

LOCAL NEWS AND EVENTS

Respect Life, Roe Remembrance events set for Jan. 23

Bishop Earl Fernandes will celebrate the Diocese of Columbus' annual Respect Life Mass on Monday, Jan. 23 at Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral.

The Mass traditionally has been celebrated on Jan. 22, the date in 1973 when the U.S. Supreme Court issued its Roe v. Wade decision legalizing abortion nationwide, but this year that date is on a Sunday.

This past June 24, the same court in its Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health ruling returned decision-making power regarding abortion to each of the states, so the focus of the Mass and the Roe Remembrance event which will follow it will be different this year.

The Mass will be streamed on St. Gabriel Radio (820 AM in central Ohio, 88.3 FM in southern Ohio) and livestreamed on the diocesan YouTube channel.

At 12:05 p.m. on Jan. 22, Greater Columbus Right to Life (GCRTL) will sponsor the annual Roe Remembrance in the Ohio Statehouse Atrium. The program will last approximately one hour. The speaker lineup will be announced closer to the program date. Participants are being asked to bring a package of diapers, wipes or another new item appropriate for an infant. The items will be provided to mothers and families in need.

GCRTL said those who wish to attend the event are being asked for the first time to register in advance by visiting gctrl.org/roe or calling the GCRTL office at (614) 445-8508. Limited onsite registration will be available, but registration in advance will considerably speed up the process.

"It is less convenient to sign up in ad-

vance, but given past experiences, the fact that this is the first Roe Remembrance since the Dobbs decision, the tactics of abortion advocates targeting pro-life people and events, and the profile of some of our speakers, we have been in consultation with the Statehouse and the Ohio State Highway Patrol to make sure that we can maintain this event as a dignified and safe event for all," Greater Columbus Right to Life executive director Beth Vanderkooi said.

"This ensures that if anyone disrupts our event, they can be removed and, if appropriate, prosecuted. We are in a unique moment in American and Ohio history. Abortion advocates have announced their plans to amend Ohio's Constitution to guarantee unlimited abortion in Ohio. We can and will stop it, but we are going to need to show up and be unified like never before."

ODU awarded grant for STEM-related scholarships

The state of Ohio has awarded Ohio Dominican University (ODU) a \$588,000 grant to support students and strengthen the state's workforce development in fields related to STEM (science, technology, engineering, mathematics and medicine).

The five-year Choose Ohio First grant will provide scholarship assistance to ODU students who are studying in its computer science, data science, cyber security, biology, biopsychology, chemistry, environmental science and exercise science programs.

ODU is one of 45 colleges and universities across the state that will collectively receive more than \$28 million in the next five years to support approximately 3,400 students. During the past four years, Ohio has committed more than \$161 million to STEM and STEM education scholarships.

FOCUS to celebrate anniversary live, online

FOCUS (the Fellowship of Catholic University Students) will kick off its 25th anniversary celebration at SEEK23: You Are Called, an event expected to attract more than 15,000 people – half of them college students – to the America's Center Convention Complex in St. Louis from Monday to Friday, Jan. 2 to 6. Among those in attendance will be Columbus Bishop Earl Fernandes.

Those unable to attend in person will be able to view the conference online. More information on the conference's livestream program is available at <https://seek.focus.org/join-us/registration-information/where-you-are>.

Ben Rector, an Emmy-nominated singer-songwriter and instrumentalist, will be the conference's featured entertainer. Keynote speakers include Cardinal Timothy Dolan, archbishop of New York; Father Mike Schmitz, host of the Bible in a Year podcast; and FOCUS founders Curtis Martin and Dr. Edward Sri.

Distance university to offer life issues course

Catholic Distance University (CDU) is

offering a weekly course on Respect for Life, Sex and Parenting: An Integrated Catholic Approach, from Monday, Jan. 30 to Sunday, Feb. 26.

The one-credit graduate course will be taught by Helen Alvare, associate dean for academic affairs at the Antonin Scalia Law School of George Mason University in Arlington, Virginia.

The course will explore the Catholic Church's teachings on sex, marriage and parenting as part of Catholic social justice so that students can communicate these more effectively in ways responsive to contemporary culture's values, skepticism and sometimes hostility.

Students will learn to explain the faith and reason informing the Church's teachings on sex, marriage and parenting; to discuss the relationship between Catholic sex, marriage and parenting teachings and the "architecture of the faith," specifically God's identity, how He loves us, and how He wants us to love Him and one another; to describe the unity of Catholic teachings about sex, marriage, parenting and social justice; and to articulate and effectively respond to contemporary secular objections to Catholic teachings on sexual expression.

Enrollment is underway for this course and others offered by CDU in the Winter I and II terms. CDU offers 100 percent online programs in Catholic theology at the graduate and undergraduate levels and an associate degree in Liberal Arts. Learn more at cdu.edu or by contacting admissions@cdu.edu or calling (888) 254-4CDU.



DIocese of
COLUMBUS

Diocese announces clergy assignments

The following clergy appointments become effective on the dates listed for each assignment:

Confirming the appointment of the Superior Delegate of the Society of the Catholic Apostolate (Pallottines), **Reverend Wieslaw Gaska, S.A.C.**, from service outside the diocese, to Parochial

Vicar, St. Christopher Church, Columbus, effective January 1, 2023

Reverend Michael Gentry, from Pastor, Holy Cross Church, to Parochial Vicar, St. Francis de Sales Church, Newark, effective January 18, 2023.

Reverend Michael Hinterschied, from Pastor, St. Patrick Church, London,

to sabbatical leave, effective January 2, 2023.

Reverend Robert Kitsmiller, to Administrator, Holy Cross Church, Columbus, continuing as Rector, St. Joseph Cathedral and Judicial Vicar, Diocese of Columbus, effective January 18, 2023.

Reverend Patrick Toner, from retire-

ment, to Administrator Pro Tern, St. Patrick Church, London, effective January 2, 2023.

Reverend Nicola Ventura, from Pastor, St. Cecilia Church, Columbus, to studies outside the Diocese, effective July 11, 2023.



Front Page photo:

Year in Review 2022

A compilation of photos from 2022 tell the story of a busy year in the diocese headlined by the installation and ordination of Bishop Earl Fernandes on May 31.

CT photos by Ken Snow

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Perpetual Adoration benefits parish life in Portsmouth area

When the COVID-19 pandemic hit in March 2020, and Catholic bishops throughout the world closed churches for more than two months, one of the casualties of the shutdown was Eucharistic Adoration.

Because of widespread fear that people coming in close contact could exacerbate the spread of the virus, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament was slow to return to many parishes after public Masses were reinstated the last week of May 2020.

Since then, the devotion has picked back up again at parishes in the diocese, and at least two now have made the commitment to perpetual Adoration, which involves adorers coming to spend time with Christ 24 hours, seven days a week (with exceptions) in dedicated Eucharistic chapels and in churches when Mass is not taking place.

One of those is Gahanna St. Matthew in a chapel located in the lower level of the church. The other is in Portsmouth, where a Eucharistic revival is emerging.

On Dec. 13, the four parishes in the area that make up the Scioto Catholic consortium celebrated one year of perpetual Adoration at St. Mary Church. The other parishes in the grouping are Portsmouth Holy Redeemer, West Portsmouth Holy Trinity and Wheelersburg St. Peter in Chains.

“Ever since then, the Lord has provided every hour, night and day, people praying and adoring,” said Father Brian Beal, who has served as pastor of the consortium of four churches since July 2021.

Filling all those hours each day and night of the week are 232 faithful adorers and the three sisters from the Leaven of the Immaculate Heart of Mary (LIHM), who came to Portsmouth in 2021 at the invitation of former Diocese of Columbus Bishop Robert Brennan to serve the parishes and schools. The sisters fill the 3-6 a.m. time slots daily.

Not only are adorers coming to St. Mary on a daily basis, but students are also participating at their schools. Adoration is offered on Mondays for grades K-6 at Holy Redeemer and from 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Mondays in the chapel at Portsmouth Notre Dame High School.

“The students have their own personal journals that they bring to Adoration,” Father Beal said, “and the parents, teachers and myself have been so impressed with their personal relationship with Jesus and the Eucharist – how they express themselves about how they love Him, how they depend on Him, how they are following Him, and in their own words just journaling heart to heart with Our Lord.”

The idea to bring Adoration on a regular basis to the parishes and schools began to take shape in November 2021 with a four-week promotional period to



introduce the devotion.

Father Beal mentioned that Columbus Immaculate Conception Church, where perpetual Adoration began in 2002 and continued until the pandemic in 2020, served as an inspiration.

“The men at Immaculate Conception, 17 of them together with Msgr. (Anthony) Missimi and other parish leaders, started the devotion there, and that has always stayed with me that this is the best thing a parish could do on earth is to do what is done in heaven – to adore Our Lord perpetually.”

As the four-week test run proceeded in Portsmouth, “we were so edified by 230 people committing to a weekly holy hour,” Father Beal said.

The impact of spending quiet time before the Lord in prayer and contemplation has made a profound impact on the parishes and their parishioners, he said.

One of them, Absalom Hall, is discerning a vocation to the priesthood and hopes to enter the seminary for the Diocese of Columbus next year.

“People have said words like ‘life-changing’ and ‘transformative,’ ‘the best hour of their week,’” he said.

Some of the adorers have requested to go before the congregation prior to the final blessing at Mass to testify to what some have called an hour of power before the Lord. Their witness has led to about 20 newcomers to Adoration in the past year.

“They’ve spoken about how Adoration has changed their life and how they would highly recommend everyone to make a weekly holy hour,” Father Beal said.

“They’ve personally brought even non-Catholics and people just curious with them to a holy hour. And those people have experienced the profound sense of peace of being with the Lord.”

Adoration has also brought more people of all ages to confession on a regular basis.

“A marked increase,” Father Beal said. “Good catechesis in the classroom, the journaling in the presence of the Lord. It’s just been phenomenal growth. I just came from almost an hour of hearing confessions after Mass at school, and one kid after another making a good, heartfelt confession to Our Lord.”

Father Beal has seen the fruits of Adoration manifested not only in personal devotion but in service to the church.

“It has affected the daily life and daily prayer life and Mass-going life of the people in their active and conscious participation at Mass,” he said. “We have more lectors, more people serving in the Knights of Columbus.”

“The whole life of the parish has gotten stronger.”

Parishioners and adorers have become more involved outside the parish as well.

It’s no secret that southern Ohio has experienced economic difficulties for the past few decades, and many individuals who need assistance come to the diocese’s St. Francis Evangelization Center in McArthur that provides food and clothing.

“We’ve seen more adorers volunteer at our local St. Francis Center (Portsmouth),” he said. “They’re inspired to serve the homeless and help with bagging groceries and the distribution of clothing.”

“Our Knights of Columbus group has wanted to serve, and many of them personally have said to me, ‘Father, let me know how I can become more active in the parish and how I can help more.’ And it has also led to more sacrificial giving.”

For some who come to spend intimate

(Clockwise from top left) A member of the Leaven of the Immaculate Heart of Mary sisters adores Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament and leads the schoolchildren in Portsmouth in adoration.

Photos courtesy Scioto Catholic

time with the Lord, a 30-minute drive is not uncommon to St. Mary, which is one of the few locations in southern Ohio with regular Adoration.

“I’ve heard brother priests express how they feel a stirring to increase Adoration,” Father Beal said, “and so we’re very excited to see more and more chapels filled with adorers.”

Portsmouth’s Adoration initiative dovetails with the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ National Eucharistic Revival, which launched in June and culminates in July 2024 with a National Eucharistic Congress in Indianapolis.

The stated intention of the revival is to restore love and devotion for the Eucharistic Heart of Jesus in a day and age when surveys indicate only one-third of professed Catholics believe that Christ is truly present – body, blood, soul and divinity – in the consecrated bread and wine.

“(Pope) Benedict XVI said it perfectly, that our communal worship at Mass must go together with our personal worship of Jesus in the Eucharist in order for our love to be complete,” Father Beal said. “And so, this is everything that the Holy Father has expressed in that quote – that we reverently experience Mass, and we want to continue that reverence on earth as it is in heaven 24/7.”

“And then that leads to a deeper belief in the Real Presence, increased Mass attendance, more personal prayer and a greater life for the whole of the parish.”

Young sisters create books on African American history

By Elizabeth Pardi

Three young sisters whose family members are parishioners at Columbus St. Dominic Church have published an educational children's book series, *Zakira Presents!*, that aims to teach young people about African American culture in a fun, interactive way.

The sisters – Zahara, Zakiya and Zalika Obayuwana, who are in the third, fifth and seventh grade, respectively – attend Columbus Public Schools, where they had trouble finding information about their African American heritage.

Prior to COVID, their mother, Bertha Obayuwana, would visit their classrooms to teach the students about Kwanzaa, an annual weeklong celebration of African American culture.

"This gave new knowledge to their classmates who didn't know about Kwanzaa," Bertha said. "Perhaps, even more importantly, the girls were able to connect with other classmates who also celebrated Kwanzaa, and with that came a sense of empowerment – to be seen, to be understood and to be celebrated."

When the pandemic hit, however, Bertha no longer could visit the classrooms to spread this knowledge. She said that, during that time, "the girls and I were talking, ... and we thought,

'Wouldn't it be great if there was a book that kids could use to learn about what we'd share in the class?'"

From there, *Zakira Presents!* was born. Zakira, the main character's name, is a combination of Zahara, Zakiya and Zalika.

According to a fellow St. Dominic parishioner, Zakira "is much like the sisters themselves – curious and eager to share what she learns." In each book, Zakira tells the true stories of individuals and events that have made African American history.

Topics include Juneteenth and Ramadan. Each book contains discussion questions as well as relevant activities for readers, such as puzzles, developed by the Obayuwana sisters. Nine-year-old Zahara, the youngest of the three, said she hopes *Zakira Presents!* will eventually be made into a cartoon.

The motto for *Zakira Presents!* is, "The more you understand each other, the better friend you can be to one another," which is also a line from one of the books.

The goal of the series is to educate children about African American culture and deepen a sense of community among people of different heritages. As one reviewer on their website, zakira-presents.com, wrote, "This book is in-

spiring in spreading an understanding of culture to masses of young and old who love learning about tradition and culture."

Over the summer, Zahara, Zakiya and Zalika went on a book tour that included a Juneteenth celebration at their parish as well as a trip to Washington, D.C., to present their series at a bookstore.

"When we go to 'meet the author' events and meet other kids, we tell them ... they have a gift that they don't have to wait to be adults to share with the world!" Zahara said. "They can do it now!"

When asked how they acquire the information for their books, 11-year-old Zakiya said they all do the research and then make the facts easy for kids to understand.

"For example, in *Zakira Presents Black History*, we each took on different people to find cool and not-so-popular facts about them," she said. "Then we came back together and made everything make sense for kids."

Bertha said the process of her daughters creating *Zakira Presents!* has been "a walk with God." She believes they are sharing with the world the talents they've been blessed with, which has strengthened their faith.

"They are young, and I think as they grow older, this (strengthening) will become even more apparent to them."



Aside from writing and promoting their books, the sisters are active in their schools and community, with Zakiya being a violinist with the Urban Strings Columbus youth orchestra and 13-year-old Zalika holding the title of inaugural spelling bee champion at her World Language Middle School.

Zakira Presents! books can be purchased through the website zakira-presents.com.

St. Matthew students inspire several fundraisers

Students of Gahanna St. Matthew School recently conducted three events that raised more than \$4,000 for people recovering from Hurricane Ian in southwest Florida.

About \$3,000 came from a dress-down day in which students were permitted to wear clothing other than the standard school uniform in return for a contribution. About \$200 was raised from a sale of student crafts such as key chains and potholders, and about \$800 came from a bake sale. Principal John Rathburn said that was the largest amount ever raised by a bake sale at the school.

He said those events are among several fundraising activities conducted at the school as a result of student suggestions in his 3 1/2 years as its principal.

"I'm privileged to be working with students and parents of an incredibly giving nature. I have an open-door policy encouraging students to talk to me about anything that's on their minds. All the fundraisers we've had since I became principal are a result of student suggestions," he said.

"One of our fourth-grade students has a great-grandmother who is a member of St. Columbkille Catholic Church in Fort Myers, Florida, which had part of its roof torn off by the hurricane, letting

water in and causing a lot of damage to the sanctuary, chapel and entrance area of the church," Rathburn said. "This student asked us to help, and we came up with the idea of a dress-down day.

"About a half-dozen fifth-grade girls had planned a bake sale for Nationwide Children's Hospital and decided to have it for the benefit of the hurricane victims instead. Two sixth-graders who do crafts said they wanted to help as well.

"One of the great things about our school is that students of all ages, not just the older ones, feel free to come up with these ideas to help people, which go to a committee of parents and school staff for consideration."

Between Thanksgiving and Christmas, the school collected 380 new toys, gift cards, new clothes and a carload of gently used items for the Home for Families, located in Columbus' Franklinton neighborhood near the former Holy Family School and across the street from Holy Family Church.

"The home is for homeless families and families who are in transition, such as those who have recently arrived here and are looking for affordable housing," said assistant principal Regann Nowalk.

"The idea for helping them came from one of our parents who came here from



Gahanna St. Matthew students participated in fundraisers for hurricane relief in Florida.

Photos courtesy St. Matthew School



South America and feels so incredibly blessed by being able to be in the United States and prosper that she wants to help others."

Rathburn, a St. Matthew parishioner for 22 years, has been principal at the parish school, which has about 580 students in preschool through eighth grade, since just before the COVID pandemic closed all Ohio schools in spring 2020.

He previously had been a principal for 32 years at Galloway Westland, Gahanna Lincoln and Columbus Hamilton Township high schools and Johnstown Northridge Middle School. "My sons graduated from St. Matthew and Columbus Bishop Hartley High schools, and it always was a dream of mine to be principal here," he said.

Nowalk is a St. Matthew School graduate and is in her 18th year on the school staff, but her first as assistant principal. She previously taught physical education and sixth- and seventh-grade math and science.

Rathburn said the school's first student-initiated fundraiser after he became principal provided toys and blankets for Ronald McDonald House near Nationwide Children's Hospital. A food drive in May for the GRIN (Gahanna Residents in Need) organization collected 500 to 600 cans, which Rathburn delivered after the school year ended.

The school's outreach to the community also includes making sandwiches and gathering donations for the parish

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Christmas isn't over

By Father Ed Dougherty, M.M.,
The Christophers

January opens with the Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God, which serves as a joyous reminder that the Christmas season is still upon us. Celebrating Mary's role in saying "yes" to God and the Incarnation of Christ is a wonderful way to keep the spirit of the season alive within our hearts. And what a relief it is to realize that we can and should still celebrate the Christmas season because the time we spend in preparation for that special day and the activities surrounding it can be so hectic.

Of course, our preparation and celebration of Christmas is intended to leave us with something that lasts throughout the year. It is a time to awaken our appreciation for God's gift of His Son for the salvation of all humanity, and it is fitting that we pull out the stops on Christmas Day to allow the reality of that miracle to open our hearts to be transformed by God's love for us.

But our Christmas celebration should continue beyond even Jan. 1 for a much simpler reason. Our celebration should

extend throughout the entirety of the Christmas season, a period that lasts until Epiphany Sunday, held this year on Jan. 8.

The most enduring way to keep Christmas alive within our hearts throughout the season is to attend Mass as often as possible. The Solemnity of Mary concludes the period of eight feast days known as an Octave that began with the Nativity of Our Lord, and this first week of January continues with great Christmas season feast days, with one of the highlights being the Feast of the Most Holy Name of Jesus on Jan. 3.

The Christmas season culminates with Epiphany Sunday on Jan. 8, when we honor the recognition of Christ's Divinity by the Wise Men who travelled from afar to reverence the Baby Jesus in Bethlehem. It is the perfect capstone to this festive time when we gather with family and community to heighten our own and everyone else's awareness of the importance of Christ's birth and His presence in our midst today.

So, if the whirlwind of preparing for Christmas Day has left you feeling like the whole thing has come and gone without giving you the chance to appreciate it, take heart in the fact that our celebration is ongoing. When considering the extended nature of this celebration, you might realize there's a time and place for virtually everything. We have the hustle and bustle surrounding Christmas Day, the food and fun and time we share together, and the gift giving to show our appreciation for one another.

But as we approach Epiphany Sunday, when the realization of the meaning of Christ's birth becomes clear, perhaps we might take some time to appreciate the season in a different way. Perhaps we might slow things down, do a bit more prayer and contemplation, take time with friends and family in quieter ways, ways that enable us to truly understand each other's hopes and dreams and even fears and struggles as we embark upon this New Year together.

When we do these things, we will find ourselves growing in

appreciation for the way Christ is present in each and every one of us, and we will allow that presence to flourish within our midst. In this way, we open our hearts to all the Christmas season has to offer so that we can be transformed throughout the year by the coming of Christ into our lives.

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Sarah Hart is one of the leading figures in contemporary Catholic music today, her songs of faith having touched the lives of thousands. Originally from Lancaster, Ohio, she holds a degree in music from The Ohio State University. Now based in Nashville, Tennessee, she spends much of her time on the road — juggling a busy songwriting, recording, concert and event schedule. She is also an avid writer, having published multiple retreat books, along with a musical based on the life of Saint Bernadette.

She currently lives in Nashville with her husband and two daughters.



The things we do for love ... and finding Jesus there

As I write this, Christmas is a few days away. As you're reading this, we will be celebrating fully as a Church the Christmas season.

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.



As I sit by my Christmas tree whose branches hang a little lower than they did at the onset of Advent, instead of the carol Silent Night, for some reason the melody of a '70s pop song keeps playing in my head: "The things we do for love."

I have learned that the oddest things can draw me to Christ, so I'm following this rabbit hole. These words resonate with me as I am in the throes of wrapping endless presents, making sure all eight children have somewhat of an equal amount bestowed upon them, checking my list and helping others shop as well.

I'm readying the house for the older ones who will be coming home for Christmas. There is food to prepare, school to finish, traditions to uphold and everyone's emotions to balance. And, last but not least, making the birth of Christ manifest in our hearts – preparing the way. The things we do for love.

If you are like me, you can feel the imbalance at times, the recognition that the focus has become too much on the what and not enough on the Who. Our Lord is gentle as He guides us back to the stable where we sit and adore the Lord.

Stay with me here. I think I'm on a roll, for I can think of lots of Christmas symbols that follow this lyrical theme. Take this Christmas tree that illuminates my living room. It once stood proudly in a forest amid other beautiful trees for many years.

Not that it chose this life as it has no free will, but its life was (literally) cut short so that our family could hang ornaments and draw closer to the festive season through this tradition. In my very simplistic way, I say "thank you" to this tree for its gift of love for my family.

The 10 stockings hung remind me of

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The German crisis, the world Church and Pope Francis

The Year of Our Lord 2023 will likely witness Catholic dramas we cannot predict now; that is the way of Providence. What we can know with certainty about next year is that the German crisis in the world Church will come to a head, because what's happening in Germany will collide with the first session of the Synod on Synodality for a Synodal Church in October 2023. And the resolution of the German crisis will be, if not wholly determinative, then hugely consequential, in defining the legacy of Pope Francis.

So what is happening in Germany, along its national "Synodal Path"?

Many things are happening: a weaponization of the crime and sin of sexual abuse in order to reinvent Catholicism; the rejection of settled Catholic understandings of human love and its expression; an unconditional surrender to gender ideology and its deconstruction of the biblical concept of the human person; a revolution in ecclesiology that, in the name of lay empowerment, empties the offices of bishop and priest of their full sacramental character; the gradual reduction of the Church to a wealthy NGO, doing good works defined by the politically correct consensus of the moment.

Beneath all this — and here we come to the bottom of the bottom line — is a rejection of the Second Vatican Council's solemn teaching on divine revelation. And as Vatican II's Dogmatic Constitution on Divine Revelation, known by its Latin title *Dei Verbum* (The Word of God), was the Council's fundamental achievement, to reject the teaching of *Dei Verbum* is to reject Vatican II. The German "Synodal Path" is not a development of the Council. It is a rejection of the Council.

THE CATHOLIC DIFFERENCE

George Weigel

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



Dei Verbum robustly affirmed the reality of divine revelation and its binding authority over time. Drawing on more than a century of biblical and theological reflection on salvation history, Vatican II insisted, against the grain of modern high culture, that Christianity is not a pious myth or a collection of inspiring legends. Christianity is an encounter with the incarnate Son of God, the second Person of the Holy Trinity, who brings to fulfillment the self-revelation of who God is, and what God intends for humanity, which began when God spoke to the Jewish people through Abraham, Moses and the Prophets.

Dei Verbum also taught that God's revelation to humanity was completed in Jesus Christ. Catholics continually plumb the depths of that revelation and its meaning over time, and so our Christian understanding grows. But revelation judges every historical moment; revelation is not judged by the "signs of the times."

Or to put the matter as simply as possible: God knows better than we do about what makes for human happiness, flourishing, and, eventually, beatitude. The "signs of the times" may help us better grasp what God has said in Scripture and Tradition. But if the "signs of the times" (for example, gender ideology) contradict what God has revealed about our nature and destiny, the "signs of the times" are awry, not the word of God.

The documents of the German Synodal Path, often couched in a mind-numbing sociologese overlaid with a thin veneer of religious language, essentially deny all of this.

In these texts, the "signs of the times" are the driver of the Church's self-understanding, such that there are no stable reference points for knowing whether an alleged development of doctrine is a genuine development or a fraud. Nor does divine revelation give us any firm grasp of who we are and of what makes for righteous living: "self-determination" trumps the truths inscribed by God in human nature and relationships, "gender is...to be seen multidimensionally," and to suggest otherwise "leads to human rights violations."

German Catholicism is often said to be in a de facto schism. That is an inadequate description of the German crisis. The German Catholicism manifest in the documents of the Synodal Path is in apostasy. The German Synodal Path does not accept the "faith which was once for all delivered to the saints" (Jude 1:3). Rather, one of its "foundational" texts affirmed earlier this year that "in the Church, too, legitimate views and ways of life can compete with one another, even in terms of core beliefs."

Thus does Catholic Lite lead inexorably to Catholic Zero.

Pope Francis bears a heavy burden in seeking a resolution of the German crisis that is true to the reality and binding authority of divine revelation. If such a resolution is not achieved, however, it will raise the gravest doubts about the entire project of "synodality" central to his pontificate.

Did I make the right choices as dad was dying?

Sometimes people will contact the National Catholic Bioethics Center (NCBC) wondering if the decisions they made on behalf of a dying family member were the right ones. The NCBC provides a free Ethics Consultation Service where individuals can ask questions and seek guidance about ethics and medical decisions.

Some who call are interested in reviewing the details of how a loved one died, along with the advice they were given by doctors, nurses, hospice workers, family members and friends. While their loved one may have died months or even years earlier, they may still be unsure or unsettled about the treatment decisions they made.

End of life situations are not easy to sort out. Important practical details and medical facts may no longer be available or may have been forgotten with the passage of time. Sometimes family members may have disagreed with each other or were feuding about how best to proceed, or may not have wanted to seek out expert advice or guidance, so the decisions they made might have been hasty or under duress.

A friend once spoke to me about a young man who had shared with her some details about his father's death. He told her that as he looked back on it, he had doubts that he had made the right decisions as his dad became more debilitated. He felt he had failed his dad because of the limited kinds of care he ended up authorizing on his behalf. My friend sought to reassure him that he really shouldn't be troubled about it, because she couldn't imagine that he would have done anything but his best under the circumstances, and so his dad likely had received very good care.

When she recounted the story to me, I asked, "But how would you actually know that his dad received

MAKING SENSE OUT OF BIOETHICS | Father Tad Pacholczyk

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



good care and that the son really did make the right choices? Objectively speaking, the son may be right that some of the decisions were poorly made or selfish or otherwise flawed." I asked her whether her first instinct may have been to try to soothe his feelings and emotions, rather than considering the specific medical and ethical concerns he was raising.

I continued and offered: Maybe he really does need to discuss the facts of the case as best he remembers them. Perhaps he might benefit from bringing some of his concerns to the Sacrament of Confession. Assuming his concerns have some basis, even while acknowledging the uncertainties in his own decision making, such a step would help him find needed healing. By turning to the infinite mercy of God, and "clearing the decks" with the Lord in this manner, he would be strengthened to move forward in a new way without continually having to look over his shoulder and wonder endlessly about whether he did right by his dad. Finding a sense of peace and resolution in this way is important, and his father, now long deceased, would, we could presume, want to see that kind of healing for his son as well.

My friend was intrigued by my comments and ac-

knowledged that her first inclination had been to try to palliate and calm the situation by mostly talking around the issues and concerns he had raised. On further reflection, she could see the value of dealing more directly with those concerns so he could find a real measure of closure.

Dying well, of course, is a profound grace, not only for the person who passes on, but for all who are left behind. To die well does not imply that we have to use every medical treatment that may be available. We are required only to use those medical treatments or procedures that are deemed reasonable or "ordinary." In other words, we should avail ourselves of those treatments that offer us more benefits than burdens.

It can be challenging to find useful and reliable sources of information to assist us as we try to make informed decisions about complex health care situations that may arise as death approaches.

I typically recommend these resources from the NCBC: (1) some of my writings on *End of Life Decision-Making* available at Tiny.one/EOL-decisions, (2) a newly-released video entitled *The Gift of Dying Well*, available at Vimeo.com/bioethicsvideos, and (3) the NCBC's *Catholic Guide to End-of-Life Decisions* available at Tiny.one/NCBC-Guide.

Our efforts to lovingly support family members through the dying process and to make careful and morally correct decisions on their behalf as they decline in health are very important. Those committed efforts are signs of our desire to be faithful to the beautiful bonds of love connecting us to our dear ones and to the Lord of life. Therefore, we should never be afraid to seek counsel and to avail ourselves of the Church's wisdom in these areas.

Five formidable benefits of consistent exercise

By Lori Crock

Your body is simply amazing, just as it is, since the day you were born.

Imagine if you challenged your body with moderate physical activity on a consistent basis, starting right now, so that you learn to move, strengthen and lift in new ways that help you to feel, move better and transform your outlook on life.

According to the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, only about 20% of us get the recommended amount of exercise each week, so the new year might be the perfect time to start moving.

How can exercise transform your daily life? Exercise impacts your relationships, your work, your play, your overall health and prepares you to make an impact on others.

With the new year, people are thinking about exercise in relation to losing weight, but that is only one potential benefit, so I challenge you to look more deeply into the truly transformational

role consistent exercise can play in your daily life:

- Experience the thrill of learning something new. It is exciting to learn a new skill and engage the brain and the body in thought-provoking activity. We know that exercise promotes neurogenesis – the brain's ability to adapt and grow new brain cells – at any age. Humans are meant to learn and thrive at all stages of life, and exercise gives you a daily dose of this.

- Be the most energetic person you know. What you eat plays a role in your energy level but so does the number of mitochondria you have. Mitochondria are often referred to as the powerhouse of the cell. Mitochondria transform energy from food and turn it into cellular energy. Exercise increases the number of mitochondria in your body, therefore improving the body's ability to produce energy. This helps you exercise with a higher energy output (i.e., faster and longer), and the result is you feel great. Side note: Train moderately with light,

medium and heavy training days with joint mobility work, but more important, train consistently (two-three-four-five days a week, and listen to your body). Learn the amount you need, and you will train well into your elder years.

- Feel calm and peaceful with more mental clarity. Exercise normalizes insulin resistance and boosts the natural “feel good” hormones and neurotransmitters associated with mood control, including endorphins, serotonin, dopamine, glutamate and more. The feeling of calm after exercise is real. With regular exercise, changes in the heart occur, including potentially a decreased heart rate that can help you feel calmer. There are positive changes in the circulatory system. Many physiological and neuromuscular changes occur in the body during exercise that contribute to your overall sense of feeling good and feeling well.

- Tune in to your true appetite. It is widely accepted that exercise, along with eating to match activity level, can help individuals achieve optimal body

weight. Exercise directly impacts appetite along with the individual's resting metabolic rate, gastric adjustment to ingested food, changes in episodic peptides (such as insulin) as well as the amount of tonic peptides, such as leptin. So, starting a new exercise program does not necessarily mean you will eat more; you might feel like eating less (and hydrating more), eating healthfully or begin craving specific foods that your body needs for muscle repair.

- Enjoy increased creativity, productivity, optimism, joy and confidence. When the body feels peaceful, strong, conditioned and purposeful, there is the potential for increased joy and confidence in daily life. Isn't that what we want most? Research shows that exercise can enhance cognitive abilities related to creativity, productivity and optimism.

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

For spiritual fitness, do frequent prayer, communion 'reps'



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By Father James Walter

Every year is a gift from God. He made us, and He sustains us. Each day we owe God our attention and our gratitude. That's saying and presuming a lot in a few words.

The spiritual journey of your lifetime is lived out in the steps you take each day. A huge step is morning prayer. Prayer is lifting up the mind and heart to God.

When the disciples of Jesus asked Him to

teach them how to pray, He said, “When you pray, say Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. ...”

What a meaningful expression of faith this is. Take your time when you say it. Allow a phrase to stand out. How wonderful it is to have a heavenly Father. He wills good for everyone. We should seek out His divine will as our daily game plan.

As a night prayer, the Our Father can calm our fears, bring forth our gratitude and enable us to help others across the globe. And what better ending to the day than to ponder how He has given us our “daily bread” and “forgiven our trespasses” and “delivered us from evil.”

When we remain in right relationship with our heavenly Father, we then know ourselves more clearly. After all, God gave us our identity as a unique, unrepeatable human being. Each of us is a son or a daughter. Many are parents who have the dignity of being called “moth-

er” or “dad.” The Our Father teaches us right relationships.

Jesus is the God-man, Eternal Son of the heavenly Father, born into our world to save us from sin and lead us to heavenly glory. Pope Benedict XVI frequently encouraged believers “to look into the face of Jesus.” Receive His glance. Know His love. Accept His mercy.

With St. Thomas, the doubting Apostle, we should often say to Jesus, “My Lord and my God.” We are reminded of this at every Mass, immediately before Holy Communion when the priest proclaims, “Behold the Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world.” Behold Him.

And we respond, “Lord, I am not worthy that You should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.”

This is a true relationship with God. It's humbling, and it's real.

In the New Year 2023, may your spiritual fitness begin with a “faith break” morning, noon and night. Your sacred “bread break” is at every Mass.

Be grateful for these moments. Gratitude will keep you humble. And humility will enable you to accept that God loves you and will keep you.

Father James Walter, who celebrated the 60th anniversary of his ordination this year, is a retired priest in residence at Lancaster St. Mark Church.



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Missions donations benefit those who give, receive

By Sister Zephрина Mary, FIH
Director, Diocesan Missions Office

The Church is a missionary by her nature. Through faith and baptism, each of Christ's followers is incorporated as a living member in the Church and has an active part in her mission of salvation.

In 2022, the faithful in the Diocese of Columbus contributed \$50,605.37 to the Society for the Propagation of the Faith (SPOF) membership drive. On behalf of Bishop Earl Fernandes, I thank you for your generosity. Donors and their intentions remain in the prayers of missionaries.

Membership renewal for the SPOF takes place Jan. 14-15. In addition, consider including the society in your will or trust. Your legacy will live on, and your life will touch the world for many generations.

The Universal Solidarity Fund has its roots in the behavior of the first Christian community mentioned in the Acts of the Apostles: "The community of believers was of one heart and mind, and no one claimed that any of his posses-

sions was his own, but they had everything in common. In fact, there was no needy person among them, for those who owned property or houses would sell them, bring the proceeds of the sale, and put them at the feet of the apostles, and they were distributed to each according to need." (Acts 4: 32, 34-35)

The first Christians gave birth to specific forms of commitment both for the poor and for the mission. The community in Jerusalem had endowed itself with both a charitable structure, which hinged first on the 12 Apostles and later on the deacons, and a solidarity fund, the result of free offers and free contributions from the sale of property.

These collections were initiated by St. Paul and were carried out with a charitable purpose.

The SPOF belongs personally and by appointment to the Holy Father. We want the world to know the joys of the faith. We are mission-minded when we give to the SPOF, and we share our joy with the poor. We can share what we have with those who have no eyes, no shoes and not enough food. God will reward us for every sacrifice. The Heaven-

ly Father who sees in secret will reward us in secret.

We can exchange our possessions in this life for the possessions to be enjoyed in the next. Our Lord said: "In the world you will only find tribulation; But take courage, I have overcome the World." (John 16:33)

The missions grow in the shade of the cross. The Vicar of Christ and his Society for the Propagation of the Faith have no money set aside for investment; the needs of the poor so exceed the revenue that all alms are given to them immediately.

We are instruments of Christ. We must not turn away from the needy; rather, we can touch them with compassion by our love. What a beautiful chance there is for a sacrifice to help the sick and poor by contributing to the SPOF. We can give up one movie, one dance, a package of cigarettes, one vacation, one party and send the sacrifice to the Holy Father through this organization.

Our Lord has willed in us that His infallible truth, His heavenly life and His divine authority be poured out to

all souls through His Church. We read this in the Bible: "It is through Him we have received the grace of apostleship; all over the world men must be taught to honor His Name by paying Him the homage of faith." (St. Paul to the Romans 1:5)

Members of the SPOF (living or deceased) receive the graces of 15,000 Masses offered each day by missionaries. Likewise, Mass is offered daily at St. Peter's Basilica in Rome for society members.

To join or renew your membership, enclose your donation in the "Membership Sunday" envelope for the missions, which is included in your parish's January packet of collection envelopes.

In response to Christ's call to "go and teach all nations," the SPOF supports the pastoral and evangelization programs of missions throughout the world. In many mission locations, funds from the SPOF memberships are a substantial means of support.

Many missionary priests rely on this donation, and your generosity will be a spiritual benefit to your loved ones and a financial gift to the missions.

Bishop encourages Society membership

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ, Through the Society of the Propagation of the Faith, we partake in the Church's mission of bringing the message of God's Kingdom of love, mercy, justice and truth to our world. The Holy Father has called us to be a missionary Church that goes forth to share the joy of the Gospel.

The weekend of January 14-15, the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, will be the occasion of the membership drive for the Society of the Propagation of the Faith. Membership in this Pontifical Mission Society involves making a special commitment to the mission of the Church to "all peoples and nations" by pledging daily prayer and financial help to the Society.

Mission dioceses worldwide, priests, religious brothers and sisters, and lay catechists rely on these prayers and

the financial assistance of the Society's members. Here in the Diocese of Columbus we are richly blessed with many missionary priests and religious who serve in parishes, schools, and health-care apostolates.

Missionaries count on your support as they help young people search for the meaning of life and to discover their vocations. They are the ones who support and comfort refugees, migrants, and displaced persons – both spiritually and materially. The Church relies on missionaries to minister to the sick and dying, to relieve human suffering, to teach and form children, and to prepare adults for baptism. Missionaries bring God's Presence to the abandoned, the marginalized, and the neglected – to the least of our brothers and sisters.

I am a priest and a bishop, because missionaries said Yes to God and gener-

ously journeyed around the world to bring the Gospel to India. Now, I invite you, as a response to God's goodness, to get involved – to respond as generously as you are able.

Grateful for your continued generosity and support in the fulfillment of the commandment to make disciples of all nations, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Earl K. Fernandes, Bishop of Columbus.



JESUS, continued from Page 6

the sacrifice of St. Nicholas and how he saw a need and filled it selflessly and lovingly. May I always choose to do the same.

The wind and chill outside, though not tangible symbols, draw me back into my St. Andrew novena. Hail and blessed be the hour and moment in which the son of man was born ... at midnight in Bethlehem in piercing cold. The things we do for love.

Thank you, dear Mama Mary, for your "yes," for your sacrifice in bringing baby Jesus into this world. And, of course, the creche nestled under my tree. The very manger and stable, so humble and yet everything all of humanity needed to witness, beckoning us to leave everything and travel like the shepherds, like the Magi, and worship the Lord.

While we are still celebrating Christmas with presents and family and

friends gathering together, I think it helpful to look upon each person's gifts and see what they are doing for love: Grandma's baking, a secret colored picture from a student or daughter, our priests and deacons at full speed from sunup to sundown. The things they do for love.

For what is love? Love is willing the good for the other with no gain for yourself. It is a selfless gesture made count-

less times throughout our days by us and for us. But where there is love, there is God because He is love.

So perhaps within the messy and beautiful celebratory season we are sharing as a Church, we take time to look for Jesus made manifest through these little and big acts of love.

2022 in review: New bishop, pro-life victory are highlights

By Tim Puet

For The Catholic Times

The Diocese of Columbus had one of the most eventful years in its 154-year history in 2022.

It gained a new bishop, several new religious orders and a new basilica while continuing a renewal and restructuring process that is expected to result in significant changes in 2023.

The year 2022 also brought a major victory for pro-life forces as the U.S. Supreme Court returned control of abortion issues to the states through its decision in the *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* case.

Bishop installed



Bishop Earl Fernandes (right) was ordained and installed as the bishop of Columbus at Westerville St. Paul Church. *CT photos by Ken Snow*

The Vatican on April 2 announced the appointment of Father Earl Fernandes, pastor of St. Ignatius of Loyola Church in Cincinnati and a former staff member of the apostolic nuncio's office in Washington, D.C., as the 13th bishop of Columbus.

He succeeded Bishop Robert Brennan, who was installed as bishop of



Brooklyn, New York on Nov. 30, 2021 after only 2 ½ years as the 12th bishop of Columbus. Msgr. Stephan Moloney, diocesan vicar general, served as apostolic administrator for the diocese between Bishop Brennan's departure and Bishop Fernandes' ordination as bishop on May 31, 2022 at Westerville St. Paul the Apostle Church.

"I am so happy to be your shepherd and want to work for you. I promise that I will be close to you," the newly ordained bishop said near the end of the ordination ceremony.

"The pope wants a synodal church – a church that walks together," he said. "I want you, the people of God, to walk with me on a journey that leads to paradise." He also said he hoped to be bishop of Columbus for the next 25 years. Bishop Fernandes was 49 at the time of his ordination, making him the youngest bishop to currently lead a U.S. diocese.

Planning continues

The bishop wasted no time in starting his new job, traveling across the diocese and immediately becoming involved in the diocesan Real Presence Real Future (RPRF) strategic planning initiative that began under Bishop Brennan during Lent 2021.

Following online surveys, meetings and presentations in every parish in the diocese, with feedback from more

than 8,300 individuals, Bishop Fernandes in late August received recommendations for parish restructuring from the RPRF planning commission for his consideration. His decision on configuration of diocesan parishes and schools is expected in 2023.

The diocese also conducted meetings that were part of the process leading to the worldwide synod of bishops scheduled in October 2023 and 2024 on synodality – clergy and laity "walking together" with the goal of discerning where the Holy Spirit is leading the Church.

Twelve English-speaking and three Spanish-speaking meetings were conducted throughout the diocese's 23 counties. Separate sessions were held for college and high school students. Results of these sessions and those of other dioceses in Ohio and Michigan were compiled into a regional document sent to the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) and eventually to the Vatican.

Abortion focus shifts

The Supreme Court's ruling on June

24 in the *Dobbs* case upheld a Mississippi law that bans abortion in almost all circumstances after an unborn baby's heart beat is detected. In doing so, the justices upheld the court's 1973 *Roe v. Wade* decision legalizing abortion throughout the nation and its 1992 *Planned Parenthood v. Casey* decision that upheld *Roe*.

As a result, decisions on abortion laws and regulations have reverted to individual states. The *Dobbs* ruling allowed an Ohio law banning abortion after the first six weeks of pregnancy to



take effect, but that law was put on hold by a Hamilton County Common Pleas Court judge in September.

About 2,000 people gathered at the Ohio Statehouse on Oct. 5 for the inaugural Ohio March for Life to urge state lawmakers to continue supporting the unborn. Pro-life organizations throughout the state will work with members of the Legislature in 2023 on measures that would clarify the six-week ban and ultimately make abortion illegal altogether in Ohio, while supporters of abortion focus their attention on a state constitutional effort to allow abortion access.

Religious orders added

Father Michael Donovan, O de M; Father Joseph Eddy, O de M; and Father Daniel Bowen, O de M, members of the Mercedarian friars – the Order of the Blessed Virgin Mary of Mercy, established in 1218 – arrived in Columbus in January. They are serving at Columbus Holy Family Church, assisting in the life of the parish and its many apostolates and establishing a house for men studying at the Pontifical College Josephinum to become priests of the order.

Members of the Pallottine order of priests became administrators at four more diocesan parishes. Father Andrez Kozminski, SAC, is administrator of Columbus Sacred Heart and St. John the Baptist churches and Father Slawomir Siok, SAC, was appointed to the same position at Columbus St. Mary Magdalene and St. Aloysius churches.

The order came to the diocese in 2021, when Father Kozminski and Father Wojciech Stachura, SAC, were assigned to Columbus St. Christopher Church, where Father Stachura is pastor.

Theatine Fathers Victor Mendez Cano, CR; David Arroyo Alonso, CR; and Salvador Cinseros Carrillo, CR, have been serving as parochial vicars at Columbus Christ the King and St. Thomas the Apostle churches since July. Another member of their order, Father Tomas Carvahal, CR, has been at Dover St. Joseph Church since July 2021.

Father Elias Udeh, CSSp, of the Congregation of the Holy Spirit, is spending a sabbatical year in residence at Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral.

He is a missionary in Brazil who could have chosen anywhere in the United States for his sabbatical and said he selected Columbus because it seemed to be "a diocese that is very much alive in the faith" and because he was attracted by the RPRF initiative.

Two priests from the Heralds of Good News, an order founded in India, came to the diocese in 2022 and were assigned to parishes as parochial vicars. They are Father Jins Devasia, HGN, at Sunbury St. John Neumann Church, and Father Anish Thomas, HGN, at New Albany Church of the Resurrection.

Members of the Franciscan Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary opened the order's second convent in the diocese at Columbus Our Lady of Peace Church. Four sisters live in the convent, including Sister Zephryna Mary Gracykutty, diocesan missions director. Sisters from the order also serve the group of three parishes in Chillicothe and Waverly.

Members of the Daughters of Holy Mary of the Heart of Jesus began living at the former St. Therese's Retreat Center on Columbus' east side in September. The congregation was founded in Spain in 1984, came to the United States in 2011 and has a novitiate in Steubenville. Since 2020, it has offered monthly devotional programs at St. Paul the Apostle Church for young women from first grade to college age.

Father Adam Streitenberger, diocesan evangelization director, was appointed

during the summer as director of the Columbus St. Thomas More Newman Center, adjacent

to Ohio State University, with Patrick McNulty, who had been working in the evangelization office, as assistant di-



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rector.

The change was made to bring the diocese's ministry to Ohio State students and other young people closer in alignment to diocesan priorities of evangelization. This resulted in the departure of the Paulist Fathers, who had operated the Newman Center since 1956. The Paulists declined an invitation to remain at the site as chaplains under diocesan direction.

Church becomes basilica

Lancaster St. Mary of the Assumption Church was declared the first minor basilica in the diocese on Aug. 14 at a Mass celebrated by Bishop Fernandes on the



Vigil of the Solemnity of the Assumption. It is the seventh minor basilica in Ohio and the 91st in the United States.

A minor basilica is given this distinction by the Vatican based on factors including its architectural beauty, historic significance and liturgical celebrations. Minor basilicas are located throughout the world while major basilicas are limited to Rome.

Ground was broken in August for a new Bishop Griffin Resource Center on the site of the original center in the former Christ the King Church rectory. The building, which is to be completed this summer, will have more than four times the space of the structure it replaces.

The center, which provides food, clothing, household goods and emotional support to anyone in need, is operating out of a temporary location on Columbus' east side.

A groundbreaking took place in mid-October for a combined addition and renovation at St. Mary School in Columbus' German Village neighborhood that will increase the size of the building by 10,000 square feet and remodel 80 percent of the school.

Construction is underway on an addition to the St. Vincent Haven shelter

for homeless men in Newark that will increase its capacity to 50 beds, nearly doubling its current space. The anticipated completion date is March 1.

The St. Joseph Cemetery chapel in southern Franklin County underwent a \$300,000, five-month makeover that made it much brighter inside with the addition of LED lighting and returned a reproduction of Michelangelo's Pieta to its former place of prominence above the altar.

Spiritual events held

The diocese joined Pope Francis and Roman Catholic bishops throughout the world on March 25, the Feast of the Annunciation, in recitation of the consecration prayer for Russia and Ukraine to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. The pope made the request in response to Russia's attack on Ukraine in February.

On the same day, a Eucharistic procession that included the consecration prayer and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament traveled across the Ohio State campus.

A three-year national Eucharistic revival initiative sponsored by the USCCB began with Eucharistic processions on Sunday, June 19, the Feast of Corpus Christi, at Columbus St. Cecilia Church and Friday, June 24 at Sacred Heart Church.

Two Dominican friars from Columbus St. Patrick Priory – Father Thomas Blau, OP, (pictured) and Father Stephen Dominic Hayes, OP – were among 50 priests nationwide chosen by the USCCB to enkindle the flame of devotion as preachers for the revival.

A Eucharistic procession led by Bishop Fernandes was part of Rescue Project Live!, an all-day program featuring talks by Father John Riccardo of the Archdiocese of Detroit on June 18 in the Celeste Center of the state fairgrounds, which drew more than 2,500 people.

Father Riccardo, an author and EWTN Radio program host, reminded his audience that



although Jesus suffered greatly before He died, the purpose of His life and death was ultimately to rescue humanity from sin and to be victorious over death so we could share in the victory and live forever.

Nearly 3,000 people came to Co-

lumbus St. Mary, Mother of God Church from across Ohio to view relics of St. Pio

of Pietrelcina (Padre Pio) from Oct. 28 to 30. The relics included a lock of his hair, crusts of his wounds and gauze from bloodstains of the 20th-century Capuchin friar, who bore the stigmata, the five wounds of Christ on the cross.



A relic of St. Bernadette Soubirous – a fragment of a rib of the

visionary of Lourdes – visited the diocese June 2-6 and drew hundreds of people at both Ada Our Lady of Lourdes and Lancaster St. Bernadette churches.

Relics of Blessed Carlo Acutis and St. Manuel Gonzalez Garcia were displayed at the cathedral, the Newman Center and Christ the King, Delaware St. Mary and Worthington St. Michael churches.

The relics are on a tour of the United States as part of the National Eucharistic Revival. St. Manuel and Blessed Carlo are special intercessors for the event.

St. Manuel, from Spain, is known as the Apostle of the Abandoned Tabernacles. He devoted his life and ministry to teaching people about the Eucharist and cared deeply for youth.

Blessed Carlo has acquired the nickname of "the computer geek saint," though he has not been canonized. In 2020, he became the first member of the millennial generation to be beatified. He died in 2006 at age 15.

Dr. Allen Lewis of St. John Neumann Church was selected as the Catholic Men's Luncheon Club's 2022 diocesan Catholic Man of the Year for his work with the Sancta Familia Center for Integrative Medicine in Columbus.

The clinic, which he founded in 2010, focuses on helping patients achieve optimal wellness utilizing integrative and functional medicine to restore health to the mind, body and spirit. It includes Sancta Familia Caritas, a charitable ministry



for priests, deacons and the religious.

Diocesan offices change

Bishop Fernandes announced in December that he was reinstating the diocesan Office for Divine Worship, appointing Father Paul Keller, OP (pictured), a parochial vicar at St. Patrick Church, as its director. He also appointed Dr. Richard Fitzgerald, director of music at the cathedral, to the new po-



sition of music director for the diocese.

Two deacons of the diocese were appointed to newly created positions. Deacon Stephen Petrill of Dublin St. Brigid of Kildare Church is associate director of the diocesan Office of the Diaconate, and Deacon Jeffrey Fortkamp of Our Lady of Peace Church is associate diocesan cemeteries director. Both continue to serve their respective parishes.

Father Stash Dailey, who had served at Holy Family Church for four years as administrator and five years as pastor, was transferred to the Josephinum, where he has become vice rector for formation. He remains as diocesan vicar for religious orders of priests, sisters and brothers.

Jason Mays was appointed as diocesan communications director in late May. He serves as the bishop's media liaison; oversees media relations for other diocesan offices and publication of *The Catholic Times*; and provides marketing and public relations guidance. He was a staff member at WCMH-TV in Columbus for 21 years, most recently as managing editor.

Jerry Freewalt, who previously was employed by the diocesan social concerns office for 23 years and was its director for three years, returned to that position late in 2022 after resigning as director of the Catholic Conference of Ohio, a position he held for about a year. The conference's longtime director, Carolyn Jurkowitz, has resumed that role on an interim basis.

Ordinations held

Father Paul Marich, OP, was ordained a priest of the Dominican Order on

See REVIEW, Page 12

REVIEW, continued from Page 10

May 21 at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington. The Youngstown native is serving as parochial vicar at St. Patrick Church, where he had been a transitional deacon since September 2021. He replaced Father Charles Shonk, OP, a Lancaster native who is pursuing doctoral studies in theology in Rome.

Father Michael French, CPM, who grew up in Columbus, became a priest of the Fathers of Mercy, whose primary apostolate is preaching parish retreats in the United States, Canada and Australia, on June 4. He was ordained at the Chapel of Divine Mercy in Auburn, Kentucky, by retired Archbishop Joseph Kurtz of Louisville, Kentucky.

The past year marked only the second year since 1912 that no priests were ordained for the Diocese of Columbus. Deacon Peter Claver Kasasa Kiviiri was ordained to the diaconate by Bishop Emeritus Frederick Campbell on May 27 at the cathedral.

Deacon Kiviiri anticipates being ordained a priest in May 2023 after completing studies at Pope St. John XXIII National Seminary in Weston, Massachusetts, which specializes in priestly formation for men age 30 and older.

He came to the United States in 2006 from his native Uganda to



study for the priesthood, decided after two years not to continue, then became a seminarian again in 2018 after a talk with Bishop Campbell.

Clergy, religious deaths

Father William J. Faustner, 74, died on July 31. He was a priest for 47 years, served as pastor of Kenton Immaculate Conception and Newcomerstown St. Francis de Sales churches and associate pastor of six diocesan parishes, and was a teacher and a hospital chaplain.

Father G. Michael Gribble, 79, a priest

for 41 years, died on Aug. 3. He spent the past 13 years of his active priesthood as rector of the cathedral before retiring in 2013 and moving to the Buckeye Lake area, remaining active as a senior priest. He also was pastor at Columbus Holy Rosary-St. John Church and Granville St. Edward the Confessor Church.

Father Paul Rubadue, OSB, 87, a Benedictine monk born in Columbus, died on July 21. He entered the religious life as a Xaverian brother in 1952, transferred his vows to the Benedictine order in 1981 and was ordained to the priesthood in 1986. For the next 36 years at St. Vincent Archabbey in Latrobe, Pennsylvania, he conducted choir workshops, was a soloist at many functions and directed a small chamber music group known as a camerata.

Father Arthur J. Espelage, OFM, died on Dec. 9. He professed his first vows as a member of the Franciscan order in 1963 and had been a priest for 51 years. He was best known in the Diocese of Columbus for serving as adjutant judicial vicar in 1994 and 1995 and judicial vicar from 1995-1997. He also taught at the Josephinum and served in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati and dioceses in New Mexico, Florida and Arizona.

Deacon Charles G. "Greg" Waybright, 63, died on June 30 after an extended ill-

ness. He was ordained a deacon in late November 2016 and served at Pickerington St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish for three years before being granted a leave of absence in 2019 because of his illness.

Religious sisters who died in 2022 and served in or were natives of the Diocese of Columbus, or who were living in the diocese at the time of their deaths, were: Sister Mary Roderic Schaub, OP, 85, Feb. 7; Sister Christine Diensberg, OSF, 81, March 2; Sister Dorothy Lemon, OP, 100, March 14; Sister Carol Jander, OSF, 83, March 14; Sister Mary Edith Ryan, RSM, 99, March 23; Sister Margaret Ann Zimmerman, OSF, 101, April 28; Sister Helen Marie Schumacher, OSF, 90, May 5; Sister Elaine Ballmann, SNDdeN, 90, June 20; Sister Nancy Miller, OSF, 76, Aug. 1; and Sister Mary Zigo, OSF, 106, Nov. 23.

Deacon Dwight T. Larcomb Jr., 88, died on Tuesday, Dec. 20. He was ordained to the diaconate in 1986, serving Marion St. Mary Church from his ordination until 1992, when he moved to Hawaii, where he continued his ministry on the island of Kaneohe. He returned after his wife's death in late 2005 to Marion, where he visited the sick and homebound as a retired deacon.



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ST. JOHN NEUMANN
Catholic Church

Bishop to celebrate MLK Day at Holy Rosary & St. John

The Community of Holy Rosary & St. John the Evangelist is hosting its annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day celebration on Monday, Jan. 16 from noon to 1:30 p.m. at Columbus Holy Rosary & St. John Church, 648 S. Ohio Ave.

Bishop Earl Fernandes will celebrate Mass at the church and share his homily that day.

Holy Rosary & St. John has been celebrating Martin Luther King Jr. Day since it became a holiday in 1986.

“Actually,” Sister Alberta Wilkes, OSF, said, “Holy Rosary & St. John, under the guidance of Father Mike Gribble, started to celebrate the day even before it was officially a holiday, so I would say we have one of the longest ongoing celebrations of Martin Luther King Day in central Ohio.”

Father Ramon Owera, the pastor at the parish and also at Columbus St. Dominic Church, will be concelebrating Mass with Bishop Fernandes. “We are so happy the bishop accepted our invitation to celebrate Mass with us, and we look forward to hearing his message that day,” Father Owera said. “We hope persons from the surrounding community and from other churches throughout the diocese will join us.”

Bishop Fernandes said, “As we cel-

brate the Mass and honor the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. with Holy Rosary & St. John Church, let us remember the words of Our Lord Jesus Christ in the Gospel of St. John when He said, ‘Love one another.’ (13:34)

“God doesn’t ask us to undertake monumental tasks, but rather, simply to love. In A Knock at Midnight, Dr. King echoed the words of Our Lord by saying, ‘More than anything else, we’ve got to learn to love.’”

Holy Rosary & St. John has tried to live out that love throughout its existence. With a welcoming spirit and a range of social services that touch lives throughout Franklin County, the emphasis in the parish has always been on community.

Teresa Lee is the coordinator of the St. John Learning Center, an adult education program that is part of the parish. “We offer not only a wide range of adult education opportunities through Learning Center programs, but also offer food assistance and medical care through the pantry, Community Kitchen and Order of Malta clinics,” Lee said.

Parish programs that served the neighborhood with food and educational opportunities started in the 1970s and ’80s. The Community Kitchen – a

soup kitchen that grew out of those efforts – is now a separate organization but still works closely with the parish.

The St. John Food Pantry and St. John Learning Center are programs of the parish, with the pantry offering food distributions on Thursdays. The pantry serves people from throughout Franklin County but focuses on assisting families from the Columbus near south and near east sides.

The St. John Learning Center offers adult education programs from GED high school equivalency classes to business classes to parenting and health and mental health classes, all in partnership with other Columbus organizations. The GED classes, which start in January, will be taught by an educator from Columbus City Schools.

The Order of Malta Center of Care is also a separate organization that works closely with the parish, providing health and dental services in the St. John Community Center (the former St. John School).

In addition to these ongoing services, the parish has events that benefit the community, such as its school supply giveaway. Holy Rosary & St. John Church has taken to heart King’s sentiment that “everybody can be great, be-

cause everybody can serve.”

Elizabeth Cary, an organizer of the youth group at Holy Rosary & St. John, invites students to the Martin Luther King Jr. Day celebration: “Most students are off that day, so we hope the youth will turn out for this event as it is an excellent opportunity to learn more about Dr. King’s vision and to hear the bishop’s message.”

Parish Council president Fern Upshaw said, “I want to make sure that everyone in the neighborhood and throughout the Columbus area knows that this event is open to all. We are a very welcoming parish, and I hope anyone who wants to celebrate Dr. King’s life with us will be there.”

Music will be a big part of the celebration, with Vernon Hairston directing the gospel choir. The celebration is free and open to the public, although a free-will offering will be collected to help pay for a new roof for the 124-year-old church.

For more information on the Martin Luther King Jr. Day celebration or any services provided at Holy Rosary & St. John, or to donate to the church roof fund, email hrrsjevents@gmail.com or call (614) 252-5926, ext. 7.

‘Surviving Divorce’ sessions to begin at 3 parishes in January

By Keith F. Luscher

Few topics are more challenging in the Church today than divorce. Ending a marriage is incredibly painful for those involved; what’s worse, few Catholics seem to understand Church teachings on the topic.

As a result, many who are divorced stop attending Mass or leave the faith altogether. They become “lost sheep.”

Whether they experienced divorce years ago or are in the midst of it now, they often feel rejection and shame. Many also fear being judged by their communities or fellow parishioners. They have questions, and many who minister to the laity are unsure when trying to give meaningful answers.

For this reason, for many years, several parishes in the Columbus diocese have offered a 12-week program titled “Surviving Divorce: Hope and Healing for the Catholic Family.”

This program, created by author and speaker Rose Sweet, offers answers and guidance concerning the many issues surrounding divorce, annulments, remarriage, parenting and more. It brings the divorced through emotional healing, the power of forgiveness and into a more vibrant relationship with Christ and the Church.

Each session begins with a 30-minute video presentation addressing a specific topic, followed by small-group discussion. Participants receive a Personal Survival Guide workbook that contains

all the points discussed throughout the program.

The parishes offering “Surviving Divorce” and the starting dates and times are:

- Lancaster St. Mary of the Assumption, Tuesday, Jan. 10, 6:30 p.m.
- Powell St. Joan of Arc, Wednesday, Jan. 18, 7 p.m.
- Newark St. Francis de Sales, Sunday, Jan. 29, 9:45 a.m. (between Masses)

Details can be found at Divorced-CatholicColumbus.org, the online home for Non Solum (Latin for “not alone”), a local Catholic apostolate that helps separated and divorced Catholics find hope and healing in the Church.

Through its website and MeetUp.com group, Non Solum promotes “Surviv-

ing Divorce” for the diocese as well as growing a network of caring individuals who can assist fellow Catholics going through divorce.

Do you know a fellow Catholic who is quietly suffering through divorce, or have you experienced divorce yourself and want to help others walking a similar path?

To find out more, visit Divorced-CatholicColumbus.org or call (614) 205-0830. Non Solum welcomes your call.

Keith F. Luscher is a co-founder of Non Solum Columbus and a member of Newark St. Francis de Sales Church. He can be reached at keith@nonsolum.org or (614) 205-0830.

FUNDRAISERS, continued from Page 4

charitable works committee; making sandwiches and collecting items for the Manna in the Morning program of Star House of Columbus, which serves homeless young people; singing Christmas carols at and donating pajama pants and socks for the Sage Park Assisted Living and Memory Care Center, and writing letters to parishioners who are homebound or are in care facilities.

Students in the school’s Upper Hall

(sixth through eighth grades) are conducting a combined fundraising and education effort in which they have sent letters to parents and community members asking for donations to help build a house for a family in Guatemala.

The estimated cost for such a structure is \$8,000, and the school would like to raise half of that. The idea for this activity came from a teacher at the school who has visited Guatemala and from a

letter another teacher received detailing the efforts of Cross Catholic Outreach to build homes for 159 families in two Guatemalan dioceses.

Like many Catholic schools, St. Matthew has a yearly theme. This year’s theme is “Kindness, Compassion and Love,” and last year’s was “Make a Difference.” A symbol combining the two themes is located just inside the main entrance and is the first thing visitors

see when they come to the school.

“These fundraisers are all about putting those themes into action,” Rathburn said. “I’m proud and honored to be part of such a loving, kind school and community. When I come here, it doesn’t feel at all like what I’m doing is work. The Holy Spirit definitely lives in this building.”

Mary, Mother of God Year A

The answer: Surrender to God

Numbers 6:22-27
Psalm 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8
Galatians 4:4-7
Luke 2:16-21

Mary, the Mother of Jesus, is one of us. She responded to God's invitation, giving herself completely. God filled her. She took God for all He is worth. Our human nature received the highest gift possible.

Theotokos, the title we translate as "Mother of God," is an affirmation of our faith in the divinity of Jesus. It says God gave all He is to us, and Mary, in our name, accepted the gift. Now, what does this mean for us?

On the eighth day, Mary and Joseph attended to their duty by Jesus: They gave Him a place among the people of God through circumcision. They acknowledged Him as a unique individual: They named Him Jesus. They gave Him His purpose: salvation of His people. They accepted Him into His destiny: son of Joseph, son of David.

The mystery of time reveals our capacity to live as immortal beings in a passing world. As a world, we recognize ever more clearly our interdependence.

Mary points out that the salvation of the world comes to us, not by human invention, but by free, willful, fully human cooperation with God's ingenuity, God's plan of salvation revealed in the Person of Jesus Christ. Salvation is ours, not by our creative action, but by our willingness to admit God's creative power.

We get a different message very subtly when the world continues to focus on "rights" and "liberties" that are only masks for our weakness and sins in the face of temptations while ignoring our

Epiphany Year A

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.



responsibilities and true freedom.

We get a different message openly when the world tells us that we who are believers in Christ do not have a "right" to share and speak of our faith in public anywhere and to put it into practice when we are involved in the world around us. We fail to realize the power given to us in Christ when we act as if He were merely an earthly reformer who had compassion and a good idea or two that we might want to try out.

Calling Mary "Mother of God" is not about Mary. It is about Jesus. Jesus is God. Jesus, the Son of Mary, is the Word made flesh, God Incarnate, God the Son Who acts in our world and is given human nature through the power of the Holy Spirit, with Mary's cooperation and personal acceptance.

Once we have acknowledged the Son of Mary's Divinity of Person, then we can see what the divine motherhood does for Mary and for us. It puts us back in the game, God's own game, God's plan for human beings, for human nature as such, and indeed for all of creation.

When we start with this, we see things differently. We begin to understand that the answers to our problems won't be found in mastering technology or in controlling "our rights."

The answers to our problems won't be found in the elimination of persons who

The Weekday Bible Readings

1/2-1/7

MONDAY

1 John 2:22-28
Psalm 98:1-4
John 1:19-28

TUESDAY

1 John 2:29-3:6
Psalm 98:1:3c-4,5-6
John 1:29-34

WEDNESDAY

1 John 3:7-10
Psalm 98:1:7-9
John 1:35-42

THURSDAY

1 John 3:11-21
Psalm 100:1b-5
John 1:43-51

FRIDAY

1 John 5:5-13
Psalm 147:12-15,19-20
Mark 1:7-11 or
Luke 3:23-28,31-34,36,38

SATURDAY

1 John 5:14-21
Psalm 149:1-6a,9b
John 2:1-11

1/9-1/14

MONDAY

Isaiah 42:1-4,6-7 or
Acts 10:34-38
Psalm 29:1-2,3-4,9-10
Matthew 3:13-17

TUESDAY

Hebrews 2:5-12
Psalm 8:2ab,5-9
Mark 1:21-28

WEDNESDAY

Hebrews 2:14-18
Psalm 105:1-4,6-9

Mark 1:29-39

THURSDAY

Hebrews 3:7-14
Psalm 95:6-7c,8-11
Mark 1:40-45

FRIDAY

Hebrews 4:1-5,11
Psalm 78:3,4bc,6c-8
Mark 2:1-12

SATURDAY

Hebrews 4:12-16
Psalm 19:8-10,15
Mark 2:13-17

DIOCESAN WEEKLY RADIO AND TELEVISION

Mass Schedule: WEEKS OF Jan. 1 and Jan. 8, 2023

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, Newcomerstown and New Philadelphia; Channel 207, Zanesville); 8

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

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

WE PRAY WEEKS II AND I OF THE LITURGY OF THE HOURS

are inconvenient, either in the womb or nearing the end of life or across the wrong border or having "old-fashioned ideas" such as believing in the power of God to intervene in our world.

The answers to our problems are found in contemplating, pondering in our hearts, the Person of Jesus Christ and giving our lives over to His grace as Mary did.

We call Mary the Mother of God and rightly so, with a depth of truth that makes all the difference. The Church in our time – at the Second Vatican Council – also called her "Mother of the Church."

We see the Mother of Jesus as our forerunner in the journey of salvation.

See SURRENDER, Page 15

Magi's visit reminds us that God offers salvation to all

Isaiah 60:1-6
Psalm 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13
Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6
Matthew 2:1-12

Rise up in splendor! This invitation to Jerusalem in the reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah calls to mind a moment of great joy. Israel is imaged as a bride dressed in her finest garments, made ready to experience an encounter full of promise. The prophet, aware of Israel's experience of exile and loss, calls upon God's people to be ready for a change in status.

The antiphon of the Responsorial Psalm proclaims the reason for this joy, the fulfillment of God's promise to Israel to be a light to the nations. "Lord, every nation on earth will adore you."

St. Paul tells the Ephesians the joyful news, acknowledging the gift of his own stewardship as an Apostle. He explains that the "mystery was made known to me by revelation. It was not made known to people in other generations

as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: that the Gentiles are coheirs, members of the same body, and copartners in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel."

The Gospel of Jesus Christ, which fulfills prophecies entrusted to Israel, is addressed to all human beings. God's plan includes a unity that goes beyond anything experienced before.

The Gospel of Epiphany brings forward the mysterious figures of the Magi from the East, bringing gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. As stand-ins for the nations, they offer a welcome to "the newborn king of the Jews."

They have been searching the stars, and one bright star leads them to the place where the Child was born. The Magi implicitly express the longing of people near and far for a fulfillment that goes beyond what this world can offer.

Traditionally, Epiphany is a celebration of the first of three events in the life of Jesus that allow His glory to shine through the human nature He shares

with us. The Coming of the Magi, the Baptism of the Lord in the Jordan by John and the first miracle of the Wedding Feast of Cana all make known that there is a splendor in the very Person of Jesus that changes the world.

Gold is the gift appropriate for a King. Frankincense implies the presence of God. Myrrh, the surprise gift, hints at what will be revealed in the Passion of the Lord, the power of suffering to lead us to glory. The Child in the arms of His Mother is King, the Son of God and the Savior Who will suffer, die and rise for us.

The Baptism of the Lord is also celebrated as a separate feast. This year, because Christmas fell on a Sunday, it is observed on the Monday after Epiphany (Jan. 9, 2023). It is the official close to the Liturgical Season of Christmas.

At the moment of the baptism, Jesus' public ministry began. He is acknowledged as God's Beloved Son, endowed in His humanity with the fullness of the Spirit of God. John the Baptist's action

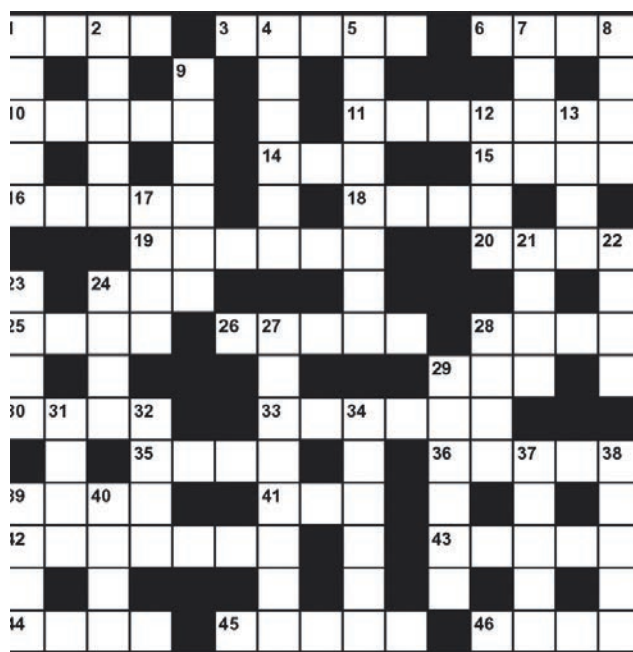
allows Him to be in solidarity with sinners who are willing to repent, though He is sinless.

The Wedding Feast of Cana does not have its own feast, but in Year A, the account of the first miracle serves as the Gospel for the Second Sunday of Ordinary Time. It is on this occasion that we are told that the disciples of Jesus first began to see His glory and to believe in Him.

These three themes together remind us that Jesus is our Savior through His own humanity. He assumed our nature, uniting it to His divine nature, and became for us the means of salvation.

The Solemnity of the Epiphany calls us to believe in the unity of God – Father, Son and Holy Spirit – in the work of our salvation. It also calls us to accept and to revel in the great mystery that salvation is offered to all, Jews and Gentiles alike. We are called to share this Good News to all, so that every nation on earth will adore the Lord.

CATHOLIC CROSSWORD



www.wordgamesforcatholics.com

ACROSS

- 1 There were 3 popes with this name in the 20th century
- 3 Old Testament hymn
- 6 Biblical city
- 10 Catholic artist Picasso
- 11 Fourth book of the Bible
- 14 Month of the Assumption (abbr.)
- 15 38D in the Douay
- 16 10th century pope
- 18 “___ to us a child is born”
- 19 He cured Naaman of leprosy in 2 Kings
- 20 What we are forbidden to do by the fifth commandment
- 24 ___ culpa
- 25 “...a person will ___ only what he sows” (Gal 6:7)
- 26 Tribe of Israel
- 28 ___ box
- 29 38D, briefly
- 30 First place
- 33 Head of a diocese
- 35 “I fear no ___, for you are with me” (Ps 23:4)
- 36 Frequent word in Psalms
- 39 Biblical measure
- 41 OT prophetic book
- 42 Avian symbol of the atonement
- 43 Paul was upset because of the number of these in Athens
- 44 “...hallowed be thy ___.”
- 45 What Catholics receive on the first day of Lent

- 46 Home of St. Rose

DOWN

- 1 Adjective for the Bishop of Rome
- 2 Pope (II) who called for the Crusades
- 4 Breaks the seventh commandment
- 5 The whole earth had one before the Tower of Babel
- 7 Rosary beads
- 8 Where the altar is located
- 9 Ignatius of ___
- 12 Bible section
- 13 ___ presence in the Eucharist
- 17 “The intention of the human heart is ___ water (Prv 20:5)
- 21 Marriage vows
- 22 Title for Jesus
- 23 Plant in the story of the fall
- 24 “...begotten not ___.”
- 27 Cain and Abel
- 28 Leader of the Church
- 29 “O Salutaris ___”
- 31 Notre ___
- 32 St. Philip’s surname
- 34 Where Joseph and Mary had to stay
- 37 Seventh century pope
- 38 He married a prostitute
- 39 Paul and Silas’ prison doors after the earthquake in Acts 16
- 40 Shem’s eldest son

Words of Wisdom

by Pat Battaglia, aka Dr. Fun

Draw a path from letter to letter to spell the words given in capital letters that completes 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.

Give your troubles to God ...



HE IS UP ALL NIGHT ANYWAY

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.
M.S.

SURRENDER, continued from Page 14

She accepted Jesus into her very being. Along with _____ looks upon us kindly and gives us peace! Joseph, her husband, she gave Him a place in her heart and in her world, among her people. And God became One of us, fulfilling His own promise of salvation.

As we enter into a New Year, let us discover anew the blessing that Jesus is for us. For it is in the Person of Jesus that God our Father blesses us and keeps us! The Lord lets His face shine upon us and is gracious to us! The Lord

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The Diocese of Columbus has an opening for a full-time accountant in its business office. The Accountant works closely with the Assistant Controller to ensure financial records are accurate and up to date; provides accounting support for diocesan offices and agencies as well as parishes and schools when required; performs various duties in the area of cash disbursements and cash receipts, payroll and related functions; and records accounting transactions and performs account analysis. A four-year Accounting degree or a minimum of five years’ accounting experience with proficiency in financial systems and

accounting practices is needed.

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PRAY FOR OUR DEAD

ALFMAN, Rosalie T. (Pacino) 73, Dec. 9
St. Rose of Lima, New Lexington

HICKEY, William P., 91, Dec. 17
St. Brendan Church, Hilliard

McBRIDE, Annelies (Strobel), 86, Dec. 4
Immaculate Conception Church, Columbus

RUSSELL, Nancy A., 91, Dec. 9
Our Mother of Sorrows Chapel, Columbus

ARMSTRONG, John, 84, Dec. 14
Sacred Heart Church, Coshocton

JOHNSON, Ester "Mae" (Dean), 88, Dec. 12
St. Colman Church, Washington Court House

MILLER, Martha J. (Johnson), 73, Dec. 7
Christ the King Chapel, Ohio Dominican University,
Columbus

SHERMAN, John F., 91, Dec. 9
St. Matthew Church, Gahanna

BOEHM, Robert, 84, Dec. 9
St. Peter Church, Columbus

KIENLE, James T., 80, formerly of Columbus, Dec. 7
St. Mary Church, Indianapolis

MISKIMENS, Janet, 90, Dec. 12
Sacred Heart Church, Coshocton

STEVENS, George W., 84, Dec. 19
St. Brigid of Kildare Church, Dublin

CORROVA, Anthony J., 86, Dec. 7
Our Lady of Victory Church, Columbus

KRAMER, Nancy (Sheehy), 91, Dec. 10
St. Andrew Church, Columbus

ROCK, Barbara L. "Barb," 84, Dec. 14
St. Nicholas Church, Zanesville

YOCCA, Jennie L. (Arrera), 100, Dec. 15
St. Christopher Church, Columbus

FIOCCA, John A. Jr., 72, of Columbus, Dec. 11
St. Hilary Church, Fairlawn

LAURELLO, Maxine (Peet), 96, Dec. 11
Resurrection Cemetery Chapel, Lewis Center

RUNYON, Kenneth Joe, 84, Dec. 17
St. Joseph Church, Plain City

HANN, Gerald E., 95, formerly of Columbus, Dec. 18
St. Paul Church, Athens

MANESH, Ruthann S. (Shapiro), 87, Dec. 4
St. Anthony Church, Columbus

Father Arthur J. Espelage, OFM

Funeral Mass for Father Arthur J. Espelage, OFM, 78, who died Friday, December 9 at Riverside Methodist Hospital in Columbus, will be celebrated Monday, Jan. 16 at St. Anthony Friary in Cincinnati. Burial will be at St. Mary Cemetery in St. Bernard, Ohio.

He was born on Aug. 13, 1944, in Cincinnati to Arthur and Antoinette (Green) Espelage.

He attended St. Francis Seminary in Cincinnati and entered the Franciscan novitiate on Aug. 15, 1962. After professing his first vows in 1963, he entered Duns Scotus College in Southfield, Michigan, where he made his solemn vows on Aug. 16, 1966. He was ordained to the priesthood on June 12, 1971, at St. Leonard College in Centerville. He earned several degrees in

canon law from the Catholic University of America.

In the Diocese of Columbus, he was adjutant judicial vicar in 1994 and 1995 and judicial vicar from 1995 to 1997. He also was a professor of canon law at the Pontifical College Josephinum and served the Archdiocese of Cincinnati and dioceses in New Mexico, Florida and Arizona as an associate pastor, teacher of canon law and theology, judicial vicar and diocesan Tribunal member. He also was executive coordinator for the Canon Law Society of America from 1999 to 2008.

He was preceded in death by his parents and a sister, Angela. Survivors include a brother, Joseph (Jennifer) and sisters Theresa (James) Michael, Diane Daria and Anne (Scott) Martin.

Deacon Dwight T. Larcomb Jr.

Funeral Mass for Deacon Dwight T. Larcomb Jr., 88, who died Tuesday, Dec. 20, was celebrated Tuesday, Dec. 27 at Marion St. Mary Church. Burial was at Wharton Richland Cemetery in Wyandot County.

He was born in the family farmhouse near Harpster in Wyandot County on Aug. 23, 1934 to Dwight and Cora (Swartz) Larcomb.

He graduated from Upper Sandusky High School in 1952, attended Bowling Green State University, and graduated from Ohio Northern University in 1961 with a Bachelor of Science degree in pharmacy. He served in the U.S. Army from 1954 to 1957 and during that time joined the Catholic Church, receiving the sacraments of Baptism, first Eucharist and Confirmation on Feb. 18 and 19, 1956. He spent most of his working career as a pharmacist in Ohio, Hawaii and Florida.

He attended the Diocesan Diaconate School of Theology from 1982 to 1986 and was ordained a deacon on June 6, 1986, by Bishop James Griffin in Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral. He served at Marion St. Mary Church from 1986 to 1992, when he moved to Hawaii, where he exercised his diaconal ministry at Holy Cross Parish on the island of Kaneohe. He and his wife moved in 2004 to St. Petersburg, Florida, where he retired from active ministry. After his wife's death in late 2005, he returned to Marion, where he visited the sick and homebound as a retired deacon.

He was preceded in death by his parents and his wife, Kathleen (Kear). Survivors include sons, Stephen, D. Douglas and Phillip; daughters, Margaret and Christine; 25 grandchildren and 37 great-grandchildren.

Lucy Ryan Kilbane

Funeral Mass for Lucy Ryan Kilbane, who died Friday, Dec. 16, was celebrated Wednesday, Dec. 21 at Powell St. Joan of Arc Church. Burial was at St. Joseph Cemetery, Columbus.

She was a graduate of Columbus Bishop Hartley High School, the College of St. Mary of the Springs (now Ohio Dominican University) and Kent State University.

Through the years, she was a parishioner of Columbus St. Agatha, Delaware St. Mary and St. Joan of Arc churches, was a member of the Columbus diocesan school board and the St. Agatha school board and was president of the Elizabethan Guild.

She was employed by the Columbus Metropolitan Library, the Liberty Powell

YMCA and the Delaware County Council for Older Adults, was a master gardener for the Franklin County Extension Service and volunteered at Birthright, Nationwide Children's Hospital, Chadwick Arboretum, St. Agatha School and Bishop Watterson High School.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Robert and Martha (McGrath) Ryan and her husband, Thomas. Survivors include sons Thomas (Carolyn), Brendan (Lauren), Terence and Egan (Amy); daughters Nora, Sarah (John) Moore, Clare (Dennis) Cleary and Grace; brother, Robert (Mary Ginn) Ryan; sisters Hannah (Jack) O'Handley, Nora (George) McNamara and Martie (Mark) Lukanich; and 12 grandchildren.

Norma M. Gurklis

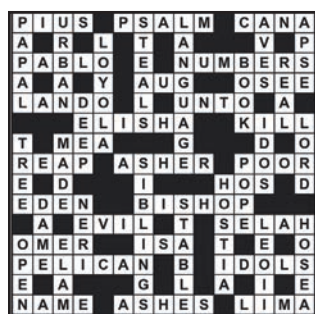
Funeral Mass for Norma M. Gurklis, 94, who died Sunday, Dec. 18, was celebrated Tuesday, Dec. 27 at Columbus St. Agnes Church. Burial was at Resurrection Cemetery, Lewis Center.

She was born on March 3, 1928 to James and Camellia Competti.

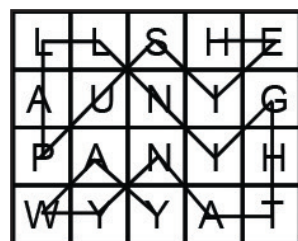
She graduated from Dennison Immaculate Conception High School and earned a diploma in nursing from the Mount Carmel Hospital School of Nursing in Columbus in 1949, a Bachelor of Science degree in nursing education from the Catholic University of America in 1953 and a Master of Science degree in nursing from Ohio State University in 1974.

She was a registered nurse and an operating room nurse and was a faculty member for 27 years at the Mount Carmel School of Nursing, teaching medical surgical nursing and the clinical rotation in the operating room.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Dr. John Gurklis; brothers, Severino, William and Thomas; and sisters, Margaret Nazionale, Delia Dalpiaz and Irma Biancamano. She is survived by a son, Dr. John (Robin) Gurklis Jr.; a daughter, Dr. Jean Anne (Richard) Jacko; two grandsons and two granddaughters.



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Legacy of Mercy: A True Story of Murder and a Mother's Forgiveness
Gretchen R. Crowe
Our Sunday Visitor
2022

More than 23 years have passed since a young Catholic college student from the Columbus area and his roommate were senselessly robbed and murdered by two troubled juveniles.

The gut-wrenching tragedy that took place in late spring 1999 hit home particularly hard in the Diocese of Columbus.

One of the victims was 18-year-old Brian Muha, who grew up in Westerville, graduated from St. Charles Preparatory School in 1998 and went on to Franciscan University of Steubenville. He had just completed his freshman year of college in Steubenville and had returned there for the summer.

Muha and roommate Aaron Land, also a Franciscan student, were attacked and robbed at their rental house on May 31, 1999 and taken by their assailants, who stole Muha's automobile, to a field in western Pennsylvania about half an hour from campus where they were shot and left to die.

A manhunt ensued to find the two young men. Four agonizing days later, their bodies were located on June 4, 1999. The families' worst fears were realized.

Two young men with their entire lives ahead of them were gone in an instant.

As details emerged about how the crime unfolded and the news made national headlines, what shocked most people was the resolute faith of Muha's mother, Rachel. Several days before her son's body was discovered, she stood before a gathering of 250 people in Christ the King Chapel at Franciscan University and spoke four words that astounded everyone in attendance and would prove to be the foundation for Brian's legacy: "I forgive these men."

How a mother who had lost the youngest of her sons could show such mercy touched the minds and hearts of everyone who heard about this incredible act of charity, from the police officers who had to share the grisly details of the murders to the students and clergy at Franciscan to family and friends back home in Columbus.

Twenty-three years later, the pain remains for Rachel Muha, but she has worked every day since then to bring good out of tragedy with her work to help at-risk and disadvantaged youth on Columbus' west side through the Brian Muha Foundation and the Run the Race Club.

She recounts her journey from raising and losing her son, forgiving the murderers and moving on from the devastation with a loving heart rather than with vengeance or hate in the recently



Rachel Muha (second from right) participates in a groundbreaking this past summer along with Bishop Earl Fernandes. *CT photo by Ken Snow*

released book *Legacy of Mercy: A True Story of Murder and a Mother's Forgiveness*, written by Gretchen R. Crowe of *Our Sunday Visitor*.

"I have done a lot of speaking over the years, and people asked frequently if I wrote a book," Muha said. "Every time I tried, though, it was just too hard."

"When I was approached by *Our Sunday Visitor* with the offer of a writer, I thought that was the perfect solution."

Crowe, an experienced Catholic journalist who is close to Brian's age, explained in the book's introduction that she was unfamiliar with the story before being approached about writing it but immediately knew she had to take on the project after watching an interview with Rachel Muha.

The author draws a parallel to the suffering of Muha as a mother to that endured by the Blessed Virgin Mary as she watched her Son Jesus die on the cross.

"In speaking with Rachel, and in getting to know her intimately, I feel I've been given an opportunity to witness what it means to live the Gospel fully, in the way the Lord desires for each of us," Crowe wrote in the introduction.

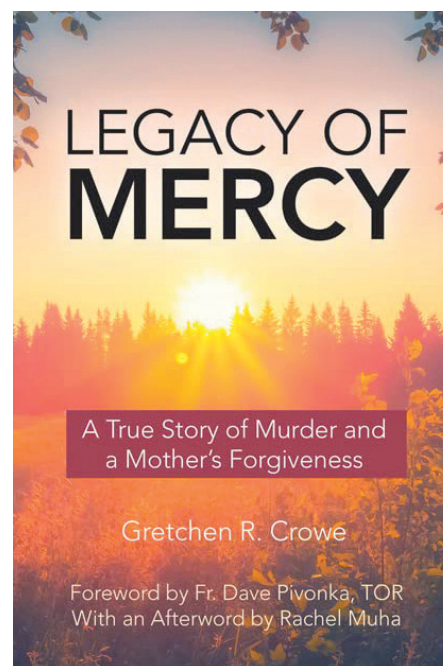
Crowe retells Muha's story through numerous interviews and research in a journalistic style that's informative and captivating even for those who might know most of the details.

Muha also wanted the book written "especially for people who are just now in their 20s and 30s and maybe never heard the terrible and beautiful story of Brian's life and death."

The raw emotions of those involved in Brian's life were expressed through Crowe's interviews. She goes beyond the well-researched facts to add a human element to the book, which provides a compilation of the events that continue to occur years after the murder.

"I wanted to have Brian's life, spirit and personality written down and preserved," Muha said. "And I wanted everyone to know what forgiveness and suffering really mean and how important they are."

"Lastly, I wanted the history and necessity of something like Run the Race



to be recorded."

The Run the Race Club first met in November 2005 in the basement of Columbus Holy Family Church, the Muhas' home parish, and through time has expanded into a burgeoning ministry on the west side that helps inner-city youth and families in a multitude of ways, many of which are explained in Part III

of the book.

The work that continues in his name remains a major part of Brian's legacy, his mom said.

Part I of the book addresses Brian's life and his death – his early years growing up in Westerville and culminating with the pain and suffering of his loss.

A forward by Father Dave Pivonka, TOR, the current president of Franciscan University of Steubenville, provides his perspective, particularly on Rachel's faith and courage that he witnessed when then serving on campus as the director of conferences.

Those two parts of the book – "recounting finding Brian and the pain that caused, and the loneliness that set in immediately, the pain of losing someone you love is a pain of longing for them, the other part that touches my heart is the sweetness and resilience of inner-city children and how much they deserve a childhood that insures they will soar instead of sour" – are the sections that she said really touch her heart.

Part II delves mostly into the murder trials in Steubenville for Nathan Herring and Terrell Yarbrough. An appendix includes statements addressed to these troubled men from Rachel and oldest son Chris at the trial. They expressed

See **LEGACY**, Page 18

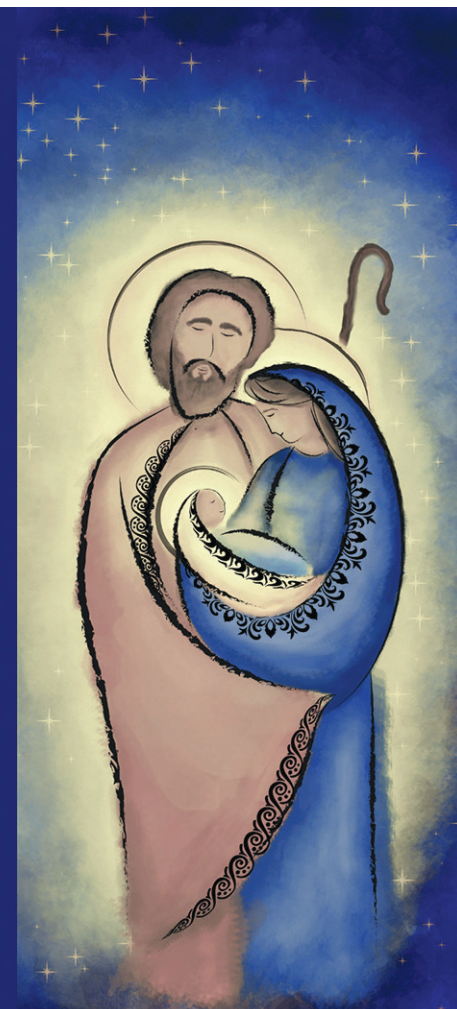
May Jesus Christ's birth
fill your heart with the
peace and joy that
comes from receiving
God's greatest gift.

Merry Christmas
&
Happy New Year!



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Bishop Flaget students present living nativity



Eighth graders at Chillicothe Bishop Flaget School staged a living Nativity for the city on Dec. 18, the fourth Sunday of Advent, in front of Chillicothe St. Mary Church. The manger display included live animals with the students.

Photos courtesy Bishop Flaget School

Mass for winter sports athletes held



More than 200 student-athletes participating in winter sports at high schools in the Central Catholic League attended a Mass on Dec. 11, the third Sunday of Advent, also known as Gaudete Sunday, in the Columbus Bishop Ready High School gym. The celebrant for the Mass was Father Kyle Tennant, a parochial vicar at Columbus St. Cecilia Church and the chaplain at Bishop Ready. CCL high schools include Bishop Ready, Bishop Watterson, St. Francis DeSales, St. Charles Preparatory and Bishop Hartley.

Photos courtesy Jim Jones



Breakfast with St. Nick in Marysville



Marysville Our Lady of Lourdes Knights of Columbus Council #5534 hosted a Breakfast with St. Nick at the parish on Sunday, Dec. 11. Breakfast with St. Nick is an annual tradition that was attended this year by about 275 people. Children are given an opportunity to talk with St. Nick and have their picture taken with him, and breakfast is served at the event, which takes place between Masses and classes for the parish school of religion (PSR). St. Nick took time out for a photo with Deputy Grand Knight Dave Schlemmer (left) and Grand Knight Tim Cordonnier, and he also sat for a chat with Anne Daniel, the parish PSR director.

Photos courtesy Marysville Our Lady of Lourdes Knights of Columbus Council #5534

Bishop makes feast day visit



Bishop Earl Fernandes visited classrooms at Columbus Immaculate Conception School on Thursday, Dec. 8, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, to engage with the students and staff in grades K-8. The bishop also celebrated Mass at Immaculate Conception Church in the morning on the parish patroness' feast day. He was assisted at Mass and accompanied by Father Matt Hoover, the parish pastor.

Photos courtesy Immaculate Conception Church

Bishop offers Mass after Advent gathering



Bishop Earl Fernandes celebrated the 11:45 a.m. daily Mass on Tuesday, Dec. 20 at Columbus St. Patrick Church after joining Catholic homeschoolers for an Advent celebration that morning in the parish hall. He was assisted at Mass by altar boys and Father Stephen Alcott, O.P. (left), pastor at St. Patrick; and Father Paul Marich, O.P. (second from right) and Father Paul Keller, O.P., parochial vicars at the parish.

LEGACY, continued from Page 17

the pain the murders caused them but begged the two to confess and seek Christ's forgiveness.

"I have learned that forgiveness is the key to the Christian life," Muha said. "It is what Our Lord does every day, every second of every day.

"And it is what He wants us to do in order to really be the 'image and likeness of God.' But it is misunderstood, too."

In the few months since the book was released, Muha said she has been invited to speak at events and attend book signings and has received "sweet messages from people who have read the book already."

More than anything, she hopes the takeaway for readers will be that "peo-

ple who are struggling with forgiveness would stop struggling, trust God, learn what forgiveness is and do it. They will not regret it. And they will be making their world and our great big world a much better place.

"I also hope they take to heart the children of the inner city and pray for them each and every day – pray that they grow up to become what God has in mind for them."

The book is available at local Catholic bookstores and through numerous online outlets including publisher *Our Sunday Visitor* at www.osvcatholic-bookstore.com.

Deacon candidates installed as lectors



Eleven candidates for the permanent diaconate in the diocese participated in the Rite of Lector, one of the steps on the way to ordination, on Sunday evening, Dec. 18 at Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral. 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. Receiving a Lectionary from Bishop Earl Fernandes is Lou Griffith of Columbus Our Lady of Peace Church. Others present were (first row from left) Deacon Thomas Berg Jr., diocesan chancellor; Griffith; Fidel Pitones of Worthington St. Michael; Bishop Fernandes, Michael Berger of Reynoldsburg St. Pius X; David Fesenmyer of New Albany Church of the Resurrection; Deacon Steve Petrill, associate director of the Office of the Diaconate; and Deacon Frank Iannarino, director of the Office of the Diaconate; (second row from left) Ed Watson of Newark St. Francis de Sales; Matt Palus of Delaware St. Mary; Rob Lancia of Columbus St. Cecilia; Dave Collinworth of Westerville St. Paul; Matt Shaw of Logan St. John; Bryan Inderhees of Columbus St. Peter and Chris Spiese of Ada Our Lady of Lourdes.

CT photo by Ken Snow

Holy Day Mass at St. Elizabeth



A Mass on the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception was celebrated Thursday evening, Dec. 8 by Bishop Earl Fernandes and the priests of Columbus St. Elizabeth Church. The Sons of the Immaculate Conception order of priests at St. Elizabeth offered a Novena in the church in the days leading up to the holy day. The priests of the order traditionally renew their vows on this day each year.

Photos courtesy Cedric Sze



Marion St. Mary honors Our Lady of Guadalupe



Bishop Earl Fernandes celebrated Mass and joined the festivities for the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe on Monday, Dec. 12 at Marion St. Mary Church. With him on the altar at Mass were Father Thomas Buffer, the parish's pastor, and Father Seth Keller, the parochial vicar. The Mass and celebration included traditional dress, drummers and music.

Photos courtesy St. Mary Church

Holiday dinner, action in Wheelersburg



Wheelersburg St. Peter in Chains Church held its annual Ladies Guild holiday dinner and auction on Sunday, Dec. 4. Among those in attendance was Father David Glockner, a priest in residence at the Scioto consortium of parishes. The event raised more than \$2,000 for church needs.

Photos courtesy Ruth Ball

Latin Christmas caroling at St. Agatha School



One of the Middle School Christmas traditions at Columbus St. Agatha School is to go Latin Christmas caroling. The students review the lyrics to the hymns in Latin class, searching through the verses to see what words they already know. One of the most interesting aspects of this review is investigating how the English translations differ from the literal English meaning of the Latin lyrics and analyzing why the translator might have made those choices. Then, wearing Santa hats, the students go door to door in the school, delivering vigorous renditions of "Adeste Fideles" (O Come All Ye Faithful) and "Veni, Veni Emmanuel" (O Come, O Come, Emmanuel).

Photo courtesy St. Agatha School

Light Shines
in the
Darkness
JOHN 1:5



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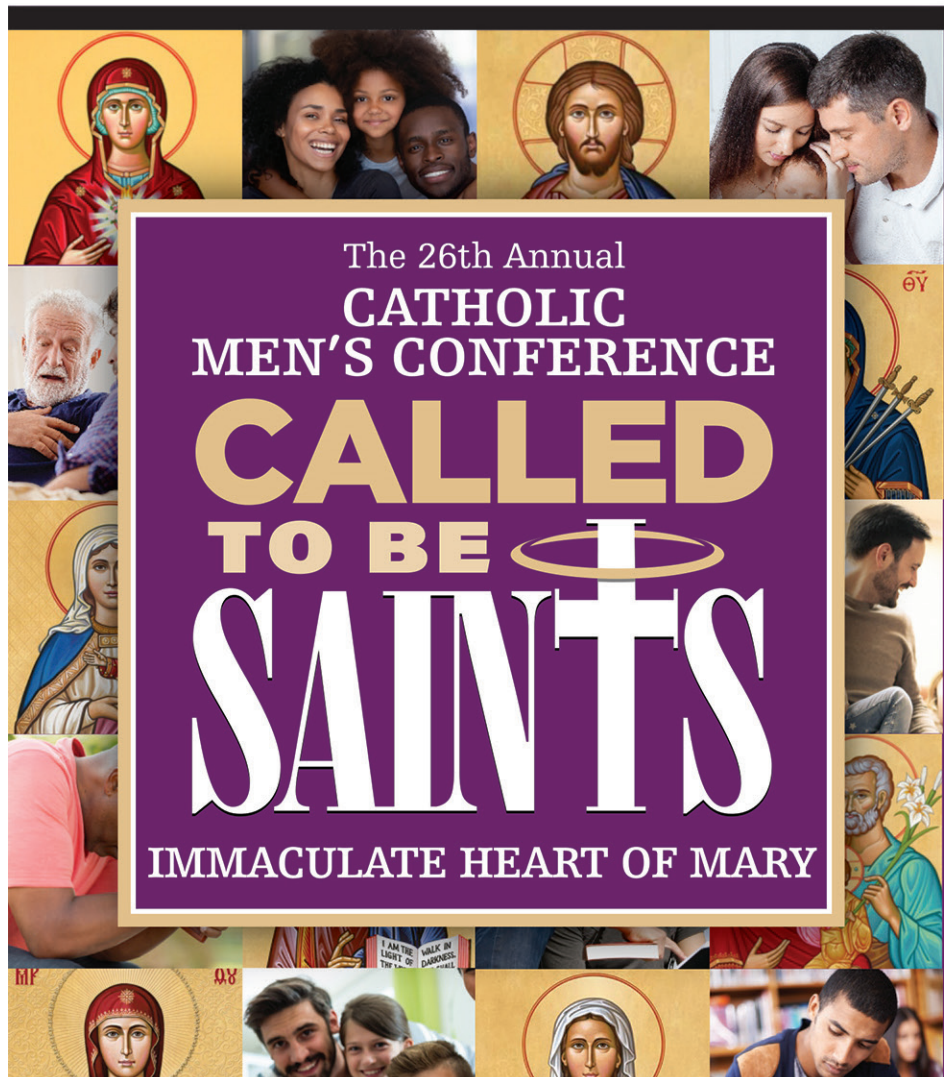
Mass Celebrant:
Bishop Earl Fernandes



Music By:
Hannah Schaefer



Emcee:
Debbie Georgianni



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