

# The Catholic **TIMES**

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## BLESSED WITH A NEW BISHOP

*'Walk with me,' Bishop Fernandes asks people of diocese after ordination, installation*



By Tim Puet  
For *The Catholic Times*

Bishop Earl Fernandes expressed delight during his ordination ceremony at the opportunity to be the Diocese of Columbus' spiritual leader and asked the people of the diocese to join him on a journey he hopes will continue into the mid-21st century.

"I am so happy to be your shepherd and want to work for you. I promise that I will be close to you," he said in about 10 minutes of remarks near the end of his installation as the 13th bishop of the diocese on Tuesday, May 31 at Westerville St. Paul Church.

"The pope wants a synodal church – a church that walks together," he said. "I want you, the people of God, to walk with me on a journey that leads to paradise." He noted that the feast of Pentecost is this coming Sunday, June 5 and invited the diocese's 278,000 Catholics to join him in "a new Pentecost to set the world on fire."

"I hope to be here for the next 25 years," he said, humorously adding, "Of course, that means you'll have to be listening to me for the next 25 years."

"I am asking you to make little sacrifices with great hearts for priestly vocations," he said at the conclusion of his remarks, noting that because the diocese is ordaining no priests this year, there will be more bishops than priests ordained for the diocese in 2022.

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Diocese of Columbus seminarian Peter Claver Kasasa Kiviiri (left) was ordained a deacon on Friday, May 27 at St. Joseph Cathedral by Bishop Emeritus Frederick Campbell, Page 67



**Pedaling with seminarians:**  
Seminarians from the diocese visited schools in Lancaster, Newark, Westerville and Worthington on their annual bicycle tour to promote vocations to the priesthood and religious life, Page 68



**Bishop Earl Fernandes prostrates himself at the altar before he is ordained on Tuesday, May 31 at Westerville St. Paul Church.**  
*CT photos by Ken Snow*



**Bishop Earl Fernandes displays the decree from the Vatican naming him the bishop of the Diocese of Columbus. At right are Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine and wife Fran.**

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“I also ask the young men present to consider sacrificing and making a gift of yourselves out of love for the people of the diocese” by becoming priests, said Bishop Fernandes, who at 49 is the nation’s youngest bishop.

The new bishop comes to Columbus from Cincinnati, where he was pastor of St. Ignatius of Loyola Church. He thanked Cincinnati Archbishop Dennis Schnurr, who was one of three consecrating bishops at the ceremony, for his “fatherly care and leadership as my bishop. He was influential in bringing about the rebirth and flourishing of a vocations culture in Cincinnati, and I hope to reproduce that here,” Bishop Fernandes said.

Referring to his immediate predecessor, Bishop Robert Brennan of the Diocese of Brooklyn, New York, another of the consecrating bishops, he said, “I have big shoes to fill. Bishop Brennan was here only briefly but lifted the morale of the people of this diocese.”

He remarked that he and Bishop Earl Boyea of Lansing, Michigan, a former Pontifical College Josephinum president who also was present, are the only two bishops in the world named Earl. He then noted that the Lansing diocese includes Ann Arbor, the home of the University of Michigan, and in a reference to the Ohio State University-Michigan football rivalry, said, “I am sure that he and I will have a friendly wager, and that he will lose.”

About 1,500 people, including more than 30 bishops and more than 260 priests from many dioceses, filled the church for the three-hour ceremony. St. Paul Church was chosen as the site instead of Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral because it is the largest church in the diocese, allowing more people to attend in person. The installation also was livestreamed on the diocesan website and televised live nationwide on EWTN and Catholic Television.

Unlike most of his predecessors in Columbus, Bishop Fernandes did not deliver the homily at his installation because he was not yet a bishop at that point in the ceremony. His ordination to the Order of Bishops occurred shortly after the homily by Archbishop Gregory Hartmayer, OFM Conv, of the Archdiocese of Atlanta.

This was the first time since the ordination of Bishop John Watterson, the diocese’s second bishop, in Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral in 1880 that a bishop of Columbus had not already been ordained a bishop elsewhere.

Archbishop Schnurr was the principal consecrating bishop. Bishop Brennan and Archbishop Christophe Pierre, the Vatican’s apostolic nuncio to the United States, served as co-consecrators.

Archbishop Pierre on April 2 had announced Pope Francis’ appointment of then-Father Fernandes to succeed Bishop Brennan, who was installed as bishop of Brooklyn on Nov. 30, 2021.

Bishop Brennan had been installed as Columbus’ 12th bishop on March 29, 2019 after serving as auxiliary bishop of the Diocese of Rockville Centre, New York for nearly seven years.

Msgr. Stephan Moloney, vicar general of the diocese, was Columbus diocesan administrator in the period between Bishop Brennan’s departure and Bishop Fernandes’ installation.

The ordination took place on the Feast of the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, honoring Mary’s visit to her cousin Elizabeth upon learning that Elizabeth was pregnant with the child who became John the Baptist. In the motto he chose – Veni Per Mariam, Latin for “Come Through Mary” – Bishop Fernandes expressed his reliance on the Blessed Mother. Archbishop Hartmayer’s homily focused on the Scripture readings for the day’s feast and had the theme “Mary journeys, Mary encounters and Mary rejoices,” which the archbishop said was inspired by a homily Pope Francis preached in Romania in 2019.

“Mary journeys,” he said. “She makes a difficult and dangerous journey from Nazareth to the house of Zechariah and Elizabeth. It was a journey that required courage and patience. The experience of a journey is one that resonates within the heart of our bishop-elect, Father Earl.”

He then summarized key points in the life of Bishop Fernandes, the first bish-

op of Indian origin for a Roman Catholic diocese in the United States. The bishop was born in Toledo; discerned while in medical school that he was being called to the priesthood; studied moral theology in Rome; served at the Apostolic Nunciature in Washington; was a teacher and academic dean at Mount St. Mary’s Seminary of the West in Cincinnati; and was pastor of two churches in the Cincinnati archdiocese prior to his appointment as a bishop.

The Atlanta archbishop quoted Archbishop Schnurr’s statement when the appointment was announced: “Through all his assignments, Father Fernandes has been an ever-joyful witness to the goodness, beauty and truth of the Catholic faith.”

“Mary encounters,” the homilist continued, describing Mary’s meeting with Elizabeth as an event in which the women “embrace and awaken the best of each.” He noted that in a recent interview, the bishop described instances of prejudice he had encountered.

“You did not give in to anger or despair,” he said. “Rather, you let these experiences of adversity shape your empathy and compassion. You took to heart the wise counsel of St. Teresa of Calcutta: ‘True love is love that causes us pain that hurts and yet brings us joy.’

“Mary rejoices,” Archbishop Hart-

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*Front Page photo:*  
**BLESSED WITH A BISHOP**  
Bishop Earl Fernandes takes possession of the cathedra, the bishop’s chair, after his ordination and installation as the 13th bishop of the Diocese of Columbus on Tuesday, May 31 at Westerville St. Paul Church.

*CT photo by Ken Snow*

# Catholic TIMES

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## BISHOP EARL KENNETH FERNANDES

**BORN:** September 21, 1972, Toledo, Ohio

**AGE:** 49

**PARENTS:** Sydney (died 2019) and Thelma Fernandes

**FAMILY:** Four brothers, Karl, Trevor, Ashley, Eustace

**EDUCATION:** St. Francis de Sales High School, Toledo, Ohio, 1990. University of Toledo, BS, Biology, 1994. Mount St. Mary's of the West Seminary, Cincinnati, Ohio, 2002. Alphonsian Academy, Rome, doctorate in moral theology with concentration in bioethics, 2007.

**PRIESTLY ORDINATION:** Archdiocese of Cincinnati, St. Peter in Chains Cathedral Basilica, Archbishop Daniel Pilarczyk, May 18, 2002.

**ASSIGNMENTS:** Parochial vicar, Holy Angels Catholic Church, Sidney, Ohio 2002-04. Teacher, Sidney Lehman Catholic High School, 2002-04. Associate professor of moral theology and dean, Mount St. Mary of the West Seminary, Cincinnati, 2007-16. Weekend assistant, Guardian Angels Church, Cincinnati. Parochial administrator, Sacred Heart Church, Cincinnati, 2014-16. Secretary, Apostolic Nuncio to the United States, Washington, D.C., 2016-19. Pastor, St. Ignatius of Loyola Church, Cincinnati, 2019-22.

**OTHER:** Board of Trustees, Pontifical College Josephinum, Columbus. Board of Trustees, Pregnancy Center East, Cincinnati. National Catholic Bioethics Center member. National Association of Catholic Theological Studies executive committee. Member of Knights of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre.

**EPISCOPAL ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION:** Tuesday, May 31, 2022, Diocese of Columbus, St. Paul the Apostle Church, Westerville, Ohio, Archbishop Dennis Schnurr, consecrator; Archbishop Christophe Pierre, Bishop Robert J. Brennan, co-consecrators.

**MOTTO:** Veni Per Mariam (Come through Mary)



**Counterclockwise from top: Archbishop Dennis Schnurr of Cincinnati lays hands on Bishop Earl Fernandes before the altar on Tuesday, May 31 at Westerville St. Paul Church during the ordination and installation of the Diocese of Columbus' new bishop. Bishop Schnurr places a gold ring on Bishop Fernandes' finger. Bishop Fernandes gives a blessing after Mass. CT photos by Ken Snow**

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mayer said. "She is filled with joy because she entrusts herself to the Lord in all things. Mary reminds us that God can always work wonders if we open our hearts to Him and to our brothers and sisters."

He quoted this description of a bishop's work by Pope Francis: "A bishop will sometimes go before his people, pointing the way and keeping their hopes vibrant. At other times, he will simply be in their midst with his unassuming and merciful presence. At yet other times, he will have to walk after them, helping those who lag behind and, above all, allowing the flock to strike out on new paths."

"This is the road that lies ahead of you, my dear brother Earl," Archbishop Hartmayer said.

The ceremony began with a procession of civic and religious leaders, including Gov. Mike DeWine and his wife, Fran, followed by the deacons and priests of the diocese and other bishops in attendance, including Bish-

ops Frederick Campbell and James Griffin, Bishop Brennan's predecessors as bishop of Columbus. Both live in the diocese in retirement.

Bishop Fernandes was accompanied by two priests he chose to assist him. They are Msgr. Frank Lane of the Diocese of Columbus, who is retired, lives in Cincinnati and served with him on the Mount St. Mary's Seminary faculty, and Father Richard Marchese, who worked with the bishop at the papal nuncio's office, where he was stationed from 2016-2019.

The first Scripture reading for the Mass, in Spanish, was proclaimed by Miguel Buckenmayer, with the second reading by Sister Maria Juan Anderson, RSM. Both readers are friends of the Fernandes family. Bishop Fernandes' brother, Deacon Trevor Fernandes of the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Parma, was the Gospel reader.

Following the Gospel reading, the congregation sang Come Holy Ghost, and Father Fernandes was presented

to Archbishop Schnurr, who was the principal consecrator because he is the metropolitan archbishop for the ecclesiastical province of Cincinnati, which includes the Diocese of Columbus and all five of Ohio's other Roman Catholic dioceses.

Archbishop Pierre said in brief remarks that a bishop's role is to be, like the Apostles, "a witness to the Resurrection," then read the letter from Pope Francis appointing the new bishop. The letter was presented to the diocesan chancellor, Deacon Thomas Berg Jr., and the Diocesan College of Consultors, a group of priests who serve as advisers to the bishop.

As Bishop Brennan had done at his installation, Bishop Fernandes then walked up and down the aisles of the church and held the letter aloft for all to see.

After the homily, the bishop-elect, in

# At Vespers service, clergy, faithful pray for blessings

By Doug Bean  
Catholic Times Editor

On the eve of the ordination and installation of Earl Fernandes as the 13th bishop of the Diocese of Columbus, a Solemn Vespers service was held on Monday evening, May 30 at Columbus St. Andrew Church.

Bishop Robert Brennan, the predecessor of Bishop-elect Fernandes in Columbus, returned to Columbus from the Diocese of Brooklyn to lead the prayer service. Bishop Brennan was the bishop of Columbus for 2 ½ years before the native New Yorker was appointed to be the spiritual shepherd in Brooklyn.

Archbishop Christophe Pierre, the apostolic nuncio who serves as the Vatican's representative to the United States, was scheduled to preside but missed the ceremony because of travel issues.

Bishops and spiritual leaders from other dioceses and eparchies participated in the ceremony. Among them were retired Columbus Bishops James Griffin and Frederick Campbell.

Also in attendance were numerous priests and religious sisters who serve in the 23-county diocese. They joined the invitation-only congregation, which included the four brothers and families of the bishop-elect, that filled the sanctuary.

Vespers consisted of anthems, antiphons and canticles sung by the Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral choir, directed by Dr. Richard Fitzgerald and accompanied by Amanda Mole, the cathedral's principal organist.

A scripture reading from St. Paul to the Romans preceded the homily by Bishop Daniel Thomas of Toledo, the bishop-elect's home diocese.

Bishop Thomas referenced the reading while drawing a parallel to father-



**Bishop Earl Fernandes recites the Oath of Fidelity at the Solemn Vespers service the night before his ordination and installation.**

hood and the importance of fathers teaching and providing spiritual and physical strength.

"The new bishop comes to stand in the person of the father, to become a father of this family of faith – a daunting task," Bishop Thomas said. "Dear friends, this evening, I ask that you pray for him so that he may give himself as a child of a father, a holy and ardent bishop who pours himself out for you, who loves you, nurtures you and desires to be united with you in heaven."

"Every good father loves his children unconditionally, and so will your bishop strive to love you. Every father loves first by example to protect his family from harm and evil. And so will your new bishop love you."

"Whatever our vocation, no matter what age, the discipleship we live, if we understand that we're loved by the Father, we will be at odds with a world which would have the Church change to



**Bishop Earl Fernandes (left) signs the Oath of Fidelity while Bishop Robert Brennan looks on during Solemn Vespers on Monday, May 30 at Columbus St. Andrew Church. Bishop Brennan is Bishop Fernandes' predecessor in the Diocese of Columbus.**

*CT photos by Ken Snow*

fit the world – a world that may reject us because we choose to live Jesus."

After the homily, Bishop-elect Fernandes recited and signed an Oath of Fidelity at the altar. Bishop Brennan attested to and signed the document.

A blessing of the Pontifical Insignia and items that a bishop uses were brought in front of the altar for sprinkling with holy water by Bishop Brennan.

The bishop-elect wore red choir vestments and a pectoral cross. At the ordination and installation on Tuesday, May 31 at Westerville St. Paul Church, he received the bishop's miter, crosier and ring.

Bishop Thomas referred to those items in his homily.

"St. Paul reminds us that it is the task of this new bishop to live, preach and teach in such a way that everyone realizes the inheritance that awaits us," he said. "In a few moments, the symbols

of a new bishop's office, the Pontifical Insignia, the ring, miter and crosier will be blessed. Bishop-elect Earl Fernandes is called to be the father of the faithful, and as a father, also a child of the Father, united to the Son and trusting in the Spirit as an heir of heaven."

Bishop Thomas mentioned the bishop's ring that will be worn on the new bishop's right ring finger as a symbol of his nuptial bond with the Church of Columbus and his "fidelity as the bride of Christ." The origins of a bishop's ring, he said, can be traced to 610 when Pope Boniface IV declared one be worn.

He also explained the significance of the crosier and the miter and concluded by saying:

"We pray this evening for the new bishop and for his flock in the Diocese of Columbus, together that they may see His face and unfailing love, and do your part totally, as He has done His."

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response to questions by Archbishop Schnurr, promised to guard the Catholic faith and discharge the duties of his office. As he did when he was ordained a priest, he then lay face-down as the Litany of the Saints was sung by all in attendance.

Following the litany, he knelt before Archbishop Schnurr, who laid hands on his head, with the other bishops present each doing the same.

The archbishop concluded the act of ordination with a prayer as two deacons held an open Book of the Gospels above the new bishop's head. He then anointed Bishop Fernandes' head with holy oil and presented him with the Book of the Gospels and the insignia of his office – a ring, a miter, a crosier and a pectoral

cross. The crosier belonged to Bishop Sylvester Rosecrans, the first bishop of Columbus, and dates back to 1868, when the Diocese of Columbus was established.

Bishop Fernandes then was escorted by Archbishops Schnurr and Pierre to the cathedra, the bishop's chair. Once seated on the cathedra, he officially became bishop of Columbus. Rising from the chair, he received a fraternal kiss of peace from all the bishops present. The Mass then continued in its usual form. Following the prayer after communion and before his closing remarks and the final blessing, Bishop Fernandes walked up and down the aisles of the church bestowing his first blessings on the congregation.

Besides those already listed, other bishops present included the archbishops of Hartford, Connecticut and Detroit and bishops from all the dioceses of Ohio and the dioceses of Grand Rapids, Michigan; Wheeling-Charleston, West Virginia; Crookston, Minnesota; St. Thomas, Virgin Islands; Covington, Kentucky; Des Moines, Iowa; Jefferson City, Missouri; Joliet, Illinois; and Rockville Centre.

Representing Eastern Catholic rites were the archbishop of the Byzantine Catholic Archeparchy of Pittsburgh and the bishops of the Byzantine Catholic Eparchy of Parma; the Romanian Catholic Eparchy of Canton; the Byzantine Catholic Eparchy of Passaic, New Jer-

sey; the Syro-Malabar Catholic Eparchy of the United States and Canada; the Maronite Eparchy of Our Lady of Lebanon; and the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Parma.

Other participants in the liturgy were: Deacons Joe Ciaciura and Peter Claver Kasasa Kiviiri and masters of ceremonies Andrew Burson, David Johnstone, Kevin Girardi, Tyler Carter and Deacons Dan Hann and Reed Hauser.

Members of Bishop Fernandes' family were gift bearers, and the seminarians of the Diocese of Columbus were servers. The St. Joseph Cathedral choir, directed by Dr. Richard Fitzgerald, with organist Amanda Mole and the cathedral's brass ensemble, provided music.

# Bishop's siblings 'not surprised' about appointment

By Doug Bean  
Catholic Times Editor

When the members of the Fernandes family learned that their brother was going to be named the new bishop of Columbus, they couldn't have been more thrilled for him.

But after the initial shock and excitement died down, one of his nieces asked an important question: "Does this mean he can't come for Christmas?"

"My kids are unbelievably close to my brother," said Eustace Fernandes, 48, the youngest of the five Fernandes brothers and the father of five children. "My 14-year-old daughter, Felicity, she had a big smile on her face when she heard, and then she kind of teared up a little bit. She's incredibly proud.

"He's still part of our family, and he's always going to be, but this is where God is calling him now, a new phase in his life, his vocation, this ministry in Columbus. And we just have to pray for him and support him."

On Friday, April 1, the night before the appointment was made public, then-Father Earl Fernandes had first shared the good news with his immediate family, which includes the four brothers, their wives and 15 nieces and nephews.

The next morning, he left brother Ashley Fernandes' home in Dublin to drive to the diocesan offices in downtown Columbus for a news conference after the Holy See made the announcement public a few hours earlier.

"My youngest son is his godson, and he pulled us into a room and he told us," Ashley said. "And, oh, my gosh, I went crazy. I was like screaming for like five minutes straight. It was like Ohio State won the national championship, the Pittsburgh Steelers had won the Super Bowl. It was all of that. I was so excited."

Ashley, 50, a Columbus pediatrician, medical ethicist and professor at Ohio State University, had an inkling earlier that week when his brother said he was visiting Toledo to see his friend Bishop Daniel Thomas and also their beloved mother, Thelma, who is suffering from dementia and other ailments that prevented her from attending the ordination and installation of the second-youngest of her five sons on Tuesday, May 31 at Westerville St. Paul Church.

"So I started thinking, Oh, my gosh, you know what? He's been made a bishop," Ashley said. "Why would he go from Cincinnati to Toledo to talk to my mom and then Bishop Thomas. Maybe he's getting advice on how to be a bishop.

"My brothers are like, 'You're crazy. My oldest brother, Karl, is a very



The Fernandes brothers, pictured with Bishop Earl Fernandes after his ordination and installation Mass on Tuesday, May 31 at Westerville St. Paul Church, are (from left) Dr. Ashley Fernandes, Dr. Karl Fernandes, Dr. Eustace Fernandes and Deacon Trevor Fernandes.

Photo courtesy Sarah Noltner

practical person and he's like, 'He's too young. He's definitely qualified, but we can't get that lucky.'"

Ashley's suspicions were correct. And, at age 49, Earl Fernandes became the youngest Roman Catholic bishop to lead a U.S. diocese.

"I'm not surprised," said Deacon Trevor Fernandes, 53, who serves at St. Michael Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church in Rossford, Ohio, outside of Toledo and has been a Lucas County Probate Court magistrate for 24 years. The second-oldest of the five brothers, he proclaimed the Gospel at Tuesday's ordination and installation Mass.

"When someone is at the top of their class in high school, in college, in medical school – and has everything that the world, the flesh and the devil tell you is the best thing for you and you won't be happy with anything else – he has chosen the narrow way," Trevor said. "He chose the cross.

"And the reason I think he'll be a very good bishop is because he never wanted to be one. All he ever wanted when he felt called to Holy Orders was to be a pastor of a parish, have a youth group that was active, have a school and be able to interact with families like we did when we were growing up, to be able to laugh and cry with them and to hold their hands."

All of the brothers have achieved great success in their careers in medicine and law, with three of them becoming doctors and one a magistrate. And their children have shown similar academic prowess, including one niece who is a third-year medical student at Ohio State.

But they agree that the new bishop was the most academically gifted.

"He's an incredibly bright, incredibly talented person," said Eustace, a pulmonologist and critical care physician in Fort Wayne, Indiana, who graduated from medical school at Ohio State. "And that can sometimes present challenges because he could say, 'I could be good at this. I could be good at that.'

"I'm sure he could have been an excellent husband, an excellent physician. Ashley, Earl and myself were all in medical school at the same time, and Earl would lay on a couch half asleep, flipping through his notebooks, watching ESPN, and do great on exams, where I had to shut myself away for like a month and study. He had a lot of natural gifts.

"But with my observation, as his youngest brother and his roommate for 18 years, he was always restless in those things. And when he really pursued the priesthood, there was a sense that he was invigorated. And it was really like he was going out in the deep with the Lord, and he had a peace about him and an engagement about him that was different."

The brothers all have stories to tell about their now-bishop brother while they were growing up on the east side of Toledo in a modest home.

Ashley shared a story about a boxing match while mom and dad were away from the house between himself and Earl when they were ages 5 and 4, with one wearing mittens and the other with bare knuckles. Earl took a couple of shots to the face and still kept smiling before the pain hit him. Then the boys panicked about how to explain the situation to mom and dad when they returned.

Eustace joked that his side of the

bedroom the brothers shared in their parents' home was always messy while Earl's was "pristine."

Ashley said he saw certain qualities in Earl at a young age that gave him an inkling that his brother might someday be called to the priesthood. Like most kids, Earl participated in sports and was involved in academic-type extracurricular activities.

"He was not someone who would go around shouting the rosary. It was not like outward signs," Ashley said. "But it was kind of more the way he treated other people. He wasn't an aggressive person or he didn't make fun of people like a lot of boys do.

"There was always something about him that made people think, well, maybe. ... He was much more thoughtful about his faith, and he handled people's questions in a very kind, diplomatic way.

"When people would question the faith or criticize the Church, he would talk to them in a different way than my brothers and I would have done. We might have been trying to win an argument, and he was not pushing back but drawing them in."

Almost everyone who has come in contact with Bishop Fernandes remarks about the smile he constantly wears, even during Mass.

"He'll be at the consecration, or maybe after the consecration, and all of a sudden he'll start smiling," Ashley said. "And my wife will always comment on how joyful he seems."

Trevor says there's a story behind his brother's smile during the consecration that goes back to India, where the two oldest boys were born before their parents moved to America.

Their devout Catholic father, Sydney, a longtime physician who passed away in 2019 at age 82, had assisted at Traditional Latin Mass as the server at St. John the Evangelist Church in Bombay during the 1960s for an elderly Portuguese priest. After the priest said the words of consecration, his face would flash a "radiant smile, with sometimes tears streaming down his face," Trevor related. "And it made a huge impression on my dad.

"So when you see Earl celebrate Mass or the sacraments, sometimes even when it seems like it's inappropriate to smile, Earl is lit with that fire, the joy of Christ, the joy of vocation. If other people burn like a candle, he is lit like an alabaster jar.

"He's a lot like my dad. He's cool under pressure. But it's the glow that warms the heart."


One of Bishop Fernandes' defining

# Congratulations

Bishop-elect Earl Fernandes  
on your installation and  
appointment to the  
Diocese of Columbus!

May God bless you as  
you shepherd His people  
with peace and love.

With prayers and love from:  
BISHOP DAVID RICKEN  
AND THE FAITHFUL OF THE  
DIOCESE OF GREEN BAY, WI




Diocese of  
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# welcome

to

## Bishop Fernandes



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## Welcome Bishop-elect Earl Fernandes



Archbishop Samuel J. Aquila and Bishop Jorge Rodríguez and all the faithful of Northern Colorado, congratulate Bishop-elect Earl Fernandes on his appointment as the bishop of Columbus. We pray that God will bless you and the Diocese of Columbus with all the graces you need to shepherd God's people and help them experience the joy of knowing him.

Bishop Jorge Rodríguez, Ph. D.



Archbishop Samuel J. Aquila, S.T.L.




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## Welcome to Columbus Bishop Fernandes!



May your appointment in Columbus be  
filled with many blessings.



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**SIBLINGS**, *continued from Page 5*

characteristics, his brothers agree, is love for families and children, which stems from their loving and devoted Catholic parents who emigrated from India in 1970 with little money and no family in the United States.

“It is a witness to my parents and how they allowed God to dwell in our family and how they allowed God’s glory to shine through them in order to raise us and try to help us raise our children,” Eustace said. “That to me, that’s the final word on it.”

One of Eustace’s five children, 19-year-old Ignatius, came from Armenia 12 years ago through an adoption facilitated by his priest brother, who had been there to preach a Holy Week retreat for the Missionaries of Charity sisters.

Ignace, as he’s called now, was difficult to place because he was born with spina bifida. But Eustace and his wife, Anne, a physical therapist turned stay-at-home homeschooling mother, felt as though God was using them to adopt a child with special needs.

“My brother Earl has always been part of our family,” said Eustace, whose children range in age from 9 to 20. “Our youngest son (Leo) was very ill at birth and was in the ICU for 10 days, and he completed the Rite of Baptism for him.

“And the other kids, if they need



**Then-Father Fernandes (center) is pictured with his brothers (from left) Deacon Trevor Fernandes, Dr. Ashley Fernandes, Dr. Karl Fernandes and Dr. Eustace Fernandes.**

*Photo courtesy Fernandes family*

an opinion, if they’re struggling with something, you know, big or small, he’s always taking the time to interact with them, to be an uncle, and just be very gentle with them in a way that a parent isn’t always equipped to be. He’s been incredibly busy, but we’ve never felt like he was inaccessible to our family.”

In addition to celebrating the sacraments with family members, Bishop Fernandes had the special privilege of being with his father at his death and at his funeral Mass and with his brother, Trevor, when he was ordained a deacon.

“We were taught by mom and dad that in all things charity and in all

things humility,” Trevor said. “We were blessed with the proverbial immigrant dream. And, at the same time, it is that quiet candle of faith, that pilot light, that burns in him. It is that fire lit by the most Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary – those twin hearts – that have powered our family since our earliest days.”

Ashley believes his brother’s background as a parish priest, high school teacher, seminary professor, academic dean and church administrator has prepared him well to lead a diocese during difficult times.

“Every single experience he’s had is going to make him a better bishop,” Ashley said, “and has prepared him for his moment. I’m super excited for him.”

Ashley tried to put into perspective for his children the significance of their uncle becoming a bishop.

“I’ve been telling people that I’m calling myself Ashley the Lesser,” he said. “I just got promoted to full professor, and even though I’m the older brother, you can’t imagine how many times people have come up to me and said, ‘You’re the new bishop’s brother.’”

“If you think about it, and I was telling my kids, ‘Guys, you can win the Nobel Prize, but unless you become a priest and be like your uncle, you can never be a successor to the Apostles.’”

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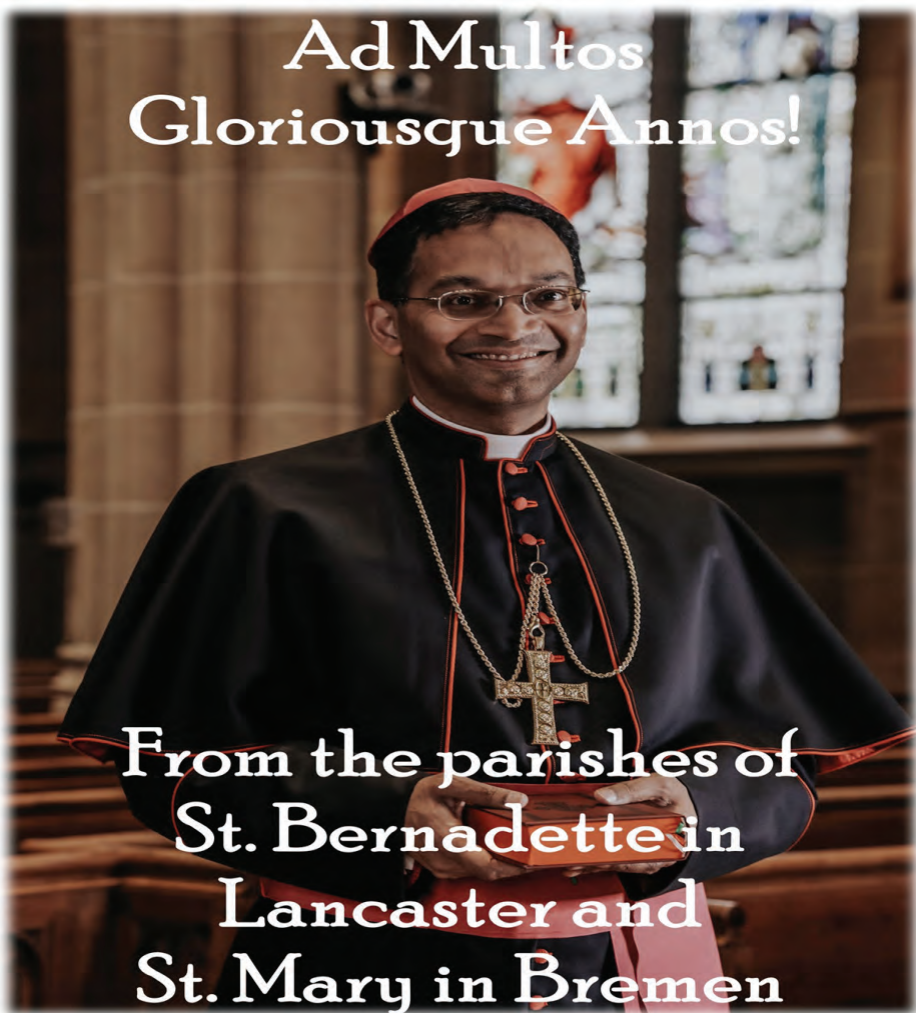


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Welcome  
**BISHOP FERNANDES**

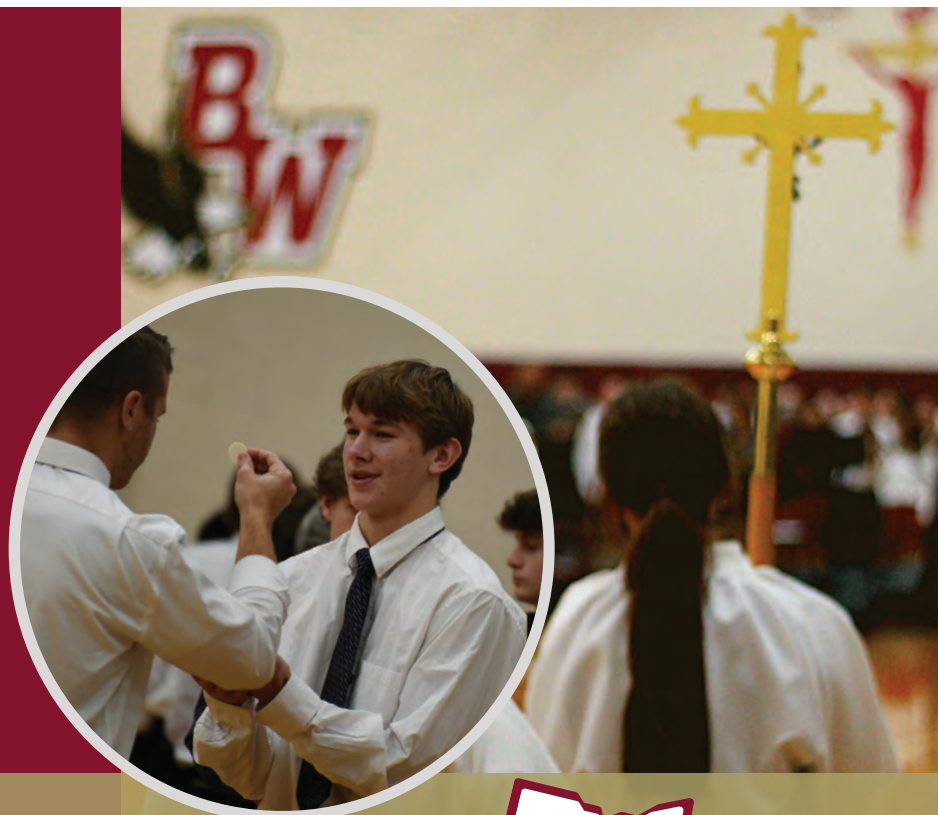
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**WELCOME TO COLUMBUS  
BISHOP FERNANDES**





# Former parishioners sad to lose esteemed pastor

By Doug Bean  
Catholic Times Editor

CINCINNATI — Megan Meers summed up the feelings of the parishioners that Bishop Earl Fernandes left behind at St. Ignatius of Loyola Church in Cincinnati with a letter she wrote to the faithful of the Diocese of Columbus after learning their beloved pastor was named a bishop.

While reading to *The Catholic Times* what she had written, she paused several times, her voice choked with emotion. The letter went like this:

“Congratulations on the appointment of Bishop-elect Earl Fernandes. You’ve just hit the jackpot. In him, you will find him a faithful and fearless father, a strong leader and a devoted friend. He’s a man of his word, but more importantly he’s a man of God’s word. He’s a man with unmatched intelligence and an unstoppable work ethic.

“Many will say he’s too busy, but he will always make time for what is truly important. Some have characterized him as a pinball, quickly bouncing from one task to another, accomplishing efficiently what would take a normal man twice as long to complete, and I can see the resemblance in this metaphor. But it has its faults, namely, it suggests that his movement is erratic or haphazard.

“What comes to mind at least for me is the work of a simple honeybee. The honeybee knows its purpose, its task and sets about each day to diligently complete it. ... In other words, the bishop-elect will produce great fruit for God and the church. Yet the faithful will also realize their full potential if they openly receive his instruction, guidance and love.

“To know him is to love him. And to love him is to find greater love for God, Jesus Christ in the Catholic Church. His holiness will challenge you. This presence calls you to rise to greater heights of excellence. In him you will see the face of Christ.

“I’ve witnessed him kneeling with the elderly to hear their confessions. I’ve seen him drop everything to accompany the sick and the dying. I admire his constancy and humbling himself before the altar of our Lord in prayer. He will take good care of those entrusted to him. Please take good care of him,” she concluded in her letter.

Meers, an assistant music director and teacher and director of innovation and design at the parish school and also a parent, marveled at the bishop’s ability to connect with people and to connect them with others.

“He has an amazing ability to befriend others and then to see the best in those people and help them work together,” she said. “A lot of people struggle with the hierarchy of the church because they feel very removed from our experienc-



**Megan Meers reads a heartfelt letter to the people of the Diocese of Columbus from St. Ignatius of Loyola Church.**

es just in the world. But he’s not one of those. He takes the time to listen, and to talk to you and to truly get to know you.”

She has witnessed him display those same people skills when interacting with the children in school.

“He’s a father to them, and he takes delight in them,” she said. “I direct the children’s choir here, and often he will just stop by our rehearsals and just enjoy the children as they are – joke with them and also teach them and encourage them and just love them.”

Like many in the parish, Meers and her family are extremely sad to see their pastor leave after less than three years there. Bishop Fernandes was assigned by the Archdiocese of Cincinnati to St. Ignatius in 2019.

“It really has been like a grieving process,” she said. “I consider him a friend. I have a daughter in first grade, and she said to me, ‘Oh, mom, Father Earl remembers everybody. What makes you think he’s going to forget us.’ You know, it’s very, very true.

“A lot of people have commented over his time here that we’ve all known he’s called to greater things than being a pastor here. Even though this is a great job, too, he’s made for more, and this makes sense.”

Bishop Fernandes exhibited the ability to his parishioners not only to engage with people but also be involved in the numerous ministries at the large parish on Cincinnati’s west side.

“He did such a good job of bringing all the ministries together that support the family and organized us a little bit, like where do we overlap and how can we better help each other be more efficient,” said Michelle Wanstrath, a parishioner, ministry leader and school parent.

“He said there are a lot of ministries that support life, support marriage prep, engaged couples or NFP, fathers, mothers, and he along with Brad Macke (director of adult faith formation and out-



**Kevin Vance is the principal at Cincinnati St. Ignatius of Loyola School.**

*Photos courtesy Abigail Pitones*

reach) helped gather us together and made us feel more like a parish working for the same common goals.”

When she approached Bishop Fernandes about bringing to the parish Mary Garden Showers, a national ministry that also has several chapters in the Diocese of Columbus offering baby showers for mothers in need, he didn’t hesitate to welcome the initiative.

“We needed his blessing, and he was beyond supportive,” she said. “He thought it was a great idea. He was supportive of us through Walking with Moms in Need (a U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ initiative).

“Of course, we were going to direct moms in need to all the great local resources that already exist, but we asked ourselves how can we as a parish actually help? And when we came to him with Mary Garden Showers, he was like, this is a no-brainer. He attended our first shower in February and gave a blessing to the moms and just encouragement and prayer.”

Wanstrath echoed other parishioners’ past observations that their pastor wouldn’t be with them long.

“We’re so, so happy for him, but we’re also sad to lose him at the same time,” she said. “He’s so active and engaged. He really is kind of like an Energizer Bunny. I don’t know when he sleeps. He would be at ministry events, all of these meetings with the ministry leaders, and just getting out there in the parish on a personal level not related to the ministries.

“He did home blessings, and so he would come to anybody’s home. He was one of the few priests in our area during COVID who continued going out into the hospitals, putting himself at risk, really getting out there and being with the people wherever he was needed to say Mass in nursing homes or going to hospitals. He was just go, go, go through the pandemic and beyond.



**Brad Macke was hired by then-Father Earl Fernandes as director of faith formation and outreach at St. Ignatius.**

“I think everybody you talk to is like, ‘Oh, he’s destined for bigger things.’ So it was only a matter of time until he’s tapped to do something else. So I was not surprised.

“We’re all just so happy for him and supportive of him on his journey. And we’re just so grateful that he’s been at our parish these last two years. It was such a blessing when he came here. He’s just really made a difference.

“He has a way of making people feel the desire to be more engaged in their faith and more active in their faith. And I think that’s a really good quality. Not to mention again, he’s just got a lot of energy, which is so refreshing, because it inspires everybody else around him.”

Kate Rewwer, who was hired last year by Bishop Fernandes as the parish health minister, noted his willingness to allow staff members to do their jobs. Bishop Fernandes had attracted her and her husband to the parish because of his homilies, his engaging style and the frequent availability of confession.

“He’s been a tremendous role model and support system for what I do and, from what I’ve observed, all of the other staff members and what they do with the parish,” she said.

Bishop Fernandes has shown a particular affinity for health care and ministering to the sick and dying, largely because he was once a medical school student and through the example provided by his father, Sydney, a longtime physician in Toledo.

“That’s the thing I noticed about Father Earl is that anytime there’s been somebody in the hospital that’s needed a sacrament, he’s there,” she said. “A couple of weeks ago, someone called and said, ‘I have a friend who has a family member that’s very, very sick and has refused to see a priest and now is agreeing

# *Welcome Bishop Fernandes!*



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WELCOME YOU TO  
THE DIOCESE OF COLUMBUS  
AND LOOK FORWARD  
TO MEETING YOU!**

**PARISHIONERS**, *continued from Page 9*

to see one.”

The sick man was not at a hospital the parish frequents for sick calls, but “Father had actually come from a Holy Hour for the Ukraine, and he emailed me back within minutes,” Rewwer said. “This was somebody who had been away from the Church for so long, was very, very sick, and he left everything and went over there. That was always so important to him, to make sure that the sick and the dying receive the sacraments, anointing of the sick, reconciliation.

“That was amazing that he did that with as busy as he is, and it was not a parishioner, ... but he made himself available.”

Macke, another staff member the future bishop hired after he arrived at St. Ignatius, appreciated the pastoral vision after working closely with him on parish faith formation programs and outreach.

“Evangelization happens through a lot of different avenues, and, like Father has said to me, I think it happens one person at a time,” Macke said, “which is really related to missionary discipleship, because programs will not make disciples. Jesus works through each one of us.”

Some of those missionary efforts included revitalization of the St. Vincent de Paul Society to help those in need, RCIA, a book conversation group to take a deeper dive into Catholicism and a welcome booth at the parish festival to



**Then-Father Earl Fernandes elevates the host at the consecration during an outdoor Mass at Cincinnati St. Ignatius of Loyola Parish.**  
*Photo courtesy St. Ignatius of Loyola*

reach out to people who might not normally come to church.

The parish planned an evangelization workshop training for the festival booth volunteers to answer faith-related questions, “not pressuring people, but just opening up that door to have a faith conversation, having materials but not overwhelming people who may not be religious or churched, and also share their own faith stories,” Macke said.

“The other thing about Father Fernandes is, he’s not a micromanager, which I appreciate,” Macke said. “Sometimes I’m waiting for him to tell us what

to do here, and he throws the question back into our lap a lot as a staff.”

School principal Kevin Vance witnessed a similar level of engagement with a staff of 130 and the more than 1,110 students in pre-K through eighth grade.

“He came in during a difficult year (COVID-19 outbreak), and I think one of the best things he did just overall was bring some calmness and stability,” Vance said. “He took time to get to know all of us. I think the best thing he did was just to listen at first and see where are we and where do you want to go.

“He’s always been super supportive of education. If you talk to him for five or 10 minutes, you’ll hear the story about how his dad went to their parish priest (in Toledo) and begged that he and his brothers could go to school there. He’s been in Catholic education for quite a few years, either as a high school teacher, as a seminary teacher, and now here at the largest Catholic elementary school in the state of Ohio.”

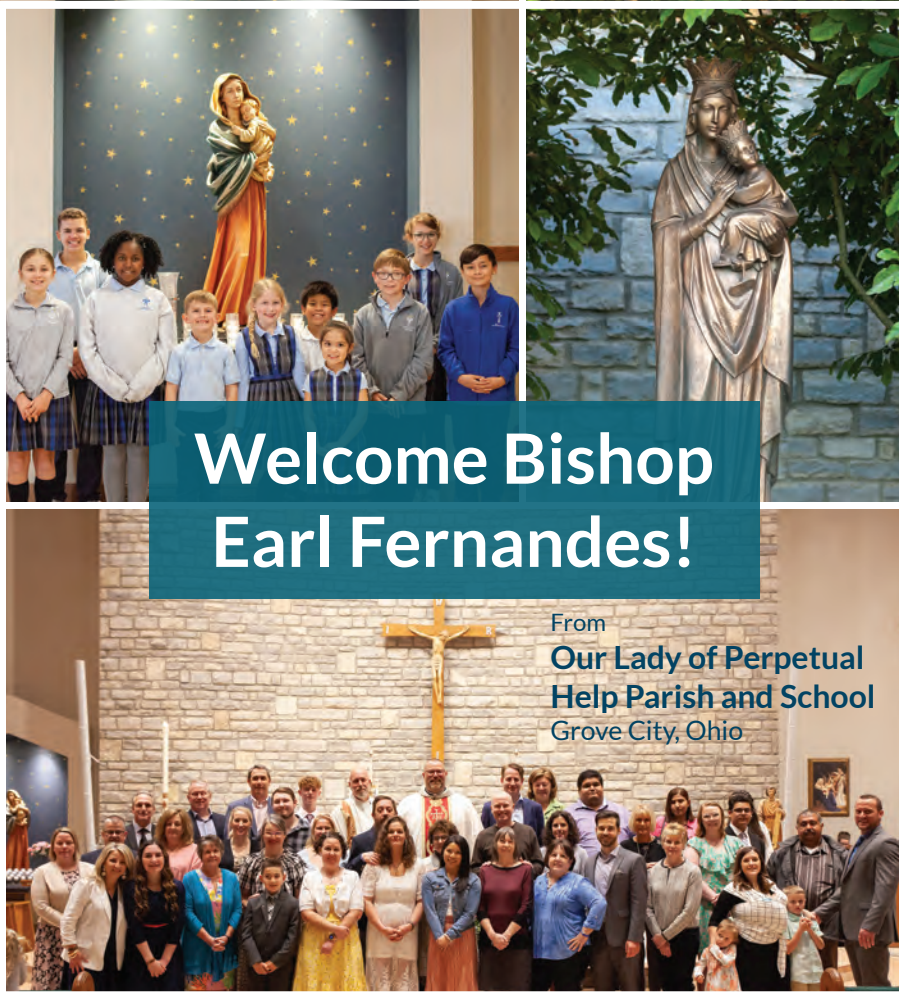
Students go to Mass once a week, often celebrated by the future bishop, and he frequented the classrooms to engage the students. And he often could be found standing outside in the before- or after-school drop-off or pickup lines to chat with families.

“He has a certain presence with the children that they really look up to him or warm up to him,” Vance said. “He makes people feel welcome. So I think people approach him naturally and just talk. He’s concerned about what they’re doing and where they’ve been and how they’re doing and what they’ve learned. He takes that personal time or that time to get to know them.

“The kids aren’t threatened or afraid of him or anything like that. They really kind of embrace him because he’s warm and personable, and he shares some of his life stories. He’s come into the classroom fairly often.”

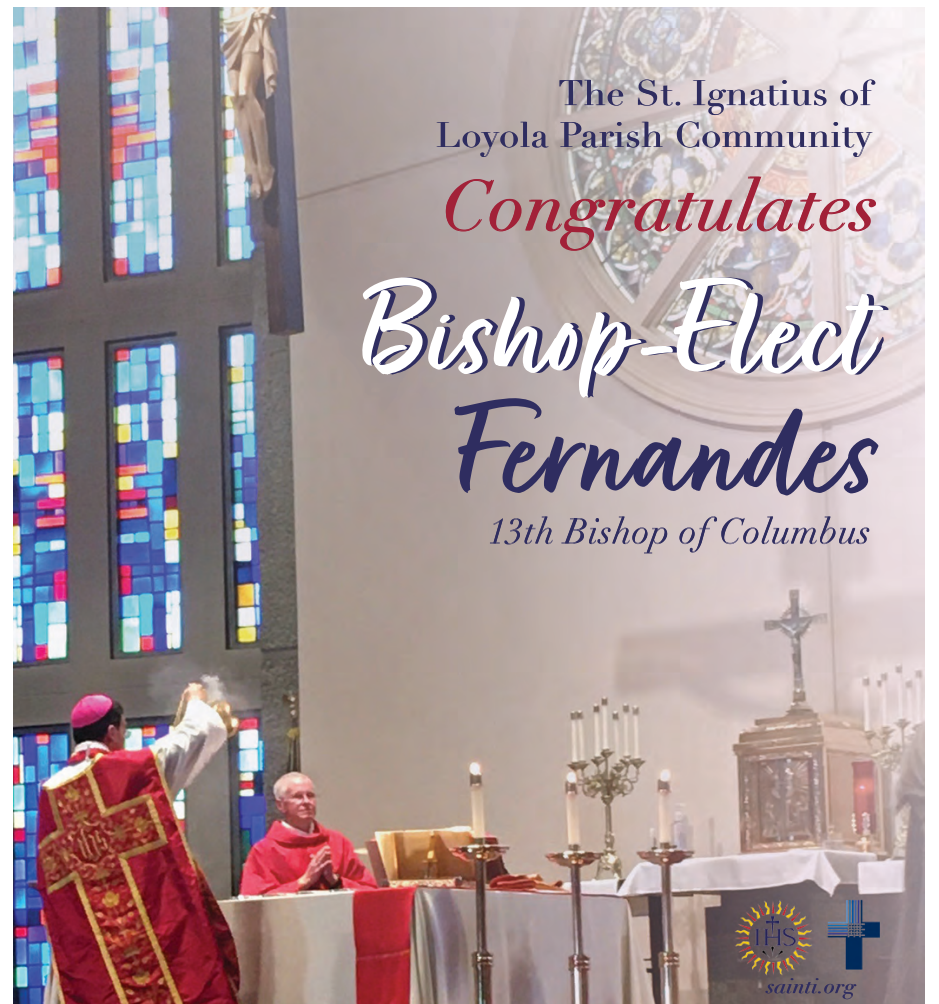
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**BISHOP EARL K. FERNANDES**

*13<sup>th</sup> Bishop of the Diocese of Columbus*

# New priest made lasting impression in first assignment

By Doug Bean  
Catholic Times Editor

SIDNEY, Ohio – When Father Earl Fernandes showed up at Holy Angels Church in the summer of 2002 for his first assignment after ordination, the parish's pastor told the women working in the office that it was a blessing to have received the cream of the crop from the class of new priests.

They still remember that day vividly. "He was at the door, and he said hello, and he went one way and I went one way, and we went around in a circle and then just stood there and laughed," recalled Connie Fahnke, who was the parish office manager. "We asked him if we could help him carry anything, and he said he could get it, but we ended up helping him anyway."

Fast forward 20 years, and "when we found out that this was happening," that Father Fernandes had been named the new bishop of the Diocese of Columbus on April 2, "I called one of my good friends who is very good friends with Father Earl, and I said, 'Wait until you hear,' and so I told her what was being announced," said Jill Heitmeyer, the parish's current business manager. "And she goes, 'We knew that 20 years ago. I still think he's going to be pope someday.'"

To the good people of Sidney, it became obvious early on in Father Fernandes' two years there that he was gifted with special qualities – down to earth, relatable, intelligent, devoted, faithful, loyal, memory like a steel trap, family oriented.

And there was that engaging smile mentioned by nearly everyone who has come in contact with him. He flashed his toothy grin then and hasn't stopped smiling throughout his priesthood.

"I think that's why so many people relate to him," Fahnke said. "He was always smiling from the altar during Mass. And he would walk out of Mass with this beautiful smile and joy – just a wonderful person and a good friend."



**Then-Father Earl Fernandes poses with a Walmart vest after the Sidney Supercenter named him Teacher of the Year for Shelby County. He served as a teacher at Sidney Lehman Catholic High School from 2002 to 2004. Photo courtesy Fernandes family**

Bishop Fernandes has never forgotten his first experience as a priest, and the people of Sidney have not forgotten him. He remains in contact with a number of them, including the first pastor he served under, Father Jerry Bensman, and the newly ordained bishop will return to offer a Mass of Thanksgiving at Holy Angels on Tuesday, June 28 at 7 p.m.

"You could tell right away that he was a very gifted person and a faith-filled person," said Father Bensman, who was pastor at Holy Angels from 1999 to 2008 before retiring. "He was the type of person that, first of all, his faith was very important to him, and he had a gift of being able to share that through his preaching, and he was also an excellent teacher. Everybody respected him.

"But he was especially gifted with his homilies. You could give him a topic, and within just a few minutes, he would come up with ideas that would have meaning for people. It wasn't just words."

Bishop Fernandes has stayed in touch with some of the people he met there with cards, texts and calls, including Father Bensman, who attended the installation and ordination for his former associate pastor at Westerville St. Paul Church on May 31.

When he was to be announced as the new Columbus bishop in April, he made sure to share the good news with the folks in Sidney.

"He's always been so good about being involved with what's going on with Holy Angels," said Ann Monnier, the church secretary during Father Fernandes' time at the parish. "He really considers it his first parish family here."

During his short stay in Sidney, he immersed himself in parish life. His homilies and passion for the faith resonated with Fahnke.

"They were always about life that you could relate to," she said. "He would bring in the saints or what happened long ago, but he didn't bore you with it. He didn't make you feel like gloom and doom, and he talked about how they relate to today. He just had a gift."

Not only did he interact with families at Mass and during parish activities, but he also visited their homes and enjoyed recreating with them – even getting on a jet ski.

Monnier and her husband visited him in Rome when he was a student there after leaving Sidney and then twice in Washington, D.C., when he served there in the office of the papal nuncio, the Church's diplomatic representative to the United States.

In Sidney, "he interacted with grade school a lot in addition to teaching in high school," Monnier said. "He remembers everybody, everything about them, like their kids and dates and things like that. And anywhere we went in Rome when we were visiting him, he would come up with dates and would tell us this happened here and this happened there. And it's like, how do you

remember all those places and dates? And he just smiled."

"He definitely related well with people, and he always remembered people's names," Father Bensman said. "That was a special gift that he had. The next time he met you, he could recall their names. And I think that means a lot when dealing with people.

"His principal assignment was to be a teacher at Lehman Catholic High School, and he was there from 9 in the morning until 4 in the afternoon, but in the evening, let's just say, he took on the second shift around the parish.

"He coordinated our RCIA program, he attended parish meetings and pastoral council meetings and school committee meetings, almost without fail, and he took a special interest in preparing couples for marriage."

At the parish elementary school, the young students sometimes tried to stump the young priest or challenge him with questions, but they couldn't trip him up.

"Very personable and sharp as a tack," Heitmeyer said. "I remember the Lehman kids would kind of like be pushing him, and with a medical background (as a former medical student), they couldn't stump him. They would ask him questions, and he would explain things to them, probably more than what they wanted to know. So disciplined in his faith, very devout, and he was that way with medical facts, too."

He displayed a gift for teaching at Lehman, despite never teaching at that level, that earned the admiration of students and faculty, and he won a teacher of the year award.

"For me, I guess his legacy is just his kindness and his welcoming," math teacher Melissa Safreed said. "What I remember most specifically were the Kairos retreats. He was so relatable in

See **FIRST ASSIGNMENT**, Page 15



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**FIRST ASSIGNMENT**, *continued from Page 13*

the classroom but especially on retreat. I think especially the young men just admired him so much for being so real.

"Something else that stands out is that he doesn't forget anybody. He does not forget a face with a name and can remember occasions. He came back to celebrate Mass with us last year post-COVID, and while we were still social distancing, he remembered names of faculty and specific occasions from when he was here and just so real. What a role model, always smiling. I remember him smiling so much."

"Even with his intelligence, he's always been approachable," math teacher Pam Wendel said. "Whoever he was talking to, whether it was another faculty member or talking with students, he gave you a sense of being valued, that you were first on his mind when he was talking with you and wasn't somewhere else."

A priest assigned to area parishes has served as chaplain and taught religion classes at Lehman. Some have had teaching backgrounds, and others have no experience. Father Fernandes was never a high school teacher before arriving in Sidney, but he clearly showed his acumen in academics, drawing upon his background as a medical student.

"Sometimes there are chaplains who are chaplains who also teach," theology teacher Joe Schmiesing said, "but I think Father Earl was a teacher in every sense of the word. Even though he was young and inexperienced when he first came here, he was so respected by the kids."

Schmiesing recalled a story that Father Fernandes shared while he was teaching at Lehman.

"He had somebody who tried to turn in a report, saying, 'Well, I just don't believe what the Church believes. So I don't have to do this report,'" Schmiesing said. "And he said, 'Well, I understand your opinion. However, this is an academic assignment.'"

"He wrote him back like a lengthy answer on why he had to do that report. And he said the kid gave him back a good report. He was an intelligent kid who just was trying to play him as

the young priest. Well, he was serious."

"He taught from the heart, and he has a passion for what he lives and what he role-models and what he taught in the classroom," Safreed said.

"And I know that his parents always highly valued education," Schmiesing said. "He had been taught that this was really, really important, and I think he brought that into the classroom. He believed that the classroom was really, really important for the students no matter who they were, where they were coming from, what their faith was."

"He wasn't an academic, even though he really is."

In the years since he left Sidney, some of his former students have moved to the Columbus area. He has celebrated some of their weddings while he was a priest in Cincinnati, fulfilling a promise he made to Lehman students he had in class that he would officiate at their weddings if asked.

"He's done quite a few," said Sister Ginny Scherer, a retired faculty member at Lehman who continues to help out at the school.

One takeaway for Sister Ginny from the future bishop's time there was the exuberance he exhibited in serving the Lord.

"I'd emphasize the way he said Mass," she said. "He was happy instead of being really just solemn. Mass was important to him, and it was a joyful experience when you went to Mass with him."

"If I had to kind of sum it up," Schmiesing said, "I'd say he was just a good priest. He is the picture of what a good priest should be."

That priest is now the first former faculty member to become a bishop from Lehman, which was founded in 1970.

"We are honored and excited for Bishop-elect Fernandes," Lehman principal Veronica Gaiser said. "As a school, we know that he will lead with God in his

heart and mind."

Father Bensman believes his former assistant's work at the nunciature and frequent requests for him to speak about moral ethics throughout the country paved the way for becoming a bishop at the relatively young age of 49.

"I was impressed by the fact that he was named bishop of a fairly large diocese without ever being an auxiliary bishop," Father Bensman said.

Catholics in the Diocese of Columbus might not want to hear this, but there's a strong sentiment in Sidney that their new bishop might not be here all that long after his predecessor, Bishop Robert Brennan, lasted just 2 ½ years here.

"He's only 49 years old, and that's

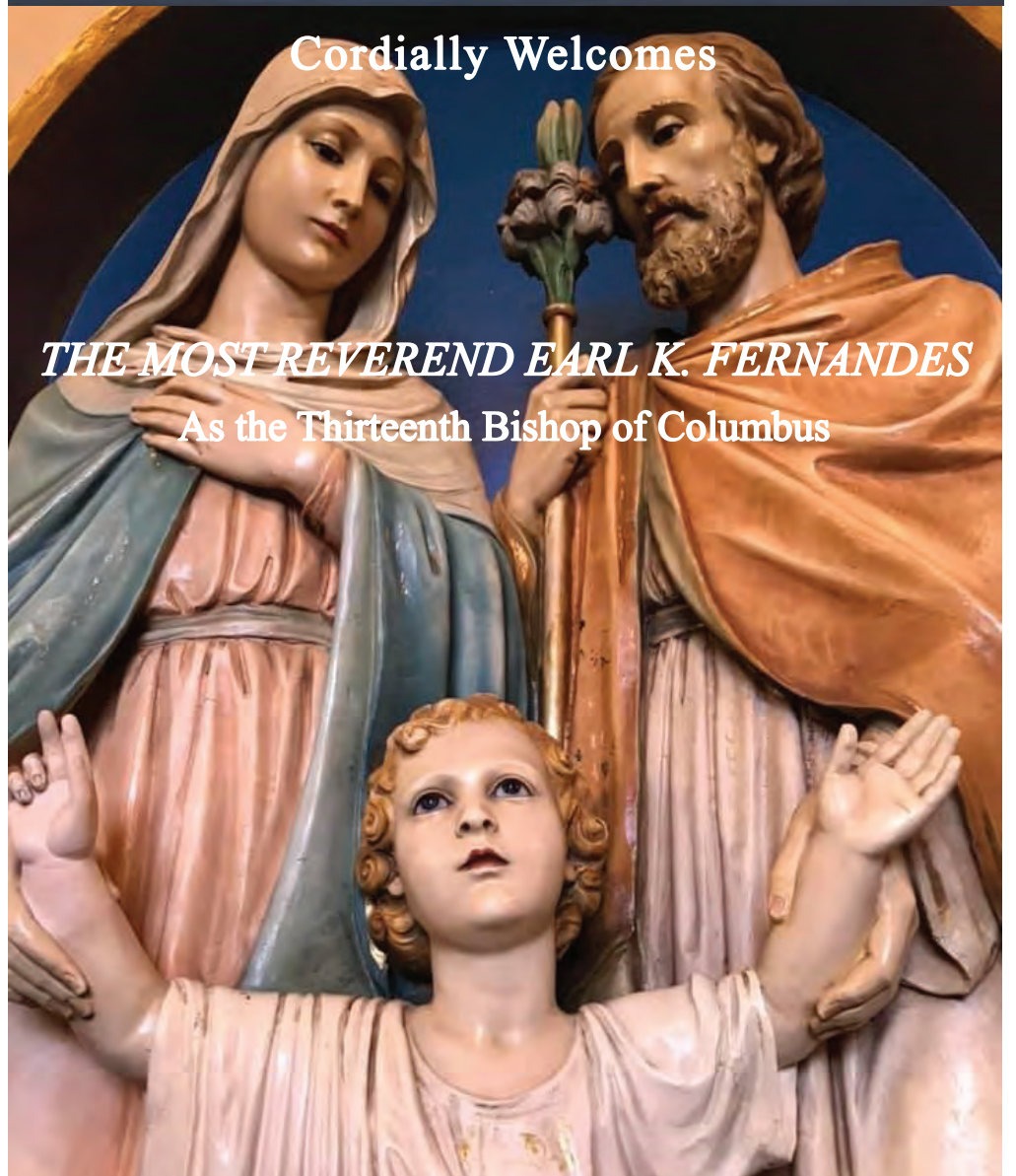
pretty young to be able to accomplish what he's accomplished," Father Bensman said. "But he can handle it."

"He's going to be so good," Fahneke said. "I don't look for this to be the end for Father Earl. This is just another step."

"Wherever you put him, if he's a bishop, he'll be a good man and a good priest," Schmiesing said. "He's not going to change his fundamental nature."

Sister Ginny, who taught at Marion Catholic High School for 10 years and knows the Columbus diocese, summed up the sentiments of seemingly everyone in Sidney:

"I just think that they have a treasure coming."

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## Congratulations Bishop Earl Fernandes!



Welcome to the Diocese of Columbus!

May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be your strength and guide.



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# Indian Catholics welcome appointment of Indian-American bishop

By Tim Puet  
For *The Catholic Times*

The ordination of Bishop Earl Fernandes as spiritual shepherd of the Diocese of Columbus was of special interest to diocesan parishioners who have their ethnic roots in India, for he is the first Indian-American to become a Roman Catholic bishop in the United States.

"I'm extremely happy with the news, and I know members of the Indian Catholic community throughout the diocese feel the same way," said Maria Arockiaraj Pushparaj, who periodically hosts visiting Indian priests from the Archdiocese of Indianapolis for Sunday Masses.

"It's a marvelous thing to see, and from what I've learned of Bishop Fernandes, he is going to provide a powerful witness to the strength of the Church in this diocese, as well as being an example of the long tradition and the endurance of the Church in India, which goes back to St. Thomas the Apostle," he said.

"Perhaps he will provide an example for one of my children or someone from our community to become a priest."

"It's a thrill to have Bishop Fernandes



**Father Jegan Peter (center) of Indianapolis celebrated a Mass on Mother's Day in Tamil for Indian Catholics in the Columbus area. Photo courtesy Maria Arockiaraj Pushparaj**

here," said Dr. Rama Mallampalli, chairman of the department of internal medicine at the Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center. "From what I've learned of him, he impresses me as a visionary and a holy man.

"He appears to be someone who will be able to explain in a powerful way the substantive challenges facing the Catholic Church because of the priest shortage and the changes which this will necessitate."

"The new bishop has given an im-

pression of being a dynamic person, and I look forward to hearing more from him," said Frank Xavier, a member of Westerville St. Paul Church for 16 years who is on its parish council. "India is such a diverse nation, with 28 states, each of which has its own language or language variation, and Bishop Fernandes himself is an example of that."

The bishop's father has his family roots in the city of Mangaluru, familiarly known as Mangalore, a port on the Arabian Sea in western India. His moth-

er's family is from Goa, which was a Portuguese colony until 1961, when it became an Indian state.

His father and mother, Dr. Sydney and Thelma Fernandes, both were born and brought up in Mumbai (Bombay), which like Mangaluru and Goa is in western India. They came to the United States in 1970, two years before Bishop Fernandes was born in Toledo.

The bishop's appointment gave all of those places a moment of civic pride and a chance to claim him as "one of their own."

"My family in India was overjoyed," the bishop said. "The Indian news media picked it up. The story was immediately translated into (the regional languages of) Malayalam and Konkani, and the Goans and the Mangalorians were fighting over me, and so I was surprised."

A website known as The Mangalorian provided particularly extensive coverage of the appointment, with about 6,000 words of copy that included a 3,500-word interview. "I even gave an interview to Nirmala Carvalho (an India-based Catholic writer), which is translated into Italian. So all those

See INDIAN CATHOLICS, Page 19

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*On his Ordination and Installation as the Thirteenth Bishop  
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FILL YOU WITH EVERY GRACE  
TO SERVE THE PEOPLE OF GOD  
AS SHEPHERD OF THE LOCAL CHURCH OF COLUMBUS,  
FAITHFULLY, HUMBLY AND JOYFULLY!  
*"AD MULTOS ANNOS!"*



DIOCESE of  
COLUMBUS

**INDIAN CATHOLICS**, *continued from Page 17*

things were surprising – the reaction over there,” the bishop said.

One religious order that is based in India has members in the Diocese of Columbus. Two Franciscan Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, including Sister Zephрина Mary GracyKutty, FIHM, diocesan missions director, are based in Columbus. Two others have a convent at Chillicothe St. Peter Church and serve the two Chillicothe parishes and Waverly St. Mary, Queen of the Missions Church.

“The sisters are very delighted, and the community is thanking God,” Sister Zephрина said. “We are proud that the bishop’s family comes from India. His parents had faith, and they kept that faith. They lived a very faith-based life, and that’s why this son became a bishop. God’s blessings are there, and it’s in God’s plan.”

“It seems to be part of a cycle,” she said. “Europeans and Americans came to India bringing the Catholic faith, and now Indians and Africans are becoming missionaries to the United States.”

The Bridgettine Sisters (the Order of the Most Holy Savior), who have a convent adjacent to Columbus Holy Family Church, have members from India in Columbus but are based in Italy.

One indication of India’s diversity is that it has 22 official languages. One of them is Tamil, spoken mainly in the state of Tamil Nadu on India’s southeastern coast. Pushparaj said seven Tamil-speaking Indian priests are stationed in the Archdiocese of Indianapolis, and one of them comes occasionally to his house to celebrate Mass.

He said the Masses are not on a set day but take place



**The future Bishop Earl Fernandes (right) is pictured with his mother, Thelma, in 1997, the year he entered the seminary in Cincinnati. Photo courtesy Fernandes family**

whenever one of the priests can fit it into his schedule. The most recent was on Mother’s Day, and the next one is scheduled for August. “There’s always Indian food available following the Mass,” Pushparaj said. “It’s a treat for the priests, for the food isn’t something they get too often in central and southern Indiana.”

“It’s a delight for me, because my home has been a welcoming place for all Indian priests since I came here 10 years ago to work in information technology

for Nationwide,” he said. “The people who come here for the Tamil Masses are from all over the Columbus area and have developed a real sense of family.”

Pushparaj said the priest who celebrates the Masses most often at his home is Father Jegan Peter, administrator of parishes in Bedford and Mitchell in southern Indiana. He arrives late on a Sunday afternoon, celebrates Mass and returns to Indiana the next day.

Another occasional celebrant is Father Sengole Ganraj, VF, administrator of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish in Richmond, Indiana, just across the Ohio-Indiana border and about a 1 ½-hour drive from the Columbus area.

There are 20 million Catholics in India, making that nation one of the largest in the world in terms of the number of Catholics. Yet the number represents only 1.5 percent of India’s approximately 1.4 billion people, most of whom are Hindus (79.8 percent) or Muslims (14.2 percent).

St. Thomas established the Catholic Church in India in A.D. 52 in the state of Kerala, located south of Mangaluru and Goa on the southwestern coast. Kerala has been the most Catholic state in India since then and today has about 3.3 million Catholics, or 18 percent of the total population.

St. Francis Xavier in the mid-16th and St. John de Britto in the late 17th centuries are noted for their missionary work in India, and both are buried there.

“Most Catholics in India are poor but very faithful,” Sister Zephрина said. “Daily Masses are crowded, and on special feast days Masses are often held outside because the churches can’t contain the crowds.”




**Together with the St. Timothy's pastor, staff, parishioners, and school we extend prayerful best wishes and a heartfelt welcome to you our new Bishop Earl Fernandes, as you begin your new ministry in the Diocese of Columbus.**

**May the Lord bless and guide your ministry and may the Spirit of His wisdom strengthen you in your new journey.**





HEARTFELT CONGRATULATIONS  
 TO HIS EXCELLENCY,  
 THE MOST REVEREND  
**EARL K. FERNANDES**  
 ON HIS EPISCOPAL ORDINATION  
 AND INSTALLATION  
 AS BISHOP OF COLUMBUS



  
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**Diocese of Columbus**


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# Bishops Brennan, Fernandes share similar traits

By Doug Bean  
*Catholic Times Editor*

In many ways, new Diocese of Columbus Bishop Earl Fernandes resembles his predecessor, Bishop Robert Brennan.

Both possess incredible energy and apostolic zeal for the faith. They're personable and affable, and they talk fast and seem to be everywhere. They've accumulated valuable administrative experience in the Church, and they've also been pastors.

Both were raised by devout Catholic parents and are one of five siblings. Both are relatively young for members of the hierarchy. Bishop Brennan was 56 when he came to the Columbus diocese in 2019. At 49, Bishop Fernandes becomes the youngest Roman Catholic bishop to lead a U.S. diocese.

As shepherds of a diocese, bishops can find those qualities beneficial in carrying out their service to the people.

In other ways, the two churchmen are different.

Bishop Brennan, who was installed as the bishop of the Diocese of Brooklyn on Nov. 30, 2021 after serving 2 ½ years in the Columbus diocese, is a native New Yorker who spent all of his life in the city before coming to Ohio in

2019. Plain-talking Midwesterners here found his New York accent captivating and distinctive.

Bishop Fernandes, the son of emigrants from India, grew up in Toledo, a city of significant size but nothing comparable with metropolitan New York. He's also a man of color and the first Indian-American priest to be elevated to the episcopate.

As a native Ohioan who has served as a priest in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati, his familiarity with the state should serve him well, Bishop Brennan said.

"I'm thrilled that he's from Ohio and knows Ohio," Bishop Brennan said from Brooklyn in an interview before Bishop Fernandes' ordination and installation. "He has an advantage that he knows Ohio. He knows the state.

"That was the biggest challenge for me coming to Ohio that it was my first time in the state. I had to get to know the area. He already knows the cities and the rural areas, and that will help a great deal."

Bishop Fernandes asked his predecessor to be one of his co-consecrators for the ordination and installation that took place Tuesday, May 31 at Westerville St. Paul Church. The others were Archbishop Christophe Pierre, the apostolic nuncio to the United States whom Bishop Fernandes worked under in the Ap-

ostolic Nunciature in Washington, D.C.; and Archbishop Dennis Schnurr of Cincinnati, where the new bishop worked for most of his 20 years as a priest in parishes and as a seminary professor and academic dean.

"I'm very humbled and honored that he reached out to me," Bishop Brennan said. "He knows a lot of bishops through his work with the nuncio, and it's a great honor for me."

Bishop Fernandes spent three years, from 2016 to 2019, working in Washington under two apostolic nuncios, Archbishops Carlo Maria Viganò and Pierre, who are the Vatican's diplomatic representatives to the United States. Bishop Fernandes also studied in Rome, starting in 2004, before he returned to the United States to teach at the seminary in Cincinnati.

Archbishop Pierre presented the scroll at the ordination and installation to Bishop Fernandes with the formal decree from the Vatican of his appointment to Columbus. The archbishop also serves as chancellor of the Pontifical College Josephinum.

Bishop Brennan first learned about then-Father Fernandes through interactions with one of his brothers, Dr. Ashley Fernandes, a Columbus physician who is a member of the Catholic Medical Association of Central Ohio and a

moral ethicist. When Father Fernandes joined the Board of Trustees at the Pontifical College Josephinum (Bishop Brennan was vice chancellor as part of his duties as bishop of Columbus), the two became better acquainted.

"He always offered a lot of great insights," Bishop Brennan recalled. "He's obviously very intelligent."

From the time of the announcement that Bishop Brennan was appointed to Brooklyn on Sept. 29 until Bishop Fernandes was named as his replacement, the process took approximately six months. Bishop Brennan was not directly involved in the selection. The Church has a formal process for that.

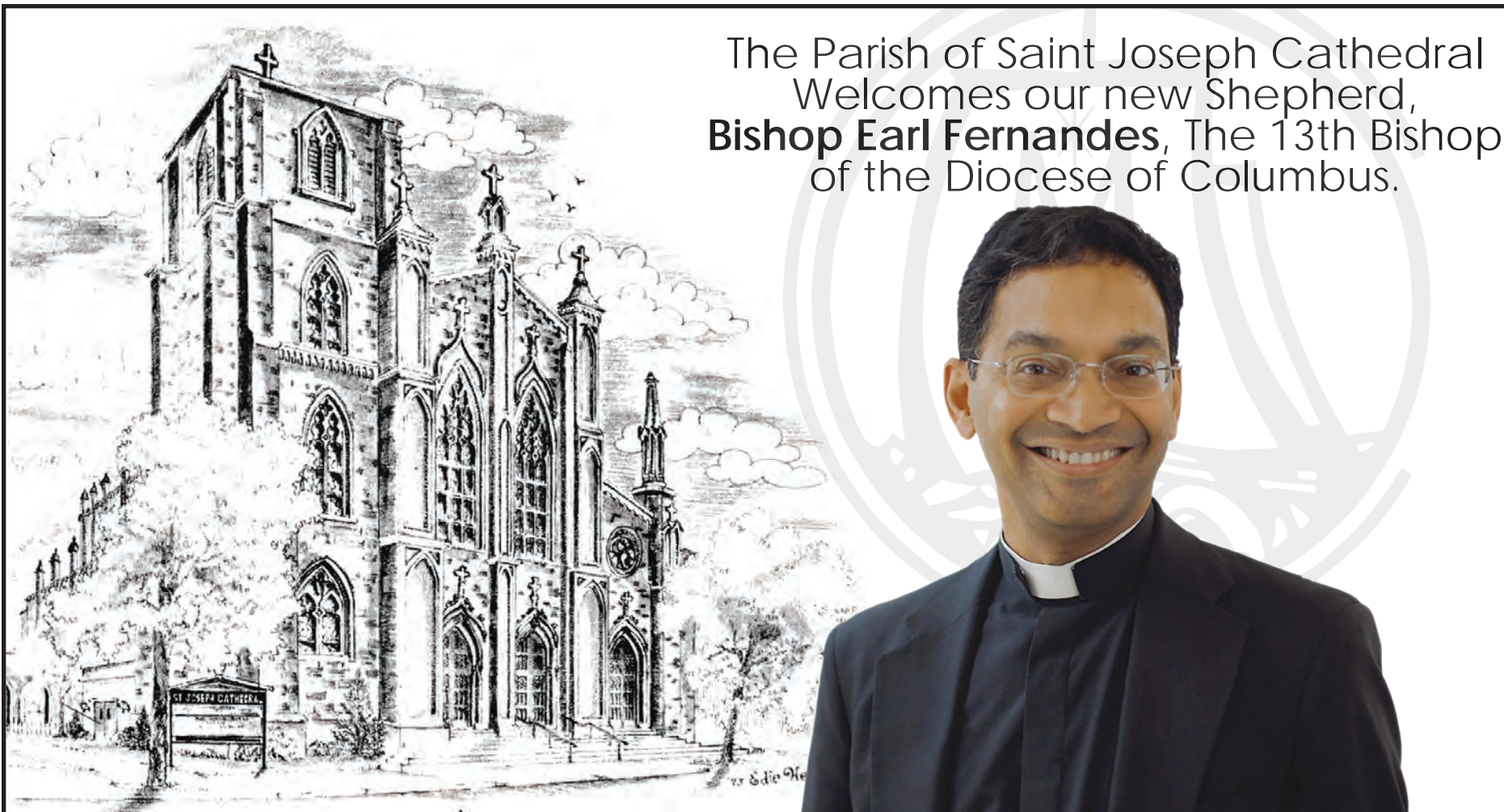
"As far as my involvement in a successor, I gave my input as far as the needs of the diocese," he said.

Since the announcement was made on April 2 that Bishop Fernandes was coming to Columbus, he has spoken frequently with Bishop Brennan.

"And I'm sure we'll speak a few more times," Bishop Brennan said.

Among the challenges facing Bishop Fernandes upon his arrival will be the Real Presence Real Future initiative that Bishop Brennan launched in 2021.

"He'll need to take his time and assess things and make decisions based on his pastoral style and what he's comfortable with," Bishop Brennan said.





Catholic Diocese  
of Cleveland

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MAY THE LORD BLESS BISHOP FERNANDES AS HE  
BEGINS TO SHEPHERD HIS FLOCK IN COLUMBUS.



THE MOST REVEREND EDWARD C. MALESIC, JCL  
*Bishop of Cleveland*

# Diocesan priests enthusiastic about working with new bishop

By Tim Puet  
For *The Catholic Times*

Priests of the Diocese of Columbus who have met with Bishop Earl Fernandes have strongly favorable first impressions of him and are eager to help him become familiar with the people of the diocese.

"I'm super-excited after having met him briefly and seen some of his YouTube videos," said Father David Sizemore, pastor of Newark St. Francis de Sales Church. "He seems to be just what the diocese needs at this time."

"His gifts of passion, energy, education, evangelization, administrative experience and pastoral leadership make for a wonderful combination," Father Sizemore said. "His talk in late April with the priests of the diocese and the videos, particularly one he did on exorcism, all show a real sense of engagement and of connecting with people."

While studying in Rome several years ago, the new bishop received training in exorcism, which is an official form of prayer the Catholic Church uses against the power of the devil. Although it has been sensationalized in books and on film, Bishop Fernandes has described

it as "part of the proclamation of the kingdom of God, so it's a sacramental in the Church. It's part of a ministry of healing."

Bishop Fernandes' appointment to succeed Bishop Robert Brennan as shepherd of the Columbus diocese was announced on April 2. His first opportunity to meet most of the diocese's priests came on April 27 at an informal luncheon the priests had scheduled earlier at Reynoldsburg St. Pius X Church so they could talk about the diocese's Real Presence Real Future initiative.

"That impressed me a great deal," Father Sizemore said. "He didn't have to be here, because he still was serving as pastor of a large church in suburban Cincinnati, but he made the trip. As we were all talking in small groups, he went around the room, introduced himself, took part in the conversations and listened attentively. You could tell how important it was for him to meet each of us and engage us."

Msgr. Joseph Hendricks, pastor of Dublin St. Brigid of Kildare Church, said he has known Bishop Fernandes for about five years through his friendship with Msgr. Frank Lane, a retired priest of the Columbus diocese. Msgr. Lane lives in Cincinnati, where he and

the bishop were part of the faculty of Mount St. Mary's Seminary of the West.

"Father Fernandes was always very cordial, very bright and very direct," Msgr. Hendricks said. "And he really loves the priesthood. All these qualities shine through. He's eager to be coming to this diocese and work with the people here, and, first of all, to be supportive and listen before he makes any major decisions."

"It's a great asset that he's worked with the Archdiocese of Cincinnati's restructuring process. That will be a big help as he charts the course of this diocese through the Real Presence Real Future initiative."

"Talking with Bishop Fernandes as he got ready for his ordination gave me a lot of comfort because I could tell he didn't want to rush into things," said Father Michael Hartge, moderator of the Curia for the diocese, who has played an active role in the initiative.

"He's very thoughtful, very purposeful and wants to make sure he gets to know the diocese and its people before the next steps in Real Purpose Real Future are taken."

"This means the initiative may take longer, for no one, especially Bishop Brennan, expected he'd be called to

serve elsewhere when he began plans for it last year. But it also means Bishop Fernandes wants to get it right and already is thinking of the diocese's long-term future.

"He's had to do a bit of a juggling act between running his parish and getting ready to come here, but he managed it well," Father Hartge said. "He was attentive to both roles right to the end. When he wasn't here, he was calling me or others in the diocesan offices every day."

"Bishop Fernandes impresses me as a man of holiness, with a strong prayer life and great humility," said Father Dan Dury, pastor of Sunbury St. John Neumann Church. "He will bring great enthusiasm for everything he does to the diocese, as well as a great sense of being its spiritual father."

"Most of the priests of the diocese – about 80 out of a little more than 100 – were at that meeting at St. Pius and seeing our bishop-elect being in the midst of everyone and mainly just listening had a great impact."

"I've heard Bishop Fernandes say he likes chicken wings and beer, so I'm looking forward to taking him to the Thurman Café in (Columbus') German Village one day and giving him a chance to try one of their giant hamburgers."

When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. In a loud voice she exclaimed: "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear!"  
Luke 1: 41-42

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bear fruit that will remain.*

- *John 15:16*

*May our Lady Mother of  
the Church, guide and  
protect your Episcopal  
Ministry.*

*St. Mary Parish  
Delaware, Ohio*





## Interviews reveal that everyone loves this bishop

Spending the past month and a half or so talking to people about Bishop Earl Fernandes provided valuable insights into the man who was chosen to lead the Diocese of Columbus as its 13th bishop. Common themes emerged.

He's highly intelligent, he's humble, he loves his vocation as a priest, he remembers your name, he's loyal, he makes time to listen, he loves his family and supporting families, and he's a man of great faith.

From Toledo, where he was raised and graduated to high school and college; to his first priestly assignment in Sidney, Ohio; to his parishioners in Cincinnati, where he became a parish pastor for the first time; and to his colleagues in the seminary and priesthood, they couldn't say enough good things about him.

Of course, what member of the Church or the clergy would say anything bad about a bishop, right? But it's pretty easy to tell when people are being sincere or when they're just being gratuitous, and everyone – everyone – exuded nothing but sincerity.

Parishioners at most parishes appreciate their priests for their dedicated service and sacrifices, but at the churches in Sidney and Cincinnati, where he served at the beginning of his priesthood and right before coming to Columbus as bishop, respectively, there seemed to be an even greater appreciation, in part because they could see this man is extraordinarily gifted and talented.

He's an academic, but he never makes anyone feel like he's an elitist. His brothers say he is academically blessed but humble. The new bishop breezed through high school, college and two years of medical school before he decided to pursue a calling to the sacrament of Holy Orders.

Some people are smart and want you to know it. Not so in this case. He can carry on a conversation about

### EDITOR'S REFLECTIONS

Doug Bean



Ohio State football or which restaurant offers the best chicken wings as easily as he can discuss moral theology and medical ethics.

The defining characteristic of this man, though, can be traced to his family and his upbringing.

His devout parents, Sydney and Thelma, instilled in their five sons that their Catholic faith took precedence. Rosary, Chaplet of Divine Mercy, Litany of Loreto, Angelus, Regina Coeli were everyday parts of life and were non-negotiable, whether the boys wanted to pray or not.

Sunday Mass was never missed, and daily Mass and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament were big parts of their lives.

His parents also lived simply and humbly.

They came to the United States from India in 1970 with only a few dollars in their pocket and the promise of a better life in America, leaving behind their relatives.

Sydney was a highly respected physician, but the family did not live a life of privilege. He resided in a small house in a poor neighborhood on the east side of the city until the boys were teenagers. They shared bedrooms.

The five brothers will tell you they weren't saints. They engaged in mischief like most boys. When they did, they had to answer for it to their parents.

In school, the five were stalwarts, all graduating from Toledo St. Francis de Sales High School. Three became medical doctors, one a judge and the other now a bishop who spent two years in medical school. From a career

standpoint, they are high achievers.

At the installation and ordination Mass on Tuesday, May 31, at Westerville St. Paul Church, the four brothers and their families watched with joy as their brother and uncle joined the successors of the Apostles. One brother, Trevor, is a deacon in the Ukrainian Catholic Church and proclaimed the Gospel during the Mass.

Sadly, the bishop's beloved parents weren't able to share this moment in person. Sydney died in 2019 at age 82. Thelma has been in and out of the hospital in the Toledo area with health issues and suffering from dementia. She was too ill to travel.

She did, however, receive the news of his appointment as bishop from her son, Earl, firsthand before it was announced to the public on April 2. Then-Bishop-elect Fernandes made a special trip to see her.

Several weeks later, one of the bishop's brothers, Ashley, visited her and asked if she was excited about Earl becoming a bishop. He wasn't sure whether she would remember hearing about it, but she broke out in a big smile, confirming that she understood.

Now that the installation and ordination are over, the new bishop will dive into his role. His calendar is already filled for the next month and beyond.

He'll face challenges and decisions as a new member of the Church hierarchy. Some will be difficult.

He'll be asked to speak with a prophetic and thoughtful voice for the diocese on issues such as shortages of vocations, violence, abortion, euthanasia, poverty, potential parish closings and mergers and the like.

But from all accounts, he'll be up to the challenge. He'll no doubt be guided by faith and reason – the bedrocks of a firm foundation that began with nurturing from his parents.

As he begins a new ministry, pray for him.

## Welcome Bishop Fernandes

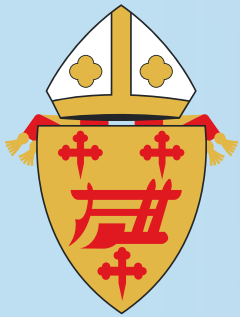


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PRAYERFUL BEST WISHES,

Archbishop  
Dennis M. Schnurr

+

*the faithful of the  
Archdiocese of Cincinnati*





# Schools filled with anticipation about new bishop

By Tim Puet

For The Catholic Times

Officials of the diocese's elementary and secondary schools who met Bishop Earl Fernandes before his ordination were impressed with the message he brought them and with his readiness to work with them in the coming school year.

Bishop Fernandes visited school administrators for their annual May meeting at the Pontifical College Josephinum. He celebrated Mass for them and talked with them individually during the meeting's lunch break.

"It was a particularly meaningful gesture that Bishop Fernandes was able to join Catholic school administrators from all around the diocese for our May meeting and Mass," said Stephanie Paul-Tiberio, assistant principal at Westerville St. Paul School, who will move to Newark Catholic High School in the same position when classes resume in the fall.

"During what is certain to be a most busy time for him, he offered Mass and, through his homily, touched many hearts. He talked about the profoundness of a young boy in Italy who was asked by a priest to identify Jesus in the church and stated plainly that while the

crucifix looked like Jesus, that was not truly Him. The boy went on to share that in the tabernacle resides Jesus, who (in the form of a consecrated host) does not look like our Savior, but truly is.

"Every day in our Catholic schools, we are firsthand observers of these moments. The homily was a reminder and a moment of renewal for me in my call to be a Catholic educator and leader."

"His presentation of the Holy Eucharist was a visible celebration," said Columbus St. Charles Preparatory School principal Jim Lower. "I look forward to seeing Bishop Fernandes when he is in Columbus. His short time with all of our administrators was uplifting and invigorating. What an exciting time we have to look forward to in Columbus!"

"He has made his commitment to Catholic education clear in very strong terms," said diocesan school Superintendent Adam Dufault. "He is coming to Columbus with experience as an educator and as pastor of a church with a large elementary school.

"I was impressed with his own experience in Catholic schools. He's very eager to dive in and to lead our schools into the future. Enrollment in the schools for the 2022-2023 academic year is trending upward as more people

see the ways Catholic schools are different and make a difference."

Bishop Fernandes also has visited the diocesan Schools Office in the Catholic Center in downtown Columbus.

Seth Burkholder, the office's associate director for data analysis, said, "When I first heard that he was going to take the time to drive up from Cincinnati to visit the diocesan office and meet with each diocesan employee in their office, it reminded me of a quote from St. Therese of Lisieux: 'Miss no single opportunity of making some small sacrifice, here by a smiling look, there by a kindly word; always doing the smallest right and doing it all for love.'

"That act of sacrifice and love made all that much more sense when I personally met with him and he talked of his family's devotion to St. Therese."

Burkholder also said he was impressed by Bishop Fernandes' devotion to the Virgin Mary. "This is going to be a very Marian diocese going forward," he said.

Burkholder said the new bishop "not only checks all the boxes that you have. He checks the boxes you didn't realize you had. He is very pro-life and, coming from a family full of doctors and with (the possibility of the U.S. Supreme Court overturning its) Roe v. Wade (de-

cision), the timing of his election to be a bishop in the United States could not be more perfect.

"We need leaders like this in the Catholic Church in the United States at this time and place."

He said Bishop Fernandes' ability to recall people, places and events "reminds me of another great bishop, Pope St. John Paul II. Given that he is a fast talker, I wonder if he will say Mass as fast as Cardinal (Timothy) Dolan (of New York City)."

A joint statement issued by Cristo Rey Columbus High School principal Ryan Michelle Pettit and Joseph Patrick, president of the school, said, "The students, faculty, staff, and board of Cristo Rey Columbus High School rejoice at the appointment of Bishop Fernandes to the Diocese of Columbus.

"As a diverse Catholic school, with students of color making up 92 percent of enrollment and 50 percent of students being first-generation Americans, Bishop Fernandes' appointment as the first Indian-American bishop (in the United States) is embraced and celebrated.

"We look forward to working with the bishop in continuing to provide opportunities for Columbus' students, especially those in underserved communities."

## Welcome & God Bless, Bishop Earl K. Fernandes

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# Welcome Bishop Fernandez



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# Bishop Fernandes familiar with Josephinum

**By Tim Puet**  
For The Catholic Times

When he was ordained as bishop of the Diocese of Columbus, Bishop Earl Fernandes automatically became vice chancellor of the Pontifical College Josephinum. That position would have given him a seat on the college's 21-member board of trustees had he not already been a member.

Father Steven Beseau, the college's rector/president, appointed then-Father Fernandes to the board in 2019, the year Father Beseau was chosen for his current position. The two have known each other since 2005, when both were working on doctorates in Rome.

Bishop Fernandes was dean of Mount St. Mary's Seminary of the West in Cincinnati from 2008-2016. Shortly before leaving there for a post with the office of the Vatican's apostolic nuncio in Washington, he hired Father Beseau to teach moral theology at the seminary, where he remained until coming to the Josephinum.

"Even before Bishop Fernandes was appointed to the board of the Josephinum, I relied on him as an informal consultant to help me in my work as rector/president," Father Beseau said.

"When he returned to the Archdio-

cese of Cincinnati to become pastor of a parish, that provided me an opportunity to ask the board if they would consider bringing him on as a member.

"Bishop Fernandes brings his experience as a priest, pastor, theologian, academic dean and a staff member of the apostolic nunciature. He has proven himself to be an invaluable member of the board of trustees, and I am so grateful that he will continue to serve as a member of the board and as vice chancellor."

Bishop Steven Raica of the Diocese of Birmingham, Alabama, vice chair of the Josephinum board, said, "Bishop Fernandes is a man of joyful faith with a passion for priests and priestly formation. He relates love and enthusiasm for the Church. His position on the board can best be seen through this lens.

"He is a disciple whose encounter with Christ is real and life-changing. His ubiquitous smile exudes the joy of the Gospel about which Pope Francis often speaks.

"For that reason, he offers the board, as well as those in formation (for the priesthood at the seminary), an excitement for responding generously to the call of God, i.e., the call to holiness and a life lived freely and fully for Christ."

Father Michael Lumpe, vice rector



**Archbishop Christophe Pierre (left) talks with Father Steven Beseau, rector/president at the Pontifical College Josephinum, during an event. Bishop Earl Fernandes (not pictured) worked for Archbishop Pierre, the Papal Nuncio, for three years. Photo/Josephinum**

of the Josephinum's College of Liberal Arts and a priest of the Diocese of Columbus, has known Bishop Fernandes for several years through their mutual friendship with Msgr. Frank Lane, another Columbus diocesan priest, who is a former teacher at Mount St. Mary's and lives in retirement in Cincinnati.

"Bishop Fernandes is incredibly capable in any number of ways, a true man of the Church. He has excellent skills dealing with people and as an administrator. He's full of energy and drive, a good listener and will make an

excellent shepherd for the diocese.

"From a priest's point of view, he has been a priest for 20 years and, having been pastor of a large parish, he knows what it takes to lead a parish. I'm sure he will be taking the time to learn the history of the diocese and its people and all that is needed for him to be able to deal with the future necessities of the diocese.

"He also will assist in increasing the

See JOSEPHINUM, Page 31

*Welcome Bishop Fernandes!*



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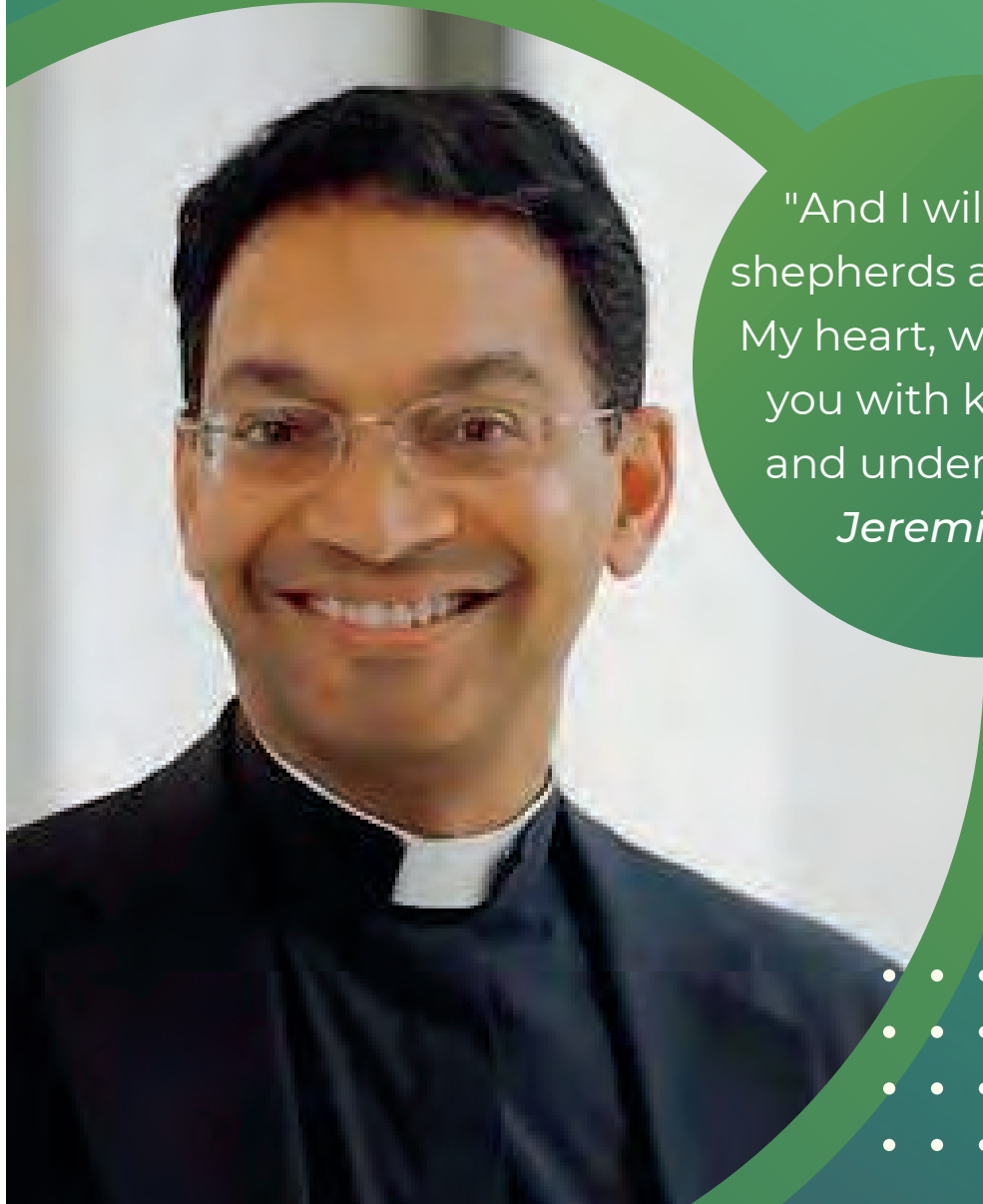


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*Bishop Earl Fernandes*



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you with knowledge  
and understanding."  
*Jeremiah 3:15*



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JOSEPHINUM, *continued from Page 29*

number of vocations to the priesthood in the diocese. He already knows a number of bishops and vocations directors in other dioceses, and that should bode well for adding to the number of dioceses who send candidates for the priesthood to the Josephinum for their formation.”

Father William Hahn, vocations director for the Diocese of Columbus, is in residence at the Josephinum and also knows the bishop through connections with Msgr. Lane.

“I think he’s very holy and very intelligent,” Father Hahn said of the new bishop. “He met with most of the priests of the diocese for the first time when they had an already scheduled meeting at Reynoldsburg St. Pius X Church in July, and it was most significant that he was there – not so much for what he said as for his just being there and showing he’s interested in what’s on the minds and in the hearts of the priests.”

“He knows a lot of people and is in contact with a lot of resources. One of the first things he asked me as vocations director was if I could get all the seminarians of the diocese together for a gathering separate from the annual priests’ and seminarians’ picnic in August. We’re trying to do that in July. He also asked me about any prospective priests I was working with, so he’s ready to assist with encouraging voca-

tions.”

Father Jeff Rimelspach is pastor of Columbus St. Margaret of Cortona Church, a position in which he succeeded Msgr. Lane. He is in his ninth and final year as a Josephinum trustee. He was appointed to the post for a three-year term in 2013 and has served two additional terms since then. Nine years is the maximum term for a board member.

“Bishop Fernandes is a very happy man with a friendly disposition and is comfortable around a variety of people,” Father Rimelspach said. “You can tell the joy he gets from being a priest.”

“He’s very well-organized, able to assimilate a lot of information quickly and act on it wisely. He was asked to perform a number of tasks as a member of the board’s vision and mission committee and followed through on them very competently.

“He’s enthusiastic about the future of the Josephinum and of priesthood in general. A special charism of his is the desire to train good priests.”

Archbishop Christophe Pierre, the Vatican’s apostolic nuncio to the United States, is chancellor of the Josephinum by virtue of his position. Bishop James Wall of the Diocese of Gallup, New Mexico, is chairman of the board of trustees, whose members are appointed by the rector/president.

Other board members, besides Fathers Beseau and Rimelspach and Bishops Fernandes and Raica, are:

Former Columbus Bishop Robert Brennan, now bishop of the Diocese of Brooklyn, New York; Bishops Shawn McKnight of Jefferson City, Missouri and Jeffrey Monforton of Steubenville; Auxiliary Bishop Richard Henning of Rockville Centre, New York; Father Josh Altonji, Diocese of Birmingham; Sister Anne Catherine Burleigh, OP, Nashville, Tennessee.

Sister Anthony Mary Diago, RSM, Phoenix; Deacon Stephen Petrill, psychology professor, Ohio State Univer-

sity; Josephinum vice president for administration John Erwin; Josephinum faculty members Perry Cahall and Douglas Fortner; Charles Bramlage, chief executive officer, Yamo Pharmaceuticals, Columbus.

Rick Jeric, former Columbus diocesan development director and former president/CEO of the Women’s Care Center in Columbus, now executive director of the Catholic Foundation of the Diocese of La Crosse, Wisconsin; J. David Karam, president of the Sbarro restaurant group in Dublin; and Catholic author, speaker and broadcaster Patrick Madrid of Granville.



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*on being installed as  
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Bishop-elect Earl Fernandes**

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and the people in the Diocese of Columbus.**



Bishop Thomas J. Olmsted



THE ROMAN CATHOLIC  
DIOCESE OF PHOENIX



Bishop Eduardo A. Nevares

And the faithful of the Diocese of Phoenix



## What they're saying about Bishop Fernandes!

"Bishop-Elect Fernandes is an inspired selection by Pope Francis to lead the Diocese of Columbus. A native Ohioan and son of immigrants, Bishop-Elect Fernandes' experience as a parish pastor and a leader at two Ohio seminaries will position him for success in leading Central Ohio Catholics. Fran and I look forward to meeting him and supporting his ministry." – *Mike DeWine, Governor, State of Ohio*

"The Catholic Conference of Ohio extends our joyful congratulations to Bishop Fernandes and the Diocese of Columbus. We look forward to working with Bishop Fernandes as a member of our Board of Directors and pray that God's blessings be upon him as he leads the faithful of the Diocese of Columbus." – *Jerry Freewalt, executive director, Catholic Conference of Ohio*

"On behalf of the students, alumni, faculty, staff and leadership of Ohio Dominican University, I am delighted to extend a sincere and heartfelt Panther welcome to Bishop-Elect Earl Fernandes. I look forward to working with you to identify opportunities for growth so that we may make a Catholic college education accessible to all who seek personal, professional and spiritual growth in their search for Truth. We are grateful for your advocacy of an education founded in the Catholic Dominican faith tradition, and are committed to working with you and your team to serve the diocese and beyond. Welcome to Columbus, Ohio!" – *Connie Gallaher, President of Ohio Dominican University*

"The Dominican Sisters of Peace are so happy to welcome Bishop Fernandes to Columbus! We know that he will bring great energy to the preaching of the Gospel. We look forward to helping him in his work of building up the Body of Christ in our Diocese." – *Sister Patricia Twohill, OP, Prioress, Dominican Sisters of Peace*

"The missionary community at Damascus is excited to welcome our new Bishop to the Diocese of Columbus. We are praying for a powerful grace of apostolic zeal and enduring intimacy with the Holy Spirit as he steps into this role of service and leadership in our growing diocese!" – *Aaron Richards, executive director, Damascus Catholic Mission Campus*

"The Federal Association of the Order of Malta is overjoyed at the appointment of Fr. Earl Fernandes to be the 13th Bishop of Columbus. We have heard great things about him and we look forward to years of steady leadership from him. The Knights and Dames of the Order of Malta are committed to helping Bishop Fernandes be as successful as possible in his ministry. We are constantly praying for him and we thank God for our new Shepherd!" – *Charles Mifsud, KM, Board Member of the Federal Association of the Order of Malta*

"It is with great joy that the Columbus Region of the Order of Malta welcomes Bishop Fernandes as the thirteenth Bishop of the Diocese of Columbus. We look forward to his leadership and want him to know of our support in any manner he sees fit. We pray that the Good Shepherd pours out His Grace on him. May He Bless and Keep Bishop Fernandes always." – *Leonard Barbe, KM, Columbus Region Hospitaller of the Order of Malta*


"The Serra Clubs of Columbus and North Columbus joyfully welcome Bishop Fernandes; we are excited to join with him and all the faithful in prayerfully supporting and promoting a culture of religious vocations in our Diocese." – *Serra Clubs of Columbus*



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*Congratulations*

**Bishop Fernandes!**

**Welcome to the Diocese of Columbus**

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da una calurosa  
bienvenida  
al Obispo  
Earl Fernandes.  
¡Dios lo bendiga!

# Q&A: Parental influence, education reform, joy of Catholicism

By Doug Bean

*Catholic Times Editor*

Bishop Earl Fernandes sat down with *The Catholic Times* for a 90-minute interview at his former parish, St. Ignatius of Loyola in Cincinnati, several weeks ago as he was preparing to transition to the Diocese of Columbus.

Bishop Fernandes, an Ohio native, grew up in Toledo, started medical school at the University of Cincinnati before discerning a call to the priesthood, and was ordained for the Archdiocese of Cincinnati in 2002.

His assignments have included Holy Angels Church in Sidney, Ohio; academic dean and instructor at Mount St. Mary's Seminary of the West in Cincinnati; Apostolic Nunciature in Washington, D.C.; and St. Ignatius. He also has served as a parish administrator and on the Board of Trustees at the Pontifical College Josephinum.

The following are excerpts from that discussion:

**Q: What has your life been like since the announcement of your appointment as bishop, and what reaction have you had? Has anything surprised you?**

A: The announcement became public a little bit after 6 in the morning on April 2. Probably around 9:30, I left my brother's house in Dublin to head down to the Chancery offices. And up to that point, between 6 in the morning and 9:30, in addition to taking about four or five phone calls, I answered 130 text messages and 40 emails.

As soon as the press conference was over, I had another 60 emails and 150 text messages. And so I spent a lot of time that day doing nothing but answering emails and text messages.

Then coming back to the parish that weekend, my people here at St. Ignatius are very happy for the Diocese of Columbus, very happy for me. I would say that I was probably more shocked than they were. They were saying, "Oh, Father, we all knew this was going to happen someday. We just didn't want it to be so soon." And then there were a lot of tears being shed. That's just a sign of, not necessarily my greatness, but people's love for their priest.

**Q: Were most of the texts and emails from family and friends?**

A: Some, but also I have family in India, and I have a cousin in Tampa and three cousins in Canada. Everybody else is over there. And three of my four brothers went to medical school at Ohio State (University) so there are a lot of people in the Columbus area I knew. I was



**Bishop Earl Fernandes answers questions during an interview in the rectory at Cincinnati St. Ignatius of Loyola Church several weeks after the announcement that he would be leading the Diocese of Columbus as its 13th bishop. Photo courtesy Abigail Pitones**

also very good friends with Msgr. Frank Lane, a priest of Columbus but retired living here in Cincinnati. And so through him, I've met a number of laypeople in Columbus, and a number of priests of Columbus, all of whom were ecstatic.

Maybe it's just the joy of knowing we're going to have a shepherd, and there's a lot of decisions eventually that'll need to be made in Columbus. I think people are happy that the period from Bishop (Robert) Brennan's appointment to Brooklyn and then his departure from Columbus until now was not actually going to be that long.

**Q: Is it easier for you knowing a little bit about Columbus?**

A: My brothers know Columbus very well, but I know Toledo well. I know Cincinnati well. I have friends in Steubenville. I know those places better than I know Columbus. Columbus, of course, has experienced tremendous growth and will continue to grow. I have about 35 former students who I taught when they were in high school and have moved to the Columbus area, and now they're married. They have children. Some of the weddings I have in the Columbus area, St. Mary's in German Village or St. Leo's or St. Patrick's, and even at the cathedral. So in that sense, there'll be kind of a base of support that does help. It won't be completely strange, but I'm going to have a great learning curve. I'll be eager to get out to the parishes and meet the people and meet the priests of Columbus on a wider scale.

**Q: What's your overall sense of Catholicism in the Diocese of Columbus?**

A: I would say it's very different from Cincinnati in this sense. Cincinnati is a very old diocese, which had a lot of religious orders and a lot of Catholic schools. And so at one point, the city of Cincinnati was maybe 40% Catholic. Especially here on the west side, people

will ask, "Where are you from?" They'll say St. Teresa, St. William, St. Lawrence. They identify their neighborhood with the parish church. I'm not sure that that's the case in Columbus.

Cincinnati has a rural area, and the archdiocese includes the cities of Dayton, Springfield and Cincinnati, but Columbus had a much smaller Catholic population. The presence of male and female religious is much lower. Catholicism has really grown in part because the population of Columbus has grown, so the geographic distances in Columbus are a little bit different, and the size of the parishes are a little bit different.

I am familiar with Columbus a little bit through the Josephinum. I've been on the board now for almost two years. Most of my experience of Columbus has been when my brothers were in medical school. They went to St. Patrick's, so that's kind of a kind of a Catholic hub for young adults. But then also they knew Msgr. Frank Lane. They would go to St. Andrew in Upper Arlington.

I'm part of the Communion and Liberation movement here in Cincinnati. We have a community here at the parish and another one at the University of Cincinnati. I'm happy to know that there's a small contingent of members of Communion and Liberation here in the Diocese of Columbus. The Dominican Fathers of the Eastern Province, the novitiate is here in Cincinnati. So when the friars are young, they all come through here and for many years I was academic dean (at Mount St. Mary's of the West Seminary) and had a very good relationship with the Dominicans. I'm happy with their presence in the Diocese of Columbus, but mostly I need to get to know the diocese.

The Ann Arbor Dominicans, Mary Mother of the Eucharist have arrived relatively recently, and there are probably other religious orders that I will need to get to know. The Dominican Sisters of Buffalo are now moved to Newark. I know the Sisters of the Children of Mary

very well.

So they're up in Newark, and then I'm the regular confessor for the Sisters of the Children of Mary in Cincinnati. And I'm sure there are many others. I know Bishop Brennan brought in the Mercenarios, who I knew a little bit about from Philadelphia, but they're just getting settled there. So there is a growing movement. The Pallottine Fathers and several of the female religious orders have come in in the last few years.

I think a big difference is probably the presence of schools. You know, practically every parish in the Cincinnati archdiocese has a Catholic school until you get to the northern part of the diocese. In the northern part, they didn't have so many Catholic schools because there were nuns teaching in the public schools and the towns were entirely Catholic. ... You have those five big schools in Columbus, but it's not as big throughout.

**Q: How do you build up Catholic education?**

A: Catholic education provided my brothers and me with a strong foundation. We had religion every single day. We also had great parents who also taught us religion at home. So we got the faith, as did many of those classmates of mine with whom I grew up. It's important to get people in the pipeline, particularly with what's happening in public education today, with gender ideology with all those sorts of things, to have the Catholic voice being heard – not just one voice amongst others but an authoritative voice so that there can be a fundamental anthropology and the essentials of the faith.

We have a teacher-minister contract for all our Catholic school teachers so that you know the teacher is a spiritual leader within the classroom. At St. Ignatius, for example, we have a thing called the School of Faith where one Friday of the month the teachers don't teach. They have a day that's like an in-service day, and they have nothing but faith formation, which I think is essential because any Catholic school ought to be presenting, in my mind, the Catholic faith in its integrity.

And the measure of success is not whether people go on to private school or get into a better high school or college. The measure of success is whether those children are at Sunday Mass and have regular sacramental life and are growing in virtue and holiness. And if we don't do that, or if we do the opposite, then we have undermined the reason for the existence of Catholic schools and Catholic education.

And so we really want to cultivate this

**Q&A, continued from Page 34**

strong sense of Catholic identity in our Catholic schools. Personally, I'm not very interested in private education for the very wealthy that excludes the poor. I want accessibility to Catholic education, education that's truly Catholic, that's Catholic first.

**Q: Has Ohio's EdChoice program brought more access to people who cannot afford Catholic education?**

A: Here at St. Ignatius, we have 1,160 kids at our elementary school. EdChoice is important when you have failing school districts, but our campus is also an inclusion school, so that students with disabilities, learning disabilities or physical disabilities can come here in part because there's a lot of Peterson (special needs) scholarship money available.

And then EdChoice makes Catholic education available for a lot of children who live in poor neighborhoods. So those areas where Catholics once lived but moved away to the suburbs, those parishes have parish schools. Those schools are sustained in part by EdChoice, but what we're seeing in some of those regions is that these aren't just non-Catholics attending the school. In some regions, for example, there are poor, working class Catholics or Latinos who are moving who don't necessarily have the tradition of coming to a Catholic school, but now Catholic schools are becoming available, and their presence can help increase the Catholic identity of those schools.

**Q: Are those evangelization opportunities?**

A: Absolutely. If you have a Catholic school, the purpose of the Catholic school is to further the mission of the Church, and the mission of the Church is evangelization to mediate the presence of Christ in the human reality in society, in the classroom, in the family.

My friend, Father (Mark) Watkins, he's pastor over at St. Lawrence (in Cincinnati), and what he found was, he had a lot of EdChoice students in his school, many of whom have parents who were Catholic, but the children hadn't been baptized. And so this was a way of introducing those children to the faith and to the sacramental life of the Church. And so they get into a regular rhythm.

My experience has been many children go to Catholic schools, but they don't come to Mass, unfortunately, or they come to Mass but they don't know what's going on. But my experience with the Catechism of the Good Shepherd program is children interacting with things, learning their Bible stories. They learn how to be silent, they learn how to pray.

The purpose of education is not simply

to give them the right answers, but rather it's to train the mind to think critically and to make judgments. And so to teach them how to ask the right questions, and then to use reason, along with faith, but to use the reason in order to discover the truth and to appropriate it.

We want to say here's the Catechism, learn these things, but it doesn't impact people's lives. We want education to facilitate a personal encounter with Jesus Christ that changes your life. So Pope Benedict XVI, in the very first paragraph of his first encyclical, *Deus Caritas Est*, said being a Christian is not a result of an ethical choice or a lofty idea. It's a result of an encounter with an event or person that opens up new horizons and gives our life a decisive direction.

Well, that's what Catholic education ought to do – facilitate the encounter with Jesus Christ in and through his Church that gives our life a decisive direction that opens up new horizons and new possibilities about how to live.

When Pope Benedict opened the Year of Faith, 10 years ago now, he talked about different dimensions of faith. Faith is taking a stand with Christ so as to live with Christ. And I think too often we have head knowledge but we don't have a heart that can see or act, or people react with feelings but without using reason, and we descend into a type of emotivism. Catholicism really sees the compatibility between faith and reason.

**Q: One overriding concern from people is: Why did my children, or myself, who have had Catholic education, stray from the faith?**

A: People still have a funny idea that there's still tons of priests and nuns in the Catholic schools teaching religion from the Baltimore Catechism. And that era ended two generations ago. I think there's also so many parents who rely on the schools to educate their children in the way of faith. But this is why it's so important to form the formators, to form the teachers in the Catholic faith so that they can present it accurately.

What I find is people my age are parents, and they're saying, "You know, my children are questioning me, but I don't know how to explain this stuff to my children." And when I think about what was actually taught in Catholic schools in our religion classes when I was a child it was, the answer to every question was God is love. Well, I know God is love.

Because we got no content in our religion classes, people our age find it difficult to explain these truths to their children. The textbooks now are much better. But the challenges are different. And so the parents can't really go through the textbook because, unfortunately, they don't always have the information themselves or they don't know how to explain

it in a coherent manner. So we have to get back to sometimes the basics, the basic proclamation of the faith.

I think a second thing is the way in which we teach the faith, for the most part, should be from the point of view of assent to these truths. So we have to try to say, OK, how can we present these truths in a way in which the children can understand but in a way with the mind and the heart of the Church rather than from the position of dissent, like question everything. You need some structure, but I'm going to train your mind how to think critically and ask the question. Otherwise, to say question everything, or this is my point of view, that's different from what the Church actually teaches. It becomes an ideology, and that's not education.

So I think that's why parents struggle.

And because children have access to so many different things through social media, phones and things like that, which didn't exist then, so how are we going to get the Catholic message out in a way that is attractive and coherent.

So here, for example, in Cincinnati, the next exit up the road from this parish is Ruah Woods Institute. Ruah Woods was founded to teach (Pope St.) John Paul II's Theology of the Body. And originally, they put on some retreats and things for teenagers, but they developed the K through 12 religion curriculum, which doesn't replace religion but supplements the religion curriculum, and they're selling it to dioceses all over the country.

We've had it here at St. Ignatius for

See Q&A, Page 36

## Congratulations ~ Bishop Earl Fernandes ~



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## Q&amp;A, continued from Page 35

more than 10 years, and it's making a profound difference in how children speak about themselves, they understand some of the basic concepts of the Theology of the Body, that I was made to be a gift to others. I need to give myself to another, that I'm not to be treated as an object but as a person. They understand some basic concept of human dignity. Now, the children come back with this knowledge, but the parents don't understand. So we need to do much more in the way of adult faith formation.

I want to reiterate that parents are the primary educators and teachers in the way of faith. And so this is also how lay-people live their vocation in the world to take this seriously. I'm a primary educator, not the priest, not the nun. I, as a father, I, as mother, I'm an educator. Am I putting in the same effort in to teach my child of faith as I am to saying that they're successful soccer or tennis or basketball players? Am I putting the same effort into them learning the faith, nourishing them spiritually, as I am into preparing the family meal?

I think these are some of the things that parents can assume their responsibility, and I want to help parents to assume their responsibility. Let's put the tools in their hands so they can. I think family-based catechesis is one direction that can help do this.

We have a lot of PSR (Parish School of Religion) students that come in, but next year here in our parish we're going

to start switching so that once a month, parents will come for classes, and then they'll have a couple of weeks where they're not going to come in for class but they'll have to do it at home. It turns things back to the parents to work at religion with their children.

My father was a physician. My mother was a stay-at-home mom of five boys born between 1966 and 1973. But they taught us our religion. I mean, my father would come back tired having worked long, long shifts, and he takes us one by one down in the basement and reviews the questions in the Baltimore Catechism with us so that we knew them. And we prayed the family rosary every night.

So I think these are some of the challenges, but the culture, we have to acknowledge, is much less supportive of faith than it was 20 years ago or 40 years ago. And so the rapid secularization, mobility of people the use of new technologies brings with it its own challenges. And so we have to use the new media, I think, in a way to evangelize. But we also have to learn that technology has its place. And we need to also learn to how to put the phone away and shut the TV off and to be still – silence to hear God's voice and to be able to pray. And I think this is the lost art, the art of being still, the art of silence.

There has to be a deep commitment to prayer and to silence and, and I can't force that on anyone but I can tell you St. Alphonsus Liguori says he who prays

will be saved, and he does not will certainly be condemned. If God is lost, all is lost. But if we lose sight of God, if we lose sight of God made in man's image and likeness worthy of care and respect, and that's why we see so much dehumanization today and what the pope laments is the throwaway culture.

**Q: Was the example of your parents key in your faith formation?**

A: Absolutely. I got a nice card from some people in Toledo. Their oldest son was best friends with my older brother Karl. Their youngest son was best friends with my youngest brother Eustace, and they attributed this (being named bishop) in their words to my saintly parents. And there's a truth there.

I would be nothing without my parents, what they gave us, and I would see this when my friends would come over to our house, and we'd have to pray the family rosary. Our friend would have to pray right along with us, and they didn't know the Our Father or the Hail Mary. And so I realized that what we had was very different and very, very special.

The person went on to write, "I remember your mother kissing your hands when you were ordained a priest." And so this is the type of devotion that my parents had, the reverence they had for priests.

So I had very saintly parents who lived the life. It wasn't that faith was something extrinsic to their lives, and they had internalized it.

**Q: Did you realize that growing up?**

A: I realized it growing up. My brothers don't remember this incident, and maybe because they were in bed, but I remember we went to bed, and I couldn't get to sleep. Lent in our house was somewhat severe. We prayed the Stations of the Cross every Friday as a family in addition to the rosary. We took our abstinence from meat, but we did it like Wednesdays and Fridays, like the old Ember days as well.

My mother was a great cook, and she would make us shrimp curry and rice and lots of Indian dishes that are vegetarian so it was, and she was a fantastic cook. But I remember once, we boys never ate with our parents. So we boys ate, my father had

his cup of tea, then we prayed the family rosary, and then we usually would have a fruit or milk or something and go off to bed.

I remember once I couldn't sleep, and I came down sort of spying on my parents. My father went over to the refrigerator, and he pulled up two eggs, like hard-boiled eggs, from the refrigerator and put them on the scale. And the larger one he gave to my mother for her supper, and smaller one he took for himself. And that was their way of life. And so these things you realize as a child, and later on it moves you to want to be more like that.

I wish I had my parents' faith. I wish I was as committed to holiness as they were.

**Q: People have said that you seem to have an affinity for hospital ministry and being there when people don't expect it. How do you do that?**

A: My father was a physician. So he had the bedside manner. I myself was in medical school. My brothers are physicians; this is what they do. And so I think probably some of that I caught from them growing up in a big family, growing up in a poor neighborhood. You realize what it is to be human fundamentally. And how to treat people with care and respect.

Like, what does this person need as a priest? How can I mediate the presence of Christ to them. Part of being a priest is being radically available.

So during the pandemic, Mercy West Hospital, which is huge, they weren't letting those above age 60 do pastoral care. And I was the only priest on this end of town under age 60. So I was going over there sometimes two or three times a day, but the doctors and nurses were familiar with me. I was very respectful of the protocols they put in place. I tried to do what I could when I could.

You answer (calls) in the middle of the night. There's a snowstorm and ice storm, everything shut down, somebody's dying. You walk across the field, the roads are shut down, you walk across the field, the ice, to bring them the sacraments, because Jesus laid down his life for his friends, and the least we can do is get cold. And what a difference it makes doing small, little things.

One of our staff members, her mother was dying right around Christmas, and I went to the house and was just there and brought a smile to a woman's face and brought her the sacraments and the comfort it brings. And it's not really me. It's Jesus at work. Sometimes through Him and through His defective instruments, sometimes through the perfect instruments he's given his Church and the sacraments.



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**Q&A, continued from Page 36**

I love going to an assisted living facility. Every Wednesday, my assistant and I go there and have Mass, and they're faithful people. Sometimes people feel like, "I'm here by myself. Nobody comes to visit me, nobody writes." And to see their desire for Mass and the sacraments, to see their faith is great. And so the presence of the priest, the presence of Catholic doctors and nurses, the presence of family affirms their dignity.

**Q: Is that one of the most joyful things you do as a priest, being there and giving them the last sacraments?**

A: I hope they remember me when they get to heaven. You know, I have my sins and my failings, and I hope that they say, "But Lord, remember he did this for me." I hope.

When I got here, already there had been a tradition of hearing confessions because originally there was a pastor and an assistant and then two retired priests in residence, so they had confession available pretty regularly. When I got here, I decided, let's share confession every single day after morning Mass. So that's what we do, and people come.

So making oneself radically available for the sacraments is very important. And if you have it, people will come.

**Q: People mentioned that smile you always have and joy for the priesthood. Where does that come from?**

A: First of all, it's the joy of being loved by Jesus Christ and knowing His love and experiencing His love in spite of all my sins, in spite of my faults and failings. That's the one certainty I have in this world is that I am loved by God, and that brings joy to my heart.

I also think that in spite of my nothingness, God still called me to the priesthood. He gave me this gift. And that brings joy to me that he loved me enough to give me the gift of the priesthood. But I also say the happiest day of my life was my First Communion day, because I always had a question in my mind. I was a little shorter than some of them. Do you love me as much as the taller kids? Our skin was brown and not white. Do you love me as much as the white kids? We were in a poor neighborhood. Do you love us as much as the rich kids?

All these questions were going through my child's mind. And on my First Communion day, that question was answered. And that day I was happy. So when I say Mass, I see upon the altar the One who loved me, and the One who still loves me and who will always love me. And I can look at Him, and He's a real person there. And He gazes at me, and I gaze on Him, and that brings me joy. At Mass, my brothers sometimes wonder, "What

are you smiling at? You look like a dork when you're smiling." But that's OK.

**Q: One diocesan priest said one of your first messages for them was about celebrating the Mass with great reverence and having great devotion to the Eucharistic Lord. What drives that message?**

A: I learned that from my parents. They came from India right around the time of the Second Vatican Council, but it wasn't such a radical shift there as what they experienced when they came to the United States. We learned the difference between reverence and irreverence, especially when we misbehaved in church. And so we learned how to be quiet and still and reverent in the presence of God.

And then we were exposed to the Church's wider tradition in terms of liturgical music and reverence in the way Mass ought to be offered. And so that has affected my whole life. I have a great love for Gregorian chant, for sacred polyphony, all these sorts of things that are part of Church music, but also the need for silence, the mode of reception of Communion.

**Q: What led to your vocation? Did it hit you suddenly or was it gradual?**

A: Always in the back of my mind I had a sense of the call, even though I never said anything about it, but I was an altar boy. I served Mass. I liked being in church. I liked saying my prayers. It was important to our regular family life and structure.

When I was a junior in college, I studied abroad in England. And I thought, Well, I'm not under my parents' roof. Now this is probably when I would have started skipping Mass, but I found that in England the thing that was most normal, most regular, was the Mass, most familiar to me.

And there was an Irish priest, Father Ian Kelly, he was a chaplain there, and he was a great preacher. I found myself not only not skipping Mass but going every day. (He said,) "Earl, come in here, you're looking like a bishop, you're sitting there looking like a bishop." "And that's funny that you say that, Father, because I'd like to talk to you about becoming a priest."

And so we talked, and it was December of 1992. And we were taking trains on those Eurail passes all over Europe, but I stopped in Rome around Christmastime. I was with my best friend from high school and went to St. Peter's Basilica. And for the first time I saw the stained-glass window of the Holy Spirit, and all of a sudden my heart started to beat very quickly, and then I looked over to my right and there was Michelangelo's Pieta, and we toured around the

basilica and went down into the Crypt of the Popes, and I came to the tomb of St. Peter and fell to my knees.

And at that moment, I knew in my heart of hearts, God is calling me to be a priest. But what did I do? I came back to America, I took my MCAT (Medical College Admission Test). I got back together with my old girlfriend. I did anything I could to avoid my vocation, and I moved to Cincinnati. I was going to medical school, and I wasn't happy.

And then one day I went up for weekday Mass. I went to the Italian church, and I went to Mass, and the priest said a fast Mass, and I hadn't left an hour for Communion. So after Mass I went to Father and said, "You kind of said a fast Mass; could I receive Communion?" He grudgingly went to the tabernacle, and he said, "God doesn't wear a wristwatch." I said, "I know that, Father, but that's what my parents taught me."

And I received Communion on the tongue, and he said, "You need to get over that." And I said, "What?" And he said, "Receiving Communion on the tongue." I said, "Well, it's a legitimate option. And this is how my parents taught me, and it was good enough for them and good enough for my grandparents, and so it was good enough for me."

But one thing led to another, and we got into a series of discussions, but basically he denied the Mass was a sacrifice and non-Catholics and non-Christians should be able to receive Communion and many other things that shook my faith. Probably the only time in my life that my faith was shaken.

And so I said, "Well, I need to go where it's safe." I went to the newspaper, and I saw a Traditional Latin Mass authorized by the archbishop of Cincinnati at Sacred Heart Church. I realized it was

in walking distance from where I lived, but I didn't go to the Latin Mass there. Two elderly Italian priests came out and had Mass in English. It was a beautiful church, dimly lit church, and they didn't preach. They just said Mass, and they looked happy.

And I thought I could be that old and be a priest and be happy. And so I said, "I'm going to talk to that priest." I talked to the younger of the two, Father Mario. He was 75. And he was celebrating his 50th anniversary as a priest. He came to the United States as a missionary in 1945. We had a number of discussions. And so then I thought, OK, my courage is up. I'm going to call the vocations director.

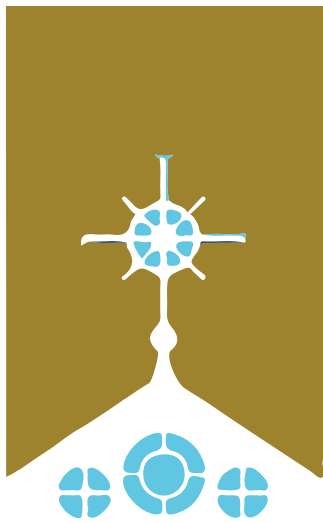
I called the vocations director in Cincinnati, and I told him my story and said, "I don't know if I want to be a doctor or a priest or both." And so he said, "You want to go find out." And so he raised funds for me to go to a house in Rome called the Casa Balthasar, which was a house of spiritual discernment. So 1996-97 I was there to discern my vocation. ... After a year there, I discerned God's calling me to be a priest. And so I entered the seminary in Cincinnati in 1997, and I was ordained in 2002.

**Q: We're facing a crisis in vocations. How can you help?**

A: I was very disappointed to hear that there no priestly ordinations in Columbus this year and only one next year. Archbishop (Dennis) Schnurr (in 2010 when he became Cincinnati's archbishop) immediately wrote a vocations prayer, and that is prayed in every

See Q&A, Page 43

**Congratulations****Bishop Earl Fernandes****On your Ordination as Bishop***And***On your Installation as Bishop of the Diocese of Columbus, Ohio***We look forward to meeting and working with you!***The Parishes and Parish School of the Ross & Pike County Consortium:***St. Mary Church, Chillicothe; St. Peter Church, Chillicothe;**St. Mary Church, Queen of the Missions, Waverly; and Bishop Flaget School, Chillicothe**Rev. Timothy Hayes, Pastor**Rev. Jacob Stinnett, Parochial Vicar**Rev. Milton Kiocha, A.J., Parochial Vicar**Rev. Reed Hauser, Deacon*



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St. Paul Parish and School wish to congratulate Bishop Fernandes and welcome him to our diocese. We pray that God will bless him with every grace needed to be our shepherd.





# Bishop's high school alma mater proud of graduate's achievement

By Doug Bean

Catholic Times Editor

Bishop Earl Fernandes attributes his ascent to the episcopacy to devoted parents in Toledo who put the Catholic faith first and foremost in their lives and of their five sons.

He realized early on the gift his parents had given him and his brothers. The family lived their faith at home, in church and at school – and it was evident at a young age that Earl might be on track to have a vocation to the priesthood, though he might not have realized it at the time.

In a recent interview, he recalled a prediction that his eighth-grade classmates made that young Earl would become the Catholic Church's first pope born in America.

He went on to graduate No. 2 in his class in 1990 from Toledo St. Francis de Sales High School, served by the Oblates of St. Francis de Sales order of priests, and then moved on to the University of Toledo for undergraduate studies in biology, graduating in 1994.

"We had religious brothers and priests teaching us not just religion but calculus and physics and chemistry, and so I thought it was perfectly normal to consider a priestly vocation," Bishop Fernandes said of his high school. "When I was a junior in religion class, we were asked, 'Have you ever thought about being a priest?' And I checked 'yes,' because I thought about it. 'Would you like to receive literature?' I thought, why not.

"When it came to the house, my dad and I talked about it a little bit. But in my mother's mind, she would have us pray that you would be a good boy, a tall boy, and a doctor like my dad. People respect doctors, and medicine is a noble profession. And my thought was, OK, that's what I'm going to do even though I had this sense of the call."

"I didn't have him in class, but I knew him well," said Father Ron Olszewski, OSFS, who was principal at St. Francis de Sales when Bishop Fernandes was a student there. "I knew all of the brothers, and the family was a wonderful Catholic family. They were all very, very good students."

He recalled that Bishop Fernandes took several advanced placement courses and was involved in "academic" activities that included the yearbook and newspaper staffs, the debate team and chess club.

"They were all academic things, but I would not describe him as a reclusive nerd," Father Olszewski said. "He was just a very intelligent person with a bent



DEBATE - 1988  
ST. FRANCIS de SALES H.S.

**Future Bishop Earl Fernandes holds a trophy for debate he received as a student at Toledo St. Francis de Sales High School.**

*Photo courtesy Fernandes family*

toward those kinds of extracurricular activities."

One of the qualities that resonated with the former principal, who is still involved with the high school, is the smile that has become one of Bishop



**Father Marty Lucas, OSFS (left) and Father Ron Olszewski, OSFS are longtime administrators and teachers at Toledo St. Francis de Sales High School, from where Bishop Earl Fernandes graduated in 1990.**

*Photo courtesy St. Francis de Sales High School*

Fernandes' trademarks.

"Great personality, and I remember him always having a smile, even after he was ordained," Father Olszewski said. "I think that is absolutely wonderful that you're going to have a bishop who is happy.

"Peace and joy are two of the most frequently used words in the New Testament. And if you have a bishop that

exudes peace, joy, happiness in his vocation, I think that's great."

After high school, the future priest's next stop was medical school at the University of Cincinnati, where he hoped to follow in the footsteps of his physician father and brothers.

After two years of med school in Cin-

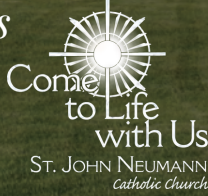
*See ALMA MATER, Page 41*

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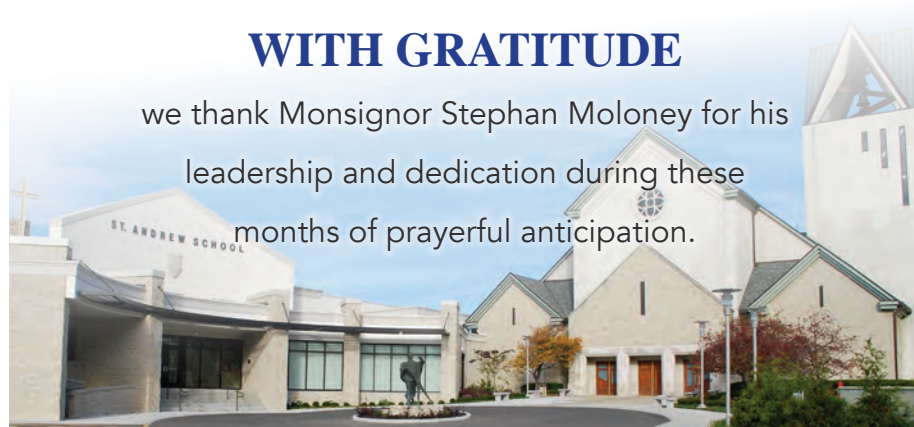
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Bishop Earl Fernandes. We offer prayers of support and gratitude as he embarks on this leadership position to shepherd the Diocese of Columbus.

**WITH GRATITUDE**

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*The Most Reverend Earl K. Fernandes*



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**ALMA MATER**, *continued from Page 39*

cinnati, he began to discern more seriously a vocation to the priesthood. In 1996, he went to Rome to spend a year of discernment, and in 1997 he decided to abandon the physical healing profession and turn to the spiritual healing a priest can provide. And in 2002, at age 29, he was ordained in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati, which he has served since then until he was ordained and installed as the 13th bishop of Columbus on May 31.

He will become just the fourth known native of the Toledo diocese to be ordained a bishop. The others are Bishop James R. Hoffman, the bishop of Toledo from 1980 to 2003 and a native of Fremont; Bishop Robert W. Donnelly, auxiliary bishop of Toledo from 1984 to 2006 who hailed from Toledo; and Bishop Robert Baker, the retired bishop of Charleston, South Carolina, and Birmingham, Alabama, who was born in Willard.

One of the new bishop's brothers, Karl, serves on his high school alma mater's board of trustees.

"Like I said, they were a very strong Catholic family, just wonderful, wonderful, good Catholic people," Father Olszewski said.

Father Olszewski and some of the Oblates priests at the high school attended the installation and ordination at Westerville St. Paul Church to witness the first graduate from the school to become a bishop in the Catholic Church.

"For the Oblates and all the faculty and staff here at St. Francis, the significance is twofold," said Father Geoff Rose, OSFS, the current president at the school. "It affirms that our greatest desire is happening, namely that each person is becoming who God created them to be. And second, it reinforces that the ministry of education is worth our lives."

"For the students, it is a powerful reminder that they are all forming each other every day, and God has a plan for each of them in the future."

Father Marty Lukas, OSFS, who was at the school when Bishop Fernandes was a student and became principal the year after he left, never taught him in a class but was certainly aware of him.

"My memories of Earl are that he was a true scholar and always a gentleman," Father Lukas said. "He respected his classmates and the faculty and staff of our school community. Earl was an extremely positive young man ... always trying to see the good in every situation or person. He always had a smile on his face."

"I am sure that his parents would be very proud of him today as are we from the St. Francis de Sales School community."

Father Olszewski pointed out that the school's namesake, St. Francis de Sales, was the bishop of Geneva in the early 1600s, and so it might be said there's a line of succession. St. Francis de Sales, designated as a doctor of the Church,

is also the patron of the Oblates of St. Francis de Sales order and of the Diocese of Columbus.

"You can't ask for a much better representative of the school," said Father Olszewski, who arrived at St. Francis de Sales in 1974, and his roles have included principal, vice principal and president. In 2015, he retired after 40 years as an administrator but continues to teach a theology class and assists with fundraising for the school's foundation.

Father Olszewski planned to give the new bishop a surprise gift of a pectoral cross worn by the late Bishop Joseph Crowley, a longtime rector of St. Matthew's Cathedral in South Bend, Indiana, and an auxiliary bishop for the Di-

ocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend from 1971 to 1990. Bishop Crowley died in 2003 at age 88.

"I studied at the University of Notre Dame and was very close with Bishop Crowley," Father Olszewski said. "I preached at his funeral, and I have one of his pectoral crosses that I am going to get all cleaned up and give to him."

Father Olszewski expects the biggest adjustment for Bishop Fernandes will be the demands on his time that leading a diocese will entail.

"I think he was aware of that tendency to get himself involved, and I do believe that God gives you the grace to do what he calls you to do."

The Cradle of Catholic  
Faith in Ohio welcomes and  
congratulates our new bishop,  
**Bishop Earl  
Fernandes!**

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welcome

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**Q&A, continued from Page 37**

church at every Mass in our archdiocese. And it really raised people's awareness of this need.

And then we had to reform our seminary, get better faculty to start teaching what the Church was teaching to create an atmosphere where you could have better liturgy and worship of God, where seminarians weren't so angry or feeling like they were being persecuted or you have to scrutinize them. But you also have to say these are the fundamental issues that we have to deal with now. And so we did turn the ship around.

For example, my associate pastor at St. Ignatius, he's coming up on his third anniversary, and he was in a class of nine. It can be done, but it requires commitment. The bishop has to lead and certainly in the area of vocations, and Archbishop Schnurr led.

I think also the presence of young priests in Catholic high schools, in parishes where you have young families that have a happy, joyful attitude can go a long way.

So, Catholic education, Catholic campus ministry, having a joyful, attractive way of presenting the faith can go a long way. We can't just be the Church of "no." We have good news to share.

**Q: Is the beauty of the liturgy not only attractive for seminarians but also all young people?**

**A:** I think so, and not just the liturgy. The Church has a great musical tradition and artistic tradition.

**Q: Have your experiences as a priest prepared you to serve as a bishop?**

**A:** In Sidney, I learned a lot of things. One is that people still had faith. My thought was, part of the problem in the Church today is that people aren't well catechized. If you just give them better religious instruction, everything will be better. But most people I knew were stubborn, and they're like a horse. So you just have to break the horse. Right?

But what I encountered in Sidney was people have faith. They have large families. They have their devotional lifestyle. They come for Mass, come for confession, and they're not horses to be broken. There are people with real faith, and so that was one thing.

So I learned how to treat the people with greater respect and have an appreciation for the faith of the people. And I was called to nurture and to help them to grow in their faith. And they helped me to grow in the priesthood. And I had a good pastor up there who taught me about the need for discipline and have a good work ethic and the need for prayer. And so that really helped me.

It also helped me to teach high school

because to teach high school is a lot of work, to prepare your lesson plans, to get up there for 45 minutes to deal with high school kids and questions and all this sort of thing. But I also learned to take them and their questions seriously. Their zest for life, their enthusiasm, their inquisitive minds really helped keep me young.

But you have to be a priest to the young and old alike. And to give them the attention they need and to not just tell them, you're the future of the Church, you are the Church now. And so I really learned to love my people. I've loved rural life. I never lived in the country. I was always worried about that. And I think it's given me an appreciation for the needs of country people but also parishes and the distances they drive and what they're willing to commit to. And in the archdiocese, that is vocation-rich territory.

Then I was sent to Rome to study. I was just going to school my whole life, and I was enjoying life in the parish, then you're in Rome, and I'm like, really? You learn other languages. You have to write the dissertation, all this sort of thing, but you miss parish life, you miss being in the regular kind of sacramental flow, and at the same time it was a grace-filled time because we're there for the agony and death of John Paul II. So a very powerful and moving spiritual ex-

perience.

And then to be in St. Peter's Square when Benedict XVI came out on the balcony, it was a grace-filled time.

Then I came back to teach in the seminary. Several things became clear. One, I had a weekend assignment, and for 6 1/2 years I said Mass at Guardian Angels Church and then for the last couple of years at Sacred Heart Italian church, and to have that gave me some pastoral experience.

But seminary work is hard work, because you're thinking about all the other guys who get to be in a parish and things. But it's some of the most important work in the Church, forming good priests. The whole sexual abuse crisis makes us aware of how important priestly formation is today.

When I got called to the nunciature, I realized I was exhausted because I was doing the work of three men for six to eight years. And I knew I needed to slow down and to rest and to pray and to get my bearings again. And that was good for me. What the nunciature gave me was, first of all, a sense of the Church in the United States, all the dioceses. But being with Archbishop (Christophe) Pierre and the other Vatican diplomats, you learn about the Church in the United States and in the world.

See Q&A, Page 45



*Welcome Bishop Fernandes!*

*From the Community of*

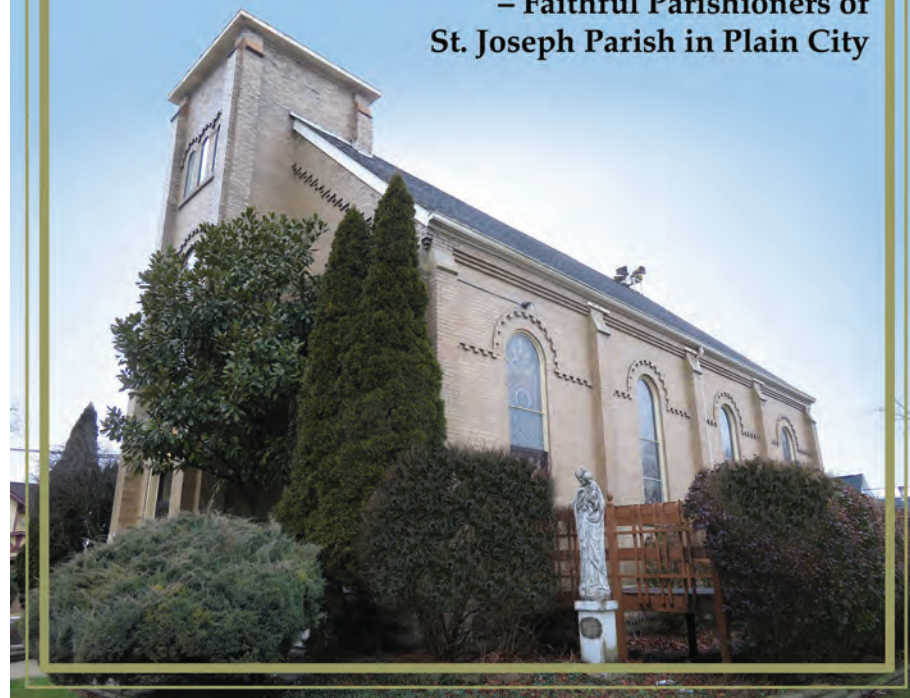
*Saint Cecilia Church & School*



## God's Blessings to Bishop Earl Fernandes




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of Immaculate  
Conception  
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Bishop of Ogdensburg  
and  
the Priests, Deacons, Religious and Lay Faithful  
of the Diocese of Ogdensburg  
offer prayerful best wishes to  
The Most Reverend Earl Fernandes  
on the occasion of his Installation as  
Bishop of Columbus  
May Almighty God  
abundantly bless him on his ordination and  
his ministry to the people of Columbus.



## *Bishop Fernandes*

May God bless you with peace of heart and mind as you embark on this exciting new journey, leading the faithful of the Diocese of Columbus.



**ST. FRANCIS DE SALES**  
HIGH SCHOOL

*To live according to the spirit is to love according to the spirit.*  
*-St. Francis de Sales*



## Q&amp;A, continued from Page 43

It was much to my surprise when Archbishop Schnurr asked me to come to St. Ignatius, and he had to fight with the papal nuncio to send me back to get me back to the Archdiocese of Cincinnati because this parish itself had experienced, unfortunately, a scandal, and it has the largest Catholic elementary school (in Ohio), and so how do you bring healing to a parish? How do you listen to people, talk to people? How can you be transparent?

Sometimes you can help, bring people to peace and lead them forward. And sometimes people are just going to be mad at you, and you can't do anything right and some people are going to be angry, and what you've done is actually harm to them. You ask for forgiveness for that, and you do penance when you can and you pray and you fast and you say your prayers.

Here in a big parish like this, you learn, I've got administrative work to do. How do you cut costs? How do you increase your stewardship and levels of financial giving? You can only do that if you have a degree of credibility. And if you're transparent with people about what you need, people are generous.

Then the pandemic happened, but you see people are hungering for faith and the sacraments. And yeah, you've got to go to the COVID wards, but you go, be-

cause I didn't sign up to stay in an office. I wanted to lay down my life, and Jesus did the same.

And then I learned here also, everything's under lockout. Well, I've got a phone, I've got a Facebook account, let's start doing videos. Let's start using Flocknotes, and so I did for more than a year every single day. It was Scriptural reflections, reflections on the saint of the day, messages to people, and because I didn't yet know them but through the social media platform, they began to get to know me.

Little by little, we worked through the pandemic, all the masking and social distancing. And we're trying to keep the kids in school every day. You're never going to be able to make everybody happy. And that's something I learned. But if you persevere, you can begin to see some of the fruits of your work. But you can't always be in damage control. You also have to cast a vision. So part of what I understood a pastor to do is to enable the lay faithful to be able to identify what their gifts are and not be threatened by those gifts but to utilize them because we're on the same mission of evangelization.

And people are generous not only with their financial resources, but if you ask them and if you personally invite them, they will respond. And so little by little

then here at the parish, I've seen things come back to life.

**Q: Do you have great devotion to the Mother of God?**

A: So my parents thought I was going to be a girl, and so they were going to name me Maria. I'm Earl Kenneth Mario, and so I have this devotion to the Blessed Virgin. We grew up praying the rosary. My parents took us regularly to the Shrine of Our Lady of Consolation in Carey, Ohio in the Diocese of Toledo, about 15 miles east of Findlay. I'm sure a lot of people from Columbus have gone, and it fostered our devotion to the Virgin.

When I was a child, I remember on the playground this girl came up to me and said, you know what, "Earl, you're a gorilla. Your hair is black like a gorilla. Your skin is dark like a gorilla. Your nose is smashed in like a gorilla. You must be a gorilla," as only a 6- or 7-year-old girl could say. But I took it as a kind of a racial thing, and I just wanted her to know I felt humiliation and rage.

So what did I do? I began chasing her. I chased her all over the playground. And just when I was about to catch her, I ran past her up the handicap ramp into church. And I came into the church, and there was a statue of the Virgin on the

wall, and I knelt down and I said one Hail Mary. And I felt her closeness to me and her comfort. And I've never forgotten that experience. So she has sort of been with me my whole life. My mother always tells me carry a rosary in your pocket. I grew up knowing that I always felt her maternal presence.

I have a very close connection with the Mother Teresa sisters, the Missionaries of Charity. For all those years I was in Washington, every Sunday morning I went to the house that Mother Teresa had originally opened for HIV positive men, and I said Mass for the sisters, and they are very devoted to Mary, Cause of Our Joy.

So Mary brings us joy, the Holy Spirit brings us joy. Mary brings us Jesus, John the Baptist leaps for joy. And so I'm a joyful priest, and part of that is the Marian presence. She who was overshadowed by the Holy Spirit at the conception of the Savior, was at prayer with the Apostles and the whole Church when the Holy Spirit descended like tongues of fire upon them at Pentecost.

And what the Church needs today is a new Pentecost, and what I hope to bring to the Diocese of Columbus is the fire of the Holy Spirit and joy of the Blessed Virgin Mary and the Gospel of her son, Jesus Christ.

St Brendan's Parish and School joyfully welcome  
Bishop Earl K. Fernandes as the  
13<sup>th</sup> Bishop of the Diocese  
of Columbus!



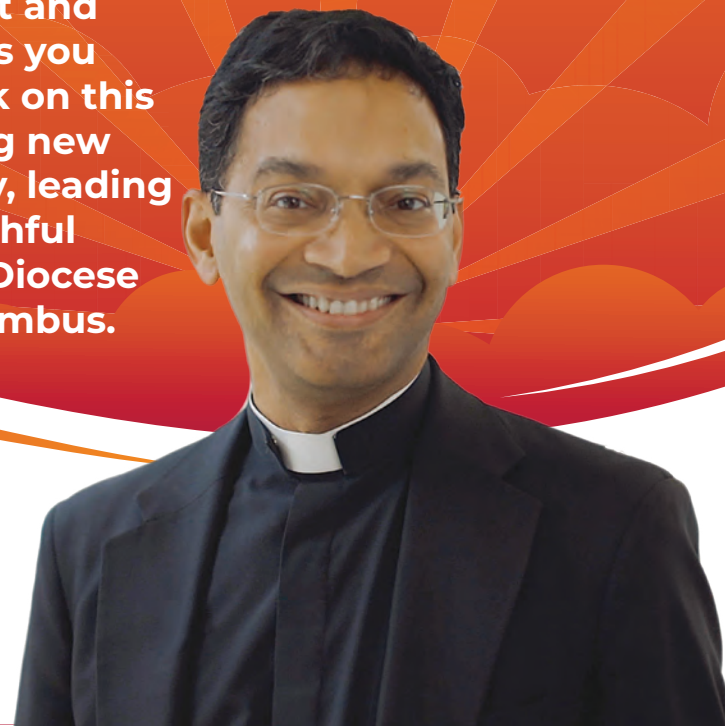
**BLESSINGS ON  
YOUR ORDINATION**



Welcome Bishop Fernandes...

May God bless  
you with peace  
of heart and  
mind as you  
embark on this  
exciting new  
journey, leading  
the faithful  
of the Diocese  
of Columbus.

St. John XXIII Parish  
Canal Winchester





BISHOP W. SHAWN MCKNIGHT  
AND  
THE DIOCESE OF JEFFERSON CITY  
CONGRATULATE AND OFFER BLESSINGS TO

*The Most Reverend  
Earl Fernandes*

on his installation and ordination  
as the 13th Bishop of Columbus

*"For those who are called, something happens that is analogous to what the miracle was for the first disciples. Always, the experience of a liberation of the human accompanies the encounter with the redemptive event of Christ: 'Those who follow Him will have eternal life, and the hundredfold here below,' (cf. Mt. 19:28-29; Mk. 10:28-30; Lk. 18:28-30)."*  
— Servant of God, Monsignor Luigi Giussani, 1987

# Bishop was active in parish restructuring in Archdiocese of Cincinnati

By Tim Puet

For *The Catholic Times*

Bishop Earl Fernandes has arrived in the Diocese of Columbus in the middle of the Real Presence Real Future initiative, which could result in significant changes in diocesan structure and parish groupings.

But being involved in such a program isn't new to him because the Archdiocese of Cincinnati, where he has been a priest for 20 years until now, is undergoing a similar transformation.

In Cincinnati, what's known as the Beacons of Light program will group the archdiocese's current 208 parishes into 57 families of parishes, with each parish family having one pastor, effective July 1.

Father Jan Schmidt, director of pastoral vitality for the 19-county archdiocese, oversees the program and said Bishop Fernandes played a significant role in it as pastor of St. Ignatius of Loyola Church in Cincinnati for the past three years.

"Father Fernandes was part of one of the groups with which I'd consult and bounce off ideas as the archdiocese got ready to put in the changes resulting from Beacons of Light," he said. "He's a real Energizer Bunny. He gets things done and is not afraid to put his two cents in on any topic he's interested in. He's very visible and would never miss a meeting."

"He also was very active in archdiocesan committees on priestly life and on personnel and had all the responsibilities of the pastor of a large parish. I don't know how he did it, but he handled them all well. He's a very supportive, smart man," said Father Schmidt, who also is rector of Cincinnati Cathedral Basilica of St. Peter in Chains.

He said Beacons of Light was the result of planning that started in 1985 as pastors and parishioners began to realize the number of priests being ordained would not be sufficient to fill the archdiocese's future needs. Planning for change intensified during the past seven years, with five possible configurations of parishes being considered before the final grouping was announced.

Executives from Cincinnati-based Procter & Gamble, Fifth Third Bank and other companies that have undergone their own restructuring volunteered to help the archdiocese with its plan.

Father Schmidt said the current configuration of 57 parish families will last for five years and then will be reviewed.

The new bishop began writing in 2011 for *The Catholic Telegraph*, the archdiocese's monthly magazine, which started as a weekly newspaper in 1831



**Bishop Earl Fernandes (center) has served as a confessor for the Children of Mary religious order, whose sisters are located in Licking County and the Cincinnati area.**

File photo



**Then-Father Earl Fernandes celebrates Mass at Cincinnati St. Ignatius of Loyola Church, where he was pastor since 2019 before being appointed bishop in the Diocese of Columbus.**

Photo courtesy St. Ignatius of Loyola

and switched to monthly publication 11 years ago. While he was teaching at Mount St. Mary's Seminary of the West in Cincinnati, he wrote a column titled "Question of Faith," in which he answered readers' questions. He continued to write it until he was transferred to the Washington, D.C., office of the apostolic nuncio to the United States in 2016.

"My enduring image of Bishop Earl Fernandes is of someone who has inordinately high energy and intelligence, but is at the same time a common man who is always happy and willing to help," said Archbishop Dennis Schnurr, who came to the Archdiocese of Cincinnati in 2008 as coadjutor archbishop

and then became its archbishop in 2009.

"I recall the first time I met then-Father Earl Fernandes 14 years ago. It was the day of my Welcome Mass in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati and there was a breakfast to be held at the seminary. My out-of-town family had no idea how to get there, and I was not yet familiar with Cincinnati, so I flagged down the first person I saw, a priest whom I did not know, and asked for help. Father Fernandes immediately assumed the role of 'traffic director' for my family, with great kindness offering them directions and any other help they needed.

"This is the man I came to know and admire – a joyful witness to the Gospel



**Archbishop Christophe Pierre (left) celebrates Mass with then-Father Earl Fernandes.** Photo/St. Ignatius of Loyola

with the heart of a servant, a priest who makes the Catholic faith attractive for all those he encounters."

Father Fernandes returned to Cincinnati three years later, at the same time Jessica Rinaudo became editor of *The Telegraph*, moving to Cincinnati after holding a similar position in the Diocese of Shreveport, Louisiana.

"Father Earl was one of the first Cincinnati priests to greet me, and he spoke highly of our publication," she said. "At the time we were in the process of converting *The Catholic Telegraph* from a newspaper to a magazine format, and he was taking the reins at St. Ignatius Church. Once we both settled into our new roles, I approached Father Earl about writing for *The Telegraph* again.

"He readily agreed, and together, we worked on ideas for his new column titled 'A Priest's Perspective.' Within the context of his column, he addressed everything from devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus to bioethics and synodality. He even wrote about a story that overlaps both our lives: five priests who died in the yellow fever epidemic of 1873 in Shreveport, my hometown.

"And when it came time for the archdiocese to roll out Beacons of Light, Father Earl volunteered to write an article series for us on the theological foundations of the process. Always willing to help the entire communications team, when we asked if he would record a video series for us on Beacons of Light, his response was, 'I can come by tomorrow morning. Will that work?'"

"Bishop-elect Fernandes has been a friend not only to *The Catholic Telegraph* and our readers, but to the team of people who produce the magazine, digital content and videos each month. He has a gift for writing and speaking, and we are truly grateful that he shared those gifts with us and the Catholic faithful of western and southwestern Ohio," Rinaudo said.

"I remember how relatable Father Earl and his students felt with each

CINCINNATI, *continued from Page 47*

other when I was a junior and senior at Lehman Catholic High School in Sidney in 2002 and 2003,” said Father Ethan Moore, pastor of four Cincinnati churches and chaplain of the University of Cincinnati’s Bearcat Catholic program.

“He went with us to see Lord of the Rings, and I remember thinking, ‘Whoa! Priests watch movies?’” he said. “A friend of mine had a band, and he would come to his concerts, and eventually he was the celebrant and I was the deacon at our friend’s wedding.

“At the time, I thought he was a real cool priest,” said Father Moore, who was ordained in 2015. “Now I realize he had a real gift in his way of conveying the truths of the Church in a fresh, attractive way. He has an incredible intellect, but he’s able to personalize things in a way that makes you remember them more than as just being facts or dogma you had to learn to pass a class.”

Then-Father Fernandes also served as the confessor to the Children of Mary religious sisters at the Our Lady of Holy Spirit Center in Norwood, a Cincinnati suburb.


“He’d come visit us about every month to hear our confessions and

asked us in turn if we would come to St. Ignatius School and help with Eucharistic Adoration there, which we were happy to do,” said Sister Faustina Maria, who will be the superior of a new house the Children of Mary will open in August at Holy Angels Catholic Church in Sidney. “Sometimes that’s where he would hear our confessions.

“He was always very devoted to the sisters and I know he’d come out of his way to fit us into a crowded schedule. He had a real concern for souls, and he’d often ask his congregation for prayers and sacrifices for us and our work.”

The Children of Mary are an order of 19 sisters established as a lay association in 2002. Mother Margaret Mary, the foundress, is retired and Mother Philomena Maria is the mother superior.

The sisters are residing at their house in Licking County for the summer but in August four will go Sidney, eight will stay in Licking County and seven will return to their motherhouse in Norwood, where they’ve been since 2017. They remain semi-contemplative, working in women’s prisons and schools and helping with retreats and Holy Hours.



THE CATHOLIC MEDICAL ASSOCIATION OF CENTRAL OHIO WELCOMES

**BISHOP EARL FERNANDES**

OUR PRAYERS ARE WITH YOU



WELCOME TO OUR NEW SHEPHERD,  
**THE MOST REVEREND EARL K. FERNANDES!**  
 THROUGH THE INTERCESSION OF  
 MARY, MOTHER OF GOD AND  
 OUR LADY OF VICTORY,  
 MAY GOD GRANT YOU MANY  
 HEALTHY, HAPPY YEARS OF MINISTRY AS THE  
 THIRTEENTH BISHOP OF COLUMBUS!



OUR LADY OF VICTORY CHURCH

Celebrating Our Past ... Embracing Our Future

1922 • 2022



# Columbus bishops shepherded growth of diocese

By Tim Puet  
For *The Catholic Times*

Bishop Earl Fernandes became the 13th bishop of the Diocese of Columbus when he was ordained to the office of bishop on Tuesday, May 31 at Westerville St. Paul Church. He succeeds Bishop Robert Brennan, whose term of two years and eight months in that position equals the shortest term of any other Columbus bishop.

During those 32 months, Bishop Brennan visited every parish in the 23-county diocese, many of them more than once, putting thousands of miles on his Ford Fusion.

That period was a memorable one for the bishop and the diocese because of the COVID-19 pandemic and the start

of the diocese's Real Presence Real Future initiative.

Effects of the pandemic began to be felt in mid-March 2020, almost exactly one year from the time Bishop Brennan was installed as bishop of Columbus after coming to central Ohio from the Diocese of Rockville Centre, New York, where he was auxiliary bishop. COVID's impact was just starting to subside when he returned to New York to become bishop of the Diocese of Brooklyn, where he was installed on Nov. 30, 2021.

Bishop Brennan joined the rest of Ohio's bishops on March 16, 2020 in announcing that all Catholic churches and schools would be closed and parish activities would be suspended until Easter Sunday, April 12. Public celebration

of Masses ultimately did not resume until Sunday, May 30, with restrictions on distancing and crowd size in place, then slowly being eased. Schools resumed on time, also with restrictions at first, for the 2020-21 academic year.

The obligation for Ohio Catholics to attend Mass on Sundays and holy days of obligation was suspended from March 2020 to June 2021, with Mass attendance increasing gradually in the 11 months since then.

Bishop Brennan in February 2021 announced the beginning of the Real Presence Real Future initiative, which is aimed at increasing the presence of Christ throughout the diocese and strengthening the faith of future generations.

Consultation sessions in every parish and among regional groups of parishes

were a significant part of the initiative. The sessions helped in forming draft models, which, if adopted, will group some churches together into larger parishes to foster collaboration. The models still are being studied, and it will be up to Bishop Fernandes, in cooperation with pastors, to make any final decisions on parish restructuring.

The Diocese of Columbus currently has more than 278,000 Catholics in 105 parishes, served by 53 diocesan elementary and secondary schools in 23 counties. When it was formed by the Vatican in 1868 from part of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati, it included 27 counties and parts of four others in central, south central and southeast Ohio, roughly

See COLUMBUS BISHOPS, Page 51



*Welcome*

**BISHOP EARL FERNANDES**

to the Diocese of Columbus

from St. Margaret of Cortona Church, Columbus.

**SAINT ANTHONY**  
PARISH AND SCHOOL

*Welcome*

**Bishop Earl Fernandes**  
to the Diocese of Columbus!

WITH AN UPRIGHT HEART, HE  
SHEPHERDED THEM  
AND GUIDED THEM WITH  
HIS SKILLFUL HAND.  
*Psalm 78:72*



With warmest congratulations and prayerful good wishes,  
Very Reverend Steven P. Beseau, Rector/President,  
and the seminarians, staff, professors, and priests of the  
Pontifical College Josephinum

*welcome*

HIS EXCELLENCY

THE MOST REVEREND EARL K. FERNANDES

Bishop of Columbus

Vice-Chancellor of the Pontifical College Josephinum



PONTIFICAL COLLEGE  
JOSEPHINUM

COLUMBUS, OHIO

**COLUMBUS BISHOPS**, *continued from Page 49*

running from the Scioto River on the west to the Ohio River on the east. At the time of its formation, the diocese had 32 parishes and 40 missions and a Catholic population of about 41,000.

The first bishop of Columbus was Cincinnati Auxiliary Bishop Sylvester Rosecrans, a native of Homer in Licking County, who had been living in Columbus and serving as pastor of St. Patrick Church when formation of the new diocese was announced.

He established many of the institutions required in the new diocese, including parishes, schools and St. Vincent's Orphanage in Columbus (now the St. Vincent Family Center).

He also approved construction of the cathedral. Plans to build it began in 1866, work got underway in 1868, the first Masses there were celebrated on Christmas Day 1872, and its consecration was on Oct. 20, 1878. Getting the cathedral built took a great toll on Bishop Rosecrans, who frequently suffered hemorrhages. On the evening of the cathedral's dedication, he had seven hemorrhages, and he died the next day at age 51. He is buried in the cathedral basement.

His successor, Father John Watterson, president of Mount St. Mary's Seminary in Emmitsburg, Maryland, was consecrated as bishop on Aug. 8, 1880

at St. Joseph Cathedral. Until Bishop Fernandes' consecration, this was the only time a bishop of the Diocese of Columbus had been consecrated in Franklin County. Columbus' other 11 bishops were consecrated either in another diocese or, in the case of Bishop James Hartley, in another part of the Columbus diocese.

Bishop Watterson's 19 years as its spiritual leader were the greatest period of expansion in the diocese's history. Almost 60 churches were built, including 25 in places where no Catholic church had existed. In addition, construction projects, a great many of which were schools, were begun at nearly 50 other parishes and institutions.

During this time, St. Anthony and Mount Carmel hospitals were established, as were the college and seminary at the Pontifical College Josephinum. Bishop Watterson also was a strong believer in temperance. No saloon owner was allowed to be an officer in any Catholic organization, and all the young people Bishop Watterson confirmed were required to abstain from liquor until they turned 21.

He died on April 17, 1899, at age 54 and is buried at Mount Calvary Cemetery in Columbus.

Father Henry Moeller, chancellor

of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati, was consecrated as the third bishop of Columbus on Aug. 25, 1900 in Cincinnati and was installed in Columbus two days later. His 32-month tenure matched that of Bishop Brennan as the shortest of any Columbus bishop, but it was said that he saved the diocese by eliminating most of the \$200,000 debt that resulted from building the cathedral.

Bishop Moeller was appointed coadjutor archbishop of Cincinnati on April 27, 1903. He became archbishop the following year and remained in that position until his death in early 1925 at age 75.

His successor, Bishop Hartley, spent the longest time of anyone as bishop of Columbus – nearly 40 years – until his death at age 85. That longevity record is unlikely to be broken because bishops now are required to submit their resignations to the pope when they reach age 75.

Bishop Hartley had been a priest in Steubenville, which then was part of the Diocese of Columbus, for 22 years and had been pastor of that city's Holy Name Church when he was consecrated as a bishop in that church on Feb. 25, 1904.

He then moved to Columbus, where his four decades as bishop ended with his death on Jan. 12, 1944. He is buried in the cathedral. He had links with each of his three predecessors, for he served

Bishop Rosecrans' first Mass at the cathedral, was ordained a priest by Bishop Watterson and was consecrated a bishop by Bishop Moeller.

In his first two years as bishop, he completed the chief work of his predecessor, announcing on Jan. 6, 1906 that the cathedral's debt had been paid. He then began building in earnest. By 1910, he had begun or dedicated more than 25 churches, schools and chapels. There were 27 parishes with schools when he became bishop. At the time of his death, that number had increased to 74 elementary schools, plus 31 parish high schools.

His proudest work was establishment of a diocesan seminary known as St. Charles Borromeo College in Columbus. It existed until 1969. It added a high school in 1923, and that institution continues today as St. Charles Preparatory School. Other institutions he established included St. Joseph Cemetery, St. Ann's Hospital and St. Therese's Retreat Center, all in Columbus. (The hospital later was relocated to Westerville and is part of the Mount Carmel Health System.) He also had the cathedral remodeled, giving it its medieval

See **COLUMBUS BISHOPS**, Page 53

*Congratulations  
and  
Prayerful Best Wishes  
to  
Bishop Earl Fernandes  
and  
The Diocese of Columbus*



*Bishop David J. Bonnar  
and the  
Diocese of Youngstown*



Welcome **Bishop Fernandes** to the Diocese of Columbus from the Perry County Consortium:

- St. Rose of Lima
- St Bernard of Clairvaux
- The Church of the Atonement
- St. Patrick of Ireland



*Welcome and congratulations  
Bishop Earl Fernandes,  
we look forward to seeing you  
at our annual Outdoor Mass  
and Family Picnic.  
May God's grace guide you  
as you lead us!  
St. Mark, Lancaster*

# Welcome Bishop Fernandez

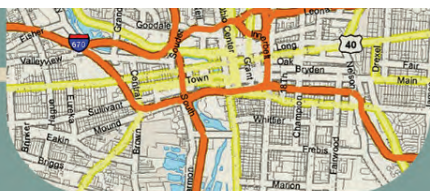


St Pius X Church  
Fr. David Young, Pastor  
1051 Waggoner Rd.  
Reynoldsburg, OH 43068



St Pius X School  
Preschool-8th Grade  
1061 Waggoner Rd.  
Reynoldsburg, OH 43068

# Congratulations to our new Bishop from Ss. Simon & Jude, West Jefferson



# Welcome to our Diocese, Bishop-Elect Fernandez!

On behalf of Corpus Christi, St. Ladislás, St. Mary Catholic Church, & St. Mary School.



**COLUMBUS BISHOPS, continued from Page 51**

appearance.

After Bishop Hartley died, the diocese was directed for most of 1944 by Auxiliary Bishop Edward Hettinger, one of two priests who have served as auxiliary bishop of Columbus. He was an auxiliary even longer than Bishop Hartley was a bishop – more than 54 years, from Feb. 24, 1942 to his death on Dec. 28, 1996 at age 94. He retired from active ministry on Oct. 14, 1977, his 75th birthday, and spent most of the rest of his life living quietly in a cottage in Vinton County. He is buried in St. Mary Cemetery, Lancaster.

He was pastor of Columbus Sacred Heart Church from 1945-78 and served as vicar general of the diocese and a diocesan consultor from the mid-1940s until retiring as auxiliary bishop. He was an auxiliary under six bishops and served as diocesan administrator when the bishop's position became vacant because of the death or transfer of five of them. At the time of his death, he had been a priest for more than 68 years and was the senior priest in the diocese and the senior priest in the America hierarchy.

Msgr. Michael Ready came to Columbus to succeed Bishop Hartley after eight years in Washington as general secretary of the National Catholic Welfare Conference, the predecessor

to today's U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. In that position, he was the unofficial spokesman for the bishops of the United States and frequently was called on by congressional committees and President Franklin D. Roosevelt to present the Catholic viewpoint on various legislative proposals.

The Diocese of Steubenville was formed in 1944 from 13 eastern Ohio counties that had been part of the Diocese of Columbus for its first 76 years. At the same time the new diocese was established, the current boundaries of the Columbus diocese were created through the addition of five counties and parts of four others that had been part of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati.

Bishop Ready was consecrated in Washington in late 1944 and was installed as bishop of Columbus on Jan. 4, 1945. Until Bishop Fernandes was consecrated, he was the last bishop of Columbus who had not already been serving as an auxiliary or a bishop elsewhere.

In his 12 years in Columbus, he created 18 parishes, oversaw construction of nine elementary and five high schools and founded two homes for the aged, the Catholic Welfare Bureau (now Catholic Social Services), the Diocesan Council of Catholic Women, what is now the Columbus St. Thomas More

Newman Center near Ohio State University, and the diocesan St. Vincent de Paul Society. He worked with his fellow Ohio bishops to start the Ohio Catholic Welfare Conference (now the Catholic Conference of Ohio). He also had the current diocesan Chancery built next to the cathedral in 1949.

Catholic education began undergoing a significant change during Bishop Ready's tenure and continued for several years thereafter. Parishes retained their elementary schools, but Bishop Ready, presented in 1950 with several options for the future of Catholic elementary education, decided to form a system of consolidated high schools for the diocese.

Bishop Ready died in May 1957 at age 64 and is buried in St. Joseph Cemetery. He was succeeded early the following year by Auxiliary Bishop Clarence Issenmann of Cincinnati.

Bishop Issenmann established the Diocesan Development Fund (now known as the Bishop's Annual Appeal) to provide funds for the growth of the diocese. He established eight parishes and six consolidated high schools.

His period as bishop not only was a time of continued growth within the diocese, but also saw the greatest change in centuries within the Catholic Church,

coinciding with most of the period from 1962-65 when the Second Vatican Council was in session. Bishop Isenmann attended every session of the council. He also was assistant episcopal chairman of lay organizations for the National Catholic Welfare Conference.

Bishop Isenmann became bishop of Cleveland in 1966, retiring in 1974. He died in 1982 at age 75.

Bishop John Carberry had been bishop of the Diocese of Lafayette, Indiana for eight years when he was appointed to the same position in Columbus in 1965. He also attended all four sessions of Vatican II.

As chairman of the U.S. bishops' committee on education, he was at the forefront of efforts to form closer ties between the Catholic Church and other Christian denominations. He also was a founder of the Columbus Metropolitan Area Church Board, one of the nation's first organizations uniting Protestants and Catholics for ecumenism and social action.

Much of his time in Columbus was devoted to putting the liturgical changes approved by the council in effect in the diocese. In addition, he and the pastors of 10 Columbus parishes formed the Joint Organization for Inner-City Needs (JOIN) to help Franklin County residents struggling to obtain the basic necessities of life. Today, JOIN aids about 25,000 people a year.

Bishop Carberry became archbishop of St. Louis in early 1968 and was appointed a cardinal a year later. He is the only Columbus bishop to achieve that distinction. He retired in 1979 and died in 1998 at age 93.

Succeeding him in 1968 was Auxiliary Bishop Clarence Elwell of Cleveland, who as a boy in Cleveland was an altar server for his assistant pastor, Father (later Bishop) Ready. He continued the work of instituting the reforms of Vatican II that Bishop Carberry started.

Bishop Elwell took a strong interest in Catholic education and worked with his fellow Ohio bishops to foster opportunities to send their children to Catholic schools. He founded Resurrection Cemetery in Lewis Center, established the Diocesan Sisters' Council and the Diocesan Pastoral Council, and moved laypersons into positions of trust. Additionally, he firmed up diocesan finances by expanding the Diocesan Development Office, the Parish Aid Fund and the diocesan self-insurance program.

He died unexpectedly on Feb. 16, 1973, at age 69, in his apartment at the Chancery. He is buried in St. Joseph Cemetery.

Auxiliary Bishop Edward Herrmann of Washington became Columbus'



**Welcome Bishop Earl Fernandes  
from the parishioners of  
Sacred Heart Parish in New Philadelphia.**

*Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, watching over them—not because you must, but because you are willing...*

1 Peter 5:2



**CONGRATULATIONS  
BISHOP-ELECT EARL FERNANDES  
ON YOUR APPOINTMENT  
AS THE 13<sup>TH</sup> BISHOP OF THE  
DIOCESE OF COLUMBUS**

Bishop-elect Fernandes is a 2002 graduate of Mount St. Mary's Seminary & School of Theology. He also served as the Dean of MTSM from 2008-2016.



**MOUNT ST. MARY'S SEMINARY  
& SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY**

CINCINNATI + OHIO

# Welcome and May the Lord be with You Bishop Earl Fernandes!

God's Blessings to you from the Faithful of God's Country in Madison County

- St. Joseph in Plain City
- St. Patrick in London
- Sts. Simon & Jude in West Jefferson



Welcome to Columbus, Bishop Fernandes!

Thank you for your service, Bishop Brennan!



933 Hamlet Street | [www.sjms.net](http://www.sjms.net) | 614.291.8601



Church of the Ascension  
Johnstown, Ohio



The Church of the Ascension Parish Family in Johnstown extends a warm welcome to

**Bishop Earl Fernandes**

May God's blessing be upon you as you shepherd the Diocese of Columbus



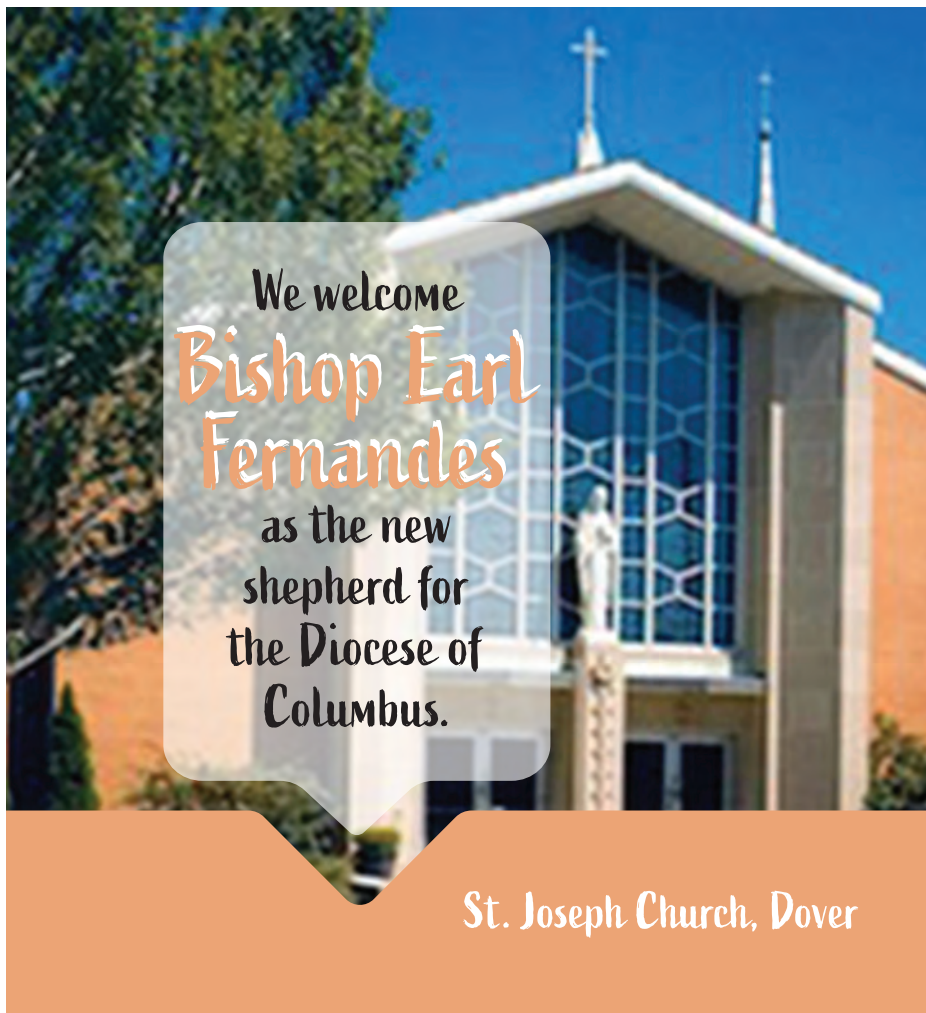
We look forward to partnering with you,

*Bishop Fernandes*

- to build a community that protects innocent human life from conception until natural death

**Greater Columbus Right to Life**

[GCRTL.ORG/PRAY](http://GCRTL.ORG/PRAY)



**Welcome**  
**Bishop Fernandes**  
 and  
 thank you  
**Bishop Brennan**  
 from  
**The Deacons of**  
**the Diocese**  
**of Columbus**

DIOCESE of  
**COLUMBUS**  
 OFFICE OF DIACONATE



The Pallotine Fathers, Staff & Parishioners of  
**Saint Christopher Catholic Church in Columbus**

Welcomes and congratulates Bishop Earl Fernandes on his  
 installation as the 13<sup>th</sup> Bishop of the Diocese of Columbus, Ohio

*Home of the relics of St. Faustina and Pope St. John Paul II*

*Saint Christopher Catholic Church*

*1420 Grandview Ave. Columbus, Ohio 43212*



Welcome, BISHOP FERNANDES!



BISHOP  
HARTLEY

We look forward to sharing  
future events with you!

# WELCOME BISHOP FERNANDES!



## VENI PER MARIAM

St. Michael Parish and School are happy to welcome Bishop Fernandes to the Diocese of Columbus. We look forward to joining you in worshiping the Lord, serving our neighbor and educating our young people in virtue and the Faith.

**COLUMBUS BISHOPS**, *continued from Page 53*

ninth bishop in 1973. His service in Columbus was highlighted by support for community housing and food programs and by the reorganization of the diocese into 15 geographical parishes known as vicariates. The original 15 vicariates now number 12 and are known as deaneries.

In 1977, the first Seton Square housing complex for low-income senior citizens and people with mobility impairment opened in Columbus. There are 14 Seton Squares throughout the diocese, with four in Franklin County and the others in Dover (which has two), London, Kenton, Marion, Washington Court House, Wellston, Zanesville, Lancaster and Coshocton.

Both Bishop Herrmann and Auxiliary Bishop George Fulcher, who served in Columbus from 1976-83, were known

for their social activism. In 1981, as the nation's economy faltered, Bishop Herrmann noticed that food pantries and social service agencies could not meet people's needs and that more people were lining up every day, as they still do, at the cathedral's back door to receive food.

This resulted in a meeting of community leaders that ultimately led to creation of the Operation Feed campaign, which now is sponsored by the Mid-Ohio Food Collective and provided millions of meals each year to the hungry of Franklin County.

Bishop Herrmann retired in 1982 and moved back to the Washington area for nine years but returned to Columbus in 1991 to continue his ministry as a priest and bishop emeritus. He had a stroke in 1995 and moved to the former St. Raphael's Home for the Aged, where he

died in late 1999. He is buried in the cathedral undercroft.

Bishop Fulcher was pastor of the cathedral when he was appointed as auxiliary bishop in 1976. He was founding pastor of Columbus St. Anthony Church, where he was stationed from 1963-75, and had served at several parishes in the previous 15 years. He was editor of *The Catholic Times* from 1958-67, taught theology at the Josephinum for 27 years and, like Bishop Herrmann, attended many ecumenical gatherings.

He was on the committee that wrote the U.S. bishops' 1983 pastoral letter on *The Challenges of Peace: God's Promise and Our Response*, which called for nuclear disarmament. In that same year, he was appointed bishop of Lafayette, Indiana. He held the position for less than a year before his death in an auto

accident on Jan. 25, 1984.

Bishop Herrmann's successor, Auxiliary Bishop James Griffin of Cleveland, was installed on April 25, 1983 and served as bishop of Columbus for 21 years, longer than anyone except Bishop Hartley.

He reorganized diocesan departments in 1984 into a structure that put more responsibility into their directors' hands and allowed the bishop to focus more on his role as shepherd and pastor of the diocese. In that year, he also established *The Catholic Foundation* to provide for the long-term needs of the diocese and individual parishes through management of funds set up for that purpose.

He also initiated the *Legacy of Catholic Learning* campaign in 1989 and the

See **COLUMBUS BISHOPS**, Page 63

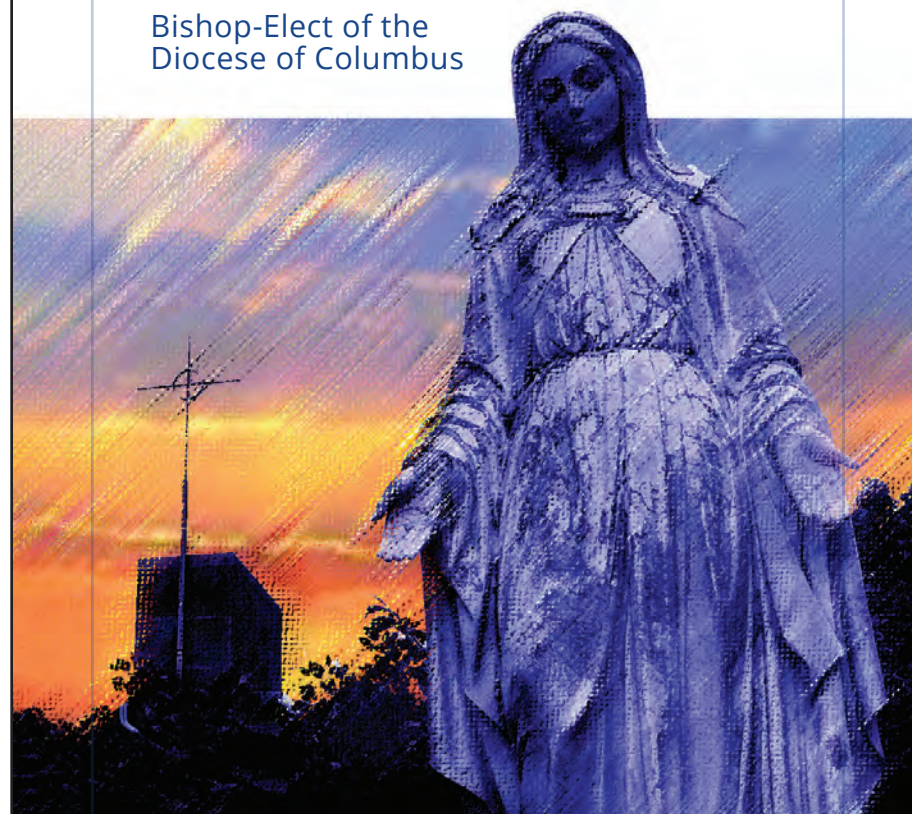


**St. Edward the Confessor Church,  
Granville, welcomes  
Bishop Earl Fernandes**  
among us as we pray for  
him and his ministry in  
the Church of Columbus.

*Congratulations to*

**FATHER EARL K.  
FERNANDES**

Bishop-Elect of the  
Diocese of Columbus



*Our prayers are with you!*



Bishop David J. Walkowiak  
along with the clergy, religious, and faithful  
of the Diocese of Grand Rapids, Michigan

*congratulate Bishop-elect Fernandes*

on the occasion of your ordination and  
installation as the 13th bishop of  
Columbus.

May the Lord bless your ministry, and  
may the Holy Spirit grant you wisdom to  
strengthen you in your new journey.

The Carmelite Sisters for the Aged  
and Infirm congratulates  
**Bishop Earl Fernandes**  
as the 13th Bishop of Columbus.

A very warm Carmelite welcome by the  
Sisters, Residents and Staff of Mother  
Angeline McCrory Manor, The Villas at St.  
Therese and The Villas at Mother Angeline  
Memory Care Assisted Living. God bless you  
as you begin the work as Shepherd of the  
Diocese of Columbus.

MOTHER ANGELINE McCRORY MANOR  THE VILLAS AT SAINT THERESE  THE VILLAS AT MOTHER ANGELINE

## The Knights and Dames of the Order of Malta

*Federal Association, USA*

*Columbus Region*



Warmly welcome Bishop Earl Fernandes as the  
Thirteenth Bishop of the Diocese of Columbus



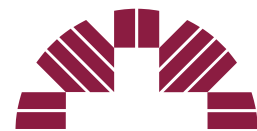
LOCATED AT  
Mount Carmel St. Ann's

*Congratulations!*

BISHOP  
EARL FERNANDES

The dedicated colleagues of Mount Carmel Health System congratulate you, Bishop Earl Fernandes, on your episcopal ordination and installation as the thirteenth Bishop of Columbus!

May God bless your ministry to the people of the Diocese of Columbus.



MOUNT CARMEL

A Member of Trinity Health

# WELCOMES: The Most Reverend Bishop Earl Fernandes

Through the church and aligned with Catholic Social Teaching, our accredited Catholic service organization serves 13,000 people each year at over 13 locations in 23 counties.

We meet people where they are and provide individualized, holistic care which respects their dignity.

We focus our resources on working poor families and vulnerable Seniors. Including the Appalachian community, refugees and immigrants, the homeless and food insecure population, the Latino community, people with disabilities, and veterans.



**Poverty is complicated and requires holistic individualized services.**

Many social factors contribute to people living in poverty. These same social factors can likewise have an adverse effect on an individual's health. By linking our programs with the social determinants of health, we see the successes of lifting people out of poverty while also addressing their health and well-being.

[colscs.org](http://colscs.org)



**COLUMBUS BISHOPS, continued from Page 59**

Challenge of Changing Times campaign in 2000 to help meet the educational and structural needs of the diocese and its schools and helped initiate a communitywide, faith-based task force that worked to reduce domestic violence.

The former St. Raphael's and St. Michael's homes for the aged were closed during his time as bishop and were replaced by the Villas of St. Therese on Columbus' far east side. The villas include areas for assisted living, opened in 1999, and for independent living, opened in 2001. Mother Angeline McCrory Manor, a skilled nursing care, rehabilitation and memory care facility, was opened adjacent to the villas in 2004.

Bishop Griffin was president of Catholic Relief Services from 1991-95 and served on a number of committees of the

U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. He announced his retirement on Oct. 14, 2004, saying limitations caused by age and arthritis detracted from the energy he needed to serve as bishop. Now 87 years old, he has lived in Powell for the past 16 years. As bishop emeritus, he and his successor, Bishop Emeritus Frederick Campbell, are concelebrants at Masses, such as ordinations and funerals of priests, which bring people and clergy together from throughout the diocese.

At his retirement announcement on Oct. 14, 2004, Bishop Griffin said Bishop Campbell, who was auxiliary bishop of St. Paul/Minneapolis, had been appointed as his successor. Bishop Campbell was installed in Columbus on Jan. 13, 2005.

In that year, the area's first Catholic radio station, St. Gabriel Catholic Ra-

dio, went on the air. Two years later, the National Catholic Youth Conference filled Nationwide Arena with 20,000 young people.

In 2008, parishes throughout the diocese conducted self-studies to examine their needs, leading in the next decade to creation of several groups of two to five parishes each with one pastor, allowing for better use of parish and diocesan resources. The Real Presence Real Future initiative is a continuation of that effort.

In 2009, the Columbus-based Dominican Sisters of St. Mary of the Springs united with several other congregations to form the Dominican Sisters of Peace. The Mexican-based Missionary Sisters, Servants of the Word came to Columbus St. Stephen the Martyr Church in that year to help serve the needs of that

parish's large Latino population.

They have been joined since then by their priestly counterpart, the Missionary Servants of the Word, and by many other orders of sisters and priests who have helped the diocese respond to both a growth in its immigrant population and a decline in the number of diocesan priests, many of whom are past or close to retirement age.

Cristo Rey Columbus High School, featuring a work-study curriculum to benefit students from low-income families, opened in 2013 in the former Diocesan Child Guidance Center and moved the following year to the former Ohio School for the Deaf on the edge of the downtown area. The school will cele-

See COLUMBUS BISHOPS, Page 66

# His Excellency Bishop Earl K. Fernandes 13th Bishop of the Diocese of Columbus

**Congratulations  
and  
Welcome to the  
Diocese of Columbus**



**Knights of Peter Claver and Ladies Auxiliary  
St. Cyprian Council and Court 298**

*St. Peter Claver, Pray for Us*



“SHEPHERD THE FLOCK OF GOD THAT IS AMONG YOU, EXERCISING OVERSIGHT, NOT UNDER COMPULSION, BUT WILLINGLY, AS GOD WOULD HAVE YOU; NOT FOR SHAMEFUL GAIN, BUT EAGERLY; NOT DOMINEERING OVER THOSE IN YOUR CHARGE, BUT BEING EXAMPLES TO THE FLOCK.”

- 1 PETER 5:2-3

WE PRAY FOR YOU AND FOR ALL THOSE WHO HAVE ANSWERED GOD'S CALL!

**BISHOP  
EARL  
FERNANDES**



COLUMBUS CATHOLIC  
WOMEN'S CONFERENCE



**Catholic  
Men's Ministry**

Centered on Christ • Called to be Saints • Inspired by St. Joseph

[www.COLUMBUSCATHOLICWOMEN.com](http://www.COLUMBUSCATHOLICWOMEN.com) † [www.CATHOLICMENSMINISTRY.COM](http://www.CATHOLICMENSMINISTRY.COM)





# Many weigh in on selection of new bishop

By Tim Puet  
For *The Catholic Times*

The process of selecting a new bishop or auxiliary bishop for a diocese ultimately rests in the hands of the pope, but it's the result of a collaborative process that goes through many stages. It begins at the local level and ends with a phone call to the bishop-elect from the papal nuncio, the pope's representative to that country.

Bishop Earl Fernandes and his two predecessors as bishops of Columbus all say they had no idea the call was coming.

Bishop Fernandes at first wasn't surprised to receive a call on March 21 from the nuncio to the United States, Archbishop Christophe Pierre, for the two had worked together in the nuncio's office in Washington, D.C., for 3 ½ years.

Then-Father Fernandes was in a hallway just outside his office at Cincinnati St. Ignatius of Loyola Church at the time. "He (the nuncio) asked how I was doing, then followed with questions: 'Where are you? Are you alone? Are you sitting down?'" Bishop Fernandes said. "I knew from working with him what those questions meant, and the message that would follow – that Pope Francis had appointed me to be a bishop.

"The nuncio then announced that the pope had chosen me to be bishop of the Diocese of Columbus. I was silent for a moment, then accepted the appointment. We talked about many things, and afterwards I began thinking about how my life was going to change."

Bishop Fernandes was preceded by Bishop Robert Brennan. He was driving on the Long Island Expressway in January 2019 when the nuncio called to announce that he was being appointed bishop of Columbus. At the time, he was auxiliary bishop of the Diocese of Rockville Centre, New York.

"The nuncio asked me, 'Are you alone?' and then he asked, 'Do you think you need to pull over?'" said Bishop Brennan, who has returned to New York as bishop of Brooklyn. "All I could think of was, 'That happened a minute ago when you first called.'"

Bishop Brennan's predecessor in Columbus, Bishop Emeritus Frederick Campbell, said the life-changing call came to him "out of the blue" in mid-October 2004 from Archbishop Gabriel Montalvo, who was serving as nuncio then. Bishop Campbell, who at the time was auxiliary bishop of St. Paul-Minneapolis, said he asked for a few minutes to think about what his new appointment would mean, then gave an affirmative response when the nuncio called back to ask whether he would accept the position.

Despite a bishop's prominence in the church and the community, the appoint-



**Bishop Robert Brennan** *File photo*

ment process is bound by strict confidentiality. There's no public speculation as to possible candidates and their merits for the position. Few if any people know with certainty who other than Bishop Fernandes might have been considered as Bishop Brennan's possible successor, and those people aren't telling.

The process for selecting a bishop for a diocese begins when a vacancy is created in that office through either the bishop's death; his appointment to another position by the pope; his retirement at age 75, as was Bishop Campbell's case; or his decision to retire for other reasons. Bishop Emeritus James Griffin, Bishop Campbell's predecessor, retired because of health issues in October 2004 after 21 years as bishop of Columbus.

There is no set time frame concerning selection of a bishop. In the interim between the departure or death of one bishop and the consecration of his successor, an apostolic administrator is appointed to be in charge of a diocese.

Msgr. Stephan Moloney held that position in the Columbus diocese for the six-month period between Bishop Brennan's departure and Bishop Fernandes' installation. Bishop Campbell was administrator from the time his resignation was accepted in January 2019 until Bishop Brennan's installation two months later.

Each diocese throughout the world is part of a larger group of dioceses known as a metropolitan province, which has an archbishop – a title that is symbolic and does not convey authority over other bishops. The six dioceses of Ohio all are part of the Cincinnati metropolitan province.

The selection of candidates for consideration to become bishop begins at the provincial level. Any bishop in a province is invited to submit names of priests he thinks possess the maturity, pastoral and spiritual qualities and other characteristics needed for a bishop.

The bishops of a province usually meet at least once a year, and the provincial archbishop at that time circulates the names submitted, along with a resume



**Bishop Earl Fernandes**  
*Photo courtesy Abigail Pitones*

of each priest named. The bishops then discuss the merits of those priests and vote to decide who among them should be recommended to the nuncio to add to his list of potential bishops for dioceses anywhere in the United States. There is no lower or upper limit to the number of priests who may be recommended.

The nuncio is the pope's personal representative to the nation – the church's equivalent of an ambassador. Archbishop Pierre, a native of France who previously was nuncio of Mexico, Haiti and Uganda at various times, has some familiarity with Columbus because whoever serves as nuncio to the United States automatically is chancellor of the Pontifical College Josephinum, the only papal seminary outside of Italy. The bishop of Columbus is vice chancellor.

Bishop Fernandes also is familiar with the Josephinum because he has been one of its trustees since shortly after returning to Cincinnati in 2019 after working in the nuncio's office.

Once the nuncio receives a list of candidates from a province, he conducts his own investigation to determine their suitability to be a bishop.

When a vacancy is created in the office of bishop for a diocese, the outgoing bishop or the administrator is asked to report to the nuncio on the condition of the diocese, in consultation with other diocesan officials.

During this period, the nuncio can consult with priests, previous bishops and laypersons of the diocese, as well as other bishops in the province and the president and vice president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. Broad consultation is encouraged with regard to the needs of the diocese and not the names of specific candidates.

From these recommendations and the

candidates' list from the neighboring provinces, the nuncio creates a "short list" of potential bishops for a specific diocese. He then sends a questionnaire, to be completed in strictest confidentiality, to 20 or 30 people who know each of the priests and bishops being considered for the position.

This material is collected and reviewed by the nuncio, who prepares a report of approximately 20 pages, concluding with his selection of five potential candidates – called a terna – in which the candidates are listed alphabetically with the nuncio's presence noted.

That report is sent to the prefect of the Vatican's Congregation for Bishops, who for the past 12 years has been Canadian-born Cardinal Marc Ouellet. If the appointment involves a bishop who is being promoted from auxiliary bishop or transferred from another diocese, the matter may be handled by the prefect and the staff. If the appointment is of a priest to become a bishop, as with Bishop Fernandes, the full congregation, which has about 15 members, usually is involved.

One of the congregation's members is chosen to summarize the documentation and make a report to the full congregation, which generally meets twice a month on Thursdays and usually considers bishop candidates from four dioceses per session. After hearing the summary, the congregation discusses the appointment and usually votes either to follow the nuncio's recommendation or to choose another of the candidates on the terna. It also has the option of asking that another terna be prepared.

At a private audience with the pope, usually on a Saturday, the prefect presents the congregation's recommendations to the pope, given in a particular order with the congregation's choice at the top. The pope then affirms the congregation's recommendation, chooses another candidate on the terna, asks for a new terna to be submitted or, in the rarest of cases, chooses his own candidate.

The pope's decision is then given to the congregation, the nuncio is informed and he makes the phone call. Once the pope's appointment is accepted – it can be refused, but this is rare and must be for good reason – the nuncio arranges with the Vatican to make a public announcement of the appointment, usually within two to four weeks. During this period, the bishop-elect cannot tell anyone of his appointment.

After the appointment of a new bishop is announced, plans begin for his installation, which usually takes place at the diocese's cathedral but can be at a larger venue so more people can attend. Bishop Fernandes was installed at Westerville St. Paul Church because its seating capacity of 1,500 is the largest of any church in the Diocese of Columbus.



# The Tuscarawas County Catholic Schools Welcome *Bishop Fernandes*



Tuscarawas County  
Catholic Schools



LAY FRATERNITIES of SAINT DOMINIC  
PROVINCE OF SAINT JOSEPH, EASTERN USA

St. Catherine of Siena, Chapter #603  
Columbus, Ohio

**WELCOMES**  
**Earl Fernandes as the 13<sup>th</sup> bishop of the Diocese of Columbus**

It brings the Lay Dominicans honor to support your episcopate and we are grateful you have been chosen to be our humble shepherd. We share in common your devotion to Blessed Virgin Mary, most holy Mother of God, whom you have chosen as your episcopal motto ~

**"Come Holy Spirit, come through Mary"**  
"Veni Sancte Spiritus, veni per Mariam"

The Columbus chapter meets monthly at St. Patrick Church. The Lay Fraternities share their gifts while striving to faithfully live out in the secular world the building up of the church and for the glory and honor of God. Lay Dominicans make a life long promise while embodied by partaking in the four Pillars of the Dominican Order: prayer, study, community and apostolate. Fraternity members are blessed to share in the prayers, merits and graces of the whole order.

May the Holy Spirit lead and guide your new endeavor. We are here to serve you Bishop Fernandes and we will keep you in our prayers. Thank you for your 'yes'!

## COLUMBUS BISHOPS, *continued from Page 63*

brate its 10th anniversary next year.

Catholic Social Services opened the St. Francis Center in Portsmouth in a former convent in 2014 to provide improved outreach to residence of the diocese's southern counties. The same agency in 2017 expanded its Our Lady of Guadalupe Center on Columbus' west side. The center serves as a food pantry and offers English as a Second Language classes, nutrition classes, health screenings, legal and immigration consultations and other services to the area's Latino community.

In 2015, Bishop Campbell reconsecrated the diocese to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, 142 years after Bishop Rosecrans originally did so.

No new parishes were formed during Bishop Campbell's tenure, but new

church buildings were dedicated at West Jefferson Sts. Simon & Jude, Johnstown Church of the Ascension, Cardington Sacred Hearts and Westerville St. Paul churches. The latter, the diocese's largest church building, seating about 1,500 people, has been cited by national publications as an outstanding example of church architecture and was the site of Bishop Fernandes' ordination.

Bishop Campbell turned 75 years old, the mandatory retirement age for bishops, on Aug. 5, 2018. He announced on Jan. 31 of the following year that Pope Francis had accepted his letter of resignation and that Bishop Brennan would succeed him. Bishop Brennan was installed as bishop of Columbus in St. Joseph Cathedral on March 29, 2019.

## New bishop welcome at St. Patrick Church



Newly ordained Father Paul Marich, OP, (right) offers a blessing to newly ordained Bishop Earl Fernandes on Tuesday evening, May 31, during a welcome party at Columbus St. Patrick Church.

*Photo courtesy St. Patrick Church*

*St. Nicholas  
Catholic Church,  
Zanesville  
Prayerfully welcomes  
and looks forward  
to your leadership,  
Bishop Fernandes*



# Bishop Campbell ordains diocesan seminarian as deacon



Diocese of Columbus seminarian Peter Claver Kasasa Kiviiri was ordained a deacon on Friday, May 27 at St. Joseph Cathedral by Bishop Emeritus Frederick Campbell. (Top left) Kiviiri prostrates himself before the altar during the Litany of Supplication. (Lower left) Bishop Campbell recites the prayer of ordination over Kiviiri. (Center) Bishop Campbell lays hands on the candidate. Next to Bishop Campbell is Deacon Frank Iannarino, director of the office of the diaconate in the diocese. (Right) Newly ordained Deacon Kiviiri stands next to Bishop Campbell, who performed the ordination just days before new Diocese of Columbus Bishop Earl Fernandes was installed and ordained on Tuesday, May 31.

*CT photos by Ken Snow*

# WELCOME BISHOP FERNANDES!



ST. GABRIEL  
CATHOLIC RADIO 

**AM 820**  
CENTRAL OHIO

**FM 88.3**  
SOUTHERN OHIO

# Seminarians' bike tour makes stops in Lancaster, Newark

The Diocese of Columbus' annual seminarians bike tour ventured outside the outer belt of the city and into Lancaster and Newark on May 24-25 before returning to the suburbs.

The seminarians made stops in Lancaster at St. Bernadette and St. Mary of the Assumption to speak with elementary school students and Fisher Catholic High School to talk with ninth through 11th graders on May 24 before heading to Newark for an overnight stay at St. Francis de Sales Church.

After meeting with St. Francis de Sales students on the morning of May 25, the seminarians headed to Westerville St. Paul for a May 26 visit with students and then biked to Worthington St. Michael School to conclude the three-day tour before returning to the Pontifical College Josephinum.

The seminarians who make the trek offered their thoughts on the experience.

Seminarian Joey Rolwing said, "The bike tour serves a couple of purposes. First, it's a great experience of fraternity amongst the seminarians when we can spend time together, do something active, and explore the diocese a little bit. But it's also primarily about getting out and spreading the message of vocations by talking to students in their schools and encouraging them to be open to God's calling in their lives, teaching them about the different vocations, and inspiring them to strive for holiness."

Seminarian Shane Gerrity observed, "I'm just excited to get to meet all the kids and see all the different churches and schools. It lets you become familiar with the diocese and it's a great way to let young people get to know some of the men who are actually in formation for the priesthood."

Seminarian John-Paul Haemmerle shared, "It's all about getting out, seeing the diocese, having fraternity amongst the seminarians and promoting vocations. It helps the students we talk to see that seminarians and priests are just regular guys who like to go on bike rides, hang out and have a good time."

Sam Severance offered, "The bike tour helps these young kids put a name to a face that they otherwise might only see on a poster in their school or church. They have encounters with us, we talk to them during lunch, and they'll remember that."



Kevin Girardi leads the seminarians to their stop on their annual bike tour on May 24 at Lancaster St. Mary of the Assumption School, where they are greeted by fifth graders.



Seminarian Shane Gerrity talks with first graders. *CT photos by Ken Snow*



Seminarian Joey Rolwing (left) chats with second-grader Stephanie Gaskill.




Seminarians Sam Severance (left) and John-Paul Haemmerle toss t-shirts to first graders.



Diocesan seminarians visit Lancaster St. Bernadette School and Father Ty Tomson on the first leg of their annual bike tour in the diocese. *Photo courtesy St. Bernadette School*




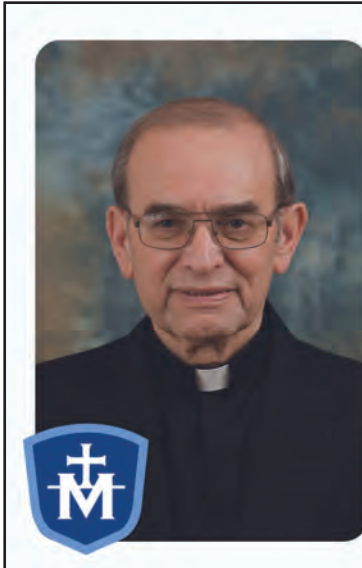
Seminarians, led by Zach Goodchild, are greeted by students as they ride into Lancaster Fisher Catholic High School to visit with ninth, 10th and 11th graders.



**Congratulations!**  
Anniversary of Ordination

**40 Years**


Msgr. Stephan J. Moloney  
1982-2022

**60 years**  
Ordination Anniversary  
**CONGRATULATIONS**

**MSGR. ANTHONY**  
-Missimi

1962-2022



## Central Catholic League softball

Varsity	CCL Record	Overall	JV	Overall
Bishop Watterson	6-0	13-8	6-5	
St. Francis DeSales	3-3	8-12		
Bishop Hartley	3-3	8-15		
Bishop Ready	0-6	6-16	0-4	

Varsity league champion: Bishop Watterson

### All-CCL first team

Alex Mosholder Ana Emswiler, Liz Hohlfelder, Katie Moore, Bishop Watterson; Kennedy Hawk, Jessica Melvin, Madison Werhman, St. Francis DeSales; Ava McKee, Anaya Bumpus, Gianna Solinger, Bishop Hartley; Lilly Kapala, Emma Sweetman, Bishop Ready

### Second team

Abby Emswiler, Mary Gamble, Julie Hall, Watterson; Maggie Valentine, Alena Stewart, Katelyn Covach, DeSales; Reese Beatty, Riley Mann, Becca Lemay, Hartley; Caleigh Cheatham, Hope Orders, Ready

## Central Catholic League boys tennis

Varsity	CCL Record	Overall
St. Charles	4-0	5-10
St. Francis DeSales	2-2	6-8
Bishop Ready	2-2	7-8
Bishop Watterson	1-2-1	2-12-1
Bishop Hartley	0-3-1	3-6-1

League Champion: St. Charles

### All- CCL first team

Brady Pema, Victor Roscoe, Brogan Rogers, Daniel Ferguson, St. Charles; Brendan Ballard, St. Francis DeSales; Philip Ryan, Bishop Ready; Tommy O'Brien, Bishop Watterson; Terry Wilkins, Bishop Hartley

### Second team

Brogan Rogers, Will Kennedy, St. Charles; Gabe Arbona, Aiden Mann, DeSales; Adam Bennett, Kenny Knight, Ready; Colby Graham, Watterson; Peter Reinker, Hartley

## DeSales juniors qualify for Merit Scholarship program



Columbus St. Francis DeSales High School juniors (sitting from left) Alex Herrmann and Richael Saka and (standing from left) Owen Eckstein and Adam Feltz have met the requirements to enter into the 2023 National Merit Scholarship Program. Based on their PSAT test results, they have been identified among the 50,000 highest scores out of 1.3 million participants.

Photo courtesy St. Francis DeSales High School



Real Presence  
Real Future

## NOW AVAILABLE: Second Round Draft Models

Real Presence Real Future Second Round Draft Models are now available for public viewing and comment. We want to hear from you about your impressions of this second round of draft models. Now is the time to share concerns, hopes and alternative to these models.

Please visit [www.realpresencerealfuture.org](http://www.realpresencerealfuture.org) to review your planning group's Fall feedback and Second Round Draft Models and complete the accompanying survey by June 30.



# Right to worship in peace deserves protection

It's time for a history quiz. Do you remember Jan. 22, 2021? The diocese was celebrating its annual Respect Life Mass at Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral. Those assembled included clergy, families with small children, students and the elderly. The Mass was livestreamed to Catholic schools across the diocese and on St. Gabriel Catholic Radio.

Then-Bishop Robert Brennan's homily on this anniversary date of the U.S. Supreme Court's *Roe v. Wade* decision stressed the importance of respect for one another, especially unborn children, their mothers and the most vulnerable. He talked about prayer, peace and nonviolence.

During his homily, protesters entered the cathedral carrying signs and shouting, "Two, four, six, eight. This church teaches hate." They marched down the main and side aisles. They knocked over and broke a table.

Jerry Freewalt, previous director of my office and current executive director of the Catholic Conference of Ohio, provided firsthand testimony about the protest during a hearing on March 3, 2022, on Ohio House Bill 504, the Sacred Spaces Act.

"I could see members of the congregation shocked, frightened and disturbed," he said. "It was a jolting disruption during what was a very peaceful prayer setting in our house of worship, our sacred space. Many parishioners immediately knelt to pray the Hail Mary.

"I also observed protesters approach parishioners as they were praying and shout vulgarities in (their) faces. I, along with diocesan officials, outstretched our arms as to not touch the protesters but shield them from the congregation to keep them safe as they were escorted out of the church.

## FAITH IN ACTION

Erin Cordle

*Erin Cordle is associate director of the diocesan Office for Social Concerns.*



"I followed the protesters out the front door of the cathedral to the steps. The protesters stopped halfway down the steps of the cathedral, turned towards us and repeatedly shouted obscenities to me and whoever was behind me.

"I immediately turned around to shut the cathedral doors. ... As I stood on the cathedral steps, I took a deep breath and calmly prayed to God with my hands folded as the protesters repeatedly shouted at me. After several chants, they stopped.

"I then calmly said, 'We are here in peace. We are here out of respect. We love you. I love you.' One protester said to me, 'We hate you.' I was glad that at least the remarks were directed at me and not the congregation at that point.

"I wanted to stabilize the situation in a nonviolent way and return their words with a message of Christian love and respect, which in fact was the central message of the Mass. Soon after, several police officers arrived at the cathedral."

The Ohio House passed the Sacred Spaces Act on April 6 (95-1). The Senate version was introduced on April 12 but not assigned to a committee until May 18. We now need to contact our state senators to have them move the bill forward quickly.

Certainly, the new threats of violence on social me-

dia focused on the U.S. Supreme Court's leaked draft majority opinion on *Roe v. Wade/Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* should be enough to push our state senators forward. Yet, we know politicians need to hear from their constituents.

All our brothers and sisters in the faith community understand the importance of gathering together to worship. For Catholics, the Mass is the pinnacle of communal worship. It is our encounter of the real presence of Jesus Christ in the Eucharist.

For all people of faith, our houses of worship should be sacred, safe places. All are welcome to worship — friends, family and strangers.

The Sacred Spaces Act would make it clear that intentional disruption of a Catholic Mass or any religious service bears consequences. Free speech is alive and well; however, religious expression, civility and respect also are alive and well and need to be protected.

Freewalt reminds us that "the Catholic Conference of Ohio is in support of HB 504 not only because these events happened to us, but also because these events should not happen to anyone who attends a religious service. People should be able to worship in peace. ... It is our hope this bill will send a message to Ohioans that our state will not tolerate the disruption of sacred spaces."

For more information and Freewalt's full testimony, go to Religious Liberty - Catholic Conference of Ohio ([ohiocathconf.org](http://ohiocathconf.org)).

Please contact your state senators and ask them to support the Sacred Spaces Act.

And, please pray for all people of faith who fight to preserve religious liberty. May the Lord strengthen their resolve to hold firm in their witness.

## The cardinal and Jimmy

Tertullian, the first major Christian theologian to write in Latin, is thought to have coined the maxim *Semen est sanguis Christianorum*, typically (and rather freely) translated as "the blood of martyrs is the seed of the Church." Martyrs, we usually think, are those who shed their blood "in hatred of the faith": the definition of martyrdom used by the Vatican's Congregation for the Causes of Saints. But an ancient Christian tradition, likely as old as Tertullian, considers those who suffer severe persecution for Christ as martyrs or, more precisely, "martyr-confessors."

By that standard, the Church's two most prominent martyr-confessors in May 2022 are the emeritus bishop of Hong Kong, Cardinal Joseph Zen, SDB, and the Hong Kong journalist, entrepreneur and freedom-fighter, Jimmy Lai.

Jimmy has been in jail for months; Cardinal Zen may be heading there, although the 90-year old churchman was released on bail after being arrested May 11 under Hong Kong's draconian new national security law. It speaks volumes about the wicked men in Beijing who have made China the ugly face of contemporary totalitarianism that they are so frightened by the cardinal and Jimmy. And why are China's seemingly omnipotent leaders scared? Because Joseph Zen and Jimmy Lai believe that we are made for freedom, and especially the freedom to know, love and worship God. Having staked their lives on that conviction, Cardinal Zen and Jimmy Lai have refused to kowtow to communist threats — and both have suffered persecution, harassment and arrest as Hong Kong has been stifled by leaders like Carrie Lam and John Lee, who have the affrontery to call themselves "Catholics."

## THE CATHOLIC DIFFERENCE

George Weigel

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



The odious Thomas Cromwell at least had the decency to make clear that he was on a different team than Thomas More.

I owe Cardinal Zen a great debt of gratitude for bending every effort to get the two volumes of my John Paul II biography, *Witness to Hope and The End and the Beginning*, translated into Chinese and published in Hong Kong — a lengthy, difficult process completed in 2020, just before the Beijing thugocracy and its local apparatchiks began to shutter independent publishing in that vibrant city. Pope John Paul had urged me to have a Chinese translation of *Witness to Hope* done; I think he imagined that getting the book into China in its people's language was a way for him to "go" to a land he had hoped to visit but knew he never would. Cardinal Zen honored me and the project by doing translations of *The End and the Beginning* himself. The cardinal was especially determined that his Chinese countrymen understand the full story of the communist assault on John Paul that I documented from Warsaw Pact secret police sources in that volume. It was, he knew, a cautionary tale for Chinese Catholics; he certainly was right about that.

Jimmy Lai and I have been friends since he visited me in my Washington office years ago and I got a

first-hand sense of the fearlessness of this big man — big physically, and big in every admirable sense of the world. Unlike another prominent Catholic university that ignored suggestions to honor Jimmy's witness with an honorary degree at this year's commencement ceremonies, the Catholic University of America did so on May 14, and all honor to CUA for that. In an op-ed in the *New York Sun* that day, Jimmy's son, Sebastian, wrote that, by staying in Hong Kong and continuing his human rights advocacy when he knew the likely consequences, "my father taught me — and continues to teach me with each passing day — what it is to be a person [who] cleaves to his principles, to be someone who cannot be bought."

Timid universities taking large amounts of Chinese money might ponder that filial testimony.

Vatican reticence in the immediate aftermath of Cardinal Zen's arrest — the Holy See Press Office murmured that the Vatican was "concerned" and would follow developments with "extreme attention" — mirrored the Holy See's public silence during the persecution, trial and jailing of Jimmy Lai. This is shameful. The good shepherd defends his sheep, publicly, because he knows that the bright light of public attention can give totalitarians pause. We may hope that the Holy See has made strong representations behind the scenes to its "dialogue" partners in Beijing. But quiet protests are not enough when dealing with a man like China's Xi Jinping, who commits genocide against the Uyghurs and locks down entire cities with his mad anti-COVID policy.

The Vatican megaphone was once something to be reckoned with. Its power is fading from disuse.

## Mays joins diocese as director of communications

Jason Mays began his new duties as the director of communications for the Diocese of Columbus on May 24.

Previously, Mays was a staff member at WCMH NBC4 TV for 21 years, most recently as the station's managing editor.

In his new role, Mays will oversee diocesan communications efforts, including serving as press secretary for the Bishop of Columbus, overseeing media relations for other diocesan offices, publication of *The Catholic Times* newspaper, coordination and planning of other diocesan media tools, and marketing and public relations advice and guidance to diocesan offices.

"We are very pleased to welcome Jason to the Diocese of Columbus team," said Matthew Schlater, diocesan Chief

Operating Officer. "His considerable experience coordinating the fast-moving projects of TV news coverage and his dedication to his Catholic faith and the Church's mission make Jason the perfect candidate for this vital role in the Diocese of Columbus."

Mays succeeds Deacon Thomas Berg Jr., diocesan Chancellor, who has served as interim Director of Communications since July 2021. Deacon Berg will continue as Chancellor.

"I have had the opportunity to work with Jason a number of times on coverage of various aspects of the Diocese of Columbus," Deacon Berg said. "He is a true professional who cares about and assures the quality of the work for which he is responsible. He will be an

outstanding member of our diocesan team, and, like everyone else here, I look forward to working with him."

At NBC 4, Mays' experience included vetting and approving newsroom story pitches for on-air broadcast and digital platforms, assisting reporters in story crafting, fostering station relationships with news sources, the design and implementation of breaking news response protocols as well as protocols for tracking personnel, equipment, and other resources, keeping staff informed on assignments, and daily newsroom editorial meetings.

Mays also worked for NBC 4 as an assignment editor and photojournalist. In addition, his personal experience includes being a bicycle mechanic and



Jason Mays

builder.

Mays and his family are members of St. Timothy Church in Columbus.

## Review board finds allegation of abuse of minor by priest credible

As part of the Diocese of Columbus' continued investigation of an allegation of sexual abuse of a minor brought against diocesan priest Father Dean A. Mathewson in January, the Reverend Monsignor Stephan J. Moloney, Diocesan Administrator, has accepted a May 16 recommendation by the Diocesan Board of Review for the Protection of Children that the allegation is credible and that his name be added to the published diocesan list of clergy who have been credibly accused of sexual abuse of a minor, which has been done.

Father Mathewson, 77, remains on administrative leave during further canonical and administrative processes. Priests on administrative leave are prohibited from the public exercise of their priestly ministry. They cannot publicly celebrate sacraments, wear clerical attire, be housed at any parish or on diocesan property, or identify themselves as a member of the clergy.

A determination of credibility is never to be considered proof of guilt. This action and announcement are made in accordance with the Catholic Church's *Charter and Norms for the Protection of Children and Young People* and the Diocese's published *Policies for Prevention of Sexual Abuse of Minors and Response to Allegations Thereof*. The meeting of the Review Board was convened to assess the results of an investigation and make a recommendation as to whether the allegations against Father Mathewson appeared to be credible.

An accusation of sexual abuse of a minor, allegedly occurring during Father Mathewson's tenure at St. Francis de Sales Parish, Newark, Ohio, in the early 1990s was reported to the Diocese on January 19, 2022. This allegation had already been received by criminal authorities in Newark. On January 24,

2022, Diocesan officials notified Father Mathewson of the allegation and informed him of the details of the allegation. He was formally placed on leave, and he was advised about the steps the Church would follow as a result of the allegation.

Plans for outreach in the Diocese continue, and once that effort is finalized, more information will be provided to parishioners in the Diocese.

Fr. Mathewson served as the Diocesan Coordinator for Priest Hospital Chaplains from 2006 until January 2022, with part-time duties as Catholic Chaplain at Riverside Methodist Hospital, Columbus, and residence and part-time sacramental duties at St. Thomas the Apostle Parish, Columbus, during that same time period. He also has served as Associate Pastor, St. Brendan, Hilliard (2003-2006); Pastor, St. Francis de Sales, Newark (1995-2003); Administrator, St. Francis de Sales, Newark, (1994-1995); Associate Pastor, St. Francis de Sales, Newark (1991-1994); Pastor, St. Joseph, LaRue, with part-time teaching duties at Marion Catholic High School (1981-1991); Associate Pastor, St. Mary, Chillicothe, with part-time teaching duties at Bishop Flaget High School (1977-1981); and Assistant Parish Priest, St. Matthias, Columbus, with part-time teaching duties at St. Francis de Sales High School (1973-1977).

The Diocese of Columbus encourages anyone who may have claims of abuse by clergy or others associated with the Church to notify law enforcement immediately as well as the Diocesan Victim's Assistance Coordinator (866-448-0217 or [helpisavailable@columbuscatholic.org](mailto:helpisavailable@columbuscatholic.org)); and, in this case, Detective Steven Vanoy, Newark Police Department (740-670-7928).

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Parishioners of Saint Brigid of Kildare, Dublin

*Bobby and Emily Voigt*  
Parishioners of Saint Mary, Alexandria, VA

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## Pentecost Year C

## Spirit offers hope to broken world

## Vigil Mass

**Genesis 11:1-9, Exodus 19:3-8a,  
16-20b, Ezekiel 37:1-14  
or Joel 3:1-5**

**Psalms 104:1-2, 24, 35, 27-28, 29, 30  
Romans 8:22-27  
John 7:37-39**

## Mass of the Day

**Acts 2:1-11**

**Psalms 104:1, 24, 29-30, 31, 34  
1 Corinthians 12:3b-7, 12-13 or  
Romans 8:8-17**

**John 20:19-23 or John 14:15-16,  
23b-26**

All salvation history is gathered into the one great Feast of Pentecost. The liturgical cycle of the Paschal Mystery that began on Ash Wednesday “explodes” into the wind and flame of Pentecost. Lent, the Passion of the Lord, Easter, Resurrection, Ascension and intense prayer of those who have come to believe join into the fulfillment of promises and longings of the human heart.

The readings offered for the vigil and the day of Pentecost present key moments of the whole journey that God has made with His people. From the division of human cultures at Babel to the peals of thunder and lightning on Mount Sinai, to the raising of the dry bones of Ezekiel, to the promise of the Spirit for all mankind, to the Easter appearances of the risen Lord, to the gathering of the Twelve with Mary on Pentecost, human beings have been prepared for an encounter with the living God.

While it is doubtful that many parishes will take advantage of all the readings (which could be done in parallel with the Easter Vigil), it is worth taking time to explore all of them.

Unity comes from the Spirit. Renewal of peoples and of the face of the earth is accomplished by the Spirit. Power to open and transform hearts is given to men and women of faith who allow the Spirit to move them.

Pentecost brings the Church to birth.

## The Most Holy Trinity Year C

**Proverbs 8:22-31**

**Psalms 8:4-5, 6-7, 8-9**

**Romans 5:1-5**

**John 16:12-15**

Ordinary Time resumes immediately after the Feast of Pentecost. However, the Sundays after Pentecost offer a marvelous “overflow” of the Paschal Season with specific celebrations of aspects of our faith in God and the sacramental life of the Church.

The Feast of the Most Holy Trinity follows upon the Solemnity of the Spir-

## 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.*



Weak and fearful souls, wounded by loss and sorrow, are made strong. Those who hear them speak think they are inebriated due to their exuberance. But soon, the hearers are caught up by the Spirit and become believers, added to the Church that very day.

Pentecost offers hope for the brokenness of our world today. Jesus Himself cries out, offering “streams of living water” that will fulfill the cry of human hearts, including that of Jesus and every thirsty soul. When human beings rely not on themselves but on the very breath that created the universe, they share in God’s creative power.

We are capable of both finding the solutions to the problems that beset us in this world and of entering into the living relationship with God that is promised through the whole of sacred Scripture.

Many Catholics who have participated in the present-day offerings of renewal comment that they never heard of the Holy Spirit as a Person with Whom they could have a living relationship. They knew about the Spirit through prayers and through the Scriptures they have read. But somehow the invitation to a more complete understanding of how to open their lives to the Spirit passed them by.

To open to the Spirit is as simple as uttering a three-word prayer: “Come, Holy Spirit!” When we pray this prayer and open our lives to the breath of the Spirit, something new happens for us. We discover new depths to our relationship with God, ourselves and others. The Spirit brings back what was lost and broken. The Spirit frees us to cooperate with God’s plan for ourselves and for all creation. We cry out, “Abba! Father!” and are caught up into the life of God, Who is

it, reminding us that what we are invited to share is the very mystery of the life of God.

The Holy Trinity is the One God Who has been active through creation and salvation history. Through the Spirit, we are invited to experience a “glimpse” of the inner life of the Godhead.

Although our minds will never fully comprehend the mystery, we are taken into the divine perspective as we hear the song of wisdom at the moment of creation: “*then was I beside him as his craftsman, and I was his delight day by day,*

## THE WEEKDAY BIBLE READINGS

6/6-6/11

## MONDAY

Genesis 3:9-15,20  
or Acts 1:12-14  
Psalm 87:1b-3,5-7  
John 19:25-34

## TUESDAY

1 Kings 7:7-16  
Psalm 4:2-5,7b-8  
Matthew 5:13-16

## WEDNESDAY

1 Kings 18:20-39  
Psalm 16:1b-2b,4-5b,8,11  
Matthew 5:17-19

## THURSDAY

1 Kings 18:41-46  
Psalm 65:10-13  
Matthew 5:20-26

## FRIDAY

1 Kings 19:9a,11-16  
Psalm 27:7-9c,13-14  
Matthew 5:27-32

## SATURDAY

Acts 11:21b-26;13:1-3  
Psalm 98:1-6  
Matthew 5:33-37

6/13-6/18

## MONDAY

1 Kings 21:1-16  
Psalm 5:2-3b,4b-7  
Matthew 5:38-42

## TUESDAY

1 Kings 21:17-29  
Psalm 51:3-6b,11,16  
Matthew 5:43-48

## WEDNESDAY

2 Kings 2:1,6-14  
Psalm 31:20-21,24  
Matthew 6:1-6,16-18

## THURSDAY

Sirach 48:1-14  
Psalm 97:1-7  
Matthew 6:7-15

## FRIDAY

2 Kings 11:1-4,9-18,20  
Psalm 132:11-14,17-18  
Matthew 6:19-23

## SATURDAY

2 Chronicles 24:17-25  
Psalm 89:4-5,29-34  
Matthew 6:24-34

## DIOCESAN WEEKLY RADIO AND TELEVISION

## MASS SCHEDULE: WEEKS OF JUNE 5 AND 12, 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](http://www.stgabrielradio.com) and diocesan website, [www.columbuscatholic.org](http://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](http://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](http://www.stgabrielradio.com) and diocesan website, [www.columbuscatholic.org](http://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](http://www.stannstmary.org)); Columbus St. Patrick ([www.stpatrickcolumbus.org](http://www.stpatrickcolumbus.org)); Delaware St. Mary ([www.delawarestmary.org](http://www.delawarestmary.org)); Sunbury St. John Neumann ([www.saintjohnsunbury.org](http://www.saintjohnsunbury.org)); and Columbus Immaculate Conception ([www.iccols.org](http://www.iccols.org)). Check your parish website for additional information.

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

Father, Son and Spirit.

In addition to the riches of the Scripture that are associated with the celebration of Pentecost, a special prayer, called the Sequence, is part of the Liturgy of Pentecost. The images captured in this poetic cry of the heart invite us to call the Spirit into the crevices of our lives that need divine consolation and healing.

*Heal our wounds, our strength renew;*

*On our dryness pour thy dew;  
Wash the stains of guilt away;*

*Bend the stubborn heart and will;  
Melt the frozen, warm the chill;  
Guide the steps that go astray.*

May we open our lives to the power of the Holy Spirit to bring about peace in our time. Come, Holy Spirit!

## Looking into the life of God as Three Divine Persons

*playing before him all the while, playing on the surface of his earth; and I found delight in the human race.”*

We are taken up in wonder at the reality of our own being in the world and in relationship with God. “*When I behold your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars which you set in place – What is man that you should be mindful of him, or the son of man that you should care for him?”*

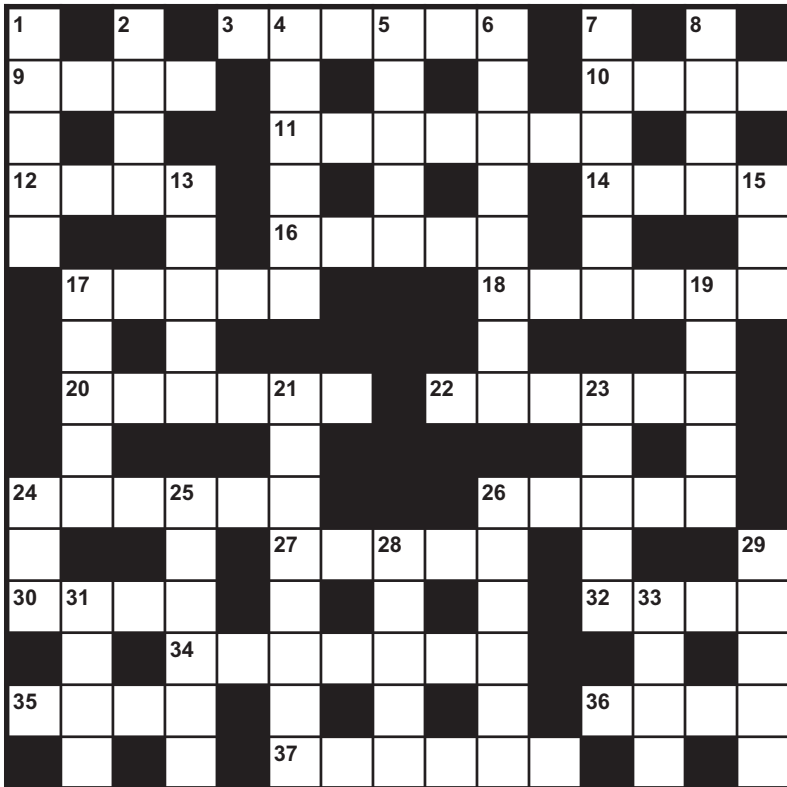
The celebration of Easter and the Paschal Mystery, with the outpouring of the Spirit, now draws us into the mystery of

God’s own life: the One God is revealed as Three Divine Persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. The revelation of the mystery of the Holy Trinity comes to us not as something for us merely to know about, but rather as something to experience. We are called to relationship with the One God, Who is Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

In the Spirit, we address the One Who is the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ as “My God, My God” and as



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**ACROSS**

- 3 Gentile prophet of the Old Testament
- 9 Certain corner
- 10 Long cloak-like vestment
- 11 Home of the Archdiocese of Edmonton
- 12 Ancestress of Jesus
- 14 Diocese of Honolulu necklaces
- 16 St. Juan Diego, for example
- 17 "\_\_\_ us peace"
- 18 Miracle of the \_\_\_ and fishes
- 20 Type of sin
- 22 AKA Hadassah
- 24 Worship place in Jerusalem
- 26 Wife of Abraham
- 27 Island in Acts 27-28
- 30 False god of the Old Testament
- 32 "My punishment is too great to \_\_\_." (Gen 4:13)
- 34 God is three, with one divine nature
- 35 Christmas visitors
- 36 Church section
- 37 Season before Christmas

**DOWN**

- 1 derful Life
- 2 "They shall \_\_\_ their swords into
- 4 plowshares..." (Isa 2:4)
- 5 Ark landing
- 6 Boss monk
- 7 Jesus performed these
- 8 Catholic United States Supreme Court justice
- 9 Recent pope, affectionately
- 13 Litany of the Sacred \_\_\_ of Jesus
- 15 Holy ones (abbr.)
- 17 It may be actual or sanctifying
- 19 Isaiah 66 speaks of a new one
- 21 Catholic university in Florida
- 23 AKA Sinai
- 24 OT historical book
- 25 The Gospel is read from here
- 26 He knocked down the Philistine temple
- 28 Pope before Benedict III
- 29 Language of the New Testament
- 31 "\_\_\_ in a manger..."
- 33 Jacob was afraid to meet him

**DOWN**

- 1 Catholic director of It's a Won-

**DIVINE**, *continued from Page 72*

"Abba!" Our human nature has been made radically capable of such a cry through the Passion, Death, Resurrection and Ascension of Jesus.

Transformed by the Spirit, we know Jesus as our Brother, Savior, Lord and Friend, as the Eternal Son of the Father Who also entered into time as the Son of Man, one of us, truly human and divine. Jesus Christ is God, and He shares with us His own intimate knowledge of and relationship with the Father, Who sent Him among us to bring salvation.

The Holy Spirit, the Spirit of the Father and the Son, is sent to us to remind us of all that Jesus taught and to share with us the very life of God. We are caught up by the Spirit into the flow of the life of Father, Son and Spirit, and through that life we have power to change the

world and to direct it to eternity.

We do not have the capacity to grasp the full meaning of the mystery, but by the power of the Spirit, we do begin to enjoy the depth of relationship that is offered. Time and eternity are woven into one flow of life, the life of God, made known to us in creation and in our relationships with one another. We are caught up in this life, and so we hope for an increase of God's Presence among us. This hope is our salvation in these times of trouble.

May God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, free us to see the world as God sees it. May wisdom open our eyes to the mystery, and may we share the wonder of the psalmist "O Lord, our God, how wonderful your name in all the earth!"

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Interested candidates are asked to send a resume to Jeff Silleck, Business Manager, c/o Holy Trinity/St. Joseph Parishes, P. O. Box 190, Somerset, OH43783 or at [Jsilleck@holytrinitystjoseph.org](mailto:Jsilleck@holytrinitystjoseph.org).



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# PRAY FOR OUR DEAD

**BEVLACQUA**, Jane L. (Del Signore), 93, May 11  
St. Matthias Church, Columbus

**BLAKE**, Mary Ann, 95, May 17  
St. Nicholas Church, Zanesville

**BREDA**, William M., 93, May 23  
St. Anthony Church, Columbus

**CERVI**, Cheryl D. (Baker), 77, April 17  
Our Mother of Sorrows Chapel, Columbus

**ERAMO**, Carmina (DelBove), 92, May 12  
St. Pius X Church, Reynoldsburg

**FALLON**, John T. Jr., 74, May 9  
Resurrection Cemetery Chapel, Lewis Center

**HERB**, Melvin R., 98, May 22  
Corpus Christi Church, Columbus

**JOHNSON**, Helen "Jean" (Beamer), 85, May 18  
St. Joseph Church, Dover

**JONES**, James P., 75, May 19  
Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, Grove City

**KEFELI**, Joan M. (Schurr), 86, May 11  
St. Leonard Church, Heath

**LEONE**, Marley J., 16 days, May 4  
St. John the Baptist Church, Columbus

**LOMBARDO**, Margaret, 96, May 17  
Church of the Resurrection, New Albany

**MAHLER**, Clara E., 102, May 20  
Immaculate Conception Church, Columbus

**MASTERS-HEMMER**, Pauline "Polly," 95, May 18  
St. Brendan Church, Hilliard

**MOTSCHKOWITSCH**, Margareta (Schweitzer), 90, May 14  
St. Anthony Church, Columbus

**MYERS**, Thomas, 80, of Dublin, May 21  
St. Francis Church, Hilton Head Island, S.C.

**PASSERO**, Peg, 100, May 19  
St. Pius X Church, Reynoldsburg

**PAXTON**, Theresa J. (Roberts), 89, April 30  
Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, Grove City

**RADICH**, Marilyn J. (Rhodes), 74, May 8  
St. Brendan Church, Hilliard

**REINHARD**, William "Mike," 81, May 14  
Ss. Simon and Jude Church, West Jefferson

**RILEY**, Marilyn, 83, May 7  
St. Agatha Church, Columbus

**SCHLUEB**, Thomas J., 86, May 16  
Christ the King Church, Columbus

**SNIDER**, Thomas L., 82, May 21  
Blessed Sacrament Church, Newark

**TABLER**, Richard D., 84, April 24  
St. Nicholas Church, Zanesville

**TUCKER**, Comelia "Conny" (Klusnick), 82, May 16  
St. Ladislav Church, Columbus

**WEBB**, Margaret A., 79, May 15  
St. Nicholas Church, Zanesville

**WINTERS**, William J., 85, May 18  
St. Joan of Arc Church, Powell

## Mary J. Leonhardt

Funeral Mass for Mary J. Leonhardt, 87, who died Monday, May 23, was celebrated Saturday, May 28 at Resurrection Cemetery Chapel, Lewis Center.

She was a graduate of Columbus St. Mary High School, a former librarian at Columbus Corpus Christi School, a long-time member and extraordinary minister of the Eucharist at Columbus St. Peter Church, and the retired president of Cap-

ital Awards Inc., where she worked until she was age 82.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Donald; son, Thomas; and brother, Al Speth. Survivors include sons, Dan (Janice) and Dave (Clare); daughters, Kathy Wotruba and Karen (Mike) Berman; brother, Bill (Sharon); 15 grandchildren and 18 great-grandchildren.

## William B. Sparks Jr.

Funeral Mass for William B. Sparks Jr., 80, president of the diocesan St. Vincent de Paul Society from 2008 to 2014, who died Sunday, May 22, was celebrated Thursday, May 26 at Columbus St. Thomas More Newman Center.

He was born on June 27, 1941 to William and Margaret Sparks. He grew up in Park Ridge, Illinois, graduated from the University of Notre Dame and received a Master's degree in business administration from Cornell University.

He had lived in Powell since 1995, when

he became president and chief operating officer of Greif Inc. He retired in 2006. He and his family also lived in Elizabeth, New Jersey; Dayton; Richmond, Indiana; and Sacramento, California.

He was preceded in death by his parents; son, Thomas; and brother, Robert. Survivors include his wife, Marlene (Lyons); sons, William (Sukanya), Steven (Jennifer), and David (Jessica); daughter, Suzanne (Richard); brother, Father Richard Sparks, CSP; sister, Kathleen (John) Capper; and seven grandchildren.

## Mary Ann Carle

A funeral Mass for Mary Ann Carle, 95, who died Saturday, May 14, was celebrated Friday, May 22 at Circleville St. Joseph Church. Burial was at St. Joseph Cemetery, Circleville.

She was born on March 21, 1927 in Jackson to Edward and Della (Spohn) Ward.

For nearly 30 years, she assisted her husband, Joseph, in operating the NFO livestock collection point in Williamsport. Their marriage was the subject of a Catholic Times feature story in October 2020. She also worked as a cashier at the Kroger store in Jackson for 11 years.

At St. Joseph Church, she was a choir member, cantor and organist and belonged to the Altar-Rosary Guild, serving as chairwoman of the guild's twice-a-year rum-

mage sale for more than 20 years. She also enjoyed playing the piano at the Pickaway County Senior Center and at local nursing homes.

Before moving to her husband's family farm outside Circleville after their marriage, she was a choir member and organist at Jackson Holy Trinity Church and sang in the community women's choir.

She was preceded in death by her parents and a son, William. Survivors include her husband; sons, Robert (Liz), maintenance supervisor in the Diocese of Columbus' downtown office building; Jacob (Leann) and Edward (Joni); daughters, Mary Jo (Nathan) Thompson, Patricia (David) Case and Teresa (Phil) Downey of Hilliard; 12 grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

## Margaret J. Selegue

Funeral Mass for Margaret J. Selegue, 94, who died Monday, May 9, was celebrated at Columbus Christ the King Church. Burial was at St. Joseph Cemetery, Columbus.

She was born on Feb. 27, 1928 to Richard and Cecilia Callahan and lived in Boonville, Indiana, before her family moved to Columbus.

She graduated from Columbus St. Leo School, Columbus St. Joseph Academy and Franklin University.

She was employed by the development office of the Diocese of Columbus from 1973 to 1994 and worked earlier for the

Big Bear Stores Co. and was an active volunteer for Columbus Christ the King School and Columbus Bishop Hartley High School, serving on the Hartley advisory board for 10 years.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Lawrence; daughter, Kate Delker; and two infant daughters. Survivors include sons, Michael (Kelley), Brian (Barb), Stephen (Kimberly) and Paul (Deanna); daughters, Rebecca and Amy (Phil); brother, Richard (Sarah); sister, Patricia Briggs; 16 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

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## Home Missions appeal keeps struggling dioceses afloat

By Sister Zephryna Mary, FIH  
Director, Diocesan Missions Office

In the Diocese of Columbus, the collection for the Home Missions will be taken on the weekend of June 4-5.

In 2021, the faithful in the diocese contributed \$47,110 to this special collection. I thank you for your generosity on behalf of Bishop Earl Fernandes and the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) committee in charge of the collection.

Home Missions in the United States and its territories cannot exist on their own. Approximately 40% of U.S. dioceses are designated as "missions" by the USCCB.

Mission dioceses lack the resources to provide basic pastoral services. These dioceses struggle with severe shortages of priests, poverty among parishioners, difficult or isolated terrain, religious hostility and other circumstances that hinder efforts to spread the faith.

The Second Vatican Council is particularly eloquent on this point relative to the role of the laity – they are to "make Christ visible for others." (Lumen Gentium, n.31) The smallest Catholic populations tend to exist in rural areas of the South, such as in Mississippi, Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia and the Carolinas; in Appalachia; and in the Caribbean.

The COVID-19 pandemic had a catastrophic impact on our lives. Jobs have been lost, travel restricted, even access to churches has been limited.

The Diocese of St. Thomas in the Virgin Islands is a diocese of the Latin Rite of the Church in the Caribbean. Former Bishop Herbert A. Bevard says that without Catholic Home Missions funds, the diocese wouldn't exist.

"In spite of the challenges here and with help of Catholic Home Missions many people who love and support us, we are able to do a good job as missionaries for Jesus Christ and His Church. It would be a terrible thing if we didn't have Catholic Home Missions at our back and our side as we strive to be a good, vibrant, life-giving church.

## New bishop seeks aid for U.S. missions

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops has designated one weekend every year for the Catholic Home Missions collection. This year in our diocese, the collection will take place on the weekend of June 4 and 5. The program was established to guarantee continued funding for the mission dioceses in the United States, which cannot exist without the financial help from Catholics elsewhere.

Contrary to what many people think, the missions are not only in Africa, Asia, India and Latin America. The missions are also in the vast wilderness of Alaska, in the Deep South, in the Rocky Mountain states, in the Appalachian regions, in the Southwest, in Puerto Rico, in the Virgin Islands, and in American Samoa

"In the Virgin Islands, you have evangelization on its feet. It is not just talking or wishing or hoping or planning, but bringing many people to know Christ and His Church much better." (Catholic Home Missions, Newsletter, Issue 1 2021)

Mission dioceses do marvelous work among non-Christians, the urban poor and minorities. They also promote mission awareness and vocations and train seminarians for missionary work. Their service eases the suffering of the poor.

For example, Glenmary missionaries exclusively serve the poor in rural U.S. missions. Their ministries include building Catholic communities, evangelizing the unchurched and conducting social outreach throughout Appalachia and the South.

Home missionaries are supported by free-will offerings and they support poor families with food drives, coat drives, etc. Let us remember the message of Pope Francis to the Pontifical Mission Societies: "A special care for the little ones and the poor. Any missionary impulse, if derived from the Holy Spirit, manifests predilection for the poor and vulnerable as a sign and reflection of the Lord's own preference for them.

"Those directly involved with the Church's missionary initiatives and structures should never justify their lack of concern for the poor with the excuse, widely used in particular ecclesiastical circles, of having to concentrate their energies on certain priorities for the mission. For the Church, a preference for the poor is not optional." (Vatican news, May 21, 2020)

Our help for the poor is a priority because God wants us to be sharers of our resources with minorities and the vulnerable.

The USCCB's Catholic Home Missions collection helps to fund 84 dioceses and eparchies in the United States and its territories.

Thank you for your sacrificial response and for all you do for the mission work of the Church. May our prayers, sacrifices and financial support for the missions bring the expansion of the reign of Christ who shed His blood for all mankind.

and the Marshalls.

The Catholic Home Missions collection helps fund evangelization efforts, religious education programs, education and training of seminarians and the training of pastoral caregivers in the areas of the United States where Catholics are few and the Church is fragile.

I invite you to respond generously to the Catholic Home Missions Appeal. May the Lord bless us in our efforts to help expand and strengthen the presence of the Church at home.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

**Most Reverend Earl Fernandes**  
Bishop of Columbus

## Local news and events

### Our Lady of Peace hosts GrandPal-A-Thon

More than 450 people, including students, teachers, parents, grandparents, great-grandparents, aunts, uncles, neighbors and friends, took part in Columbus Our Lady of Peace School's GrandPal-A-Thon last month. School principal Jim Silcott said it was by far the school's biggest event since the COVID-19 pandemic.

The day began with Mass, followed by entertainment from kindergarten students and second- and third-graders, and two songs from the seventh- and eighth-grade musical.

The school building was open to guests afterwards, and at 10 a.m., there was a parade through the neighborhood, escorted by Columbus police. Following the parade, students and their guests got to eat, talk, play and enjoy each other's company.

During the day, money was raised for the school's gymnasium ramp project. About \$8,000 of the project's approximately \$65,000 goal remains to be raised. It is hoped the project will be completed at the same time as the renovation of the Msgr. Kenneth Grimes Gymnasium is completed for the return of students in August.

### Serra Club honors altar servers

The 59th Annual Serra Club of Columbus Altar Server Award Ceremony was held May 1 at Columbus St. Joseph's Cathedral.

Msgr. Stephan Moloney, diocesan administrator, presided over the ceremony and in his talk to the award winners and their families shared with them that he won the same award 52 years ago.

There were 62 altar servers in attendance representing 31 parishes in the diocese who were presented a medal and certificate to thank them for their dedication to Our Lord, the Mass, their parishes and the diocese.

Each year, the Serra Club of Columbus holds the ceremony, sponsored by the Catholic Foundation, to identify and encourage vocations to the priesthood, the diaconate and religious life.

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