary parishes.

The event kicked off with a light-hearted icebreaker led by missionaries from the Damascus Catholic Mission Campus.

Then Myra Gonzales, youth evangelization director for Columbus Christ the King Church, spoke of her experienc-

es growing up in a Hispanic family in Southern California where her parents, who had emigrated from Mexico, did their best to maintain the family's Catholic faith.

In elementary school, Myra felt driven to excel in academics, sports and social activities, never settling for less than a 4.5 grade point average or being the most popular girl in school.

However, despite her confident facade, she was not happy. Then her oldest brother, who was still living at home, developed a methamphetamine addiction that led him to become abusive in his relationships. This set her emotionally adrift with little hope.

By the time Myra left home for college, she had lost her Catholic faith. At the university, she became immersed in the "party, drug and hookup" scene and drifted even further from her relationship with Christ.

But in 2013, when Myra was 18 and home from college, her father announced that he had bought her a ticket to Brazil. "Brazil?" she exclaimed. "Yes," he said. "You're going to attend World Youth Day in Rio de Janeiro."

But Myra thought, "Hmm, Brazil, handsome boys!"

She went, but things didn't turn out as she'd anticipated. At the opening Mass of World Youth Day, surrounded by hundreds of thousands of young Catholics during the Consecration, Myra found herself saying, "Jesus, during my whole life I have been told this bread is You. But I don't believe it's You. If You are real, show yourself to Me."

As she was kneeling and staring at the elevated host, she heard His voice: "Myra, this is Me. This is Me whom you have been longing for. I love you."

She started to cry, for she knew it was Jesus Christ speaking to her as the priest was consecrating the bread and wine into the body and blood of Christ.

She told the students at the summit, "It's not just a symbol. For so long I believed it was just a symbol, but it's actually the greatest gift. The mystery of our faith is the Eucharist. I was crying.

"I know some of you feel you've been forced to be here, but I want you to know that you have been chosen. It is no accident that you have been chosen and appointed by God to be here today

to hear this message. I've been reflecting upon this, and, again, if it wasn't for that moment at Mass in Brazil where I gladly said, 'Lord, use me,' I wouldn't be here today.

"And I just want to speak to your hearts right now. I know these past two years have been really difficult with COVID, the shutdowns and the isolation. I don't know what it was like in Ohio, but in California it was really hard as kids and families struggled with depression and suicide.

"I want you to understand that you're not alone, and that it is so easy to question our faith, especially when it seems no one is living it. But later today during Holy Communion, you will get to live the Mass, where you lay everything down for Jesus on that altar, where the bread and wine become the real presence of Jesus in the Eucharist.

"It is a gift. Our faith is the greatest mystery of our entire lives.

"Life is an adventure, and we are going to experience hardships, but Jesus is

See YOUTH, Page 9

Living a virtuous life can reap benefit of happiness

Jordan Peterson's book *12 Rules for Life: An Antidote to Chaos* is, by most accounts, popular, as in well liked. Peterson has garnered a large following through lectures and has many viewed videos on YouTube.

In a 2018 interview with *The Observer* headlined "Jordan Peterson: 'The pursuit of happiness is a pointless goal,'" he says, "(I)t's all very well to think the meaning of life is happiness, but what happens when you're unhappy?"

"Happiness is a great side effect. When it comes, accept it gratefully. But it's fleeting and unpredictable. It's not something to aim at – because it's not an aim. And if happiness is the purpose of life, what happens when you're unhappy? Then you're a failure."

When it comes to the meaning of life, I wholeheartedly agree that happiness is not a goal, but I wouldn't consider it a "great side effect," either. Happiness can seem "fleeting and unpredictable," but St. Thomas has a way to make happiness "less fleeting" and "more predictable" and that is through living a virtuous life or living life through virtue.

Peterson says, and you will note by your own experience, that you will be "unhappy" at some point or period in life. That doesn't mean you should conclude yourself a failure. This happens when we are misled or confused about what is good for us. Or, if we do the wrong sorts of things, even with the best of intentions, we'll tend to move away from what is really good for us.

On this path we will experience frustration, seem

AQUINAS CORNER

Richard Arnold

Richard Arnold, a parishioner at Chillicothe St. Mary, holds an MA in Catechetics and Evangelization from Franciscan University of Steubenville and is a husband and a father to two children.



like we are a failure, and we will be miserable. This is often the case when we pursue false sources of true happiness, as laid out in my previous column.

St. Thomas says we need many different virtues to be on a stable, happy path in this life as we prepare for the next life, union with God. These are human virtues, known as the moral and intellectual virtues, and the theological virtues. Each of these perfects different dimensions, capacities and powers of the human person in different ways.

What is virtue, and what are they called? There are human and divine-sourced virtues. The *Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC)* defines the human virtues as "stable dispositions of the intellect and the will that govern our acts, order our passions, and guide our conduct in accordance with reason and faith. (They) are acquired through human efforts aided by God's grace."

Different authors will espouse different virtues. Susan Muto in her book *Virtues: Your Christian Legacy* names 28. I will discuss the virtues in the three categories from St. Thomas.

The moral virtues, which the CCC labels as "cardinal" (from the Latin *cardo*, meaning hinge, because

all the others are grouped around them) are prudence, justice, fortitude (courage) and temperance (self-control). The scriptural reference for this list is Wisdom 8:7. (Greek philosophers also recognized these as the four primary virtues.) The intellectual virtues are understanding, knowledge and wisdom. These are included in the list of the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit found in Isaiah 11:1-2.

The CCC defines the theological virtues as disposing Christians to live in a relationship with the Holy Trinity. They have God for their origin, their motive and their object – God known by faith, God hoped in and loved for his own sake. They inform all the moral virtues and give life to them. They are faith, hope and charity. These find their source from 1 Corinthians 13:13.

In regard to the intellectual virtues as St. Thomas puts forth, many probably have not associated them with virtue. Father James Brent, OP, from the Thomistic Institute explains: "St. Thomas thinks of reason or intelligence in high and noble terms, and those terms are summed up in the intellectual virtues. His explanation of these reveals the potential of the human mind to go to the heights and depth of truth."

In future columns, I will explore all of these virtues, but first let us ponder these words from Psalm 119:1-3: "Blessed (think 'happy') are those whose way is blameless, who walk in the law of the Lord! Blessed are those who keep his testimonies, who seek him with their whole heart, who also do no wrong, but walk in his ways!"

GOD'S CALL, continued from Page 6

be. I know my boundaries and tell people to see trained psychologists or psychiatrists when their help is needed. But many times, just giving people a

chance to talk and engaging in conversation with them is all they need.

"Listening is healing," Father Udeh said. "One good thing I've discovered

in almost 10 years since being ordained is that many people think, 'If anyone can heal me, it's a priest.' If I'm able to do this, it's through God's grace, not

any power of mine.

"I pray every day that the Holy Spirit will continue to strengthen me so I can serve people and that I am doing my little bit to be salt and light to the world."



Students participate in an activity led by missionaries from Damascus Catholic Mission Campus during the Guadalupe Youth Summit at New Albany Church of the Resurrection.



Father Victor-Antonio Moratin, CPM, elevates the host during the consecration at Mass. Concelebrating are Father David Schalk (center) and Father Kenneth Acosta.

YOUTH, continued from Page 8

with us in the Eucharist. He is here to help you carry your cross.”

Then, Father David Schalk, diocesan vicar for Hispanic ministry and emcee of the summit, addressed the students: “The theme of our 2022 Guadalupe Youth Summit is ¡Mi Presencia Real!, which means that Jesus is truly present in the Eucharist. Jesus is present at every single Mass.

“But ¡Mi Presencia Real! is also about all of you, that you are present here, you are present in the Church, you are present in your schools. Christ is asking you to be His presence, His hands, His feet, wherever you find yourselves.”

The first Youth Summit, in 2019, was the culmination of Father Schalk’s desire to bring young Hispanic people in the diocese together. About 215 youth attended. To make that possible, Father Schalk enlisted the help of the diocesan Office of Catholic Schools and The Catholic Foundation.

The summit is based on objectives put forth by the V Encuentro Movement (vencuentro.org), which “tries to discern ways to better respond to the Hispanic/Latino presence in the U.S. and to strengthen the ways in which Hispanics/Latinos respond to the call to the New Evangelization ... therefore embracing the cultural diversity in the Church ... and to develop effective pathways to invite, engage and form Hispanic youth, young adults, and families to live out their baptismal vocation.”

Adam Dufault, superintendent of diocesan schools, attended the 2022 summit and said he supported the event. Before coming to Columbus, Dufault was a teacher and a principal in schools on the south side of Chicago where a large percentage of the population is Hispanic. “Being there in that bilingual community,” he said, “I saw the faith and the beauty, as well as the struggles, of the Hispanic population and how much the Church means to them.



Summit panelists (from left) Jatnna Garcia, Father Victor-Antonio Moratin, CPM, and Jackie Orozco share their faith stories. *CT photos by Ken Snow*

“This is a powerful day! This is a beautiful experience for our students, for our schools and for our diocese. It really celebrates an important population – about 510 students – who attend our diocesan (high) schools.”

Midway through the daylong summit, a panel of three Hispanic adults answered questions from Father Schalk and some students. Each panelist told his or her life story and how each had experienced discrimination and alienation because of their Hispanic heritage.

The panelists were Jatnna Garcia, administrative coordinator for the Ohio Bureau of Workers’ Compensation; Father Victor-Antonio Moratin, CPM, director of pastoral and apostolic formation and dean of men in the School of Theology at the Pontifical College Josephinum; and Jackie Orozco, news anchor at WSYX-TV (Channel 6) and Fox 28-TV in Columbus.

They spoke about the challenges they have faced because of their ethnicity – challenges unique to the Hispanic community in the United States. But they also spoke of the mentors who nurtured them, and they encouraged the youth present to seek out mentors and to re-

alize that they will be mentors to future generations of Hispanic youth.

Father Schalk asked the panelists, “What gives you hope for the future of these young people in the Hispanic community? What resonates and encourages you?” Their responses:

Garcia: “Today! This day gives me hope because you all are here. You are getting an education, but you are also interested in experiencing God and our faith.”

Orozco: “The fact that you students are here and that you are asking questions. Just be hungry for that information because there are more and more opportunities for Hispanics opening up now.”

Father Moratin: “The doors are opening. Young Hispanics are already leaders because of their relationships with their families.

“But remember, God is in charge. He loves all of us and has a plan for each and every one of us. So pray to the Lord and ask Him what His will is for you because, ultimately, that’s the path to happiness, peace and joy in your life.”

Ken Snow is a longtime contributor to The Catholic Times.



Holy Communion is distributed at the Guadalupe Youth Summit by Father Kenneth Acosta of Delaware St. Mary Church.



Keynote speaker Myra Gonzales leads a prayer at the end of her presentation at the Guadalupe Youth Summit.



Father David Schalk, vicar for Hispanic ministry and pastor at Columbus Christ the King Church, addresses the students.

Catechumens take a variety of roads to Catholicism

By Tim Puet
For *The Catholic Times*

Each participant in this past Sunday's diocesan Rite of Election has a unique story to tell about his or her path to the Catholic Church.

Many of the catechumens (and candidates) were led to Catholicism through a spouse, fiancée or family member. But for Jonathan Shetler, the story began at a Marine Corps boot camp; for Larry and Tracy Rota, it started with a conversation with a neighbor at a park. The COVID-19 pandemic played a key role in Megan Bellantis' decision, while social media and podcasts brought Hilton Porter to the Church.

Shetler, 18, who is taking RCIA classes at Dublin St. Brigid of Kildare Church, joined the Marines upon graduation from Dublin Jerome High School in 2021. During basic training at Parris Island, South Carolina, he snapped a thigh bone while attempting to scale a 9-foot wall.

That led to a stay in a hospital ward at Parris Island and a temporary halt to his plans for a military career, but it also led to the Catholic Church in a way Shetler never could have imagined.

"Because of paperwork delays, it took a month and a half from the time I was hospitalized until I got home," he said. "In the meantime, me and other injured recruits were put into work parties, meaning we did what we could — filing papers, cleaning and other menial chores, depending on our injuries — to fill time until we were discharged. Our pay was stopped, there was no TV, no games. Meals three times a day provided about the only variety. It was the most boring time in my life.

"One Sunday, it was my turn to scrub the bathroom. Another recruit who was Catholic invited me to go to Mass at the camp chapel. I was hesitant to do that because I come from a non-religious family, but attending church was an acceptable way of getting out of bathroom duty, so I decided to go.

"I was feeling pretty much like a failure at that point because my injury had kept me from the military career I wanted. Then the priest at Mass started his sermon, and it was all about overcoming what you see as failures in your life," Shetler said.

"The priest said God loves us and wants us to succeed. 'What's happening to you right now may not be what you had planned, but just pray and pray, and things will get better, with God showing you a path you never would have considered,' he said.

"As I heard the priest, I began to think how I was beating up on myself and didn't need to be. From that point, things did start to get better. I would pray for the most menial things, like asking God to make sure enough food



Jonathan Shetler (right), who will become a member of Dublin St. Brigid of Kildare Church, stands with his sponsor, Bob Kane.

was available for everyone on the ward or praying to get out as soon as possible.

"Once I did get home, I no longer had that sense of failure and felt I needed to keep going to church. St. Brigid's is the closest Catholic church to my home, so I began going to Mass there. It's such a traditional-looking, beautiful place, and I could feel a sense of holiness whenever I was there," Shetler said.

"One of the things I never knew about the Catholic Church that's important is that everything is rooted in the Bible. It's not something that someone made up. You can point to references all over the Scriptures to explain Catholic teaching. It also took a while to understand that both the Bible and tradition have importance, but as I've been reading the Catechism of the Catholic Church, I'm understanding how things fit together and make sense."

Shetler is working for a company his father owns that makes key chains. He has been talking to an Army recruiter and hopes to resume his military career in that branch of the service. His baptismal godfather and confirmation sponsor is Bob Kane, a longtime friend of his father's.

Larry Rota, 66, said his father was a non-practicing Catholic and his mother occasionally went to a Church of Christ. His wife of 31 years, Tracy, 64, said she was raised in a Lutheran family and was "a more regular churchgoer."

"When we got married, we agreed to find a church we could both attend regularly," Tracy said. That turned out to be Liberty Presbyterian Church in Delaware County, which has a history that dates to 1810 and has grown substantially in recent years because of population increases in northern Franklin and southern Delaware counties.

Larry was employed as a software developer until retiring in 2021. Tracy is a medical assistant at the wellness center of the Dominican Sisters of Peace, who hired her in 2018 after she had spent 11 years working at a physician's office.

"I was looking for a new job because the work had become very difficult," she said. "I could tell the staff and man-



Msgr. Stephan Moloney, diocesan administrator and vicar general, presents the homily at the Rite of Election on Sunday, March 6.



Megan Bellantis (right) is preparing to become Catholic at Columbus St. Andrew Church. She and husband Colin have two boys.



Jason Lynd (center) of Coshocton Sacred Heart Church states his name during the Rite of Election at Westerville St. Paul Church.
CT photos by Ken Snow

agers there were somewhat hostile to my being a Christian. It also had a pretty drab atmosphere in other ways. For one thing, there were no windows. But I was afraid of how hard it might be to get another job.

"Larry and I took this to prayer, and one day we took a walk in the Columbus Park of Roses, which is near our home in Clintonville. We went on a different path than we usually do and ran into Susan Brown, a neighbor who is a registered nurse and works with the Dominican sisters. She knew I was looking for work and said they had a position available that she felt I could fill if I was interested.

"I interviewed with the sisters and got the job, and it made an immediate difference. For one thing, I had my office and it was full of windows, and I didn't have to be concerned about being a Christian.

"Sometimes I could hear the sisters singing in their chapel, and it was magical. One day, a mobile mammography vehicle came to the center. I had a mammogram, and learned I had breast cancer. At my old job, I would have been too busy to take the time for a mammogram, so this job may have saved my life," she said. She's had radiation

therapy and two surgeries for her cancer and says she is doing well now and having regular checkups to make sure the cancer doesn't return.

"Soon after the mammogram, the sisters had a ceremony of wellness and prayed over me," Tracy said. "I was impressed by how much they cared for me. I began to pray in their chapel, and once while there, I could feel the presence of someone walking around me, going from left to right and right to left. I knew someone was there, even though I couldn't see anyone.

"I saw Sister Mary Ann Fatula in the hallway and told her about this, and she said, 'Tracy, you know the Eucharist is there.' 'What's the Eucharist?' I asked. 'It's Jesus,' she told me. I learned more about the Eucharist and realized I wanted to be a Catholic."

The Rotas are taking RCIA classes at Columbus Our Lady of Peace Church with parish evangelization director Anthony Rosselli, Deacon Jeffrey Fortkamp and Father Sean Dooley, pastor.

"They've made it really enjoyable to learn about the Church each week," Tracy said. "The history is so fascinating.

Rite of Election history goes back to early Church

About 300 people who have been taking classes on the Catholic faith for much of the past year to prepare for receiving the sacraments of baptism, confirmation and the Eucharist at the Easter Vigil took part on Sunday, March 6, in the diocesan Rite of Election at Westerville St. Paul Church.

The rite has a history that dates back to the introduction of Gentiles to Christianity as the Church expanded from its Jewish roots. Its present form is part of the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) that was introduced in 1972, translated into English in 1974 and made mandatory in the United States by the nation's bishops in 1988.

This past November, the bishops pro-

posed some changes in RCIA procedure that are awaiting Vatican approval. After approval comes, the process will be known as the Order of Christian Initiation of Adults.

Participants in the Rite of Election are unbaptized adults known as catechumens, which derives from a Greek word for "being instructed."

Also taking part in RCIA classes, but not in the Rite of Election, are candidates – people who have been baptized as Catholics or in another denomination but who have not been confirmed or received the Eucharist. They will enter full communion with the Church upon being confirmed and receiving their first Holy Communion at the Easter Vigil.

The Rite of Election takes place each year on the First Sunday of Lent. Catechumens indicate their desire to join the Church by signing the Book of the Elect, giving them the title "members of the elect."

The word "election" in this case has nothing to do with politics; rather, it is a discernment that God is present in the life of the catechumens and is inviting them into a fuller life of the sacraments.

Celebration of the rite has two parts: a sending and a receiving. First, catechumens are sent by their parishes. This is a public pronouncement that they are ready to enter a covenant relationship through participation in the sacramental life of the Church.

In the United States, this is done through their presentation to a bishop in a ceremony conducted at one or more parishes in a diocese. This is the first of many sendings they will experience in their faith journey.

Those who are sent can then be received. The bishop or auxiliary bishop of a diocese attends the Rite of Election, accepts the parish community's judgment, receives the catechumens and invites them to enter their names in the Book of the Elect.

Because the Diocese of Columbus is awaiting appointment of a bishop, Msgr. Stephan Moloney, diocesan administrator and vicar general, will perform the duties normally assigned to a bishop at this year's Rite of Election.

CATECHUMENS, *continued from Page 10*

It's been a transformative experience, something really hard to explain. I've always felt I was a religious person, but now I sense an overwhelming feeling of grace I've been missing before."

"We keep 'cheat sheets' to remind us of things that are new to us or questions to ask," Larry said. "The biggest surprise for me was that the Immaculate Conception refers to Mary and not Jesus. It's an awfully technical thing, but I always thought it was the other way around. I knew Jesus had to have been sinless but didn't realize that had to apply to Mary, too."

Megan Bellantis, 34, who is taking RCIA instructions at Columbus St. Andrew Church, went to a Lutheran church as a child with her mother but grew up in what in many ways was a Catholic atmosphere.

"I had 12 years of Catholic education at St. Teresa School and Catholic Central High School, both in Springfield," she said. "I loved the Catholic Church and thought I might become a nun someday. Father Richard Walling, the pastor at St. Teresa's, allowed me to be an altar server, and I took advantage of the opportunity every chance I could."

"Then I went to high school and started dating someone who went to a non-denominational church and got involved with the youth group there. I didn't walk away from the Catholic Church, since I wasn't a Catholic to begin with, but got more involved with the other church."

"After I met my husband, Colin, who is a cradle Catholic, I realized I knew more about the Catholic Church than he did," she said. "We both worked in children's ministry at the Vineyard in Columbus, another non-denominational church. After five or six years there, I felt that something wasn't right and perhaps I should become a Catholic but was conflicted because we had many friends at the Vineyard."

"Then COVID hit, and the world shut down. It gave us sort of a free pass not



Tracy Rota (center) stands during the presentation of the catechumens during the Rite of Election. She and husband Larry are entering the Catholic Church through Columbus Our Lady of Peace Church.

CT photo by Ken Snow

to attend the Vineyard. I felt a strong yearning to go to Mass again, and in June 2020 I began doing that with my grandfather, Tom

Lynch," whom many area residents know as owner of the former Woodhouse Lynch Clothiers across the street from the Ohio Statehouse. Lynch will serve as his granddaughter's godparent and sponsor.

"The more Masses I attended, the more I wanted to know," she said. "I was on fire. I couldn't learn enough. Gus Lloyd's book *A Minute in the Church: The Mass taught me a great deal, and I had my grandfather's example of being a faithful Catholic. I knew joining the Church was what I wanted because it made me feel at peace.*"

Bellantis went to Mass with her husband and grandfather on Christmas Eve 2020 and told them she wanted to take RCIA classes. Colin, because he is a baptized Catholic, is not required to be an RCIA participant but is relearning Catholic teaching with her.

"I knew a good bit about the faith from my earlier experience, but RCIA has given me a deeper understanding of the Church and of its symbolism," she

said. "I've admired my grandfather's faith so much and wanted it to make sense to me, and now it does. I was concerned about what my Vineyard friends and my brother, who is a Lutheran pastor, would think, but their reaction was better than I anticipated."

She and Colin have been married for 11 years and have two boys, ages 6 and 8, who are being homeschooled and attending the St. Andrew Parish School of Religion. She has a nursing degree from Ohio State University, owns a Jazzercise studio and serves as needed as a nurse at Nationwide Children's Hospital. Colin is employed by Abbott Laboratories.

Hilton Porter, 41, had a grandfather who was a Pentecostal preacher. "Because of him, I had a distant respect for religion but wasn't much of a churchgoer as I grew up," he said. "I became a Christian after I was married, for a time was a youth minister and developed some Calvinist convictions."

"I'm on the road a lot as a home health nurse for the Adena Health System in Chillicothe and listen to a lot of podcasts while traveling. A gentleman I was following on social media who

came from a Baptist background and was then an Anglican started sounding more and more like a Catholic, so one day I asked him, 'Are you Catholic?'" Porter said.

"He said he was taking RCIA classes, and I began to think I needed to tell him why he was wrong. We had some discussions that in time led us to the early Church fathers, and he referred me to the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*."

"I began listening on the Creedal podcast to another man who underwent a similar transformation and sent an email to him. He got me in touch with Casey Chalk, a writer for *Called to Communion* (a website for former Protestants who have become Catholic). Casey really challenged me on questions I had on subjects such as who has authority in the Church, and so did Dr. Matthew Thomas," an Oxford Ph.D. who teaches at the Dominican School of Philosophy and Theology in Berkeley, California.

"I really didn't want to be Catholic, but these folks went out of their way to talk to me and encouraged me to take their views to my Baptist friends. I did, but my friends didn't seem to want to listen. I found myself defending the Catholic Church more and more."

"The big breakthrough came while reading a book on Martin Luther by a theologian named Alister McGrath, who had studied Luther's theology for 25 years. He said Luther's theology was a completely new thing in its time, and a light came on in my head."

"I thought, 'If what Luther says is true, why didn't we hear about it for 1,500 years? This was not the view of the early Church fathers.' That made me feel humbled and humiliated and was the final thing that convinced me to be a Catholic."

Porter is taking RCIA classes at Chillicothe St. Peter Church. "I intend on being involved in parish activities, but think I want to take a year just to focus on being Catholic and settle into the pattern of the Church year," he said.



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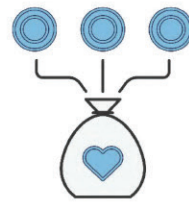


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PEACE OF MIND WITH AUTHENTICALLY CATHOLIC GIVING

St. Charles, DeSales swimmers win state championships

Spencer Aurnou-Rhees has competed in high-level U.S. and international swimming events while still in high school, but one achievement that had been missing from his impressive resume was a state championship.

The Columbus St. Charles Preparatory School senior checked that box on his list of accomplishments late last month when he won not one, but two titles at the Ohio High School Athletic Association State Swimming and Diving Championships on Feb. 25-26 at Branin Natatorium in Canton.

“It really is an incredible meet,” Aurnou-Rhees said. “I’ve been to a few even at the international level, but the Ohio high school state championships is truly a special meet, and it is one of the most exciting ones out there.”

Aurnou-Rhees was not the only state swimming champion from a diocesan high school. Columbus St. Francis DeSales senior Brady McInerney duplicated fellow Central Catholic League swimmer Aurnou-Rhees’ effort with two state titles of his own in Division II.

In Division I competition, Aurnou-Rhees won the 200-yard individual

medley in a time of 1 minute, 46.03 seconds and the 100 freestyle in 44.52 seconds. He also swam on St. Charles’ 200 and 400 freestyle relay teams along with Ben Stevenson, Jack Keller and Ryan Alfred that finished fifth in each race.

The two first-place individual finishes and the fifth-place results in two relays propelled St. Charles to seventh in the final Division I team standings with 113 points, nine behind sixth-place Upper Arlington. Beavercreek claimed the team title with 211.5 points.

Aurnou-Rhees had raced at the state meet previously but never had climbed



Spencer Aurnou-Rhees



Brady McInerney

to the top step of the podium as a race winner until this year. In the COVID-affected season of 2021, he took second in the 100 free and finished third in the 200 free. Those two state medals and the two this year gave him six in his high school career, and he’ll graduate

from St. Charles this spring with a number of school records.

“I was so grateful that all my dedication and sacrifices paid off, and was ecstatic to have finally reached one of my biggest goals of winning state championships,” Aurnou-Rhees said. “It was a dream come true.”

Aurnou-Rhees’ success extends beyond the high school pool. Last year, he qualified for the U.S. Olympic trials and clocked a personal-best time of 2 minutes, 2.43 seconds in the 200-meter individual medley. Then, from Sept. 28 to Oct. 10, he traveled to Berlin and Budapest, Hungary, as a member of the U.S. Junior National team.

And his swimming days are far from over. He’s headed to the University of Texas-Austin in the fall to swim for the Longhorns, the top-ranked team in NCAA Division I this season, and more national and international meets lie ahead.

McInerney also will be swimming in college starting next fall at the University of Kentucky after winning the Division II 100-yard freestyle at the state meet for a second straight year with a time of 45.07 seconds and adding a second victory in the 50 free in 20.65 seconds.

After falling on ice and breaking an ankle on Dec. 31, McInerney recovered and became the first DeSales swimmer to win multiple state titles. He qualified for the state meet all four years during his high school career.

DeSales finished 19th in the team standings with 40 points.

Hartley girls reach state tournament

The last time Columbus Bishop Hartley reached the final four in the girls state high school basketball tournament, the current members of the team were not yet born.

Twenty-one years since the Hawks’ last appearance in the final four, they advanced to the semifinals and were slated to play Kettering Archbishop Alter at 7 p.m. Thursday, March 10 in a Division II matchup in the University of Dayton Arena.

“We’re overjoyed,” Hartley coach Donald Dennis said. “We’re a very tight-knit group, and all the girls really like each other. And we got an opportunity to do something pretty special.”

Hartley entered the semifinal with a 20-6 record, and Alter, ranked second in the final Associated Press Division II state poll, was 26-1. The Lady Knights, who have won four state titles, were appearing in the final four for the fifth time in nine years.

The Hawks have won two state titles, the last coming in 2000 and the first in 1978.

“We’ve talked a lot about it was 22 years from 1978 to 2000, and here we are 22 years from 2000, before any of them were alive,” Dennis said.

Two impressive victories last week over higher-ranked teams allowed Hartley, unranked in the final regular-season poll, to win a regional championship for the first time since 2001 and keep its postseason run going.

On Tuesday, March 1, Hartley outlasted sixth-ranked Toledo Central Catholic, which had lost only once entering the game, 47-45 in double overtime. Kiki McElrath scored a game-high 26 points and had four steals, Bella Parker added 12 points and Ella Brandewie contributed 15 rebounds and blocked eight shots.

Then on Friday, March 4, the Hawks took down top-ranked and previously undefeated Shelby 42-31 before a pro-Shelby crowd at Mansfield Senior High School.

Defensive-minded Hartley held Shelby to two points in the first quarter and seven points at halftime, and fought off challenges the rest of the game. Brandewie finished with eight points, 14 rebounds and five blocks, and McElrath scored 14 points.

“I thought we defended really well,” Dennis said. “I think the girls respected them, but I don’t think they were afraid. We’ve played a pretty tough schedule, and so they’re used to tough competition. It took us a little while to settle down, but once we got into the second half we started to execute.”

No matter the outcome in the state tournament, the season has been one to remember for the Hawks, who also dealt with a one-week COVID-19 break in January.

“I knew coming into the season we were a close-knit group, but I couldn’t tell you that I saw this success coming,”

All-Central Catholic League girls basketball teams

First team

Kiley Graham, Kenna Ryan, Sophie Ziel, Bishop Watterson; Kiki McElrath, Ella Brandewie, Bishop Hartley; Jady Arnold, St. Francis DeSales; Reagan Wheatley, Bishop Ready

Second team

Camille Gregory, Alex Machol, Bishop Watterson; Lexi Cashwell, Bella Parker, Bishop Hartley; Elizabeth Meeker, Celina Davis, St. Francis DeSales; Hope Orders, Bishop Ready

All-Central Catholic League boys basketball teams

First team

Chase Walker, St. Charles; Caleb Schaffer, Luke Ruth, Bishop Ready; Atticus Schuler, St. Francis DeSales; Charlie Lewis, Cole Rhett, Bishop Watterson

Second team

Amari Gaston, Bishop Hartley; Charlie Russell, Troy Hixon, Bishop Ready; Isaac Searls, St. Charles Preparatory School; Owen Samenuk, Bishop Watterson; Cruz Sanchez, St. Francis DeSales

Dennis said. “Our mantra has been, we don’t care who scores and, really, just sharing the basketball and being a family and not worrying about who plays. They lean into their faith and their family.”

EPARCH, continued from Page 3 -

Russia by applying more sanctions and ask for everyone’s continuing prayers.”

The eparch said a priest from his eparchy is helping to coordinate the evacuation of children from an orphanage in the Ukrainian capital of Kyiv who are trying to reach Latvia.

The St. Josaphat Eparchy serves about 11,000 Ukrainian Catholics in 12 states and has 10 parishes in northern Ohio, mostly in the Cleveland-Akron-Youngstown region. It has no parishes in the Diocese of Columbus.

More than 42,000 Ukrainians call Ohio home. The largest number – more than 4,100 – live in Parma, with a significant concentration in an area of the city known as Ukrainian Village. Eparch Danylo led a community gathering on Feb. 24 at the Pokrova Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church in Parma to pray for peace and freedom for the people of Ukraine.

The Ukrainian Catholic Church is one of 23 Eastern Rite Catholic churches in communion with Pope Francis and the Roman Catholic Church. It is led by His Beatitude Sviatoslav Shevchuk, based in Kyiv.

In a statement issued shortly after the invasion began Feb. 23, the Ukrainian church leader said, “We consider the defense of our native land, our historical memory and our hope, our God-given right to exist to be the personal responsibility and sacred duty of the citizens of Ukraine.”

Second Sunday of Lent Year C

Trust in God to reach the light

Genesis 15:5-12, 17-18
Psalm 27:1, 7-8, 8-9, 13-14
Philippians 3:17-4:1
Luke 9:28b-36

God has made a covenant with all the nations through Abraham. He has shared His own life with us in the person of Jesus, Who is a light to all nations. The message of the Scriptures of the Second Sunday of Lent is a timely reminder of the destiny in store for us if we are open to receiving it.

We hear an account of God's "signing of the contract" with Abram – as he is called before God lengthens his name to establish his being the "father of nations" (see Genesis 17). The elaborate ritual described in Genesis 15 is simply the action of God "signing on the dotted line" to establish the terms of the contract.

When the peoples of the ancient Near East wanted to make alliances, they offered the stipulations of the "contract" and the consequences of failure to follow through. Note that in this case, Abram is passive. God makes the covenant on His own initiative, as a promise, in this moment establishing that Abram will have descendants of his own, and they will have a land of their own in which to live.

Reading further in the story of Abraham, we discover that God's promise is that Abraham will have a son, his own progeny with Sarah, whose descendants will claim the land being given in promise. He is also told that he will become the father of many nations, and that he will be a blessing to them. We are certainly in need of that blessing in our time!

Luke's account of the Transfiguration of Jesus highlights some characteristic themes of his Gospel. Jesus goes up the mountain with His three most trusted disciples to pray. The other accounts do not explicitly mention that prayer was the purpose for the climb. We know that Jesus often went to deserted places to pray by

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Father Timothy Hayes

Father Timothy M. Hayes is pastor of Chillicothe St. Mary and St. Peter; and Waverly, St. Mary, Queen of the Missions.



Himself. In this moment, He is inviting Peter, John and James (note the change of order) to share an intensely intimate experience.

The Transfiguration is an "overflow" of Jesus' prayer that pours over these disciples as light, much like the darkness that covered Abram in his encounter with God was pierced by the smoking fire pot and flaming torch that made known the presence of God.

Luke also tells us that Peter and the others experience Jesus' glory after they have fallen into a deep sleep. A promise is being made, but the action of establishing the New Covenant will unfold in the Passion that will be celebrated at the end of our Lenten journey.

For now, Jesus is given the consolation of the presence of Moses and Elijah, who speak to Him with understanding of His "departure," that is, literally His "Exodus." This strengthens Jesus in facing the "cup" He will have to drink.

As we enter into the journey of Lent, we are called like Abram to put our trust in God as we face the darkness of the world around us. We glimpse the glory of the Lord in the face of Jesus, Who invites us to enter into the depth of His own prayer.

May our works of prayer, fasting and almsgiving prepare us to enter into the joy that He promises. May we renew our commitment to share the life of God with all our brothers and sisters. May God's own promises to us enliven our hope, and may we be a sign to others that the Lord is our light and our salvation.

On the First Sunday of Lent, many

3/14-3/19

MONDAY

Daniel 9:4b-10
 Psalm 79:8-9,11,13
 Luke 6:36-38

TUESDAY

Isaiah 1:10,16-20
 Psalm 50:8-9,16b-17,21,23
 Matthew 23:1-12

WEDNESDAY

Jeremiah 18:18-20
 Psalm 31:5-6,14-16
 Matthew 20:17-28

THURSDAY

Jeremiah 17:5-10
 Psalm 1:1-4,6
 Luke 16:19-31

THE WEEKDAY BIBLE READINGS

FRIDAY

Genesis 37:3-4,12-13a,17b-28a
 Psalm 105:16-21
 Matthew 21:33-43,45-46

SATURDAY

2 Samuel 7:4-5a,12-14a,16
 Psalm 89:2-5,27,29
 Romans 4:13,16-18,22
 Matthew 1:16,18-21,24a
 or Luke 2:41-51a

3/21-3/26

MONDAY

2 Kings 5:1-15b
 Psalms 42:2-3;43:3-4
 Luke 4:24-30

TUESDAY

Daniel 3:25,34-43
 Psalm 25:4-5b,6,7bc,8-9

Matthew 18:21-35

WEDNESDAY

Deuteronomy 4:1,5-9
 Psalm 147:12-13,15-16,19-20
 Matthew 5:17-19

THURSDAY

Jeremiah 7:23-28
 Psalm 95:1-2,6-9
 Luke 11:14-23

FRIDAY

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

SATURDAY

Hosea 6:1-6
 Psalm 51:3-4,18-21b
 Luke 18:9-14

DIOCESAN WEEKLY RADIO AND TELEVISION

MASS SCHEDULE: WEEKS OF MARCH 13 AND 20, 2022

SUNDAY MASS

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

10:30 a.m. Mass from Portsmouth St. Mary Church on St. Gabriel Radio (FM 88.3), Portsmouth.

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. Mass from St. Francis de Sales Seminary, Milwaukee, at 10 a.m. on WWHO-TV. Check local cable system for cable channel listing.

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

p.m., and midnight).

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

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

DAILY MASS

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

(AM 820), Columbus, and at www.stgabrielradio.com.

12:05 p.m. weekdays, 8 a.m. Saturdays, Mass from Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral on St. Gabriel Radio (AM 820), Columbus, and at www.stgabrielradio.com and diocesan website, www.columbuscatholic.org. (Saturdays on radio only).

Videos of Masses are available at any time on the internet at these and many other parish websites: Mattingly Settlement St. Mary (www.stannstmary.org); Columbus St. Patrick (www.stpatrickcolumbus.org); Delaware St. Mary (www.delawarestmary.org); Sunbury St. John Neumann (www.saintjohnsunbury.org); and Columbus Immaculate Conception (www.iccols.org). Check your parish website for additional information.

We pray Weeks II and III of the Liturgy of the Hours.

who are called to the Easter sacraments experience the Rite of Election (the catechumens who will be baptized at the Easter Vigil) or the Call to Continuing Conversion (the candidates who will enter into full communion in the Cath-

olic Church and receive the sacraments of confirmation and Eucharist). We join them in prayer, confident that the Lord will fulfill all He has promised them when they complete their Lenten journey.

Third Sunday of Lent Year C

Earthly life is but a taste of eternal life with God

Exodus 3:1-8a, 13-15
Psalm 103:1-2, 3-4, 6-7, 8, 11
1 Corinthians 10:1-6, 10-12
Luke 13:1-9

We are called to union with God. That is the purpose for our earthly life. As the old catechism explained, "God made me to know Him, to love Him and to serve Him in this life, and to be happy with Him forever in the next."

In the Lord's Prayer, we have the petition: "Thy will be done on earth, as it is in Heaven." All that is presented to us along our journey of faith is to help us to understand Who God is and how

He desires to have a living relationship with us.

The Third Sunday of Lent invites us to acknowledge that what is given to us on earth is only a hint of what God wants to share with us.

The encounter between Moses and God in the burning bush is central to understanding the journey of the people of God from bondage to freedom and the whole reality of the life of faith. Moses, who has fled Egypt and apparently has no intention to return, encounters God in the midst of his daily routine as a shepherd of flocks. God calls out to him from nature and turns his world upside

down.

When we face the world not as we would like it to be, but as it is, we are confronted with the hard truth that nothing we encounter on earth satisfies. We also learn that God is listening to the cry of our hearts. "I have witnessed the affliction of my people in Egypt and have heard their cry of complaint against their slave drivers, so I know well what they are suffering."

God identifies Himself as the God of the fathers, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. This implies that He is the God Who intends to fulfill His promises. When Moses presses Him for a name, the

name given is an enigma. It is written, "YHWH."

The pronunciation of these letters is a mystery. A scholarly guess that fits Hebrew grammar is to spell it "Yahweh." The Jews chose not to pronounce it but said instead "Adonai," or "Lord." Taking the vowels of this word, some give the form as "Jehovah." Many now simply say "HaShem," that is, "the Name."

However, there is an interesting suggestion that leaves out vowels. Say the word using just the letters given. Do you understand? It is your very breath,

Local news and events

Museum director to speak to record society

Shawn Kenney, executive director of the Museum of Catholic Art and History in Columbus, will speak at the quarterly meeting of the Catholic Record Society at 2 p.m. Sunday, March 20 in the museum, located in The Catholic Foundation building at 257 E. Broad St. His topic will be the museum's past, present and future. The talk will be followed by a brief business meeting and a tour of the museum.

Parking is available in front of the museum and at parking meters on Broad Street (parking meters are free on Sunday on both sides of East Broad Street). Parking also is available behind St. Joseph Cathedral.

Kenney has been director of the museum since 2013. It was opened in 1998 in the former Columbus Holy Family School building as the Jubilee Museum in honor of the jubilee year celebrated by the Catholic Church in 2000. It reopened at its current location last year after structural problems caused its closing at its original site in 2019.

Mask wearing is optional and food will not be served. For more information, contact Mike Finn at (614) 268-4166 or FCoolavin@aol.com.

'Times' columnist to speak at Shrine

MaryBeth Eberhard, a columnist and contributing writer to The Catholic Times and CatholicMoms.com, will present a talk titled "Helpful tools for raising a Catholic family in every season" at a Women's Lenten Retreat on Tuesday, March 15 at the Shrine of Our Lady of Consolation in Carey, Ohio.

Mass is at 6 p.m. in the Basilica. The talk and a light dinner in the Shrine cafeteria will follow.

There is no cost to attend. RSVP to the parish office at 419-396-7107.

Resurrection hosts retreat for Deaf

The New Albany Church of the Resurrection, 6300 E. Dublin Granville Road, will host a retreat for all Deaf people, interpreters for the Deaf, and hearing people who are fluent in sign language on Saturday, April 23.

ETERNAL LIFE, continued from Page 14

breathing out (YH) and breathing in (WH). At a moment that will come for all of us, we will breathe out, but then God will keep the breath for Himself.

The humbling realization that God is longing to enter our world, that He understands our suffering, allows us to see all suffering in a different light. As Jesus points out to the disciples who speak of the death of some Galileans due to the cruelty of a political tyrant, suffering is part of life, and it comes without reference to the guilt or innocence of those who experience it.

We can all acknowledge that, at the present time, those who are suffering in Ukraine do not deserve to suffer in this way, any more than those who suffer because of natural disasters.

We are called to allow God to breathe in us. We, too, should witness, that is, see clearly, the affliction of many. We can hear the cry of

Conducting the retreat will be Father Mike Depcik, OSFS, one of nine Deaf priests in the United States, who is director of Deaf ministry for the Archdiocese of Detroit. His theme will be "God's Future Saints."

The retreat at the parish's ministry center will open at 10 a.m. and will include two talks, the Sacrament of Reconciliation from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. and Mass at 5 p.m. celebrated by Father Depcik and Father Denis Kigozi, pastor of the parish. The Mass will be in American Sign Language with a voice interpreter for hearing people.

Registration is required. Go to www.cotrna.org to register. For more information, contact Kathy Hodges at signhodges@gmail.com or (614) 296-2994 voice or text.

Amazon, ODU form partnership

Amazon has selected Ohio Dominican University (ODU) as an education partner for its career choice program, which gives Amazon's hourly employees the ability to enhance their educational credentials at no cost and an opportunity to learn new skills for career success and advancement at Amazon and elsewhere.

Amazon employees will be eligible to pursue any of ODU's available undergraduate certificates, associate degrees or bachelor's degrees. To view a complete list of ODU's academic offerings, visit ohiodominican.edu/Academics.

Amazon provides educational opportunities including full college tuition, industry certifications designed to lead to in-demand jobs, and foundational skills such as English-language proficiency. It also allows participants to earn high-school or GED diplomas. It is available to Amazon hourly workers who have been employed for 90 days.

Amazon's selection process for third-party partner educators chooses partners that are focused on helping employees through their education programs, assisting them with job placements and offering education that leads to career success.

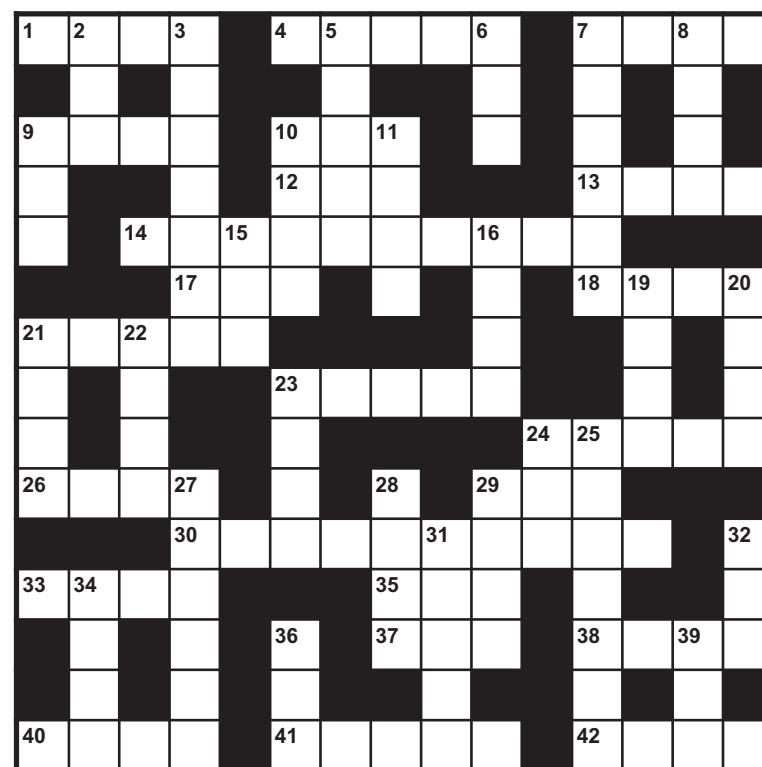
hearts and respond, committing our lives to be instruments of freedom, healing and love. We can imitate the Lord in being kind and merciful.

Alternate Readings for the First Scrutiny, Third Sunday of Lent Year A:

Exodus 17:3-7
Psalm 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9
Romans 5:1-2, 5-8
John 4:5-42

Year A readings, used at Masses when the First Scrutiny is prayed over the members of the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, invite us to pay attention to our own thirsts. We can become witnesses to the fulfillment of the promises of old as we seek "living water" from the One Who reveals Himself to us.

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ACROSS

- 1 "I will give you the ____ of the kingdom of heaven" (Mt 16:19)
- 4 Husband of Sarai
- 7 Adam was made from this
- 9 Catholic horror actor Lugosi
- 10 Book attributed to Solomon (abbr.)
- 12 Words at the end of the aisle
- 13 Liturgical season
- 14 Latin Mass
- 17 A mark of the Church
- 18 "Vaya con ____"
- 21 It was made of thorns
- 23 ____ and Omega
- 24 Paul surprised a soldier when he spoke this (Acts 21:37)
- 26 Original and actual
- 29 Opus ____
- 30 God's loving care
- 33 Father of Joseph (Lk 3:23)
- 35 Title of address for a friar or monk
- 37 Hesburgh of Notre Dame, to friends
- 38 Agape ____
- 40 Donation to the poor
- 41 "You cannot ____ the depths of the human heart" (Jdth 8:14)
- 42 "...hallowed be thy ____."

of God" (Lk 1:35)

- 8 Last word
- 9 You do this before the altar
- 10 Describes the gate that leads to destruction (Mt 7:13)
- 11 Joseph and Benjamin, to Jacob
- 15 There was no room here
- 16 The Diocese of Des Moines is here
- 19 Second word of a Latin hymn
- 20 Sacrament of the ____
- 21 "Hear this word, you ____ of Bashan" (Am 4:1)
- 22 Catholic actor Wilson who did the voice for Marmaduke
- 23 ____ Domini
- 24 Bk. of the Pentateuch
- 25 He left sad when Jesus told him to sell all he owned
- 27 Church toppers
- 28 Brought by a wise man
- 29 Lifeless biblical sea
- 31 The pharaoh had one about fat cows and lean cows
- 32 OT prophetic book
- 34 OT wisdom book
- 36 "When we eat this bread and drink this ____."
- 39 "He has shown might with his ____." (Magnificat)

DOWN

- 2 Old Testament animal of sacrifice
- 3 "His Eye is on the ____"
- 5 The Church is the ____ of Christ
- 6 Irish bishop-saint whose feast day is February 6
- 7 "...the child to be born will be ____ holy, the Son

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ALLTON, Michele A. (Fox), 77, Jan. 28
St Matthias Church, Columbus

BIANCAMANO, Irma (Competti), 99, Feb. 17
St Joseph Church, Dover

CASBARRO, Matthew, 94, Feb. 26
Our Mother of Sorrows Chapel, Columbus

CUA, Mary A. (Monesi), 89, Feb. 28
St. Paul Church, Westerville

DUPUY, Brett Edward, 53, Feb. 18
St. Patrick Church, Columbus

ELIAS, Rebecca, 63, Feb. 21
St Joseph Church, Plain City

FERSCH, David W., 80, Feb. 16
St Elizabeth Seton Parish, Pickerington

GAIER, Judy M. (Rindler), 76, Feb. 12
St. Brendan Church, Hilliard

GRAXIRENA, Mary L. (Ceballos), 83, formerly of Columbus, Feb. 18
Good Shepherd Church, Huntsville, Ala.

GRCIC, Donald T., 85, Feb. 18
St. Mary, Mother of God Church, Columbus

HAUGER, Vivian M. (Spencer), 91, Feb. 14
St Brendan Church, Hilliard

JANOTKA, Peter J., 69, Jan. 19
St Agatha Church, Columbus

JONES, Michael D., 71, Feb. 21
St Mary, Mother of God Church, Columbus

KARL, Marian (Fondriest), 88, Feb. 27
St Joseph Church, Dover

KRAIS, Walter, 93 Feb. 22
St James the Less Church, Columbus

LERCH, Pauline J. 90, Feb. 16
St Brigid of Kildare Church, Dublin

LYONS, Mary I. (Busche), 97, Feb. 23
St Catharine Church, Columbus

NEUHERZ, Constance M., 85, Feb. 18
St. Mary Church, Groveport

O'BRIEN, Lawrence J., 81, Feb. 24
St Agatha Church, Columbus

OESTREICHER, Leo F., 84, Feb. 26
St John XXIII Church, Canal Winchester

RHOADS, Esther (Hall), 90, Feb. 22
St. Joseph Church, Circleville

SALAMONY, Michael L., 85, Feb. 20
St Patrick Church, Columbus

SAURO, Martha L. (Kramer), 94, Feb. 16
St Anthony Church, Columbus

SCHNEIDER, William G. "Greg," 83, Feb. 18
St Andrew Church, Columbus

SHARP, Ronald E., 77, Feb. 25
Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, Grove City

SHOUGH, James, 83, Feb. 14
St. Andrew Church, Columbus

STEWART, Lester H., 87, Feb. 18
Sacred Heart Church, Coshocton

SWEENEY, Joan F., 86, Feb. 21
Our Mother of Sorrows Chapel, Columbus

ZIMMERMAN, May (Redding), 39, Feb. 20
St Timothy Church, Columbus

Bible scholar Cavins discusses evangelization

By MaryBeth Eberhard

Damascus Catholic Mission Campus in Knox County and Mount Vernon St. Vincent de Paul Church hosted American Catholic evangelist, author and biblical scholar Jeff Cavins on Feb. 11 and 22.

Cavins, a former Protestant who converted back to Catholicism, is the creator of *The Great Adventure Bible* study series and partnered with Father Mike Schmitz to create the *Bible in a Year* podcast. Cavins is also the founding host of *Life on the Rock* on EWTN and *Morning Air* on Relevant Radio.

The focus of Cavins' talk at Damascus was forming oneself to be a disciple of Jesus. With an emphasis on evangelization, Cavins discussed making the change from just believing in Jesus Christ to being His disciple.

In the early days, it was expected that a boy would take up the trade of his father. A traveling rabbi would go from village to village and speak to the young men. As he got to know them, he would either confirm their role as an apprentice to their father or he might say to them, "Come, follow me."

This phrase, when translated from Hebrew, means, "Can you become like me?" This calling to be a disciple was a great honor, but is a foreshadowing of Jesus' calling of His disciples. In Matthew 11:28-29, Jesus says, "Take my yolk upon your shoulders." Cavins said this means, "Take my world view." As disciples of Jesus Christ, Cavins added, we are called to take his world view and witness accordingly.

Cavins also shared stories on how to

evangelize and to share the Gospel:

- God loves you and has an amazing purpose for your life.
- Sin has wrecked this plan.
- Jesus Christ loves you. He paid the price for your sin and died for you.
- Jesus Christ loves you so much he wants you to radically reorient your life to Him.
- Be baptized and have your sins forgiven.
- Join His amazing family.
- Now go out and make disciples.

With a series of engaging stories, Cavins walked the audience through challenges they might face in sharing the Gospel message. He expressed his love for the kerygma (the Gospel message) and discussed his efforts to share it.

Cavins said that prior to dedicating his life to Jesus Christ, he loved comedy and was planning to become a stand-up comic. His comfort with the audience made the evening relaxed, enjoyable and formative.

Recently, Cavins has collaborated on *Hallow*, a Catholic prayer, meditation and sleep app, with actor Jonathon Roumie, who portrays Jesus in the television series *The Chosen*. Cavins also spoke with Damascus campus directors Aaron Richards and Dan Dematte on their podcast, *Beyond Damascus*.

The Damascus Speaker Series is free and open to the public. The next series event, "The Outpouring, Community-Wide Worship Night," is set for 6:30 p.m. March 19 and will include Gospel preaching followed by worship, Adoration and prayer ministry.

Sister Christine Diensberg, OSF

Funeral Mass for Sister Christine Diensberg, OSF, 81, who died Wednesday, March 2, was celebrated Monday, March 7 at the convent of the Sisters of St. Francis of Penance and Christian Charity in Stella Niagara, New York. Burial was in the sisters' cemetery.

She was born on Oct. 27, 1940 in Buffalo, New York to the late Robert and Rose (Bilger) Diensberg.

She became a member of the Stella Niagara Franciscan sisters on Aug. 30, 1959 and professed her vows on Aug. 18, 1962, taking the name Sister Mary Chiara.

In the Diocese of Columbus, she was a teacher at New Lexington St. Aloysius Academy from 1966 to 1969. She also was a teacher and pastoral minister in the Diocese of Wheeling/Charleston, West Virginia.

Most of her service was in the Diocese of Buffalo as a teacher, parish and campus minister, tutor, occupational therapist, activities coordinator and mental health worker. She retired from full-time ministry in 2007 but was a volunteer for several organizations and had been in residence at the Stella Niagara Health Center since 2011.

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St. Pius X Beta Club wins first-place awards



Reynoldsburg St. Pius X School's Junior Beta Club members recently competed against chapters from across Ohio during the state convention at the Hyatt Regency in downtown Columbus and won first place in Quiz Bowl, Book Battle, Engineering, Creative Writing and a number of academic tests. Beta Club students are selected for membership based on leadership, service, academics and good character. *Photo courtesy St. Pius X School*

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March 11 — Z Cucina Ristorante

March 18 — Trattoria Roma

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MARCH 4 - APRIL 8

Exercise, certain foods can bolster brain health

Staff members at Mother Angeline McCrory Manor and The Villas at St. Therese in Columbus believe that cognitive wellness is like physical wellness – to help strengthen and improve both, adults of all ages can adopt habits and exercises.

While the brain can be affected by age-related changes, developing new habits might improve brain health, memory and cognition. Adopting these lifestyle changes can improve mood and motor functions.

Here are five healthy habits to improve brain health:

Keep moving

Staying active as you age helps your brain produce the hormones needed to fuel the rest of your body. Activity also helps improve balance, energy, mood and strength. Adding exercise into your daily routine can help increase brain health while increasing blood flow to the brain. Take a stroll outside, try chair yoga, garden for an afternoon or dance with a friend.

Stimulate your mind

Like the rest of your body, your brain needs exercise. Intellectual engagement can improve thinking ability and make you feel happier and healthier. Stimulate your mind by staying social, playing a card game, completing a puzzle or trying something new. Brain games, puzzles, hobbies and critical thinking opportunities are great exercises for cognitive recollection.

Be aware of health problems

Health conditions including high blood pressure, diabetes, Alzheimer's, dementia, depression and stroke pose a risk to brain function. Staying aware and educated on conditions that you or a loved one might have or develop can help your mental health. Knowledge is power.

Eat a healthful diet

A healthy body equals a happy brain. Avoid high fat or high sodium foods, as they can lead to health problems. Eat more dark leafy greens, fish and berries rich with antioxidants. These foods have key nutrients that help fuel cognitive health.

Consider senior living

If you or a loved one could benefit from memory care assisted living, ask about The Villas at Mother Angeline. This new service line will continue our mission of providing quality care to aging adults as well as expand the care options we provide.

If you're looking for independent or assisted living, consider making the move. When you or a loved one move into assisted living at The Villas at St. Therese before the end of March, you will receive 50% off your second and third months.

To learn more, call (614) 729-6608 or visit www.carmeliteseniorliving.org/contact-us.

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March 29: Music, Penance Service, Presentation: Who is Jesus Christ?

March 30: Music, Mass, Presentation: Why the Church?

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