

The Catholic **TIMES**

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PREPARING FOR THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD AT CHRISTMAS

My Dear friends in Christ...

This is my first Christmas as your Bishop. I want to wish you and your loved ones a blessed and peace-filled Christmas. I want to assure you of my prayers during this holy and joyful season in which we celebrate the birth of our Savior.

What does it mean to celebrate the birth of Christ today? Perhaps we have forgotten what happened. Let me reflect with you on the Birth of Jesus. ... At a moment in history, something happened. There was an Event. A man and woman, awaiting their first child, journeyed to a different town to register their names during a census. They searched for a place to stay but finding none, their child was born in a cave. Do we realize today that this is what we celebrate – this Event?!!!

The shepherds hastened to see this child. The angels rejoiced, singing, “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace to men of good will.” Wise men came from the East to find the newborn Infant. The Child Jesus grew, hidden from the world, until He began His public ministry. In His ministry, Jesus called disciples to accompany Him as he proclaimed the Kingdom and worked miracles.

They believed and followed because

of His Presence – because of an Event. His miracles and His preaching were part of this Event, but there was more. People followed and believed because of what Christ showed Himself to be – the Way, the Truth, and the Life. He made a proposal to them – a proposal charged with meaning: Follow me and you will see the glory of God!

His disciples later would be sent to make new disciples. This group became the Church. It was Jesus Himself who established the Church – calling and forming people to be His Church. No mere human organization, the Church is divinely instituted. Educated by Jesus to belong to Him, the disciples were called by Him to be united, to become missionaries, and to witness to Him until the end of time.



Bishop Fernandes

Jesus left the world a precious gift – His Church. Although we are the Church, it is His Church. This Church is the place where Jesus offers each of us the opportunity to have an encounter with Him, to receive His Holy Spirit, the power of God to be His witnesses, and to exercise this witness daily.

There are those who would like to belong to a community, where they could have this encounter, but who, instead, live in isolation – the sick and the elderly; those who are incarcerated; those who have been forced to flee their homelands because of war or poverty. Christ came for them; they are looking for a home. Our Church can be that place of belonging, and not just a place of belonging, but the place to experience love and true joy.

Jesus offers each of us a place. Although there was no room for Him at the inn, He opens His Heart to us, and He asks that we, His Mystical Body, open our hearts and our doors to receive others. It is true that there are some who come to church seldom, perhaps even only at Christmas; nevertheless, they acknowledge the newborn Child to be the King of Kings and Prince of Peace.

Christianity offers peace. Christianity is not a tired, old religion; it is an an-

nouncement of an Event, not something that simply happened 2,000 years ago, but that is alive, that proposes something new – something that opens us to the Mystery of God and His Plan. Christianity is an announcement of an Event – of the Person of Christ who comes to save us.

None of us is perfect. We are all sinners. We need a Redeemer. For this Christ was born. Salvation comes to us in Christ through the Church – the living Presence of God in humanity. The Church exists to announce God’s Presence to humanity.

The newborn Child mysteriously and surprisingly invites us, fragile as we are, to be part of this mission, part of this Event, to announce to the world: “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy which will come to all the people, for to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.”

Merry Christmas!

Completely Yours in the Lord,

Most Reverend Earl K. Fernandes
Bishop of Columbus

Rosary makers earn blessings, spread prayerful devotion

Millions and millions of Catholics throughout the world faithfully pray the rosary, but some special individuals take their devotion to another level without any earthly compensation in return.

They are the rosary makers.

Perhaps you’ve made rosaries yourself to give as gifts at Christmas or when someone receives a sacrament. Maybe you belong to a group that makes them for the missions or parishes.

Some people, motivated by love for the Blessed Virgin Mary, take rosary making to the next level.

Most of them are unsung heroes whose work goes unnoticed. They’re not assembling the beads and centerpieces and crucifixes, which they purchase out of their own pockets, for any recognition. They simply want to put the rosary in the hands of as many souls as possible to help them come to know Jesus through Mary.

There are too many of these passionate rosary makers to mention, but Our Lord knows them and must be extremely grateful for their dedication to His Mother, Our Lady of the Rosary.

Every so often you hear or know about someone with a

EDITOR’S REFLECTIONS

next-level commitment to making sure others, especially the impoverished, can own a rosary. Some rosary makers have a special story.

One of those is Janine Kozlowski.

An 84-year-old Polish immigrant and resident of the Granville-Newark area, Kozlowski survived the Nazi occupation of her native country during World War II and then the post-war Communist takeover by the former Soviet Union.

In less than a decade, she has made more than 39,000 rosaries that she gives to missions and local parishes and anyone who requests them. And she has made wooden stands for diocesan parishes to display the rosaries, usually in the back of the church, that anyone can take free.

Her goal is to finish 40,000 rosaries – 1,000 for each of the 40 days that Christ suffered in the desert. Based on

her current pace, she’ll reach that mark within the next few months. (An expanded story can be found starting on Page 12 of this week’s Catholic Times.)

Why does she do it when she could be taking life easy? First and foremost, she wants to honor the Blessed Virgin Mary and her Son. She also wants to encourage other seniors to stay active physically and mentally.

The man who taught her and many others how to transform the plastic beads, crucifix and cord into a rosary is another one of the humble people who sought no recognition or remuneration for his efforts.

Ed Schmeltzer, a parishioner at Newark Blessed Sacrament Church, taught people to make rosaries for years and made them himself right up until his death at age 95 in October 2018.

He not only made rosaries using nylon cord but also the chain rosaries that require links to be made while placing every bead.

“I know he had made thousands and thousands of rosaries,” said Kathy Wilson, Blessed Sacrament’s parish

See **ROSARY**, Page 5



Front Page photo:

PREPARING FOR NATIVITY OF THE LORD

Kathleen Miller, a member of Columbus St. Patrick Church, and 3-year-old son Ryan look at the featured Fontanini Nativity exhibit consisting of more than 3,900 pieces at the Museum of Catholic Art & History in downtown Columbus on Tuesday, Dec. 6. The Fontanini exhibit is one of the largest of its kind in the United States.

CT photo by Ken Snow

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2022 schedule for diocesan Christmas Masses

The following is a list of Mass times for the Vigil of Christmas, Saturday, Dec. 24 and Christmas Day, Sunday, Dec. 25, as provided to *The Catholic Times* before this issue went to press on Tuesday, Dec. 13.

ADA OUR LADY OF LOURDES – 5:30 p.m. Dec. 24; 11 a.m. Dec. 25

BREMEN ST. MARY – 9 p.m. Dec. 24; 8:30 a.m. Dec. 25

BUCKEYE LAKE OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL – 6 p.m. and midnight Dec. 24; 9 a.m. Dec. 25

CANAL WINCHESTER ST. JOHN XXIII – 4, 6 and 10 p.m. Dec. 24; 10 a.m. Dec. 25

CARDINGTON SACRED HEARTS – 4:30 p.m. Dec. 24; 9 a.m. Dec. 25

CHILLICOTHE ST. MARY – 5 and 9 p.m. Dec. 24; 10 a.m. Dec. 25

CHILLICOTHE ST. PETER – 5 p.m. and midnight Dec. 24; 11:30 a.m. Dec. 25

CIRCLEVILLE ST. JOSEPH – 5 p.m. and midnight Dec. 24; 10 a.m. Dec. 25

COLUMBUS CHRIST THE KING – 4 p.m. (English), 6 p.m. (Spanish) Dec. 24; 10 a.m. (English), 12:30 p.m. (Spanish) Dec. 25

COLUMBUS CORPUS CHRISTI – 6 p.m. Dec. 24; 9 a.m. Dec. 25

COLUMBUS HOLY CROSS – 4 p.m. Dec. 24; 10 a.m. Dec. 25

COLUMBUS HOLY FAMILY – 5 and 7 p.m. Dec. 24; 9 and 11 a.m. Dec. 25

COLUMBUS HOLY NAME – midnight Dec. 24; 5:30 p.m. Dec. 25

COLUMBUS HOLY ROSARY-ST. JOHN – 5 p.m. Dec. 24; 9 a.m. Dec. 25

COLUMBUS HOLY SPIRIT – 6 p.m. Dec. 24; 11 a.m. Dec. 25

COLUMBUS IMMACULATE CONCEPTION – 4, 7 and 10 p.m. Dec. 24; 10 a.m. Dec. 25

COLUMBUS OUR LADY OF THE MIRACULOUS MEDAL – 4 and 11 p.m. Dec. 24; 10 a.m. Dec. 25

COLUMBUS OUR LADY OF PEACE – 4, 6:30 and 10 p.m. Dec. 24; 10 a.m. Dec. 25

COLUMBUS OUR LADY OF VICTORY – 4 and 7 p.m. Dec. 24; 10 a.m. Dec. 25

COLUMBUS PARROQUIA SANTA CRUZ – 6 p.m. Dec. 24; 8 and 11 a.m. Dec. 25 (all in Spanish at Columbus Holy Name Church)

COLUMBUS SACRED HEART – 6 p.m. Dec. 24; 11 a.m. Dec. 25

COLUMBUS ST. AGATHA – 4, 6 and 10 p.m. Dec. 24; 10 a.m. Dec. 25

COLUMBUS ST. AGNES – 7 p.m. (English), 9 p.m. (Spanish) Dec. 24; 9 a.m. (bilingual), 11 a.m. (Spanish) Dec. 25

COLUMBUS ST. ALOYSIUS – 4 p.m. Dec. 24; noon Dec. 25

COLUMBUS ST. ANDREW – 4 p.m. (parish hall), 4, 6 and 10 p.m. (church) Dec. 24; 9 and 11 a.m. Dec. 25

COLUMBUS ST. ANDREW KIM

TAEGON KOREAN COMMUNITY – 8 p.m. Dec. 24; noon Dec. 25 (at Columbus St. John the Baptist Church)

COLUMBUS ST. ANTHONY – 4 and 7 p.m. Dec. 24; 10:30 a.m. Dec. 25

COLUMBUS STS. AUGUSTINE & GABRIEL – 7 p.m. Dec. 24; 11 a.m. Dec. 25

COLUMBUS ST. CATHARINE OF SIENA – 4 and 6:30 p.m. and midnight Dec. 24; 11 a.m. Dec. 25

COLUMBUS ST. CECILIA – 5 and 8 p.m. and midnight Dec. 24; 9:30 a.m. Dec. 25

COLUMBUS ST. CHRISTOPHER – 4:30 and 6:30 p.m. (English) and midnight (Polish) Dec. 24; 10 a.m. and noon (English) Dec. 25

COLUMBUS ST. DOMINIC – 7 p.m. Dec. 24; 11:30 a.m. Dec. 25

COLUMBUS ST. ELIZABETH – 4 and 7 p.m. Dec. 24; 10 a.m. Dec. 25

COLUMBUS ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI – 5 p.m. Dec. 24; 9 and 11 a.m. Dec. 25

COLUMBUS ST. JAMES THE LESS – 5 p.m. (English), 7 p.m. (Spanish) and 10 p.m. (English) Dec. 24; 9 a.m. (English) and 11 a.m. (Spanish) Dec. 25

COLUMBUS ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST – 4 p.m. Dec. 24; 9:30 a.m. Dec. 25

COLUMBUS ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM BYZANTINE CATHOLIC – 9 p.m. Dec. 24; noon Dec. 25

COLUMBUS ST. JOSEPH CATHEDRAL – 4 and 6:30 p.m. and midnight Dec. 24; 10:30 a.m. Dec. 25

COLUMBUS ST. LADISLAS – 4 p.m. Dec. 24; 11 a.m. Dec. 25

COLUMBUS ST. LEO THE GREAT ORATORY – midnight (High Mass) Dec. 24; 8 a.m. (Low Mass) and 10:30 a.m. (High Mass) Dec. 25 (all in Latin)

COLUMBUS ST. MARGARET OF CORTONA – 4 and 10 p.m. Dec. 24; 10:30 a.m. Dec. 25

COLUMBUS ST. MARY GERMAN VILLAGE – 4 and 9 p.m. Dec. 24; 10 a.m. (English) and 12:30 p.m. (Spanish) Dec. 25

COLUMBUS ST. MARY MAGDALENE – 4 p.m. and midnight Dec. 24; 10 a.m. Dec. 25

COLUMBUS ST. MATTHIAS – 5 and 10 p.m. Dec. 24; 9 and 11 a.m. (English), 1:30 p.m. (Haitian), 7:15 p.m. (Portuguese) Dec. 25

COLUMBUS ST. PATRICK – 4 p.m. (no incense), 6:30 p.m. and midnight (both incense) Dec. 24; 7 and 10 a.m. (both no incense), noon (incense) Dec. 25

COLUMBUS ST. PETER – 4 p.m. (English), 8 p.m. (Spanish) and midnight (English) Dec. 24; 10 a.m. Dec. 25

COLUMBUS ST. PHILIP THE APOSTLE – 4 p.m. Dec. 24; 9 a.m. Dec. 25

COLUMBUS ST. STEPHEN THE MARTYR – 4 p.m. (English), 7 and 9

p.m. (Spanish) Dec. 24; 8 a.m. (Spanish), 10 a.m. (English), 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. (Spanish) Dec. 25

COLUMBUS ST. THOMAS MORE NEWMAN CENTER – 4 p.m. Dec. 24; 10 a.m. Dec. 25

COLUMBUS ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE – 6 p.m. (bilingual) and 8:30 p.m. (English) Dec. 24; 11 a.m. (Spanish) Dec. 25

COLUMBUS ST. TIMOTHY – 4 p.m. (church), 4 p.m. (gym), 6 and 9 p.m. (church) Dec. 24; 9 a.m. (church) Dec. 25

CORNING ST. BERNARD – 4 p.m. Dec. 24

COSHOCTON SACRED HEART – 10 p.m. Dec. 24; 8 a.m. Dec. 25

CROOKSVILLE CHURCH OF THE ATONEMENT – 6 p.m. Dec. 24

DANVILLE ST. LUKE – 4:30 p.m. Dec. 24; 10 a.m. Dec. 25

DELAWARE ST. MARY – 4 p.m. (gym), 4 and 7 p.m. and midnight (church) Dec. 24; 9 a.m. (English) and 11:30 a.m. (bilingual) Dec. 25

DENNISON IMMACULATE CONCEPTION – 9:30 p.m. Dec. 24; 11:30 a.m. Dec. 25

DOVER ST. JOSEPH – 5 p.m. (English), 7:30 p.m. (Spanish) and 11:30 p.m. (English) Dec. 24; 9 a.m. (English) Dec. 25

DRESDEN ST. ANN – 7 p.m. Dec. 24; 9 a.m. Dec. 25

DUBLIN ST. BRIGID OF KILDARE – 4, 6:30 and 9 p.m. Dec. 24; 9 and 11 a.m. Dec. 25

GAHANNA ST. MATTHEW THE APOSTLE – 4, 6:30 and 9 p.m. Dec. 24; 10 a.m. Dec. 25

GLENMONT STS. PETER & PAUL – 5 p.m. Dec. 24

GRANVILLE ST. EDWARD THE CONFESSOR – 5 and 9 p.m. Dec. 24; 10 a.m. Dec. 25

GROVE CITY OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP – 4, 7 and 9 p.m. and midnight Dec. 24; 10 a.m. Dec. 25

HEATH ST. LEONARD – 4 and 9 p.m. Dec. 24; 10 a.m. Dec. 25

HILLIARD ST. BRENDAN THE NAVIGATOR – 4 p.m. (church), 4 p.m. (school multipurpose room), 6:30 and 10 p.m. (church) Dec. 24; 8:45 and 10:45 a.m. (church) Dec. 25

JACKSON HOLY TRINITY – midnight Dec. 24; 10 a.m. Dec. 25

JOHNSTOWN CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION – 4, 6:30 and 11 p.m. Dec. 24; 10 a.m. Dec. 25

JUNCTION CITY ST. PATRICK – 8 p.m. Dec. 24

KENTON IMMACULATE CONCEPTION – 8 p.m. Dec. 24; 10 a.m. Dec. 25

LANCASTER BASILICA OF ST. MARY OF THE ASSUMPTION – 4, 6:30 and 9 p.m. Dec. 24; 9 a.m. Dec. 25

LANCASTER ST. BERNADETTE – 5 p.m. and midnight Dec. 24; 10 a.m. Dec. 25

LANCASTER ST. MARK – 5 and 8 p.m. Dec. 24; 8 and 10:30 a.m. Dec. 25

LOGAN ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST – 4 and 6:30 p.m. and midnight Dec. 24; 9 a.m. Dec. 25

LONDON ST. PATRICK – 5 p.m. and midnight Dec. 24; 10:30 a.m. Dec. 25

MARION ST. MARY – 5 and 8 p.m. Dec. 24; 8 and 11 a.m. (English) and 1 p.m. (Spanish) Dec. 25

MARYSVILLE OUR LADY OF LOURDES – 4 and 7 p.m. and midnight Dec. 24; 10 a.m. Dec. 25

MATTINGLY SETTLEMENT ST. MARY – 4:30 p.m. Dec. 24

MILLERSBURG ST. PETER – 9 a.m. Dec. 25

MOUNT VERNON ST. VINCENT DE PAUL – 4 and 6 p.m. and midnight Dec. 24; 10:30 a.m. Dec. 25

NEW ALBANY CHURCH OF THE RESURRECTION – 4, 7 and 10 p.m. Dec. 24; 10 a.m. Dec. 25

NEW LEXINGTON ST. ROSE OF LIMA – 5 p.m. and midnight Dec. 24; 10:30 a.m. Dec. 25

NEW PHILADELPHIA SACRED HEART – 5:30 p.m. Dec. 24; 8:30 a.m. Dec. 25

NEWARK BLESSED SACRAMENT – 4, 6:30 and 10 p.m. Dec. 24; 9 a.m. (English) and 1 p.m. (Spanish) Dec. 25

NEWARK ST. FRANCIS DE SALES – 4, 6:30 and 10:30 p.m. Dec. 24; 10 a.m. Dec. 25

NEWCOMERTOWN ST. FRANCIS DE SALES – 10:30 a.m. Dec. 25

PICKERINGTON ST. ELIZABETH SETON – 4 p.m. (activity center), 4, 6 and 11 p.m. (church) Dec. 24; 9:30 a.m. Dec. 25

PLAIN CITY ST. JOSEPH – 4 p.m. (parish activity center), 4 p.m. (church), 7 p.m. (activity center) and midnight (church) Dec. 24; 9 a.m. (church) Dec. 25

POND CREEK HOLY TRINITY – 6:30 p.m. Dec. 24

PORTSMOUTH HOLY REDEEMER – 6:30 p.m. Dec. 24; 9 a.m. (English) and 6 p.m. (Spanish) Dec. 25

PORTSMOUTH ST. MARY – 4 p.m. and midnight Dec. 24

POWELL ST. JOAN OF ARC – 4 and 6:30 p.m. (social hall), 4, 6:30 and 10 p.m. (church) Dec. 24; 9:30 and 11:30 a.m. Dec. 25

REYNOLDSBURG ST. PIUS X – 4, 6:30 and 9 p.m. Dec. 24; 10 a.m. Dec. 25

SOMERSET HOLY TRINITY – 3 p.m. (incense) and 7 p.m. Dec. 24; 10 a.m. (incense) Dec. 25

SOMERSET ST. JOSEPH – 5 p.m. (incense) Dec. 24; 8 a.m. Dec. 25

SUGAR GROVE ST. JOSEPH – 8 p.m. Dec. 24; 9 a.m. Dec. 25

SUNBURY ST. JOHN NEUMANN

Practicing lovingkindness as if ...

Love is patient, love is kind. ... Love never ends. – 1 Corinthians 13:4-8a

Lovingkindness and acting with selfless compassion toward others are virtues widely recognized and honored across world religions. But what does it look like in practice, and how can we more fully and consistently live this calling?

The world can seem like a really dark place at times. The evening news offers a constant drone of human inhumanity. Although this is nothing new, in the past few years, it just seems to be getting darker to me. Yet I know that even a small point of light disperses darkness. The most potent response to inhumanity is to live against it – to respond not in kind but in true opposition.

To live consistently in a loving and kind way is challenging enough with those whom we know and love. Christ challenges us to a higher calling – to extend lovingkindness to strangers and even to those who hold enmity toward us and those who have harmed us or would seek to do so.

People such as Gandhi, Martin Luther King Jr., Muhammad, St. Teresa of Calcutta and countless other men and women have shown us ways to live compassionate lives that include making the world a better place for all.

FAITH IN ACTION

Erin Cordle

Erin Cordle is associate director of the diocesan Office for Social Concerns.



If there is a point at which people of faith can converge, it is by calling on each other to practice unconditional compassion.

In truth, lovingkindness is not something that we can perfect. It is more like a star that can guide our life journeys. It is a distant goal toward or away from which we move in the countless choices we make every day. It's not always something we want to do (we are human, after all), yet it is something for which we all can strive.

We have the ideal mentor for lovingkindness – Christ! His life, His words, His actions and His teaching are our road maps. Catholics have a rich history of documenting social justice teaching that is catholic (universal).

What if we were willing to follow Christ and our Catholic social teaching in an as-if movement? Living as if in solidarity with others creates spaces for modelling how things could be beyond how things currently are.

So, what if we actually lived:

- As if people were to matter for who they are – rich in diversity, equal in dignity – instead of solely by immigration status, gender, social or economic class or political party?

- As if the meaning of living life were about making a difference for good in the world and not measured by someone's wealth?

- As if every child were a gift at conception instead of a choice to be made?

- As if every person were an active participant in society because his or her wisdom was shared instead of listening only to those who agree with us?

- As if every conversation we have with someone were to build him or her up and promote peaceable living with all of our neighbors?

- As if everyone were able to share what is sufficient of the earth's goods for themselves and their families instead of measuring how much is enough by standards of a virtual shopping mall?

- As if the earth were being cared for to benefit future generations instead of measuring the planet's usefulness by competition among corporations?

I would invite you to explore being part of the as-if movement as you journey through Advent. God bless.

MASSES, continued from Page 3

– 4 and 6:30 p.m. and midnight Dec. 24; 10 a.m. Dec. 25

WASHINGTON COURT HOUSE ST. COLMAN OF CLOYNE – 4 p.m. and midnight Dec. 24; 10 a.m. Dec. 25

WAVERLY ST. MARY, QUEEN OF THE MISSIONS – 5 p.m. Dec. 24; 9:30 a.m. Dec. 25

WELLSTON STS. PETER & PAUL – 5 p.m. Dec. 24

WEST JEFFERSON STS. SIMON & JUDE – 4 and 6 p.m. Dec. 24; 9 a.m. Dec. 25

WESTERVILLE ST. PAUL – 4 p.m. (Westerville North High School), 4 and 6:30 p.m. and midnight (church) Dec. 24; 8 and 10 a.m. and noon Dec. 25

WHEELERSBURG ST. PETER IN CHAINS – 4 p.m. Dec. 24

WORTHINGTON ST. MICHAEL – 4 and 6 p.m. and midnight Dec. 24; 8:30 and 10:30 a.m. and noon Dec. 25

ZALESKI ST. SYLVESTER – 5:30 p.m. Dec. 24

ZANESVILLE ST. NICHOLAS –

5:15 and 7:30 p.m. Dec. 24; 10 a.m. Dec. 25

ZANESVILLE ST. THOMAS AQUINAS – 5 and 10 p.m. Dec. 24; 10 a.m. Dec. 25 (all in parish center because of church construction)

ZOAR HOLY TRINITY – 5 p.m. Dec. 24; 10 a.m. Dec. 25

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Seasons in our lives present challenges, blessings

Seasons. This season of Advent is such a beautiful time to reflect on the gift of different and special times in our lives and the opportunity they present to us for growth and gratitude.

Advent fills me with anticipatory joy and challenges me to spend more time with Jesus. It reminds me to focus on people, giving and soul-filling activities. Because the new liturgical year begins with Advent, we can also look at this as a time of new beginnings and fostering new holy and healthy habits.

Seasons. As I was reflecting recently with friends, we have different seasons in our physical lives. A friend of mine retired from her job and has been training with me, and flourishing, for eight years. Praise God for her perseverance!

I was also reflecting that I train differently now than I did 10 years ago when I started teaching strength training. It is wise to honor our bodies where we are right now. My main goals now are consistency, injury prevention and fun.

I used to focus mainly on how heavy I could lift, and I would train almost every day. Thank you, Jesus, for a wise shift in my physical life to make more time for You and for the people and other activities You have placed in my life.

In Advent, pause and quietly prepare space for Jesus

When my children were younger, we painted seven letters purple and then sprayed glitter paint over the top. The seven purple letters are hung every Advent reminding us to prepare our hearts for Christmas.

Now as I sit in the early morning by a Christmas tree lit with the promise of a season of hope, I am prayerfully going deeper into what it truly means to prepare. Advent is a time of such busyness – a whirlwind of shopping, decorating and hospitality added to the everyday responsibilities – that pausing to find the peace calling to us can be difficult.

But what if we did? What does that look like, that pause? For me, it can mean closing my laptop and sitting with the Lord. Peaceful Christmas music playing softly in the background, I hear Him calling, and from my couch, snuggled with a sleeping child, white lights twinkling from that tree, I pause.

We walk heart in heart, Jesus and me, perhaps down memory lane talking through all the thoughts swirling in my head and heart, and He shows me all the ways He has loved me through the Christmases. Beautiful memories mix with hard ones, and tears slip quietly down my face at the beauty and rawness of these visions, as Jesus, the tender Christ Child, takes my hand and continues to walk with me.

Like looking into the memories as if they were windows from Dickens' A Christmas Carol, I see His presence woven through each memory. With adult eyes and a wisdom cultivated from grace, I see each memory

HOLY AND HEALTHY

Lori Crock

Lori Crock is a SoulCore Rosary prayer and exercise leader and a St. Brendan parishioner. Lori is online at hollyandhealthycatholic.com, where she shares her passion for faith and fitness.



Seasons. My parents and my mother-in-law are in memory care with different forms of Alzheimer's disease. This season is challenging for me, my husband and our siblings, but there is much to be thankful for when we view it with the eyes of faith. Their childlikeness is so beautiful.

My dad has had memory loss for about seven years. He recently had a sudden change from excellent physical health to hip, knee and other new physical issues that have caused falls and recurring pain. He is in bed much more than ever before. He never even used to take a nap.

One day I asked him if he was sad about this phase of life. He said, "Why would I be sad? I'm the same as always!" He doesn't remember what is going on. In many ways, this is a blessing.

Seasons. One day I took my mom outdoors at the retirement center, and we sat and I simply rubbed her

back as she looked at the sky. In her childlikeness, she exclaimed about the clouds, the sun, the warmth, the beautiful day. Just being together physically is a gift in this phase of life.

She calls me her friend, and sometimes she mixes me up with my sister, but she still recognizes me and runs to hug me shouting, "I'm so glad you are here!" She is happy and free from the things that used to worry her. Thank You, Jesus, for the reminder that there is beauty and dignity in each season of our lives.

Seasons. Our spiritual lives have seasons. I would say that I'm in a season of more study than I've ever had before with the Encounter School of Ministry. It is exhilarating and exhausting! This season is challenging me to go deeper with Jesus in a way that is amazing, but in the awakening, I'm forced out of my comfort zone.

I'm praying for patience on this journey, to radically trust in God and to truly let go of old ways of thinking. Come, Holy Spirit!

St. Edith Stein said, "Lay all your cares about the future trustingly in God's hands, and let yourself be guided by the Lord just like a little child."

May we welcome each season, both the joys and the sorrows, and pray to say with unshakable faith, "I can do all things in Christ who strengthens me."

ALL THAT WE HAVE

MaryBeth Eberhard

MaryBeth Eberhard writes about marriage, life experiences of a large family and special needs. She attends Sunbury St. John Neumann Church.



with a different lens, and healing, like blood rushing to limbs that have fallen asleep, begins to flow, and my heart feels lighter. Bit by bit, space is cleared to welcome He who loves me most.

To prepare for something as momentous as the birth of Jesus, to welcome in such a guest, there must be room in my heart for the gifts He offers, and the magnitude of those gifts requires space. I have filled this space with other emotions that weigh me down and make it difficult for such preparation. And this preparing is not so much about the stress of getting ready. Rather, it is more about the offering, the heartfelt but simple gestures we make to prepare for His arrival.

Imagine if we took time to prepare our hearts for the Christ Child's arrival with the same energy and diligence we prepare for our extended family's holiday arrival or the homecoming of college children for the Christmas season?

The older I get, the more I realize that true joy and peace flow from gratitude, a heart that values relationships, a heart that is merciful and seeks to see and un-

derstand Jesus in each situation, and oh, how that is challenging but so very worth it.

For seeking Jesus in others opens our eyes to His presence. We begin to actively seek Him and, like the story of the 10 virgins awaiting the bridegroom in Matthew 25:1-4, we will make sure our lamps are ready:

"At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish and five were wise. The foolish ones took their lamps but did not take any oil with them. The wise ones, however, took oil in jars along with their lamps."

This Advent, amid the hustle and bustle of this gift-giving season, let us sit with the Lord. Let's find an Advent penance service, an open Adoration chapel, an hour just sitting with the Lord and allow ourselves to draw into this season set aside just for this, to prepare.

The strange and beautiful thing is that Jesus prepares our hearts for us if we open them to Him. He is waiting for the invitation, for our pause, for our lens to shift from the worldly to the eternal. The Peace that we seek is coming.

Father, thank you for always being there for me. Thank you for your tender patience with me as I learn to surrender and seek Your presence in all people, all places. Please help me let go of things that crowd my heart and take space meant only for you this Advent season and always.

ROSARY, continued from Page 2

secretary. "Ed made sure our office had plenty of rosaries to give every infant, child and adult, especially when they received their sacraments.

"He emphasized to not keep the rosary in a drawer for safe keeping but to say the rosary often. Every baptism at Blessed Sacrament has received a handmade rosary from Ed."

Irene Cassady, a longtime member of Columbus St. Patrick Church with a strong Marian devotion, made countless rosaries over the years and instructed hundreds of others, including children, who shipped their finished

products all over the world.

She passed away in late September at age 88, one day after her beloved husband Al, 91, an equally devoted Catholic. A Requiem High Mass for the couple, together in death, was celebrated at Columbus St. Leo the Great Oratory. They were buried side by side at St. Joseph Cemetery.

Now that Christmas is approaching, there's no better way to reflect on the Savior's birth than to pray the Joyful Mysteries of the rosary, particularly the Nativity of the Lord in the third mystery.

And if you're still looking for a gift for someone on your list, consider giving a rosary, which has been called one of the greatest spiritual weapons at the world's disposal.

Maybe even consider learning to make rosaries. Or, if that's not possible, commit to praying the rosary more often. Graces are bound to follow.

Pope St. John Paul II said the rosary was his favorite prayer, and who can argue with a saint?

Books for Christmas – 2022

Last month's midterm elections made it painfully clear that many pro-life advocates and politicians are at sea in the post-*Roe v. Wade* environment. Shawn Carney and Steve Karlen's *What to Say When: The Complete New Guide to Discussing Abortion* (Kolbe & Anthony Publishing) is a good primer for all those working to rebuild a culture of life in the United States.

David Hoffman's *Give Me Liberty: The True Story of Oswaldo Payá and His Daring Quest for a Free Cuba* (Simon & Schuster) is the gripping tale of a man of Christian conscience who would not be cowed by Castroite thugs — and was almost certainly murdered by them as a result. This powerful biography strengthens the case that Mr. Payá should be considered a contemporary martyr.

The Brooklyn Dodgers' immortal Number 42 was a man of no less courage than Oswaldo Payá. In *True: The Four Seasons of Jackie Robinson* (St. Martin's Press), Kostya Kennedy is especially effective in helping us imagine life in Montreal in 1946 (Robinson's Triple-A stop before the big leagues) and baseball-mad Brooklyn in 1949. The author lapses into wokery by questioning Robinson's criticism of Paul Robeson before a congressional committee. Notwithstanding that nod to political correctness, Kennedy paints a moving portrait of one of the great American heroes: a man committed to racial equality in a colorblind society. Would that 42 were with us today.

And while we're on the subject of God's sport, let me recommend *The Grandest Stage: A History of the World Series*, by Tyler Kepner (Doubleday). I enjoyed this richly-detailed catalogue of baseball gems so much that I temporarily forgot my grievances over the 1969, 1971 and 1979 Series, all of which broke my heart.

THE CATHOLIC DIFFERENCE

George Weigel

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



In this season of renewed nuclear nervousness, Serhii Plokhyy's *Nuclear Folly: A History of the Cuban Missile Crisis* (Norton) is a sobering account of a very close-run thing. Drawing on previously unexplored Soviet archives, the Harvard historian demythologizes the canonical Kennedy account of those 13 days while vindicating (many of) President Kennedy's instincts in managing the crisis; rehabilitates two figures who usually get short shrift in accounts of the drama of October 1962 (U.S. Secretary of State Dean Rusk and the old Armenian Bolshevik, Anastas Mikoyan); and paints a devastating portrait of Fidel Castro's anti-American mania.

It was an honor to provide the foreword to *A Grain of Wheat* (Cluny Media), a collection of sermons by Father Leonard R. Klein, the Lutheran convert to Catholicism who brought a deep knowledge of the Bible and a keen theological intelligence to the preacher's art. An apt gift for priests and deacons.

Bishop Robert Barron is one of the U.S. Church's most skilled catechists and brings to life the familiar words we recite every Sunday in *Light from Light: A Theological Reflection on the Nicene Creed* (Word on Fire Academic).

Those of your friends willing to try a deep dive into the best of contemporary theology will benefit from *The Incarnate Lord: A Thomistic Study in Christology*

(CUA Press) by Father Thomas Joseph White, the American Dominican who currently serves as the rector of Rome's Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas, known as the Angelicum. (Whether the angels are as skillful banjo players as Father White I shall leave an open question.)

Robert R. Reilly has done the contemporary political debate a tremendous service with *America on Trial: A Defense of the Founding* (Ignatius Press). This learned but eminently readable study of the deep roots of the American democratic experiment in Jerusalem and Athens — biblical religion and Greek rationality — is the best possible gift for friends and relatives who somehow imagine that the *Obergefell* decision, which imposed so-called same-sex marriage on the entire country, was gestated in the womb of the Declaration of Independence. Give, it, too, to those on your list who are graduating from high school next spring, likely without any serious exposure to the ideas that made the American Founding possible.

Jim Tovey's *To Love and Be Loved: A Personal Memoir of Mother Teresa* (Simon & Schuster) is the loveliest book I've read in recent months, rich in reflection on contemporary sanctity and including one of the Five Funniest Catholic Stories Ever.

And finally, if I may, I'll recommend my new book, *To Sanctify the World: The Vital Legacy of Vatican II* (Basic Books). Among other things, my analysis of the Council's fundamental achievement, its Dogmatic Constitution on Divine Revelation, demonstrates why what's afoot these days along the German "Synodal Path" is a betrayal, not an expression, of the letter and spirit of Vatican II.

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OUR CATHOLIC SCHOOLS
THE DIOCESE OF COLUMBUS



Ramp blessed at Our Lady of Peace



An access ramp to the Msgr. Grimes Gymnasium at Columbus Our Lady of Peace School was blessed and dedicated on Dec. 1 by Father Sean Dooley (above). The ramp will be named the Bonnette-Deibel ramp after first-grader Oliver Bonnette, who uses a wheelchair, and the late Terry Deibel, a longtime parishioner who used a wheelchair. Principal Jim Silcott (yellow jacket) holds the microphone for Bonnette to address



the students and staff on hand for the dedication. At Bonnette's side is his aid, Nicole D'Orazio. A third of the money to build the ramp came from a Catholic Foundation grant. The rest of the funds were donated by parish and school community members, the Terry Deibel Fund (maintained by the Knights of Columbus), friends of Bonnette and other families. The culminating fundraising activity occurred in May with a "Grandpalathon" where parents, grandparents, students, teachers, staff and friends solicited pledges during a walk around the Clintonville neighborhood. While the school building has two small elevators that go to the main floor and to the basement, the completion of the ramp, along with the complete renovation of the gym, will allow the entire school and parish to access the gym and make it easier to hold athletic and social events in the school building.

Photos courtesy Our Lady of Peace School

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Relics of St. Manuel, Blessed Carlo venerated at area churches

A four-day tour through central Ohio of a traveling display featuring the relics of Blessed Carlo Acutis and St. Manuel Gonzalez Garcia ended Monday evening, Dec. 5 with a Mass at Columbus Christ the King Church.

The relics also made stops at Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral, St. Thomas More Newman Center near Ohio State University, Delaware St. Mary Church and School and Worthington St. Michael Church and School.

Blessed Carlo, an Italian youth with a special devotion to the Eucharist, died of leukemia at age 15 in 2006 and was beatified in 2020. St. Manuel was a priest and bishop in Spain who devoted his ministry to teaching people about the Eucharist and also cared deeply for youth.

The relics are on a tour of the United States as part of the National Eucharistic Revival sponsored by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. St. Manuel and Blessed Carlo are considered special intercessors for the event.

At the cathedral on Friday, Dec. 2, exposition of the relics began after the 7:30 a.m. Mass and continued throughout the day. Bishop Earl Fernandes presided at a late-afternoon holy hour that included devotional prayers.

The following day, the bishop celebrated a Saturday Vigil Mass with the relics at the Newman Center for students and guests.

On Sunday, Dec. 4, Delaware St. Mary hosted the relics for veneration and a special program for middle and high school youth and their parents.

The final day of the visit included a morning Mass for students at Worthington St. Michael – where a specially commissioned portrait of Blessed Carlo had been installed in the church Sept. 29 – and the evening Mass at Christ the King.

The Sunday evening Made for Greatness program at Delaware St. Mary featured a talk by Father Patrick Schultz, parochial vicar at Sacred Heart of Jesus Church in Wadsworth, Ohio, on Pope St. John Paul II's Theology of the Body.

Attendees could venerate the relics and view a display of 152 documented Eucharistic Miracles of the World inspired by the work of Blessed Carlo and curated by Maci Hay, a student at Franciscan University of Steubenville.

The informational display, built and set up by her grandparents, Terry and Sharon Ruffing of Bellevue, Ohio, has traveled to seven parishes throughout Ohio.

Visitors came from a number of parishes in the state to see and venerate the relics.

"Relics are holy pieces of the saints that help us be that much closer to God," said Scott McVicker, a member of Delaware St. Mary. "You feel like they're here, and you can talk to them. They are a direct connection to God. So, you feel



John Paulus, 12, a member of Delaware St. Mary Church, holds a rosary to the relic of Blessed Carlo Acutis. Paulus said he has a special devotion to Blessed Carlo, who has helped him through some difficult times in his life.

CT photos by Ken Snow



Father Brett Garland, pastor of Delaware St. Mary Church, carries the Blessed Sacrament in a Eucharistic procession from the parish school, where the relics were displayed of Blessed Carlo Acutis and St. Manuel Gonzalez Garcia, to the church for Adoration on Sunday, Dec. 4. *CT photo by Ken Snow*



The relics of Blessed Carlo Acutis and St. Manuel Gonzalez Garcia made a stop at the Columbus St. Thomas More Newman Center next to the campus of Ohio State University on Saturday, Dec. 3.

Photo courtesy Buckeye Catholic



Bishop Earl Fernandes gives his homily at the St. Thomas More Newman Center during a Dec. 3 Mass with the relics present.

Photo courtesy Buckeye Catholic

very close, spiritually and physically.

"They are very special, especially in the meaning of their lives and the sacrifices that they made. So, they really make us appreciate how powerful our God is, and that we want to do everything we can to dedicate our lives to God."

The final stop at Christ the King included public exposition and veneration of the relics followed by a bilingual Mass at 7 p.m. in the church.



A relic of Blessed Carlo Acutis is displayed at Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral on Friday, Dec. 2.

Photo courtesy Emma Noel



Information on 152 documented Eucharistic miracles inspired by Blessed Carlo and curated by Maci Hay, a student at Franciscan University of Steubenville, is displayed in an exhibit at Delaware St. Mary School. *CT photo by Ken Snow*

PRAYER TO CARLO ACUTIS

OH FATHER,

Who has given us the ardent testimony of the young Blessed Carlo Acutis, who made the Eucharist the core of his life and the strength of his daily commitments so that everybody may love You above all else, let him soon be counted among the Saints in Your Church.

Confirm my faith, nurture my hope, strengthen my charity, In the image of young Carlo who, growing in these virtues, now lives with You.

Grant me the grace that I need...

I trust in You, Father, and your Beloved Son Jesus, in the Virgin Mary, our Dearest Mother, and in the intervention of your Blessed Carlo Acutis.

OUR FATHER, HAIL MARY, GLORY BE



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

800 attend conference on personal healing in Westerville

By Tim Puet
For *The Catholic Times*

About 800 people representing 25 states came to Westerville St. Paul Church from Thursday to Saturday, Dec. 1 to 3, for a conference on “Healing the Whole Person” sponsored by the John Paul II Healing Center of Tallahassee, Florida.

Event co-chairman Bill Gavin said more people wanted to be on hand, but an attendance cap was set to avoid overcrowding. He said about 120 additional people viewed the conference on livestream video.

Speakers were Dr. Bob Schuchts, a therapist who founded the John Paul II Center; his brother Bart, with Church on Fire Ministries; and Sister Miriam James Heidland, SOLT, of the Society of Our Lady of the Most Holy Trinity, who has spoken at Columbus diocesan conferences at the state fairgrounds. The three also presented a program for priests on Wednesday, Nov. 30.

The presenters discussed the conference theme, with their presentations throughout the weekend centering around the healing journey of the Schuchts brothers as described in Bob’s book *Be Healed*.

All three took part in a three-hour session on Saturday morning titled “Encountering the Father’s Love.” It began with Bob Schuchts continuing to share the story he began telling during the first two days of the event – how he, his mother and his four siblings had been devastated by their father’s leaving the family when Bob was 14 and Bart was 5 years old.

“I wouldn’t let God’s love penetrate the depths of my brokenness,” Bob Schuchts said. “We sometimes have a hard time letting love in because we go to areas where we have built up walls, and they have become both a barrier to hurt and a barrier to love.”

He said that in his spiritual development, he has realized that after his father’s departure, he was dealing with anger and an excess of pride. “I had become so self-righteous in my determination not to be like my father that my attitude of protection had become a prison,” he said.

“Friends began praying for me because they had a sense long before I did that this misplaced attitude was pride taking hold of me.”

Schuchts said his pride and a determination to be in control of his life made him feel “like a pretzel inside, because I was so twisted up and determined not to let go of that control.”

He was successful on the outside, having played football for, and graduated from, Columbia University, then eventually obtaining a doctorate from Florida State University and establishing a practice in marriage and family therapy.

But inside he was in turmoil, facing panic attacks and stress in his marriage, all of which he realizes were caused by



Westerville St. Paul Church hosted a “Healing the Whole Person” conference from Dec. 1 to Dec. 3.



Sister Miriam James Heidland, SOLT, speaks at the conference. She is from the Society of Our Lady of the Most Holy Trinity.

refusing to acknowledge the pain of his childhood experiences.

Through attending Life in the Spirit seminars and Marriage Encounter and Christ Renews His Parish programs, he learned “that the source of my pride was all the sources where love was deficient. The remedy for pride is love. ... Jesus comes to set a new foundation in our life, and when we allow Him to do that, our life comes into balance and becomes integrated.”

Attending his first Christ Renews His Parish (CRHP) weekend was especially important for Schuchts because he found other men sharing an intense hunger for God and willing to acknowledge hidden pain.

Several months later, at another CRHP weekend, he was in a late-night prayer service with other men when he said he felt “an explosion of joy” in which “God was teaching me baby talk, how to pray with Him in simplicity, laughing and praising.”

“I was overjoyed like a little child at Christmas,” he said. “I knew God was real in a way I never had before. After coming home, I began to love my wife in a way I never did before.”

Schuchts’ brother Bart, who was dealing with his own spiritual issues, attended that same CRHP weekend. Bart resumed the family’s story following a talk by Sister Miriam James and a 15-minute break.

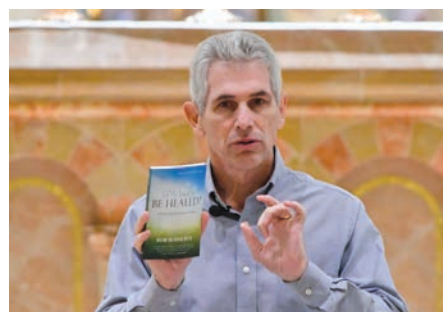
Bart said that because he is 9 years younger than Bob, the end of his parents’ marriage had even more of an impact on him than it did on his brother. He, too, felt a sense of betrayal by his father.

“As a little boy, I could hear Mom crying herself to sleep,” Bart said. “I hated my father. It hurt that he wasn’t there for



The conference attracted about 800 people from the diocese and other states as well as international participants.

CT photos by Ken Snow



Dr. Bob Schuchts, a therapist who founded the John Paul II Center, presents one of the conference talks on Saturday morning.

Mom or for me. I didn’t know what to do with that anger. I wanted to be somebody, but I felt like nobody.

“Eventually, I made a vow: ‘I will never be like my father. I will never hurt a woman that way.’ That was an unholy vow because it was made out of judgment and set me up for failure.”

He said his shame and self-hatred made him determined to live for pleasure only, and instead of living up to his vow, he was treating women worse than his father did.

Bart became a football player like his brother and thought that would be his way to success. He was on the Florida State team of 1987 that finished No. 2 in the nation and was drafted by the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, but he was cut by the team.

“I was a wreck, but my life began to change at that point while I was sitting on the toilet in the Bucs’ locker room,” he said.

“I sat there and said, ‘What I thought would make me happy has made me miserable.’ I cried out to God, ‘Show Yourself. If not, I have nothing to live for.’”

He said God responded, not right away but over time. When he was offered a chance to try out with the Pittsburgh Steelers, he told his agent he wasn’t interested because “something had happened to my heart and the desire to play was gone.”

Attending the CRHP weekend his brother Bob mentioned earlier in the program also was a life-changing experience for Bart. At another eye-opening weekend, he was influenced by the testimony of two men.

“One was a politician who talked about how he had been unfaithful to his wife and destroyed his family,” Bart said.

“Another was a man who won his community’s businessman of the year award. He wanted this badly and said that for 10 years, he had sacrificed his marriage and his children to gain this honor.

“He received a plaque, made a speech, and as he was walking off the stage, he heard a voice inside telling him, ‘For this stinking piece of wood, you sacrificed your entire life.’ And he broke down and cried.”

The Schuchts brothers eventually reconciled with their father. They also were together during the last days of another brother, Dave, as he died from complications of AIDS. He had been a heroin addict but returned to the faith, with a CRHP weekend also playing a key role.

“I stand here before you, and I want to hug Dave again,” Bart said. “Through his death, his brokenness, our families were healed. Through the death of God’s son, all of us can be healed, all of us can be restored.

“Ask everyone you have hurt, or who has hurt you, for forgiveness. If you have kids and you’ve hurt them but didn’t want to – as a father, ask everyone, ‘Please forgive me.’”

Sister Miriam James’ talk also dealt with pride and control.

“God has all the qualities of love,” she said. “He loves us more than we desire. We may think this is an exaggeration and say, ‘If I don’t love myself that way, how can God love me?’ But His love is infinite and can never be in excess.

“It’s not a sterile love, not confined to heaven, but one that watches us and protects us unceasingly. ... Not for one moment does God turn away from us. If this is true, then I have no reason to be disturbed.

“Every single one of us wants to love and be loved, and we also have places we’re ashamed of,” she said. “We can allow the Lord into these places, and it is then we become like Christ. We show Him our wounds, just as he showed the Apostles His wounds in the Upper Room on the night of His resurrection.

“We all have ‘sorrowful mysteries’ – areas which the enemy intends for destruction, but where Jesus comes to heal. We all learn barriers to keep ourselves safe, even from God. Bob was speaking of areas of control, where we try to manage our pain, but I renounce control of the spirit of control.

“Even sisters have struggles” with forgiveness, Sister Miriam James said. “I knew one sister who said, ‘I just avoid everybody I don’t like. That way I don’t have anybody to forgive.’ But simply avoiding people isn’t forgiveness,” she continued.

“Forgiveness requires vulnerability. You have to feel pain, to admit something hurts, that something’s not OK, to be able to heal. Christ takes full account of the ways we are wounded and brings us love in return.

“Forgiveness is about justice. Unforgiveness is about injustice. ... Justice eventually will be served, and there will

See CONFERENCE, Page 18

Rosary maker, survivor of Nazis, Communists still serves 'awesome' God

The fact that Janine Kozlowski at age 84 builds large wooden mangers for Nativity scenes qualifies as a story in itself as Christmas approaches, but there's so much more to her life that it's challenging to find a spot to jump in.

Go back to the beginning, and the Polish emigrant, who 20 years ago moved to central Ohio to be closer to her son's family, survived the Nazi invasion of her native country during World War II and the post-war Communist takeover by the Soviet Union.

Then there's her move to the United States, where she settled in the New York-Connecticut area and became a successful interior designer whose client list included rich and famous personalities.

And now in her golden years, she not only builds the Nativities she donates, but she's also a prolific rosary maker. Actually, prolific might put it mildly.

To date, she has made more than 39,000 rosaries that she donates to churches in the diocese and to missions throughout the world. And if that's not enough, she constructs wooden stands for churches to display the rosaries she provides free.

At the heart of everything lies a deep Catholic faith and a love for the "Holy Mother" Mary that has sustained her through unimaginable trauma as a child to where she's at today – a widow and grandmother a long, long way from where she started her life.

"God's given me many gifts," Kozlowski said, "and I'm not lazy. I'm willing to work, and I never count the cost."

Her dedication and work ethic can be traced to her youth in Poland.

In the beginning

Kozlowski was born in a small village about 50 miles from the Russian border. When she was a year old, World War II started, and the Germans occupied Poland.

With the Nazi soldiers in charge, living conditions were horrific. She remembers seeing signs on barns, houses and trees that read "for every German who dies, 100 Poles must die."

"They were butchers," she recalled, "because when one German died, they gathered people in a barn, poured gasoline on them and burned them not that far from me."

She remembers a mother with twins being shot and the hundreds who died being buried in a mass grave.

"We heard them singing a song to Holy Mother when they were dying in that barn," she said.

One girl avoided death after a German told her to hide in a basement while his fellow soldiers were drunk and celebrating.

"They stripped everything from us,"

she said. "No hygiene and no food."

Not every German soldier had evil intentions. One, she recalled, had pity on her mother because the soldier had left a wife and five children of his own behind at home. She also remembered another soldier accompanying her mother into the woods and shooting a pig.

"He helped my mother cut it into pieces, and he said, 'At least you're going to have food for your children,'" Kozlowski said.

Her mother also hid potatoes and other items in an underground bunker to feed her children.

As the war raged on through the first half of the 1940s, the Germans moved through Poland into Russia and then back across the Polish border to return home. Then the Russians occupied the country after the war ended in 1945.

"In Warsaw, you saw maybe half of the buildings standing after the bombings and people – pregnant women – standing everywhere," she said.

"I was so traumatized when the Germans were leaving the country because the bombing was everywhere," she said. "One man came to my mother and told her to 'take your children somewhere because we have an order to burn your village to the ground.'"

"So, my mother took her five children, and we were sleeping in a ditch, shivering, and everywhere we looked was fire. Two bombs exploded so close to us in that ditch that debris fell on us. There I was, 7 years old.

"After the war, I was so petrified every time I saw a plane that I hid in the woods. One time, I hid under a sack-like mattress for two days, and the whole village was looking for me."

She and her siblings walked 3 kilometers (about 2 miles) to school each day, often soaking wet or freezing without protection from the rain or snow. And they were always hungry.

"It's a miracle that we didn't die from pneumonia or something," she said. "So that's why I was thinking many times that God, He knows about me personally, and I cling to Him.

"They think differently in the Unit-

ed States. They think more like God is there, and He's good, but He doesn't know us."

The unsanitary conditions left her with an infestation of parasites and lice and suffering from malnutrition.

"The one source of food was bread and milk, and I could not have milk because the parasites would come into my

throat and suck the milk," she painfully recalled.

She lost her hair due to the lice, and she had trouble sleeping. Her mother had heard about a remedy mixing kerosene and sugar to kill the parasites. She gave it to Janine, and the parasites died, but the stench of kerosene stayed within her for years. She was finally able to digest milk for the

first time at age 20.

The lack of nourishment had impacted her digestion and affected her teeth for chewing food.

"It's just horror, and that was my childhood," she said. "I could have ended up a monster because of a bad childhood, but God loves me, and I try to be generous today. I always put myself in the backseat and not in the front seat."

Despite the extreme hardships the Polish people faced, they stubbornly resisted Nazi and Communist attempts during and after the war to silence the Catholic Church. Janine's family continued to attend Mass.

"We even had processions on Corpus Christi Sunday after the war in the city, and there were cops everywhere," she said. "But they would not shoot the mothers. The Russians just stood there with their machine guns, and nobody would stop the priests with the Blessed Sacrament while the bells were ringing."

Her family life obviously was turned upside down.

The Germans took her father away when she was very young, but he was spared death in a concentration camp. He was put to work in a factory near Dachau after the Nazis recognized his talents as a master builder and carpenter could be useful.

One day, a guard told her father to run away and return to his family while the

other guards were sleeping. Her father would not go until a friend and a neighbor were allowed to escape with him.

"But they could not come home because they would be publicly executed if they were found," she explained. "So, they stayed in the woods in a big hole that the Jewish people dug to hide when they were taking Jewish people to the concentration camp."

The men secretly told a farmer passing by to let their wives know where they were hiding. Each week for months, the wives would sneak into the woods to bring them food.

During the Nazi occupation, Kozlowski's mother worked at night and miraculously managed to avoid stepping on one of the landmines the Germans planted while going back and forth in the dark between her job and home.

"A lot of people stepped on those mines and were torn to pieces," Kozlowski said. "My first cousin died this way. She was 16 years old. Those were terrible times."

After the war, her father used his skills as a craftsman to provide for his family. He ended up living to age 83.

Existing under the rule of the Soviet Communists was no picnic. The Polish people were subjected to constant surveillance. One bad word about the Communists and entire families would vanish.

"No one would ever hear about you again," Kozlowski related. "You would go to a place of torture. They would put your hand in a door and slam it. They would put nails under your fingernails.

"They were mean. They were barbarians no better than Hitler. I hated the Communists when they came. They never said one truthful thing."

She despised the Communist regime so much that she vowed that she would one day go to America to live.

"I said to myself, 'I'm never going to live in this country.'"

Kozlowski was an intelligent girl who did well in school and landed a job as a young adult. The Catholic faith that continues to guide her today was gleaned mostly from her mother, a devout woman who died of cancer at age 65.

Her mother had two sisters who were nuns and influenced Kozlowski greatly.

Kozlowski was undergoing throat cancer treatment at the time of her mother's death and could not attend the funeral. In Kozlowski's later years, she also survived several serious surgeries and a bout with salmonella that caused kidney failure so severe that a doctor told her son it would be a miracle if she survived.

"I trust God – totally," she said. "He's awesome."



Janine Kozlowski holds some of the rosaries she recently made at her home. *CT photos by Ken Snow*

SURVIVOR, *continued from Page 10*

Coming to America

Kozlowski's dream to come to the United States was realized after she met her future husband, who was living in America and had come home to Poland to visit, through a family connection. Four months later, they were married.

Then she waited nine months and 10 days in Poland before her visa came through, allowing her to go to the United States.

"The Communists did everything in their power to stop me," she said. "But they could not stop me because we went to a judge to allow an American citizen to marry a Polish girl."

Her husband was a survivor himself of a Russian prison in Siberia during World War II when he was taken into custody after making the mistake of riding his bicycle across the border between Poland and Russia.

He nearly froze and starved to death there, but a Ukrainian soldier helped him. He was let go from prison and joined a Polish army unit known as Anders' Army – commanded by Gen. Wladyslaw Anders – that trained in the Middle East, fought the Germans in Italy and was involved in the capture of Monte Cassino in 1944.

After the war, he came to the United States at the invitation of a friend of his mother who lived in Stamford, Con-

necticut.

When Kozlowski arrived in Connecticut after their marriage, she began to use the skills that she had learned at a Polish trade school.

Her sewing ability led to a job designing sample wedding gowns and debutante dresses in New York City for runway shows that attracted buyers from high-end stores such as Bloomingdale's.

Then she went into business for herself as an interior designer. She was unique in that she not only conceived the designs but also did the construction.

"I designed a lot of things when I had my business – pillows, headboards, cornices for windows," she said. "My work was everywhere.

"I went to the lumber yard to get the wood, put the thick foam on and then covered with fabric or leather and then tucked it in with buttons. They loved it.

"I was very conscientious in my work. I never let anything go out of my place unless, in my mind, it was perfect."

At home, she was just as meticulous about raising her two children and sharing with them her love for the Catholic faith.

Her husband was supportive and came to church on Sunday with the family, but he did not regularly receive the sacrament of penance until one Holy Thursday when their son was preparing to re-



In addition to making rosaries, Janine Kozlowski builds stables out of wood for Nativities. She found the figures for this set at an antique shop.

CT photos by Ken Snow

ceive his First Holy Communion.

"My husband asked me what I wanted for Easter," she said, "and I said, 'The best gift you can give me is to go to confession.'

"He said, 'What am I going to say? I don't kill, I don't steal. I didn't cheat on you. I didn't do anything wrong. Why am I going to say?'

"I said, 'You don't know what to say because you're comparing yourself to Al Capone. Compare yourself with Mother Teresa, and maybe you will find something. You're not perfect every single day.'"

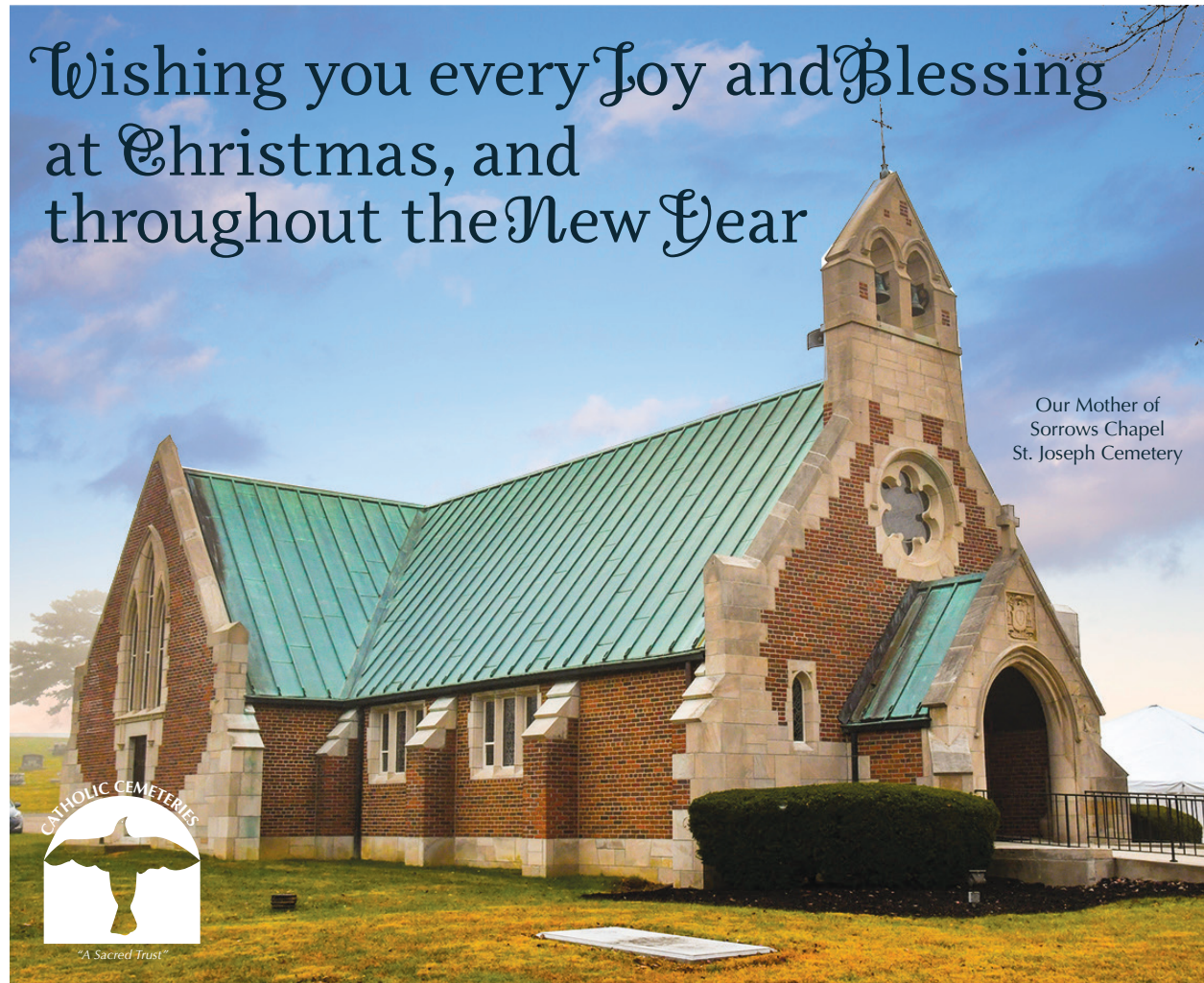
While she was standing in line waiting



Janine Kozlowski's rosaries are displayed at Newark St. Francis de Sales Church on one of the stands she builds.

to go to confession herself, her husband had left the pew, unbeknown to her, to get in line for confession. And every year after that he received the sacrament of

See SURVIVOR, Page 17



Wishing you every Joy and Blessing at Christmas, and throughout the New Year

Our Mother of Sorrows Chapel
St. Joseph Cemetery



FROM THE STAFF AT THE CATHOLIC CEMETERIES OF COLUMBUS

Ryan Bodley	Matt Locklear
Tyler Brown	Kyle McGlone
Rory Cotter	Sandee Murphy
Brian Everts	Ann Noble
Siobhan Fallon	Mark Noble
Laura Favret	Steve Skinner
Deacon Jeffrey Fortkamp	Jeremy Sprouse
Rich Finn	Jim VanHorn
Jan Gerst	Christopher Urbiel
Julie Gerst	Deanna Ventura
Frank Hall	Gregg Wright
Ed Jones	Ryan Wright

ST. JOSEPH CEMETERY 6440 S. High St./U.S. Rt. 23 S. Lockbourne, Ohio 43137 614-491-2751	HOLY CROSS CEMETERY 11539 National Rd. S.W./U.S. Rt. 40 E. Pataskala, Ohio 43062 740-927-4442
RESURRECTION CEMETERY 9571 N. High St./U.S. Rt. 23 N. Lewis Center, Ohio 43035 614-888-1805	MOUNT CALVARY c/o St. Joseph Cemetery 614-491-2751

Parish Nativity scenes display variety

A Nativity scene isn't a requirement for Christmas, but most parishes have at least one.

A Nativity scene takes its inspiration from the accounts of the birth of Jesus in the Gospels of Matthew and Luke. Luke's narrative describes an angel announcing the birth of Jesus to shepherds who visit the stable in Bethlehem where Jesus is found lying in a trough for cattle feed.

Matthew tells of wise men, or Magi, who follow a star to the house in Bethlehem where Jesus was living (not the stable, despite what most Nativity scenes show). The Magi probably found Jesus less than two years after his birth, rather than on the day He was born.

Matthew's account does not mention angels or shepherds, while Luke's narrative is silent on the Magi and the star. The Magi and the angels usually are displayed in a Nativity scene with the Holy Family and the shepherds.

The earliest Nativity scene has been found in the early Christian catacomb of St. Valentine. It traces to the year 380. St. Francis of Assisi is credited with creating the first live Nativity scene in 1223 at Greccio in central Italy in an attempt to place the emphasis of Christmas upon the worship of Christ rather than upon material things.

The scene's popularity inspired much imitation in Christian nations, with many versions in various sizes made of various materials.

Columbus St. Timothy Church has three Nativity scenes it uses every year.

The oldest is a 20-foot, hand-carved wooden Jesus, Mary and Joseph that was purchased by the founders of the parish in the early 1960s. It originally was in front of the altar in the church sanctuary and now is displayed in front of a temporary altar set up in the parish center for one of two 4 p.m. vigil Masses celebrated simultaneously on Christmas Eve.

Ceramic sculptures signed by Italian artist Eugenio Pattarino are displayed next to the sanctuary. They were purchased for and displayed in the business windows of the Thomas W. Ruff and Co. office furniture business and were donated to the church several years ago by the Ruff family.

The third set is also complete with all the characters and animals, including a camel, but is smaller and has a more rustic design than the other two. It was donated about six years ago by the parish's former pastor, Father Timothy Hayes, whose brother Kevin discovered it as part of the contents of a storage unit



Sunbury St. John Neumann Church's new outdoor Nativity includes a stable that was hand-built by parish maintenance staff members.

Photo courtesy St. John Neumann Church



A Nativity scene at Chillicothe St. Peter Church is situated on the side of the altar.

Photo courtesy Chillicothe-Waverly Consortium

he purchased. It is displayed in the parish gathering space.

Father Joseph Trapp, pastor of Plain City St. Joseph Church, purchased a hand-carved Nativity scene for the parish activity center to replace one with broken and missing pieces. The set comes from the Joseph Albl studio in Oberammergau, Germany. The parish has started a fund to purchase more statues for the scene. Parishioner Jim Schwobe built a new manger to house the display.

The history of the Nativity scene at Washington Court House St. Colman of Cloyne Church goes back to about 1950, when it was purchased by Father Otto Guenther, who was pastor at the time. His successor as pastor decided not to use it, but it was acquired by the



A manger scene at Washington Court House St. Colman of Cloyne Church has included a starry night backdrop since 2012.

Photo courtesy St. Colman of Cloyne Church



One of three Nativity displays at Columbus St. Timothy Church is set up in the parish gathering space.

Photo courtesy St. Timothy Church



The baby Jesus is displayed as part of one of the Nativity scenes at Columbus St. Timothy Church.

Photo courtesy St. Timothy Church

DelPonte family, members of the parish who displayed it on their front porch on South Main Street with a light shining down on it.

It was given back to the church in the 1990s when Father Jerome Raiser was pastor. It was displayed there until Father Jan Sullivan succeeded Father Raiser in 2000. Father Sullivan pre-

ferred to have the infant Jesus in a creche instead of a Nativity scene. It went back into storage until Father James Hatfield became pastor in 2012 and has been used every Christmas season since.

In 2012, a backdrop was built to show a starry night. Paul Ondrus made the backdrop from one-quarter-inch plywood, with a strand of white lights behind it. A larger bulb is placed near the top to represent the star the Magi followed. Each year, parishioner Ann Winkle presses and repairs the fabric covering the table on which the scene sits.

Depending on the pastor's preference, sometimes all of the figurines going with the set have been displayed throughout the Christmas season. The current pastor, Father Cyrus Haddad, prefers that they come in stages, with the infant Jesus inserted at Christmas and the Magi on Jan. 6, the Feast of the Epiphany.

Sunbury St. John Neumann Church has a new Nativity scene purchased with funds provided by various ministries including the men's and women's clubs, the parish festival committee, a group that sells prepaid gifts from merchants that benefit the church and an anonymous donor. The stable was hand-built by parish maintenance staff members Mike Gibboney and Jack Glassmire.

"While this might be a new set for us, the spirit of giving so the set could be purchased and of preparing the stable for generations of parishioners to enjoy in the years to come is a fitting way to prepare our hearts for the coming of Jesus at Christmas," said parish communications manager Jennifer Reinard.

The parish's former Nativity set may be seen throughout the Christmas season on the town square. In the past, it had been removed on Christmas Eve and returned to the church for display, but the new set allows it to remain on the square throughout the Christmas season.

West Jefferson Sts. Simon and Jude Church has approximately 70 Nativity scenes or other Christmas items on display in its social hall, 9350 High Free Pike. An open house to allow the public to view them is scheduled from 2 to 6 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 28.

Nativities draw crowd, bishop, St. Nicholas to museum



Bishop Earl Fernandes makes a surprise visit to the "Mangers of the Museum" exhibit on Dec. 6, the feast of St. Nicholas, at the Museum of Catholic Art & History and chats with Bill White, who is dressed as the saint.

CT photos by Ken Snow

A crowd of enthusiastic visitors, including Bishop Earl Fernandes, came to the Museum of Catholic Art & History on Tuesday night, Dec. 6 to view the "Mangers of the Museum" exhibit and meet St. Nicholas on his feast day.

The Nativities exhibit opened Friday, Nov. 25 at the museum, 257 E. Broad St., and continues through the first week of January when Epiphany is celebrated.

Approximately 500 Nativity scenes representing different cultures throughout the world are on display at the museum, which occupies a portion of the building it shares with The Catholic Foundation and was home to the first restaurant in the Wendy's fast-food chain founded by Dave Thomas.

The sets range from displays that might be found in a home to unique settings from Ethiopia, Sri Lanka and Alaska.

"People who come here not only have a chance to see different Nativity sets but can learn about the history of how they came to be," said Shawn Kenney, the museum's executive director.

He explained the history of Nativities, starting in 1223 when St. Francis of Assisi received permission to create a Nativity consisting of living people and including pieces such as a stable and manger to reenact the Nativity of the Lord in Bethlehem.

"This caught on very quickly," Kenney said, "and within a year, other churches began displaying their own Nativity scenes. This eventually was adopted by many different Christian denominations throughout the world as can be seen today."

The featured display at the museum is

a Fontanini set consisting of 3,900 pieces from the collection of the late Father Carmen Arcuri, a priest in the Diocese of Columbus who died in 2017.

Father Arcuri acquired pieces through the years when the Fontanini family introduced new offerings.

"Some of these are, in fact, signed by members of the Fontanini family themselves," Kenney said.

After Father Arcuri retired, he donated the entire set to the former Jubilee Museum, which was located in the old Columbus Holy Family School in the Franklinton area until it was closed in 2020 and reopened in 2021 in its current home as the Museum of Catholic Art & History.

"It was so large we didn't have the space to exhibit it there," Kenney said, referring to the former school. "Since we've moved to our new location at The Catholic Foundation, we had more room and decided this year to make it the centerpiece of our Nativity display."

The St. Nicholas feast day event on Dec. 6 featured live music with Kathleen Tully of Columbus St. Patrick Church playing harp, refreshments, stories and a surprise visit from Bishop Fernandes.

Children could have their photos taken with St. Nicholas (Bill White dressed as the saint). They also received candy canes and an explanation of their meaning from volunteer Cathy Arp, a member of St. Patrick Church.

"A candy maker began with a stick of pure white, hard candy, which symbolizes the virgin birth and sinless nature of Jesus," she told them. "The hardness is the solid rock and the firmness of the promises of God.

"He then formed the candy into a 'J' for Jesus, our Savior and Good Shep-



One of the 500 Nativity scenes is displayed at the "Mangers of the Museum" exhibit at the Museum of Catholic Art & History in downtown Columbus that runs through early January.



Chuck and Ardith Mers of Westerville St. Paul Church admire the Fontanini collection that was donated by the late Father Carmen Arcuri.

herd. He stained it with three small, red stripes representing the scourging Jesus received prior to his crucifixion for our healing. He added one large red stripe to represent the shedding of His blood on the cross for our salvation."

She added that the cane represents a shepherd's crook as well as a crosier carried by a bishop, who is the shepherd of his flock, or diocese.

Among the other prominent items in the exhibit are paintings of St. Nicholas kneeling in prayer at the Lancaster Basilica of St. Mary of the Assumption by Dr. Chris Ryckman, a Lancaster artist whose work was featured in *The Catholic Times* at Christmas 2018.

The Museum of Catholic Art & History is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. For more



Another Nativity scene on display at the Museum of Catholic Art & History.

information, visit catholicmuseum.org, call (614) 618-4030 or send an email to info@catholicmuseum.org.



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IC students help Light Up Dennison



Dennison Immaculate Conception School students and staff participated in Light Up Dennison on Nov. 27. As part of a pre-Christmas driving and walking tour through town, sixth-grade students staged a live Nativity on the school grounds that included live animals. Church members handed out hot chocolate to those who stopped to visit the Nativity and the school choir sang Christmas carols in the downtown area.

Photos courtesy Immaculate Conception School

Advent and cookies at St. Andrew



Columbus St. Andrew School celebrated the beginning of Advent by gathering students and staff for an Advent prayer service in the school gym. The service was led by Msgr. Stephan Moloney, the parish's pastor who blessed an Advent wreath for the school. Students in all grades are participating in devotional activities as well as service projects during Advent. Fifth-graders are collaborating with the Society of St. Vincent de Paul to help those in the community in need of sustenance during the holiday season. The students brought in hundreds of cookies, which were delivered to the St. Lawrence Haven food pantry in downtown Columbus to brighten holiday dinners.

Photos courtesy St. Andrew School

DeSales seniors treat youngsters to Christmas in the Courtyard

By Jenna Mar

The shine of Christmas magic might dim for children as they grow older, but for the senior class at Columbus St. Francis DeSales High School it gleamed brightly once again this month.

On Tuesday, Dec. 6, the school held its annual Christmas in the Courtyard, an event bringing children served by Columbus St. Stephen's Community House to the school to celebrate with the seniors.

Christmas in the Courtyard was started in 2000 with the help of Andrea Pore, then a teacher at the school. She had recently graduated from the University of Dayton and was inspired by that school's annual Christmas on Campus event.

St. Francis DeSales has had a long relationship with St. Stephen's. In addition to Christmas in the Courtyard, DeSales students hold annual food drives with donations going to St. Stephen's. So, it was only natural that Christmas in the Courtyard be shared with St. Stephen's.

"It's one of my favorite traditions, without a doubt," DeSales Principal Dan Garrick said. "It really captures the essence of what we hope that we are instilling in our students, and what the real reason for Christmas is – joyful anticipation of Christ's birth, but also the opportunity to give."

"Our students have always embraced it." There was a role for everyone in planning the event. The seniors signed up for various jobs. They also received the name of a St. Stephen's child and what he or she wanted for Christmas. The seniors bought the gifts, which were wrapped by DeSales students and staff members.

On the evening of the event, DeSales sent buses to St. Stephen's to pick up the children. As they arrived, the seniors sang Christmas carols. Each child was paired with a senior to enjoy the festivities.

The evening started with a reenactment of the Nativity, performed by some of the seniors. After the performance, the children enjoyed pizza with their senior buddies. Then the children took part in activities, including craft stations and photos with Santa.

Toward the end of the event, the children were taken to the "Elf Station"



Columbus St. Francis DeSales students led children from St. Stephen's Community House in a craft activity during the high school's annual Christmas in the Courtyard on Dec. 6.

Photos courtesy St. Francis DeSales High School



DeSales seniors performed a reenactment of the Nativity after the children arrived at the high school from St. Stephen's Community House.

where they received the gifts they had requested. As the evening ended, the children were sent off with another round of carols.

"To see the joy on their faces is really a neat thing. It really warms the heart," Garrick said. "It's a high-energy night, so in some instances you're exhausted by the time it's over, but you don't want to see it end."

"Christmas is special for all of us, but when you see Christmas through the eyes of a child there is something really special about that."

Senior Alex Herrmann agreed. "A lot of us miss having that experience of Christmas."

"An entire class and entire faculty rallied together to give these kids a Christmas experience that they wouldn't have otherwise," Herrmann said. "It was even more rewarding and fun than we really expected."

Jenna Mar is a graduate of Columbus Bishop Watterson High School and Kent State University.

Fourth Sunday of Advent Year A

Hope springs from mystery of faith

Isaiah 7:10-14
Psalm 24:1-2, 3-4, 5-6
Romans 1:1-7
Matthew 1:18-24

The Fourth Sunday of Advent this year opens for us a full week of preparation and waiting for Christmas. Already, the readings anticipate the message that will be given to us on Christmas: "This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about."

We learn of the mystery surrounding the virginal conception and are taught that it is the fulfillment of prophecy. "The Lord himself will give you this sign: the virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall name him Emmanuel."

In a world that has grown weary of war and sadness and loss, hope is offered through a divine intervention that reaffirms the goodness of the world. Salvation will come by God Himself revealing His Presence among us in our own human nature. "Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory."

The surprise of the moment of the arrival of the King of Glory is not taken away, but it is given as a mystery of faith, requiring human beings to cooperate and to welcome divine intervention.

Mary and Joseph each have a part in assenting to the fulfillment of prophecy. Mary gives her own human nature to the Son to be conceived at the moment of her assent. Joseph, as a son of David, will give this title to the Child to be born of the virgin.

Christmas Mass at Night Year A

Isaiah 9:1-6
Psalm 96:1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13
Titus 2:11-14
Luke 2:1-14

Today is born our Savior, Christ the Lord! Christmas comes, and we acknowledge the greatest truth of human history, that a Savior has come to live among us to bring about our salvation. Heaven and earth exult together to proclaim this joyful news.

In days of old, our churches were full at many different hours. A Vigil Mass Christmas Eve was comfortably full. Midnight Mass took place with a sense of wonder and awe, and those who attended could look forward to at least a gift or two being opened along with traditional food and drink prepared for the wee hours of the morning of Christmas.

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.



In our response through faith, we also have a part, accepting and welcoming the One Who fulfills prophecies and proves true the promises we have received from God.

Advent has taken its turn from a look toward the coming of Christ in majesty at the end of the ages, to immediate preparation for the celebration of the Nativity of the Lord, His "first coming" in history. The daily liturgy highlights the prophetic fulfillment in the "O Antiphons" that are part of the Prayer of the Church, the Liturgy of the Hours:

- Dec. 17: O Sapientia
O Wisdom
- Dec. 18: O Adonai
O Lord
- Dec. 19: O Radix Jesse
O Root of Jesse
- Dec. 20: O Clavis David
O Key of David
- Dec. 21: O Oriens
O Dayspring
- Dec. 22: O Rex Gentium
O King of the Nations
- Dec. 23: O Emmanuel
O God-with-us

The first letter of each expression put together from Dec. 23 backward spells

Faithful welcome with joy the birth of our Savior

Just as full were the Mass at Dawn and Mass at Day. People wore their Christmas best and enjoyed the beauty of the churches and choirs that had prepared all year for these celebrations.

In recent times, but before COVID time, the attendance was less at later Christmas Masses, but the Vigil Mass of Christmas had become the domain of families with children. Churches filled, sometimes requiring simultaneous Masses across church campuses, for the Vigil, and then the other Masses had fewer and fewer as the day moved along.

Many parishes moved "Midnight Mass" to an earlier hour and chose to celebrate only one Mass on Christmas Day.

This year, we wonder what will happen. Will the crowds return? Bumper stickers often remind us to "Keep Christ

12/19-12/24	12/26-12/31
<p>MONDAY Judges 13:2-7,24-25a Psalm 71:3-4a,5-6b,16-17 Luke 1:5-25</p> <p>TUESDAY Isaiah 7:10-14 Psalm 24:1-6 Luke 1:26-38</p> <p>WEDNESDAY Songs 2:8-14 or Zephaniah 3:14-18a Psalm 33:2-3,11-12,20-21</p>	<p>THURSDAY 1 Samuel 1:24-28 1 Samuel 2:1,4-8 (Ps) Luke 1:46-56</p> <p>FRIDAY Malachi 3:1-4,23-24 Psalm 25:4bc-5ab,8-10,14 Luke 1:57-66</p> <p>SATURDAY 2 Samuel 7:1-5,8b-12,14a,16 Psalm 89:2-5,27,29 Luke 1:67-79</p>
<p>MONDAY Zechariah 2:14-17 or Revelation 11:19a,12:1-6a,10ab Judith 13:18bcde,19 Luke 1:26-38 or Luke 1:39-47</p> <p>TUESDAY Zephaniah 3:1-3,9-13 Psalm 34:2-3,6-7,17-19,23 Matthew 21:28-32</p> <p>WEDNESDAY Isaiah 45:6c-8,18,21c-25 Psalm 85:9ab,10-14</p>	<p>THURSDAY Isaiah 54:1-10 Psalm 30:2,4-6,11-12a,13b Luke 7:24-30</p> <p>FRIDAY Isaiah 56:1-3a,6-8 Psalm 67:2-3,5,7-8 John 5:33-36</p> <p>SATURDAY Genesis 49:2,8-10 Psalm 72:1-4ab,7-8,17 Matthew 1:1-17</p>

DIOCESAN WEEKLY RADIO AND TELEVISION

MASS SCHEDULE: WEEKS OF DEC. 18 AND DEC. 25, 2022

SUNDAY MASS

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

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

Mass with the Passionist Fathers at 7:30 a.m. on WWHO-TV (the CW), Channel 53, Columbus and 10:30 a.m. on WHIZ-TV, Channel 18, Zanesville. Mass from St. Francis de Sales Seminary, Milwaukee, at 10 a.m. on WWHO-TV. Check local cable system for cable channel listing.

Mass from Our Lady of the Angels Monastery, Birmingham, Ala., at 8 a.m. on EWTN (Spectrum Channel 385, Insight Channel 382, or Breezeline 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, Newcomertown and New Philadelphia; Channel 207, Zanesville); 8 p.m., St. Gabriel Radio (AM 820), Columbus, and at www.stgabrielradio.com.

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

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

WE PRAY WEEKS IV AND THE CHRISTMAS SEASONAL PROPER, LITURGY OF THE HOURS

out the phrase "Ero cras," which is Latin for "I will be there tomorrow." Day by day, we build up an expectation full of hope, and our hearts become ready to receive the Guest, God-with-us.

May we live this time of longing and waiting with confidence in the One Who has promised to send us a Savior. May our hearts be ready to accept and welcome the King of Glory when He comes.

in Christmas." Perhaps we also need a campaign to put "Mass back into Christmas." The Incarnation that was made known on that first Christmas night continues in the Eucharist, Jesus Christ Who IS Emmanuel, God-with-us.

The readings of the Missa in Nocte, the Mass at Night, remind us that we have seen a great light. "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; upon those who dwelt in the land of gloom a light has shone. You have brought them abundant joy and great rejoicing, as they rejoice before you. ..."

Shepherds who were keeping watch at night were given the good news of the birth of the Savior by a choir of angels: "Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For today in the city

of David a savior has been born for you who is Christ and Lord."

The proclamation of Christmas traditionally offered before the Mass at Night places the Nativity of the Lord in the context of human history, calling on all who hear to respond in wonder to the gift of the Savior.

Our world has often chosen to continue to live in darkness. We are called to be a people of light, who know the truth of God's Presence in our midst and who seek to share the Good News. We are invited to share heaven's joy: "Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."

Jesus Christ is the fulfillment of the desire of nations. Our hearts, filled with Christmas joy, free us to respond to the love of God and to welcome Him among us. Today is born our Savior, Christ the Lord!

PRAYER TO THE VIRGIN

Oh, most beautiful flower of Mt. Carmel, fruitful vine, splendor of heaven, blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in necessity. Oh, star of the sea, help me and show me herein, you are my Heaven and Earth.

I humbly beseech you from the bottom of my heart to secure me in this necessity. There are none who can withstand your powers. Oh, show me herein you are my Mother. Oh, Mary conceived without sin, pray for us, who have recourse to thee. (Repeat three times) Oh, Holy Mary, I place this cause in your hand. (Repeat three times) Holy Spirit, you who solve all problems, light all roads that I can obtain my goals. You gave me the divine gift to forgive and forget all evil against me, and in all instances in my life, you are with me. I want in this short prayer to thank you for all things as you confirm once again that I never want to be separated from you in eternal glory.

Thank you for your mercy toward me and mine.

Patty & Toni

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- WISE MEN

SURVIVOR, continued from Page 11

reconciliation at Eastertime.

In November 1993, her husband died suddenly, leaving her alone in a large home that led to panic and anxiety attacks over the next few years.

In 2003, she moved to Ohio to be near her son and his family.

Rosary making

About nine years ago, a friend suggested Kozlowski make rosaries. She was introduced to the late Ed Schmeltzer, a Newark Blessed Sacrament Church parishioner who came to Granville St. Edward Church, where Kozlowski was then a member, to explain how to make rosaries.

After a half-hour, she grasped the technique and was off to the races making beautiful rosaries.

As with everything else she has done in life, the rosaries must be completed perfectly with ideal knots and spacing. She does not allow one rosary to leave her home if it's not her best work.

"Would you accept it?" she said of shoddily made rosaries. "It would be wrong for Holy Mother. Don't you think your rosaries should be perfect?"

A rosary-making group formed at St. Edward with nine women. Some of them said to Kozlowski that they couldn't make beautiful rosaries, but she encouraged them, saying, "If you really want to make perfect rosaries, God will help you."

To those who made rosaries but didn't particularly care how well they turned out, she said, "Why do you think a person doesn't deserve a good rosary? With my rosaries, I don't think about whether I'm making one for a woman in Africa or Asia; I'm making this rosary for Holy Mother and her Son.

"The rosary is Jesus' life. So, we have to make good rosaries. How can you be good at anything if you don't care?"

To date, she has finished 39,000-plus rosaries that she has sent to countries throughout the world or donated to at least 15 parishes in the Diocese of Columbus. The cord-and-bead rosaries are meticulously crafted to honor the "Holy Mother" and spread devotion to Our Lady.

She spends 3 1/2-4 hours each day in her meticulously-kept condominium making 20 rosaries, which adds up to 480 a month and 5,000 a year. The supplies cost her \$1,000 a year.

In her "spare" time, she also

builds large wooden mangers from scratch for Nativity scenes. She has constructed 10 of them that vary in size and design and has donated or given each as a gift.

Kozlowski, who now attends Newark St. Francis de Sales Church, has osteoporosis and issues with her hands, hip and lower back. When she makes rosaries, the pain leaves her and then returns when she stops.

"You know what teaches me patience? The rosary," she said. "And I have patience because I pray to God to give me patience, good health. I pray that Jesus may help me to make rosaries with love, and I say to his mother: 'This is for you and for your Son.'"

Her goal is to make 40,000 rosaries.

"And, you know what? I told the Lord that 'You can take me when I make 40,000 rosaries,'" she said, "because I want to make 1,000 rosaries for each day that Jesus suffered in the desert."

Considering all that she has endured, no one doubts that she'll achieve her goal and serve as an inspiration to anyone who might be struggling or aging.

Words of Wisdom

by Pat Battaglia, aka Dr. Fun

Draw a path from letter to letter to spell the capitalized words to complete the wisdom statement. Move one square at a time, up, down, right, left and diagonally until all letters are used once. Ignore any black squares.

An apology is a great way ...



TO GET THE LAST WORD

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Essential job responsibilities: Write and edit news and feature stories; research stories, mostly through online and phone interviews, with some travel to parishes or other activity sites; compile weekly notes and obituaries; assist with proofreading of the newspaper prior to publication; perform miscellaneous duties, including answering phone calls and assisting readers.

Required: Compliance with BCIA background checks and completion of

Protecting God's Children program.

Education: Bachelor's degree is required, preferably in journalism, communication or a related discipline.

Experience: A minimum of two years' prior reporting experience is preferred.

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BACHMAN, James Michael, 72, Nov. 27
Sacred Heart Church, Coshocton

BAYER, Diane M. (Fleisher), 91, Nov. 24
St. Agatha Church, Columbus

BOOTH, Patricia A. (King), 92, Oct. 28
Our Mother of Sorrows Chapel, Columbus

BRODZINSKI, David, 48, Nov. 20
Sacred Heart Church, New Philadelphia

BROWN, Elizabeth N., 42, Nov. 17
Holy Rosary-St. John Church, Columbus

CAHILL, Thomas Joseph, 94, Dec. 7
St. Francis de Sales Church, Newark

DUFFY, Thomas J. "JJ" Jr., 33, Dec. 5
St. Andrew Church, Columbus

EVANS, Phyllis R. (Derio), 90, Nov. 23
Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Marysville

FANTINE, Frederick, 72, Nov. 7
Sacred Heart Church, New Philadelphia

FAULK, Jim P., 65, Nov. 23
Immaculate Conception Church, Columbus

GOFFOS, Edward P. "Butch" Jr., 69, Nov. 26
St. Francis of Assisi Church, Columbus

HELBER, Mary E., 87, Nov. 28
St. John Church, Logan

HENTZ, Dian (Deutschmann), 81, formerly of Sugar
Grove, Nov. 10
St. Vincent DePaul Church, The Villages, Florida

HERLIHY, Robert, 83, Nov. 12
Sacred Heart Church, New Philadelphia

HOUCK, Robert A., 65, Nov. 26
Holy Cross Church, Columbus

KARL, Barbara (Bird), 88, Nov. 19
Sacred Heart Church, New Philadelphia

KING, Cynthia L. (Bryan), 58, Nov. 25
Church of the Ascension, Johnstown

KITSON, Barry L., 73, Nov. 30
St. Paul Church, Westerville

McCARTHY, Kathleen T. (Zinzer), 54, Dec. 2
St. Brigid of Kildare Church, Dublin

McKINNEY, Joy A. (DeCenzo), 70, Dec. 2
St. John Neumann Church, Sunbury

PIERSON, Sally B. (Berner), 92, Nov. 21
St. Timothy Church, Columbus

ROSSI, Eva D., 90, Nov. 22
St. Michael Church, Worthington

SAAS, Ann M. (Luckhaupt), 93, Nov. 21
Immaculate Conception Church, Columbus

SAWYER, Pamela Lynn, 66, Nov. 20
St. Francis de Sales Church, Newark

SCHMIDT, Kenneth F., 88, Dec. 1
Holy Family Church, Columbus

SILVEIRA, Erma, 94, Nov. 21
St. Aloysius Church, Columbus

SMITH, Theresa (Conrad), 66, Dec. 4
St. Joseph Church, Circleville

STASIEWICZ, Nancy (Elliott), 84, Nov. 28
St. Brigid of Kildare Church, Dublin

SWANECK, Anthony J. Jr., 93, Nov. 24
Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, Columbus

VOGEL, Doris (Davis), 82, Dec. 3
St. Joseph Church, Circleville

WILLIAMS, Mary M. "Peggy" (Wagner), 93, Nov. 27
St. Catharine Church, Columbus

ZEIGLER, Linda, 74, Nov. 30
St. Andrew Church, Columbus

JAMES J. SCHMIDT

Funeral Mass for James J. Schmidt, 99, who died Wednesday, Nov. 23, will be celebrated at Columbus St. Anthony Church at a later date.

He was born on March 4, 1923 to Harry and Anna Schmidt and was a graduate of Columbus St. Charles High School and Ohio State University.

He was a former director of St. Lawrence Haven, operated by the diocesan St. Vincent de Paul Society, which provides meals for the needy in downtown Columbus. He was employed by the division of water of the Ohio Department of Natural Resources for more than 35 years and was awarded the Mather Medal for his contributions to the study of geology in Ohio.

Survivors include his wife, Mary (Scheel); sons, Robert (Jaqueline) and Jamie (Susan); daughter, Theresa (David); three grandsons and three granddaughters.

CONFERENCE, *continued from Page 9*

come a day when everyone who hurt you will know it – and you and I will learn every way we've hurt others. The Lord will set everything right. Justice will be served – not by you, but by God."

Gavin, the conference co-chairman, said what made this event different from programs such as the annual diocesan men's and women's conferences was that it was focused mainly on interior renewal rather than evangelization.

"There's a lot more prayer – intercessory prayer – built into this experience," he said. "Bob Schuchts started the John Paul II Center in 2004 because, as a therapist, he wanted to take a deep dive into the human person and our shared feelings of brokenness."

He said 500 of the 800 people in attendance were not members of the host parish, with some coming from Canada and the United Kingdom. Some online viewers were from Mexico, England, Canada

and Denmark. About a dozen priests from outside the diocese were on hand, as well as groups of religious sisters on retreat. About 20 diocesan priests heard confessions.

The John Paul II Center sponsors similar gatherings about four times a year at sites across the nation. The next such event in Ohio will be at St. Basil the Great Church in Brecksville, near Cleveland, in February. Sunbury St. John Neumann Church and Newark St. Francis de Sales Church have hosted these conferences in the past.

Gavin said Father Jonathan Wilson, pastor at St. Paul, became interested in having his parish serve as a conference site after attending the event in Newark and a priests' conference. He said about 80 parishes across the nation have expressed interest in hosting the event, and it's not known when it will return to the Columbus diocese.



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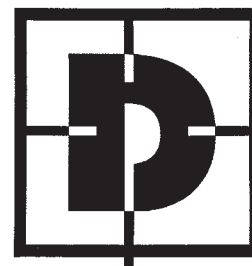
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Gender reveals the whole person, psychologist says

To drill down to the root cause of the sexual identity crisis creating gender confusion today among an increasing segment of young people, a Catholic psychologist suggests looking to the creator of all beings for the answer.

“The fact that we are creatures means that we come from someone; we don’t create ourselves. We come from another, and that other is God Who gives us being, and He sustains us in every moment. So that means we don’t get to decide who we are as if we were a blank slate,” explained Dr. Andrew Sodergren, Psy.D., director of the psychological services branch at the Cincinnati-based Ruah Woods Institute, a healing and education apostolate centered around Pope St. John Paul II’s “Theology of the Body” writings.

Sodergren presented an hourlong “Who Am I? Faith, Science and Gender” talk on Tuesday evening, Nov. 29 in the Worthington St. Michael School gymnasium before an audience of approximately 75 people including parents, parishioners, educators, pro-life leaders and others interested in the issue.

Ruah Woods was founded in 2007 to help spread John Paul II’s teaching on the human person. Its education branch has developed the world’s first K-12 Theology of the Body curriculum to teach children in an age-appropriate way what it means to be human and to be made in the image and likeness of God.

Diocese of Columbus schools are among a number of dioceses and schools throughout the country using the program.

At the core of Ruah Woods’ Theology of the Body is helping children and young adults understand that they are sons and daughters of the God Who created them.

That fundamental understanding has taken on added significance in modern culture as a secular perspective has emerged that espouses gender to be fluid or nonbinary, that each person has the right to decide his or her gender, that it’s changeable and the gender assigned by God is not definitive.

In 2020, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimated that 1 million Americans consider themselves transgender, a term describing persons who identify with a gender not aligned with their biological sex. Data from 2016 put the number of youth age 13-17 in this category at 150,000, but research shows a significant increase in recent years.

The Catholic view on sexual identity (Sodergren prefers using “sexual identity” rather than “gender identity” because of the confusion today surrounding the latter term) has two components, he explained.

“There’s an objective component, which refers to my maleness or femaleness that’s in the body that’s given to me,” he said. “And then a subjective component, which is my growing understanding of myself as male or female and what that means. So, my subjective understanding is in harmony with what is revealed by my body.”

By the time most children reach kinder-

garten age, they can correctly label themselves as a boy or a girl, Sodergren said.

At that point, several factors come into play that could create identity confusion in a child’s mind, and Sodergren stressed that it’s important for parents to not overreact when, for example, a boy likes an activity such as art that might be associated more with girls.

“Family is hugely influential in child development, including this subjective sense of our maleness or femaleness,” Sodergren said. “So, what is witnessed in the home about the roles that men and women take on, how the sexes relate with each other, but also how they interact with me as I go through life, and we learn from these things.

“Children tend to be best off when they’re growing up with biological mom and dad, ideally in a happy marriage.”

For a generation now, there has been an emphasis on raising and educating children in a gender-neutral fashion in which each individual is treated the same. That’s not good for the child, Sodergren said.

“And that’s impossible – and the research seems to show that it’s impossible,” he said. “Despite our best efforts, we still tend to treat boys and girls differently, even unconsciously.

“And the fact that our bodies are different is often treated as somehow irrelevant or unimportant. But if you simply look at the human body of an adult, the average adult man and the average adult woman, you see profound differences.”

Family dynamics also factor into the development of a child’s identity “in a very pre-verbal but urgent and survivalist sort of way,” Sodergren said. “What do I need to do to secure my place in this family? And for some kids, in some situations, they may come to the conclusion that it’s better for me to identify with and act like opposite-sex parents or an opposite-sex sibling.”

Other reasons for gender confusion include high rates of attachment wounds, developmental traumas and peer relations.

“Gender identity is not one thing,” Sodergren said. “It’s a highly complex, subjective feature of our psychology, and it develops over time. It’s not something that’s fixed and is impacted by all sorts of different experiences we have.”

John Paul II noted in his writings the sexual differences in human persons. Distinctions between the sexes can be identified by behaviors and characteristics starting in the womb.

“All of us share one human nature,” Sodergren said, “but there’s two modes or ways of expressing that nature, a male way and a female way. And he (John Paul II) says this creates what he calls unity in distinction.

“In God, we see one divine nature but distinction of persons, and it’s this distinction of persons in the one nature that creates the possibility of communion of persons, which is one of John Paul II’s favorite terms.

“Male and female represent two ways of having that nature – two ways of, you

could say, incarnating what it means to be human – and that creates the possibility of male and female coming together through a total gift of self in love, which we call marriage, and their love becoming embodied, personified, if you will, in the gift of a child. And so, man, woman and child become an icon of the Blessed Trinity.”

Those sexual differences affect every aspect of the human person and are not just an add on, like the color of hair or something that can be changed. Beyond physical characteristics, each person finds maleness and femaleness in the core of their soul, Sodergren said.

“Even the *Catechism (of the Catholic Church)* affirms this in paragraph 2332, where it says sexuality affects all aspects of the human person in the unity of his body and soul,” he said.

To combat the confusion on sexuality and to grow into an understanding of one’s maleness or femaleness, experts agree that children need the help of parents, family, educators, community and church in their development.

“We don’t get to choose who we are fun-



Dr. Andrew Sodergren of the Cincinnati-based Ruah Woods Institute presented “Who Am I? Faith, Science and Gender” on Nov. 29 at Worthington St. Michael School.

Photo courtesy St. Michael School

damentally,” Sodergren explained. “It’s given to us. We discover it through our bodies, through our relationships in our family.

“But we are also called to grow into it and to enrich that identity, and that’s where the vocational piece comes in. That sons are called to become husbands and fathers through spousal love, through that total gift of self, and daughters are called to become wives and mothers.

“This is what John Paul II referred to as the spousal meaning of the body – that our

See **GENDER**, Page 21

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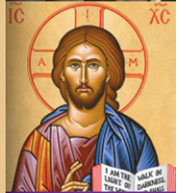
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Zanesville schools collect items for Heartbeats organization

The Catholic schools of Zanesville are making an effort this academic year to live out the Corporal Works of Mercy.

Toward that end, the Office of Campus Ministry and the house directors at Zanesville's Catholic schools sponsored a service project that gathered materials for Heartbeats, a local pregnancy help resource center, from Oct. 17 until Nov. 18. The list of needed items was established with the help of Heartbeats executive director Kimberly Cooper.

During that time, each class was assigned a specific item to donate that would aid in the care of infants and toddlers. For example, fifth-graders at Bishop Fenwick School were to bring in diaper cream while each class at Bishop Rosecrans High School was assigned a size of

diaper to donate.

As a result, almost 2,000 diapers were collected. Other items donated included blankets, toys, baby bottles, teething toys, sippy cups, pacifiers and lotions, washes and creams. In all, 3,330 items were collected. These items will be "sold" at the Heartbeats Boutique. Clients of Heartbeats earn points with which they can purchase these items by attending group sessions or individual counselling sessions sponsored by Heartbeats.

On Dec. 1, the four house directors loaded the supplies and transported them to Heartbeats. The directors were given a tour of the facility, and the programs it provides were explained. The students also learned from Cooper about volunteer opportunities at Heartbeats.

While at Heartbeats, the group dis-

covered that the Catholic schools of Zanesville was part of a bigger local pro-life movement. During the tour, it was learned that the Knights of Columbus funded the new ultrasound machine at the facility, and that the local Catholic churches donated items to the organization during the Christmas season.

Mark Baker, the house system director, and Jonathan Medaugh, director of campus ministries, supervised the effort, which was largely executed by the student body and staff.



(From left) Rebecca Kunkler, Kenzie Goldsmith, Emma Winegar and Mia Wells are the house directors at Bishop Rosecrans High School.

Photo/Zanesville Catholic Schools

GENDER, continued from Page 19

body tells us that we are called to make this total gift of self that is forever faithful and fruitful. And this is universal."

Research indicates that females are oriented toward motherhood and the capacity to nurture, to love specifically in a motherly way, which is complementary to the essence and purpose of maleness that a father innately embodies.

"We're going to see a mixture of nature and nurture, always together, with nature meaning our biological heritage and nurture our social experience, especially in the family but also in society, culture, education and so forth," Sodergren said.

A growing, worldwide transgender movement is founded on a divergent set of secular notions that a person as young as preschool age, sometimes through the encouragement of parents, should be able to choose his or her sex based on feelings.

"Research suggests with gender dysphoria is that the vast majority of adolescents and young adults who are showing up in gender clinics with this phenomenon tend to have a history of other problems preceding it – other emotional problems and social problems," Sodergren offered in response to a question.

"And the gender dysphoria is sort of just one new symptom, a new expression of some other problem that, as I mentioned before, may be related to attachment wounds early in life or developmental trauma.

"In some cases, it's been peer issues. There's also some evidence of high rates of autism spectrum disorder among adolescents showing up at gender clinics."

The sense of dysphoria can be heightened through social media and peer groups.

"They are exposed to this idea of being trans or being nonbinary or something like this, and they seize onto that as an explanation for why I'm so unhappy and why I don't fit in," Sodergren said. "It takes us back to three psychological tasks – identity, community, mission – and it

provides an answer to those three issues because it tells me who I am and where I belong. And now I have a cause that even presents me with a path to fulfillment."

Sodergren cautioned parents in particular when considering recommendations from medical organizations that lack a Christian perspective. The American Academy of Pediatrics, for example, has offered public support for health care policies affirming transgender youth.

Recently, this new phenomenon known as gender identity disorder has become more prevalent with girls than with boys.

"A few decades ago, a small number of boys in grade school would be struggling and saying that they don't want to be a boy and that they're a girl or they want to wear dresses or do different things like that," Sodergren said. "Traditionally, it was three to five times higher in boys than in girls.

"In the last 15 years or so, the fact that it's changed is also really interesting, because it raises the question of what's driving this, because there's no precedent in the research literature for this new phenomenon.

"Adolescent girls are now showing up at gender clinics and saying that they're trans or nonbinary and they want transition at a rate higher than their male peers and much, much higher than has ever been observed before."

The Catholic psychologist referenced a study that recorded a 7,000% increase in female adolescent referrals to a gender clinic over a span of about two years that one researcher called "rapid onset gender dysphoria."

Sodergren recommended that Catholics and Christians refrain from encouraging confused persons to change their names or pronouns and to avoid allowing children to make premature decisions on their identity that could be irreversible later in life.

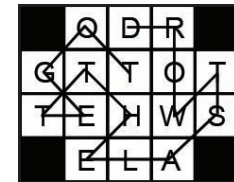
"With gender dysphoria, most of the time, when they get to adolescence or get

through adolescence, it's resolved in one way or another," Sodergren said. "Now, there may be other aftereffects. Some of them will experience same-sex attraction or other sorts of issues, but the cross-gender identification tends to go away.

"That's the solid, robust research finding. But it's more difficult now because kids at that age would be encouraged to persist and be told to embrace it, and the parents would be coached to allow it."

Sodergren contributed to a book released this year that explores the topic in greater depth. "Sexual Identity: The Harmony of Philosophy, Science, and Revelation" is available through Amazon and other outlets.

For more information on Ruah Woods' programs, visit ruahwoodsinstitute.org.



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Logan ministry requests furniture, financial donations

The We Are Friends ministry of Logan St. John Church has helped more than 200 families and individuals in the past two years. In doing so, it has depleted the supply of furniture and household goods it has available to meet people's needs and seeks help in replenishing its stock. It also needs short-term financial aid to pay everyday expenses.

We Are Friends was founded by Deacon Don Robers of St. John Church and several community representatives, including county municipal and common pleas court judges, to help the needy of the Logan region, especially those recovering from drug addiction.

It has provided furniture, bedding and household items and has helped some people with groceries and clothing, funeral expenses and rent and utility payments. Deacon Robers said the recent increases in the cost of nearly everything have re-

sulted in more requests for assistance.

We Are Friends receives new bedframes and mattresses at a deep discount through an online auction but needs other bedroom furniture and bedding; small couches, small chairs or small recliners and end tables and lamps for living areas; bath towels, washcloths and personal hygiene items; small microwaves, small kitchen tables and chairs, dishes, silverware, dish-washing items and kitchen utensils.

The ministry does not accept knick-knacks, picture frames, clothes, yard sale items or heavy furniture.

Its total expenses were a little less than \$10,000 last year. It received \$4,000 grants from The Catholic Foundation and South Central Power Co. The foundation's grant was the last in a three-year grant cycle and will not be available in

2023, while the South Central grant was stipulated for use only in bed and mattress purchases and was \$1,000 less than the ministry spent for those items last year.

A fund for long-term financing that the ministry set up with The Catholic Foundation has increased from a \$5,000 starting amount to about \$35,000 through support from generous donors. "This fund goes on forever," Deacon Robers said. "By donating to this fund, your gift will keep on giving."

To help We Are Friends with its immediate needs, send a check payable to We Are Friends to Deacon Robers at St. John Catholic Church, 351 N. Market St., Logan OH 43138.

To donate to the ministry's Catholic Foundation fund, write a check to The Catholic Foundation, We Are Friends (noting Fund ID #325KJ in the memo section)



Deacon Don Robers (left), loading furniture with the help of his brother, Dan, founded the We Are Friends ministry at Logan St. John Church.

Photo courtesy Logan St. John Church

and mail it to The Catholic Foundation, 257 E. Broad St., Columbus OH 43215.

To give online, go to www.catholic-foundation.org and find the Giving tab, select Existing Funds from the menu and then search for We Are Friends Donor Advised Fund to complete your donation.

Nativity play at Our Lady of Victory



Merry Christmas from ODU



Therefore, the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. — Isaiah 7:14

The Ohio Dominican University family sends you and your loved ones best wishes for a blessed Christmas and a healthy, happy and prosperous New Year!

Central Ohio's Catholic University • Founded by the Dominican Sisters of Peace.

1216 Sunbury Rd. | Columbus, OH 43219 | 614.251.4500 | ohiodominican.edu

lisa@somersettravels.com https://app.nativitypilgrimage.com/trip/?trip=22196'."/>

Bishop Earl Fernandes took part in the Christmas Nativity play at Columbus Our Lady of Victory Church on Dec. 4. He read "Twas the First Christmas Night" to Pre-K lambs. A total of 120 students participated in the play, an annual event at the parish. Third-graders performed in the play and Pre-K through fifth-graders were part of the choirs.

Photos courtesy OLV

LOCAL NEWS AND EVENTS

Man of the Year nominations open

The Catholic Men's Luncheon Club is accepting nominations for its selection of the 2023 Diocese of Columbus Catholic Man of the Year.

The annual award will be presented by Bishop Earl Fernandes on Friday, Feb. 3 at the club's meeting following the 11:45 a.m. Mass at Columbus St. Patrick Church.

The award is presented to a layman who, through his daily actions, words and prayers, exemplifies the "good and faithful servant." The recipient will have the opportunity to share his personal testimony during the ceremony.

Nominations will be accepted through Saturday, Dec. 31. For nomination instructions and the required online nomination form, go to <https://www.catholicmensministry.com/catholic-man-of-the-year>.

Dublin St. Brigid School plans open house

Dublin St. Brigid of Kildare School, 7175 Avery Road, will hold an open house for prospective families from 3 to 5 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 22.

Representatives will be available to answer questions, discuss programs offered to students and lead tours of the school, a three-time National Blue Ribbon Award winner that provides Catholic education from pre-K through eighth grade.

To learn more about the application process and to RSVP for the open house, visit www.stbrigidofkildare.com/apply.

Seminarians installed as acolyte, lector



Sam Severance (above, second from left) and Zach Goodchild (above right) are joined by Father Steven Beseau (left), rector and president of the Pontifical College Josephinum, and Bishop Jeffrey Walsh of Gaylord, Michigan, after the diocesan seminarians were installed as acolyte and lector, respectively, on Thursday, Dec. 8, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, at a Mass in St. Turibius Chapel at the Josephinum. Bishop Walsh (upper right photo) hands Severance a chalice and Goodchild (lower right photo) a book of the Gospels, which are symbols of their ministries of acolyte and lector, once known as minor orders, to which they are being instituted. Acolytes are entrusted with attending to the altar, assisting the deacon and priest at Mass, and distributing Holy Communion during the liturgy and to the sick. Lectors are commissioned to proclaim the Word of God in the liturgical assembly and to instruct children and adults in the faith to prepare them to receive the sacraments. The bishop encourages the men to fulfill the ministry faithfully. Initiation of these ministries are considered pivotal steps toward priesthood. Seminarians are typically instituted as lectors in their first year of theological studies and as acolytes the following year.

Photos courtesy Pontifical College Josephinum



Christ Child Society names board members



The Christ Child Society of Columbus recently elected its 2023 Board of Directors that included (front row from left) Ann Christopher; Vicky Hart; Julie Smerdel, president; Kathy Kohler; Catherine O'Connell; Chris Grindley; (back row from left) Karen Kleinhenz; Barb Groner; Jeannette Oxender and Karen Albertson. Missing were Diane Giffin, Kathy Milligan, Betsy Sidor and Molly Woods. The Christ Child Society is a non-profit organization of volunteers dedicated to serving area children in need.

Photo courtesy Christ Child Society

FROM ALL OF US AT THE CATHOLIC TIMES!

Doug
Emma
and all of our contributors

Nativity of the Lord

DECEMBER 25

Check individual parishes for schedule of Holy Day Mass times

*Merry
Christmas*

St. Mary Catholic Church German Village

Solemn Christmas Eve Mass O Holy Night

Saturday, December 24, 2022 • 9:00 p.m.

Fr. Vince Nguyen, Celebrant

A sacred prelude concert starting at 8:20 p.m.
with St. Mary's Angelic Choir and Orchestra.

Mark Voris, Conductor

Beautifully orchestrated arrangements from
some of the most beloved carols.

Guest soloists: Georgie Beckman, Pat Rice,
Emma Griffin, Anita Berry

Casey Cook and Orlay Alonso
on organ and harpsichord

Come celebrate this Holy and most
Blessed Mass of the Christmas Season with us!

The Eucharist is the source and summit of our faith!



St. Mary

Catholic Church German Village

672 South Third Street
Columbus, Ohio 43206

614-445-9668

