

The CATHOLIC TIMES

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**POPE BENEDICT XVI
1927-2022**



INSIDE THIS ISSUE



Sanctity of Life

After an eventful 2022 that saw Roe vs. Wade overturned and decisions on abortion returned to the states, work continues to defend life in the diocese and in Ohio, Pages 8, 12-15



Bishop visits prisons

Bishop Earl Fernandes celebrated Masses for inmates at the Chillicothe Correctional Institution and the Ohio Reformatory for Women in Marysville last month, Pages 10-11

Father Ronald J. Aubry passed away on Dec. 28



Funeral Mass for Father Ronald J. Aubry, 67, who died Wednesday, Dec. 28, 2022, was celebrated Tuesday, Jan. 3 at Millersburg St. Peter Church. Burial was at the St. Peter and Paul Church cemetery, Glenmont.

He was born on Feb. 5, 1955 in Toledo to Hermann and Dorothy (Jacoby) Aubry.

He began his studies for the priesthood at Holy Spirit Seminary in Toledo and earned a Master of Divinity degree from the Pontifical College Josephinum. He was ordained a priest at Columbus Christ the King Church on June 20, 1981 by Bishop Edward Herrmann.

He served as pastor of the Millersburg and Glenmont churches for 24 of his 41 years as a priest – from 1991 to 2011 and from 2018 until his retirement on July 12, 2022. He also was pastor of Zoar Holy Trinity Church, assistant pastor of Westerville St. Paul, Columbus Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal and Columbus St. Catharine churches, priest moderator of Columbus St. Agnes and Columbus St. Aloysius churches, and a teacher at Columbus St. Francis DeSales High School and Columbus St. Charles Preparatory School.

He was preceded in death by his parents and a brother, John.

Bishop recalls profound influence of Benedict

My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Today we received the news of the death of Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI. Words cannot capture our grief, as together, with Catholics around the world, we mourn his passing into eternity, trusting in the Lord's promise of immortality to those who faithfully unite themselves to him.

God has truly blessed the Church through this Servant of the Servants of God. Following the horrors of the Second World War, Joseph Ratzinger offered his life to God as a priest. Blessed with profound intellectual gifts, he served as a *peritus* at the Second Vatican Ecumenical Council and was an authentic interpreter of the documents of the Council. His numerous theological works, which demonstrate his profound love for the Church and a desire to know the Truth, remind us of the Fathers and the Doctors of the Church.

Called by St. Paul VI to serve as Bishop of Munich-Freising, he responded generously, until in 1981, Pope John Paul II called him to Rome, where he began his admirable service as Prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, until his election as Pope in 2005. Retiring from office in 2013 due to health reasons and for the good of the Church was an act of great courage and profound humility, characteristics which marked his life. During these last years, he committed himself to praying for the Church and to preparing himself to meet the Lord. That day has arrived, and we commend Him to the Lord of Mercy, who was his heart's desire.

As a teenager and college student, I began to read and study him thoroughly, along with Hans Urs von Balthasar and Henri de Lubac. His writings deepened my love for the Church, and when I left medical school, I went to a house of spiritual discernment in Rome, the Casa Balthasar. Then-Cardinal Ratzinger was our Cardinal Protector. He was scholarly yet gentle, like someone's grandfather, who was unfailingly kind yet knew absolutely everything – a true wisdom figure.

While in the seminary, I read practically everything he wrote, and a new world – a new vision – opened before my eyes. I began to see the unity of the Faith and my own vocation in a new light. Serving faithfully beside St. John Paul II, despite his own desire to retire to write theological works, I saw, from a distance, a man who put aside his own interests once again for the good of the Church.

Living in Rome during the agony and death of St. John Paul II, I witnessed firsthand how Cardinal Ratzinger, as Dean of the College of Cardinals, held the Church together during a period of mourning and discernment. His homilies at the papal funeral and prior to the entrance into the Conclave revealed his



Bishop Earl Fernandes

ability to lead the Church at that critical time. It was with profound joy, standing in St. Peter's Square, that I witnessed him on the balcony and later attended his installation as Pope.

As Pope, his encyclical letters, Apostolic Exhortations, and homilies offered great clarity as he offered resistance to the dictatorship of relativism and attacks on the dignity of the human person and the human family, while proposing the truth of the Faith and the joy of the Gospel. Living as a priest in Rome with him as Pope and Bishop had a significant impact on my own vocation and priestly ministry. His pastoral visit to the United States in 2008, under the theme of "Christ our Hope" also inspired many young people to discern their vocations and remain faithful to the Lord.

However, recognizing his own physical weakness and what the Church needed for this new era, he humbly tendered his resignation, living the Petrine Ministry in a different, in a hidden way.

Words cannot express my personal sorrow. I invite all Catholics to give praise and thanks to God for the life and ministry of Pope Benedict XVI as we commend him to the Lord, asking the angels to lead him into paradise so that he may hear those blessed words, "Well done, good and faithful servant; come, share your Master's joy."

Yours in our Crucified and Risen Lord,

Most Reverend Earl K. Fernandes
Bishop of Columbus

CORRECTION

Some information on the Nativity scene at Washington Court House St. Colman of Cloyne Church which appeared in the Dec. 18 Catholic Times was incorrect.

The story said the scene was put into storage while Father Jan Sullivan was pastor of the church from 2000 to 2012. The Nativity figures have been displayed there since about 1950, except for some years when a former pastor decided not to use them and they were acquired by the DelPonte family, members of the parish who displayed them on the front

porch of their home near the church.

After Father Sullivan arrived, they were returned to the church and a stable was built for the scene, which is displayed in the church's narthex every year. Father Sullivan said that a few years after he became pastor, the parish also acquired an almost life-sized carved wooden figure of the infant Jesus, which is displayed annually in front of the sanctuary, together with a manger a parishioner made for it.



Front Page photo:
Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI, who led the Catholic Church from 2005 to 2013, died Dec. 31, 2022, at age 95 at his residence and was buried at the Vatican on Thursday, Jan. 5, 2023.

Wikimedia Commons photo

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Tens of thousands attend simple, solemn liturgy for beloved pope

Catholic News Agency

More than 50,000 people were in St. Peter's Square for the funeral on Thursday, Jan. 5 of Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI, a leading theologian of the 20th century and the first pope to resign from office in nearly 600 years.

Royalty, cardinals, patriarchs, government officials and many Catholic families and religious attended the funeral on a cold, foggy morning at the Vatican. More than 3,700 priests celebrated the Mass.

Cardinals Joseph Zen, Daniel DiNardo, Timothy Dolan, Gianfranco Ravasi, and Giuseppe Betori, all cardinals created by Benedict, were seated in the front row. The Vatican said 125 cardinals concelebrated.

The ceremony began with the transport of the pope emeritus's wooden coffin from St. Peter's Basilica to the square.

Archbishop Georg Gänswein, Benedict's personal secretary, approached the coffin, knelt before it and kissed it. The crowd then prayed the sorrowful mysteries of the rosary in Latin for the repose of the soul of the late pope.

The funeral Mass was simple and solemn, in accord with Benedict's wishes. The Sistine Chapel Choir sang the *Salve Regina*, *In Paradisum* and other hymns. An image of the resurrection of Christ was hung from the basilica behind the altar.

Pope Francis presided over the funeral for his predecessor. In his homily, Francis reflected on Jesus' final words on the cross: "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit."

"God's faithful people, gathered here, now accompany and entrust to him the life of the one who was their pastor," Francis said.

"Like the women at the tomb, we, too, have come with the fragrance of gratitude and the balm of hope in order to show him once more the love that is undying. We want to do this with the same wisdom, tenderness and devotion that he bestowed upon us over the years."

Benedict died Dec. 31 at age 95. As confirmed by Archbishop Gänswein, his last words were "Signore, ti amo!" ("Lord, I love you").

"Together, we want to say: 'Father, into your hands we commend his spirit,'" Francis said in his homily. "Benedict, faithful friend of the Bridegroom, may your joy be complete as you hear His voice, now and forever."

The Vatican invited only two official state delegations – from Italy and Germany – to the funeral, but some heads of state and public figures attended in an unofficial capacity.

Poland's President Andrzej Duda, Hungary's Prime Minister Viktor Orban, Czech Prime Minister Petr Fiala and Slovenian President Nataša Pirc Musar attended the ceremony, along with European royals Queen Sofia of Spain and King Philippe and Queen Mathilde of Belgium.

In the Prayers of the Faithful, the sec-



Archbishop Georg Gänswein (right), the longtime personal secretary for Benedict XVI, kneels to kiss the book of the Gospels atop the coffin of the pope emeritus on Jan. 5, 2023, in St. Peter's Square.

Daniel Ibañez/CNA

ond prayer was said in German: "For Pope Emeritus Benedict, who has fallen asleep in the Lord: May the eternal Shepherd receive him into His kingdom of light and peace."

The readings for the Mass were Isaiah 29:16–19 in Spanish; Psalm 23 sung in Latin; 1 Peter 1:3–9 in English, and the Gospel of Luke 23:39–46 read in Italian.

At the end of the funeral Mass, Francis presided over the Final Commendation and Valediction, which were followed by a moment of silent prayer. Francis approached with a cane and prayed while touching the wooden coffin.

Bells tolled and the crowd applauded as Benedict's coffin was carried into St. Peter's Basilica for burial in the basilica crypt. People waved flags and banners, including one that said *Santo Subito*, calling for Benedict's immediate canonization.

Born Joseph Aloisius Ratzinger, he was elected to the papacy in April 2005, taking the name Benedict XVI, after decades of service to the Catholic Church as a theologian, prefect for the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, cardinal and one of the closest collaborators of Pope St. John Paul II, whom he succeeded as pope.

Widely recognized as one of the Catholic Church's top theologians, Benedict's pontificate was marked by a profound understanding of the challenges to the Church in the face of growing ideological aggression, not least from an increasingly secular Western mindset, both within and outside the Church.

He famously warned about the "dictatorship of relativism" in a homily just before the conclave in 2005 that elected him pope.

On Feb. 11, 2013, the 85-year-old Benedict shocked the world with a Latin-language announcement of his retirement, becoming the first pope in 600 years to do so. He cited his advanced age and lack of strength as unsuitable to the exercise of his office.

Reflecting on life after death in an Angelus message on Nov. 2, 2008, Benedict said eternal life will be like "immersing yourself in the ocean of infinite love where time – a before and an after – no

longer exists. Fullness of life and joy: This is what we hope for and expect from our being with Christ."

In the days ahead of his funeral, nearly 200,000 people came to see Benedict lying in state inside St. Peter's Basilica. His coffin was closed in the evening of Jan. 4. The private ceremony took place in the presence of Archbishop Gänswein and a number of cardinals.

Before the casket was closed, a one-page summary of Benedict's papacy was rolled into a metal cylinder and placed inside.

After the funeral, he was laid to rest in the same tomb where John Paul II was buried before his beatification. John Paul II's tomb was in the crypt from the date of his funeral April 8, 2005, until April 29, 2011, when his casket was moved to the upper part of St. Peter's Basilica a few days before his beatification ceremony.

Before Benedict's burial, a ribbon was placed around the coffin, along with three seals: from the Apostolic Chamber, the Pontifical Household and the office of liturgical celebrations. The coffin was then placed in a zinc coffin and sealed.

The zinc coffin was placed in another wooden coffin and then entombed on the north side of the central part of the Vatican crypt. On the wall above the spot there is an image of the Virgin Mary and the child Jesus flanked by angels.

Catholics from Germany, France, Ghana, India, Australia, Uganda and many more countries who attended the funeral shared memories of the late pope. Among those in the crowd was Arthur Escamila, who got to know Benedict personally during the 2008 World Youth Day in Australia.

"It was emotional seeing the coffin coming out of the basilica," he told CNA. Escamila, a numerary from Opus Dei, recalled how Benedict rested for a few days in the Opus Dei center in Sydney where Escamila was living.

"We spent three days together. I attended his Mass. I ate with him. I listened to music with him," Escamila said. Benedict was "very humble" and "approachable. He addressed me by my first name, and I was

very impressed by that.

"My father had recently died. He was interested in that and asked me questions about my father, my family. ... I was personally touched."

Cardinal Oswald Gracias, the archbishop of Bombay, also spoke about his memories of Benedict.

"He was a great theologian, the greatest of the 20th century. ... Whenever I read any article, any book, any homily of his I always got a new insight into theology or spirituality. His was a great contribution for the Church.

"He created me cardinal. He appointed me archbishop of Bombay, ... and we met often. I was on the committee for the translation of liturgical texts, and so we discussed much there."

Father Albert Musunguzi from Uganda said that he felt "deep spiritual joy" at the funeral, especially because it was the first Mass he had ever concelebrated at the Vatican.

"Although we have lost a great man, we are not mourning. We are celebrating a spiritual giant, a great man, a gift to the Church and to the entire world because Pope Benedict was a man not only for the Church but for the entire world," he said.

The priest from Uganda's Archdiocese of Mbarara, currently studying in Rome, said that he believes that the late pope emeritus is a saint.

"Pope Benedict was a humble pope, but a great theologian. We have learned from his humility to approach God from the Word of God. But what I like most from his preaching is that God and science are not opposed to each other ... and what touched me most recently in the life of Pope Benedict XVI were his last words," Father Musunguzi said.

"For 71 years he has given homilies and innumerable essays. He has written 66 books, three encyclicals, four exhortations, and he has summarized all of them in four words, which were his last four words: 'Jesus, I love you.'"

Father Anthony Agnes Adu Mensah from Accra, Ghana, said that he joined in the chants of *santo subito* at the end of the funeral Mass. "I feel in my heart that Pope Benedict is a saint," the priest said.

As Benedict was laid to rest, speakers and attendees at the SEEK23 Catholic conference, held Jan. 2–6 in St. Louis, remembered the late pope's scholarship and love for Christ.

Father Mike Schmitz, a speaker at SEEK23 and host of the "Bible in a Year" and "Catechism in a Year" podcasts, remembered, while in high school, looking in the Catechism for answers to a question he had about the faith. The boldness and clarity of the explanation he found there stuck with him, he said.

Later, Father Schmitz learned that Benedict – then a cardinal – had presided over the committee to create the Cat-

See BELOVED POPE, Page 6

At Requiem Mass, bishop lauds Benedict's stance for truth

Church bells tolled throughout the diocese at 9:55 a.m. Monday, Jan. 2 for five minutes in remembrance of Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI after his death at age 95 on Dec. 31 in Rome.

The five minutes of solemn bell ringing at Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral was followed by a Requiem Mass for the late pontiff offered by Bishop Earl Fernandes and concelebrated by 10 priests from the diocese with deacons assisting.

A congregation of more than 100 people attended the hastily arranged Mass at the cathedral that included young Catholics, parents with small children, religious sisters from several congregations and older people showing their respect for Pope Benedict.

A portrait, surrounded by poinsettias, was displayed on the west side of the main altar in memory of Benedict, who served as pope from 2005 to 2013 before he retired to a life of prayer.

In a 20-minute homily, Bishop Fernandes expanded upon the letter he penned to the diocese (see Page 2 in this issue) shortly after Pope Benedict XVI's departure from the earth was announced early Dec. 31.

Near the beginning of his sermon, the bishop recalled his father having him and his brothers read as teenagers – and try to understand as best they could – the writings of then-Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger from the *Communio*, a theological journal for Catholics.

Years later, when Bishop Fernandes was contemplating his vocation to the priesthood at a discernment house in Rome for which then-Cardinal Ratzinger served as the cardinal protector, he found himself participating in a summer hike in Austria with several other priests in a group that included the future pope.

"They were walking a path that was very tight and narrow, and it had rained the day before and looked very slippery," Bishop Fernandes remembered. When they came to a fork, "the cardinal turned and said, 'Which way should I go?'"

One priest said go right. The other said turn left.

"And the cardinal laughed and walked straight ahead," Bishop Fernandes said. "This is how Joseph Ratzinger, Pope Benedict XVI, was. He walked in the path of truth, in the light of truth."

In the first reading from the Acts of the Apostles at the Mass, Peter said, "In truth, I see that God shows no partiality."

"In Greek, this means that God won't take a bribe, he shows no preference between the rich and the poor as such. He can't be bought," the bishop said.

"This is how Joseph Ratzinger lived. He was not concerned about human respect but about the truth.

"When he came out on the balcony as Pope Benedict XVI (in 2005), he spoke of himself as a simple, humble worker in the vineyard of the Lord."

Bishop Fernandes went on to note that the former pope wrote three volumes on Jesus of Nazareth, but that, despite Benedict's great intellect, found truth in the person of Jesus Christ.

"Only in the name of Jesus is there salvation, and this is why Pope Emeritus Benedict was so dedicated to his work and to his writing to the publication of the Catechism of the Catholic Church that he wanted to pass on the gift of truth for generations to come."

The bishop called for the faithful to follow Benedict's example and become co-workers for the truth, "not to care what people think of us to bear witness."

As a young priest, Bishop Fernandes was studying in Rome at the time of Pope John Paul II's death in April



A portrait of the late Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI is displayed at St. Joseph Cathedral. Benedict died Dec. 31 at age 95 after serving as the Roman pontiff from 2005 to 2013 before retiring. *GT photo*

2005. He explained the impact there of losing the saintly pontiff.

"We all wondered: How can we move forward?" Bishop Fernandes said. "And I remember the papal funeral, and somehow someone had to be the adult in the room. And it was then-Cardinal Ratzinger, who gave beautiful homilies and then helped the College of Cardinals gather themselves and to discern God's will."

Cardinal Ratzinger, then the prefect for the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, had planned to stay on in Rome to help with the transition after John Paul II's death and then return to his native Germany to live out his days writing and praying.

During the interim before a new pope was selected, Cardinal Ratzinger spoke about the maturity that Christians must display in practicing their faith and the need to avoid being swayed in one direction or the other.

"He spoke about the dictatorship of relativism," Bishop Fernandes shared. "And at the end of the talk St. Peter's Basilica broke out in applause, and I began to think he might be elected, but it was just a thought."

"But this idea of a dictatorship of relativism was important because it had to do with genuine truth, and if we are all subject to the whims of this passing world, the whims of political power, then everyone must be vulnerable."

"And here we had this meek and mild man, gentle like someone's grandfather ... someone who was willing to stand up for the truth and defend it."

And it came to pass that Cardinal Ratzinger was elected Pope Benedict on April 19, 2005.

"It was with much delight that he appeared on St. Peter's balcony. There I was in St. Peter's Square in the piazza, and I knew I would never really see him again or speak to him again, but I was happy because we had a pope."

Benedict had spent much of his priestly life as a defender of the faith. In the 1960s, he attended the Second Vatican Council as a theological adviser and years later would be a key contributor to the Catechism of the Catholic Church that was promulgated in 1992.

"If we were to do Pope Benedict honor, it would be to take our stand with Christ so as to live with him no matter how much the cost, even if we have to suffer," Bishop Fernandes said. "And he did suffer, not only



Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI was remembered at the Requiem Mass on Monday, Jan. 2 at St. Joseph Cathedral for his service to the Church and his love for Christ. *GT photo*

from his enemies and his detractors, but physically."

Benedict cited his lack of physical strength when he announced in Latin on Feb. 11, 2013, that he was resigning, becoming the first pope to do so in nearly 600 years.

"He offered his suffering for the good of the Church, and he suffered in silence," Bishop Fernandes said.

As the prefect for the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith and later as pope, Benedict defended the truths of the faith even when he was called too dogmatic and countercultural.

"Rather, he would say that when the Church says no to something, we are saying yes to something else," Bishop Fernandes said. "When we say no to abortion or attacks on human life, we say yes to the goodness of life."

Bishop Fernandes went on to say Benedict viewed the Church as young and alive, and he encouraged young people who are sometimes afraid of Christ taking away their freedom for following Him that He will instead give them everything.

"It was his faith in Jesus Christ that allowed him to resign for the good of the Church," the bishop said. "That takes humility and courage that comes from confidence that in Christ everything will be OK. ..."

"I'm sure that Joseph Ratzinger would have preferred to return to his native Germany to write his books and to live out his life in prayer. God had something else in mind. And so, he laid down his life for the good of the Church."

"He spent nearly 10 years in silent prayer. We do not know where we would be or the Church would be without his prayers."

Bishop Fernandes mentioned Benedict XVI's first encyclical, *Deus Caritas Est*, which stated in the first paragraph that "being a Christian is not the result of an ethical choice or a lofty idea but the result of an encounter with an event or a person who opens up new horizons and gives our life a decisive direction."

"Joseph Ratzinger, Pope Benedict XVI, once said that there is no enemy but only an encounter. Now we can help him encounter God as he makes his final pilgrimage to the heavenly homeland to be his destiny."

"Christ was his life, and Christ is our life."

Local reactions to the death of Benedict XVI

The Catholic Times has compiled reactions and reflections from throughout the diocese on the death and legacy of Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI.

The retired pontiff died Dec. 31 in Rome at age 95 and was laid to rest on Jan. 5 after a simple funeral at the Vatican.

The former Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger was elected pope in 2005 and resigned in 2013. The German native and theologian had served under Pope St. John Paul II as the prefect for the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith until succeeding John Paul.

The following are remembrances of Pope Benedict XVI:

Father Stephen Alcott, OP Pastor, Columbus St. Patrick Church

I attended World Youth Day in Cologne (Germany) in 2005 as a young priest along with a group from our parish in Cincinnati. Pope Benedict had just become pope. I, like so many, knew that he was a great writer, but his pastoral side was wonderfully revealed in his preaching and presence at this World Youth Day which had been planned by his predecessor, Pope John Paul II.

Because the relics of the Magi are kept at the Cologne Cathedral, Pope Benedict wove the theme of pilgrimage and seeking Christ throughout his preaching and



Pope Benedict XVI Credit: vipflash / Shutterstock

addresses. One of his reflections that he shared with a group of seminarians in Cologne has stuck with me over the years:

“Why did the Magi set off from afar to go to Bethlehem? The answer has to do with the mystery of the ‘star’ which they saw ‘in the East’ and which they recognized as the star of the ‘King of the Jews,’ that is to say, the sign of the birth of the Messiah (Matthew 2:2). So, their journey was inspired by a powerful hope, strengthened and guided by the star, which led them towards the King of the Jews, towards the kingship of God himself. This is the meaning behind our journey: to serve the kingship of God in the world.

“The Magi set out because of a deep desire which prompted them to leave everything and begin a journey. It was as though they had always been waiting for that star. It was as if the journey had

always been a part of their destiny and was finally about to begin.

“Dear friends, this is the mystery of God’s call, the mystery of vocation. It is part of the life of every Christian, but it is particularly evident in those whom Christ asks to leave everything in order to follow him more closely.” (Address to seminarians, Aug. 19, 2005: bit.ly/3CIMfEH)

Especially during this Christmas season, we all can reflect on our vocations as a pilgrimage to see the face of Christ; how each vocation is, like the star of the Magi, an attractive, captivating light shining in the darkness but still quiet and unobtrusive: It has to be followed willingly.

I am also a fan of his writing. I did my Licentiate in Sacred Theology degree with a concentration in Scripture and remember that for all of Pope St. John Paul II’s papal writings, he wrote very little on Sacred Scripture.

When Benedict XVI became pope, he wrote the *Jesus of Nazareth* trilogy of books, which I thought was wonderful: He was able to be more free and personal in sharing his reflections on Christ in the Gospels than he would have been in an encyclical letter or other papal document, and they remain a great model to me of combining our Catholic faith and theology with a serious intellectual engagement of the Gospel texts.

May this humble, faithful shepherd find eternal joy in seeing Christ face to face.

Dr. Grzegorz Ignatik Associate professor of theology, Pontifical College Josephinum

You could be fully justified to say that Pope Benedict XVI continued the legacy of John Paul II. Overall, if a pope is faithful to the Gospel of Jesus Christ, he remains in continuity with another pope who was also faithful to it because the continuity is based on faithfulness to the origin of the apostolic mission. But I could indicate a couple of areas where this continuity is particularly visible.

The first area is the understanding and implementation of the Second Vatican Council. Both John Paul II and Benedict personally participated in Vatican II (John Paul as a council father and Benedict as an expert).

Both of them understood the council’s goal of enriching the people’s faith in the context of the mystery of the Church as the Body of Christ and the People of God. They both were authentic interpreters and implementors of the council because of their understanding of the Church – specifically as communion (*communio*).

John Paul II and Benedict XVI were also united in their proclamation of

See REACTIONS, Page 17

Benedict XVI: learned theologian, humble soldier of Christ

Father Andre-Joseph LaCasse, OP was celebrating a Mass at Columbus St. Patrick Church on April 19, 2005, when the parish’s pastor whispered to his fellow Dominican priest that a new pope had been chosen.

Eighteen years later, Father LaCasse, now the pastor at Somerset Holy Trinity and St. Joseph churches in Perry County, remembers that day well.

“I was in the middle of saying the daily midday Mass, and the pastor, Father Ambrose Eckinger, poked his head out of the side sacristy door and said to me ‘Ratzinger’ had been elected pope,” Father LaCasse recalled.

Countless other Catholics throughout the world have shared remembrances the past two weeks of Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI, who passed into eternal life at age 95 on Saturday, Dec. 31, 2022, and was buried on Thursday, Jan. 5, 2023, after a funeral at the Vatican befitting a holy, humble and faithful man.

Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, who had served as the prefect for the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith under Pope St. John Paul II from 1981 until 2005, was announced as the new pope two weeks after John Paul’s death following a conclave during which the top vote-getters among the College of Cardinals were Ratzinger and Jorge Mario Bergoglio.

Pope Benedict remained in the Chair of Peter until February 2013 when he announced that he was resigning because he lacked the physical stamina to continue as leader of the Catholic Church. Bergoglio was elevated to be Benedict’s successor, taking the name Pope Francis, and he was the principal celebrant at the late pontiff’s funeral Mass last week.

“I was quite surprised that Cardinal Ratzinger was elected since I thought there is no way the cardinals

EDITOR’S REFLECTIONS

would be so brave,” Father LaCasse said in reflecting on Benedict’s elevation to the papacy. “Well, they were.

“Father Ambrose then went on to ring the bells, which could be heard over the rest of the Mass. It was indeed a great day.”

At the time, Benedict’s election was considered a bold move because of his traditional views on faith, doctrine and morals. In a homily preceding the conclave that would end with then-Cardinal Ratzinger being selected as pope, he decried the dictatorship of relativism that limits the human capacity to seek moral truths.

Progressives didn’t like the fact that Benedict adhered to the Church’s teaching on marriage between one man and one woman, abortion and artificial contraception, a celibate male priesthood and reverent liturgy, among other things.

Sadly, Benedict was falsely characterized by the media as dogmatic and doctrinaire. In reality, his personality proved to be just the opposite. He was somewhat shy, fatherly and gentle. And he absolutely was a spiritual giant who left a legacy of theological writings and insights.

After his death, there were calls for immediate sainthood and speculation that he might one day be designated a doctor of the Church – an individual considered to have made significant contributions to theology or doctrine.

Pope Benedict XVI was one of those rare individuals created by God who was blessed with astounding intellect and insight but maintained almost childlike humility and otherworldly faith.

He had planned to return to his native Germany after John Paul II’s death and spend his final years writing and praying.

God had other ideas for him, and it’s through this lens that one of Benedict’s famous quotes summarizes our mission in the Christian life: “The world offers you comfort. But you were not made for comfort. You were made for greatness.”

Pope Benedict XVI knew the truths of the Catholic faith as well as anyone – Pope John Paul II put him in charge of overseeing the publication of the Catechism of the Catholic Church in 1992 – and defended them no matter the cost to his personal reputation.

That’s really the legacy he leaves and the example that we, as Catholics, should strive to follow.

We must be ready to lay down our lives for the Lord and our faith. We must know and defend the truths of our Catholic faith at all costs without fear that our careers or reputations might be damaged – even if it means offending family members or co-workers.

Benedict undoubtedly heard his detractors criticize his rejection of married priests and women’s ordination, his staunch defense of the unborn and traditional marriage, and his denunciation of artificial contraception and relations outside marriage. He was maligned for some of the things he said and did, including handling of clergy sex abuse cases. All of that ultimately drained his energy, but media portrayals are not always based on reality.

One of his significant achievements was to allow the Traditional Latin Mass to be more widely celebrated. That decision also drew criticism and last year was all but rescinded by his successor in a move that reportedly saddened Benedict, said his longtime personal secretary, Archbishop Georg Ganswein, after the former pope’s death.

But our hope now is that this holy man after his de-

See EDITOR, Page 6

Local woman, priest recall Mass with Pope Benedict XVI

Ginger West just knew she had to be at Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral on Monday, Jan. 2 for a Requiem Mass celebrated by Bishop Earl Fernandes in memory of Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI.

After the former pontiff died at age 95 on Saturday, Dec. 31 in Rome, and she heard later that day that Bishop Fernandes would offer a special Mass to honor Benedict XVI on Jan. 2, she immediately flashed back to the exact date 10 years earlier.

On Jan. 2, 2013, she attended a Mass with then-Pope Benedict as the celebrant at the Vatican along with two grandchildren plus third-year theology seminarians from the Pontifical College Josephinum and Father Eugene Morris, then-director of sacred liturgy and an assistant professor of sacred theology at the Josephinum.

West, a devout local Catholic who is an active supporter of the Josephinum and vocations to religious life, couldn't help but notice the significance of the dates exactly 10 years apart.

"They were so impressed with (Benedict)," she said. "We were able to get special seating in the audience, and it just was so special to be in his presence."

"I remember like it was yesterday, and so January 2 is a very important date to me."

"My grandchildren were very, very touched by (Benedict's) words and by the pomp and circumstance of that beautiful, beautiful audience and all the different languages that were spoken."

One of the seminarians who assisted at the Mass was Father Sean Dooley, now the pastor at Columbus Our Lady of Peace Church. He was joined by Father Vince Nguyen, now pastor at Columbus St. Mary, Mother of God and St. Ladislav and Corpus Christi churches; and Father Cyrus Haddad, now pastor at Washington Court House St. Colman of Cloyne Church.

Father Dooley presented a reflection last week at his parish on his encounter with Benedict XVI before that Mass in 2013.

"In January of 2013, my seminary class was honored to serve Mass at St. Peter's Basilica in Rome for Benedict XVI," he said. "It was Epiphany, and four bishops were to be ordained at this liturgy."

"The night before, we were given a 'pep talk' by one of the priests. I remember his words: 'Gentlemen, you are to be clean shaven, hair combed and your shoes polished.' Gulp!"

"The day arrived. The sun was rising over the domes. I felt like I was in a movie, walking toward St. Peter's Basilica in my cassock. As soon as we arrived, we

were taken into a room as some cardinals were vesting for Mass.

"Suddenly, an Augustinian friar approached us seminarians. He handed us some of the vestments for the pope. We were told to line up. I looked to the left and noticed I was standing next to Michelangelo's Pieta!"

"Then, one of the monks handed me the pallium. (The pallium is what the pope and archbishops wear to symbolize their authority.) The monk told me to go into the sacristy, and there stood Benedict, facing the crucifix and praying as he prepared for Mass. I remember he made a gesture of gratitude toward me. Crazy!"

"I could tell that Benedict had not shaven his face that day! Come on! I had to shine my shoes!"

EDITOR, continued from Page 5

parture from this life will intercede for a world and a Church desperately in need of a moral beacon. We turn to Benedict and pray for his protection, particularly for a Catholic Church being pressured politically to conform to crazy secular ideology and increasingly vulnerable to misguided leadership.

If ever there were a synopsis of Benedict's humility and faith, it could be found in the following words that he composed as he neared death:

"Quite soon, I shall find myself before the final judge of my life," Benedict wrote.

BELOVED POPE, continued from Page 3

echism of the Catholic Church, which was published in 1992.

"His brilliance, his genius, his love for the Lord – (the Catechism) is not just a heady document. (It has) a beauty that speaks to the heart, not just to the head," Father Schmitz said.

"And I think sometimes people, they have a caricature of Pope Benedict. ... But they seem to intentionally ignore that everything I've ever read from him, everything I've ever heard him say, is permeated by not just truth but truth in love, truth spoken in love."

Archbishop Mitchell Rozanski of St. Louis, the celebrant at the conference's opening Mass on Jan. 2, eulogized the late pope in his homily. He asked those in attendance to dedicate the week to praying for the late pope's soul.

"As we celebrate our Catholic faith this week, our thoughts also turn to prayer – for beloved Pope Benedict XVI, a man who preached the Gospel with his life, used his gifted intellect to explain our faith clearly and served as our Holy Father from 2005 until 2013.

"May he experience the fullness of life promised by Jesus to his faithful ones. Let us dedicate this week to praying to Pope Benedict XVI and for the missionary zeal, for which he longed, to inspire

"In all seriousness, I will treasure this memory. It is a good reminder of his quiet holiness and his humanity. The last words of Benedict XVI were 'Lord, I love you!' I pray we may say those same words in moments of difficulty in our lives."

"Death shall have no dominion. May he rest in peace."

A month after the group from Columbus had the privilege to be in Pope Benedict's presence, he made the surprise announcement that he was stepping down because he felt he no longer had the strength and energy to lead the worldwide Church.

Benedict lived his final years on earth in prayer and contemplation, leaving a legacy of spiritual works and memories that will touch souls now and forever.

"Even though, as I look back on my long life, I can have great reason for fear and trembling, I am nonetheless of good cheer, for I trust firmly that the Lord is not only the just judge, but also the friend and brother who himself has already suffered for my shortcomings, and is thus also my advocate, my 'Paraclete.'"

"In light of the hour of judgment, the grace of being a Christian becomes all the more clear to me. It grants me knowledge, and indeed friendship, with the judge of my life, and thus allows me to pass confidently through the dark door of death."

our Church."

Bishop Earl Fernandes of Columbus, celebrating the morning Mass on the first full day of the conference, quoted Benedict in his 2005 encyclical *Deus Caritas Est*: "Being Christian is not the result of an ethical choice or a lofty idea, but the encounter with an event, a person, which gives life a new horizon and a decisive direction."

"Now Pope Benedict XVI goes toward that event, to that horizon," Bishop Fernandes said.

"His life always had a decisive direction, but a newness comes, and we commend him to the Lord, to Mary the Mother of Mercy. And yet, this is what he always wanted, this encounter, which is not an end but a new beginning."

Paul J. Kim, a Catholic speaker, musician and comedian who spoke at SEEK23, told CNA that after the lengthy and joyful pontificate of St. John Paul II, when "Pope Benedict stepped out onto the balcony there at St. Peter's, it was a great consolation."

"One, because I knew he was just a solid Catholic cardinal who dedicated his life to upholding the truth of Christ and not mincing it, not watering it down."

See **BELOVED POPE**, Page 7

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The true Joseph Ratzinger

THE CATHOLIC DIFFERENCE

George Weigel

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



The Joseph Ratzinger I knew for 35 years — first as prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, later as Pope Benedict XVI and then Pope Emeritus — was a brilliant, holy man who bore no resemblance to the caricature that was first created by his theological enemies and then set in media concrete.

The cartoon Ratzinger was a grim, relentless ecclesiastical inquisitor/enforcer, “God’s Rottweiler.” The man I knew was a consummate gentleman with a gentle soul, a shy man who nonetheless had a robust sense of humor, and a Mozart lover who was fundamentally a happy person, not a sour crank.

The cartoon Ratzinger was incapable of understanding or appreciating modern thought. The Ratzinger I knew was arguably the most learned man in the world, with an encyclopedic knowledge of Christian theology (Catholic, Orthodox, and Protestant), philosophy (ancient, medieval, and modern), biblical studies (Jewish and Christian), and political theory (classic and contemporary). His mind was luminous and orderly, and when asked a question, he would answer in complete paragraphs — in his third or fourth language.

The cartoon Ratzinger was a political reactionary, discomfited by the 1968 student protests in Germany and longing for a restoration of the monarchic past; his more vicious enemies hinted at Nazi sympathies (hence the nasty sobriquet Panzerkardinal). The Ratzinger I knew was the German who, on a state visit to the United Kingdom in 2010, thanked the people of the U.K. for winning the Battle of Britain — a Bavarian Christian Democrat (which would put him slightly left of center in U.S. political terms) whose disdain for

Marxism was both theoretical (it made no sense philosophically) and practical (it never worked and was inherently totalitarian and murderous).

The cartoon Ratzinger was the enemy of the Second Vatican Council. The Ratzinger I knew was, in his mid-30s, one of the three most influential and productive theologians at Vatican II — the man who, as CDF prefect, worked in harness with John Paul II to give the Council an authoritative interpretation, which he deepened during his own papacy.

The cartoon Ratzinger was a liturgical troglodyte determined to turn back the clock of liturgical reform. The Ratzinger I knew was deeply influenced, spiritually and theologically, by the 20th-century liturgical movement. Ratzinger became a far more generous pope in his embrace of legitimate liturgical pluralism than his papal successor, because Benedict XVI believed that, out of such a vital pluralism, the noble goals of the liturgical movement that formed him would eventually be realized in a Church empowered by reverent worship for mission and service.

The cartoon Ratzinger was yesterday’s story, an intellectual throwback whose books would soon gather dust and crumble away, leaving no imprint on the Church or on world culture. The Ratzinger I knew was one of the few contemporary authors who could be cer-

tain that his books would be read centuries from now. I also suspect that some of the homilies of this greatest papal preacher since Pope St. Gregory the Great will eventually find their way into the Church’s official daily prayer, the Liturgy of the Hours.

The cartoon Ratzinger craved power. The Ratzinger I knew tried three times to resign his post in the Curia, had zero desire to be pope, told fellow churchmen in 2005 that he was “not a man of governo [governance],” and only accepted his election to the papacy in obedience to what he regarded as God’s will, manifest through the overwhelming vote of his brother cardinals.

The cartoon Ratzinger was indifferent to the crisis of clerical sexual abuse. The Ratzinger I knew did as much as anyone, as cardinal prefect of CDF and then as pope, to cleanse the Church of what he brutally and accurately described as “filth.”

The key to the true Joseph Ratzinger, and to his greatness, was the depth of his love for the Lord Jesus — a love refined by an extraordinary theological and exegetical intelligence, manifest in his trilogy, *Jesus of Nazareth*, which he regarded as the capstone of his lifelong scholarly project. In those books, more than six decades of learning were distilled into an account that he hoped would help others to come and love Jesus as he did. For as he insisted in so many variations on one great theme, “friendship with Jesus Christ” was the beginning, the sine qua non, of the Christian life. And fostering that friendship was the whole purpose of the Church.

The last of the monumental figures of 20th-century Catholicism has gone home to God, who will not fail to reward his good servant.

Seeking, receiving, hoping: inspiration from Benedict XVI

By Sister John Paul Maher, OP

As we reflect on the life and writings of Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI, we can identify three themes that might be applied to our own call to follow Christ. Just as the late Holy Father did, we are called to seek the face of the Lord, to receive His love and to have hope in His faithfulness.

Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI sought the face of the Lord. This was evident in his manner of prayer and study and in the worship of the divine mysteries at Holy Mass and in Eucharistic Adoration.

He described his three-volume work on the life of Christ as “solely an expression of my personal search for ‘the face of the Lord.’” (cf. Psalm 27:8) (*Jesus of Nazareth: From the Baptism in the Jordan to the Transfiguration*, 2007, p. xxiv)

This search for the Lord was a central motivation of his extensive scholarly work. He sought to know the Lord and to help others do the same. He noted in the introduction to his second volume of *Jesus of Nazareth*,

“I have attempted to develop a way of observing and listening to the Jesus of the Gospels that can indeed lead to personal encounter.” (*Jesus of Nazareth: Holy Week*, 2011, p. xvii)

He reminded us: “What the world needs is God’s love; it needs to encounter Christ and to believe in Him.” (*Sacramentum Caritatis*, 2007, 84)

The love of God was the theme chosen by Benedict to emphasize in his first encyclical, *God Is Love*. (*Deus Caritas Est*, 2005) We may gain insight into the pope’s own spiritual life from the way in which he describes the “love story” of the Bible, wherein the Lord “seeks to win our hearts, all the way to the Last Supper, to the piercing of his heart on the cross.” (*Deus Caritas Est*, 17)

One could say love was the lens through which the Holy Father saw and interpreted everything.

He worked to inspire people to have hope in the faithfulness of the Lord’s love and promises, and in the inheritance of a lasting heaven where the embrace of God awaits. In his encyclical *On Christian Hope*, he wrote: “Man’s great, true hope which holds firm in spite of all disappointments can only be God – God who loved us

and who continues to love us ‘to the end,’ until ‘all is accomplished.’” (cf. John 13:1, John 19:30)

Benedict encouraged others to seek the Lord, experience His love and to live in trusting hope, while living in communion with their brothers and sisters. He saw in the Holy Eucharist the source of all communion and mission among the children of God.

“The more ardent the love for the Eucharist in the hearts of the Christian people, the more clearly they will recognize the goal of all mission: to bring Christ to others. Not just a theory or a way of life inspired by Christ, but the very gift of His Person.” (*Sacramentum Caritatis*, 86)

The words and deeds of Benedict XVI draw us to Christ and illuminate for us how to be His disciples. In his memory, it is fitting to recall his words of counsel:

“All people want to leave a mark which lasts. But what remains? ... The only thing which remains forever is the human soul, the human person created by God for eternity. The fruit which remains then is that which we have sowed in human souls: love, knowledge, a gesture capable of touching the heart, words which open the soul to joy in the Lord.

“Let us then go to the Lord and pray to Him, so that He may help us bear fruit which remains. Only in this way will the earth be changed from a valley of tears to a garden of God.” (*Homily for the Mass for the Election of the Roman Pontiff*, April 18, 2005)

Let us pray and reflect:

- How can I observe and listen to the Jesus of the Gospels to encounter Him?
- How is the Lord calling me, personally, to bear fruit in human souls by sowing the love of God?

Sister John Paul Maher, OP, is principal of Worthington St. Michael School and a member of the Dominican Sisters of Mary, Mother of the Eucharist.

BELOVED POPE, continued from Page 6

And for me, that was a great comfort.”

Lisa Cotter, another well-known Catholic speaker, said a letter Benedict wrote while a cardinal, “On Collaboration of Men and Women in the Church and in the World,” is her favorite of his many writings.

“It was something that spoke so directly to my heart as a woman, who’s a lay woman who’s married with children.

“Just the way that he explained and gave us this beautiful teaching on how men and women work together. It’s like taking John Paul II’s ‘Feminine Genius’ and

giving it more depth. He really expanded, I think, on a lot of things that John Paul II brought up, but then he also had this beautiful Scripture academic side,” Cotter said.

“I think we all got a little starstruck with JPII that we didn’t recognize the gift of Benedict. But I think his legacy is really going to start to come out. And as much good as he was doing here on earth, I’m really excited because I know he’s going to do infinitely more good work in heaven.”

Unexpected joy: How God answered the prayer of my heart

The joy of recognizing the Lord working in our lives never grows old. Every time this happens it is in His time – a hope revealed, a prayer answered in the gentlest and sweetest of ways. This Lord who parts the seas and created the stars in the heavens doesn't just take a fleeting moment from His busy life to bless me, but rather His plan is intentional.

Our God has the generous heart of a father. I see this heart of a father work daily through my husband. He gives abundantly, serving every day because life with eight children and many special needs mandates a selfless type of giving.

More than the doing, I see the joy it brings him to bless our children. He is spontaneous, extravagant and zealous in his desire to love us, and this is just an earthly example of a father's love. One can only stand in awe of the beauty of our heavenly Father's love.

We recently hosted a family gathering that had my stomach in knots prior to the visit. Truth be told, I was almost relieved when a child came down sick that morning. I heard another cough, and a small voice whispered: There's your reason to cancel.

I reached out to our guest explaining the situation. He responded with excitement to be coming and said he'd still like to visit. Anxiety filled my heart. I almost threw our whole morning into a tailspin because of my emotions.

I took a moment to pause and welcome the Lord into my moment of anxiety and worry. You can picture the "what ifs" boiling out of my thoughts into this silent

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.



prayer, and He nodded compassionately, smiled tenderly and held out His hand.

For me, that visual of the Lord holding out His hand in invitation is always the next step. It is quite literally a leap of faith, a surrender, and I find this necessary almost every day. Not every moment reaps a reward like this step, but each one molds me more closely to the heart of my Father in heaven.

Our guest arrived, and I still sit in awe of how lovely this visit was. There was healing and laughter. I watched our family run to the door to welcome, and hearts overflowed from the moment the door opened. Words that typically might come out harsh were softened before they left lips. Looks of wonder were shared across the room because there was a peaceful presence that was beyond what our family has experienced lately.

I realized this person was nervous, too, and that he had stepped out in faith, even though his faith might be a mustard seed. The Lord took that mustard seed, and this moment we were sharing was watering it.

I stood in the middle of the Lord working in my life, answering my prayers, healing so many wounds in this one visit. There are images of saints looking to heaven in awe and gratitude. But for me, in this miraculous

moment, closing my eyes, I drew quickly into the arms of my Father and said thank you.

Silent tears of gratitude and joy, wonder and thanksgiving rolled down my face, and I watched myself and this person whom I almost pushed away in hurt and pain begin to heal. I've never felt a healing like this, a layer by layer, piece by piece awareness that this is a process, but we are not going to hurt each other while walking through it, a this-is-worth-it kind of healing.

I feel like Zachariah who was struck mute but filled with joy at the Lord's gifts! So many texts and phone calls have been sent after this visit in wonder of how beautiful that time was. Requests were made to do it again soon.

As I sit here pondering the Father's love, I am giddy with this gift – the gift of such a beautiful visit and the beginnings of healing, but more so, the gift of recognizing the Lord working abundantly in my life. I almost let my worry and hurt push this moment away!

Thank you, Jesus, for speaking to my heart and calming me. Your way is certainly not the path I dreamed I'd be walking at this point in my life. I'm so much more the person You created me to be by staying close to your heart.

Today, may we all take a moment to thank the Lord for working in our lives, for being present even when we don't see Him and to reaffirm our trust and our surrender to His plan in our lives. With Mother Mary as our guide, may we walk forward with trust and wonder.

To be pro-life, we must help pregnant/parenting women, families

What is the Church's role in this post-Dobbs political climate?

First, we must keep supporting moms and their families. I believe the key to this is Walking with Moms in Need (WWMIN), the U.S. bishops' nationwide initiative to assist pregnant and parenting women and their families.

We must continue providing real compassion for a woman who's scared, isolated, anxious, under pressure and lonely. She needs our love and support.

One way to provide that is by telling her where she can find local help and resources. WWMIN asks parish leaders to inventory their local communities and parish resources. If a pregnant woman is given information about what's going on inside of her and her options, and if she receives love, support and the assurance that we will walk with her, she will opt for life.

We must make it possible for women and their families to make real and effective choices to support life.

FAITH IN ACTION | Erin Cordle

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



That's how we build the culture of life. Laws are important, and political advocacy is important. The public face of our pro-life efforts is important to help raise consciousness.

But in a bitterly polarized society, it is our accompaniment of, and support for, women and families in these situations that changes hearts and minds through love and compassion. This extends even beyond the birth of the child to ensure that moms and their babies continue to be supported and are OK.

We need better communications about the goals of WWMIN because we're up against false narratives. The best thing is for women who have gone through

this experience to tell their stories because they touch hearts. And that's what begins to change the conversation.

Pregnant/parenting moms in need are in our parishes and our neighborhoods. As Pope Francis reminds us, our parishes must be "islands of mercy in the midst of a sea of indifference." We need to know how and where to refer women and families in spiritual, emotional, material or financial need.

A key strategy is to in-

volve the active ministries in your parish/deanery. Prayer shawl/fiber crafting ministries could create comfort items; service clubs could offer to mow lawns, rake leaves, etc.; youth groups could coordinate drives for baby supplies. The list is limited only by our imaginations.

Ongoing bulletin/webpage announcements could raise awareness in your parish to pray for, donate to or volunteer at a support center. The parish as a whole could become more aware of needs and how they can support them through prayerful outreach and referrals.

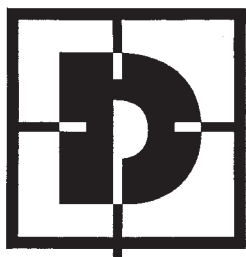
Parishes decide their own ability to support individuals/families based on their resources and active ministries. Materials on the WWMIN website will support your efforts to raise awareness in your parishes (www.walkingwithmoms.com/). An introductory webinar is located at www.youtube.com/watch?v=6kOP-GKozVqw. New materials are added to the site on an on-going basis.

WWMIN aims to help parishes and parishioners learn about needs and available resources. An emerging strategy for WWMIN is to work in parish clusters – no need to reinvent the wheel. One current option is to work on the resources inventory list identifying local support options. Then, each parish completes the parish-support section individually.

To connect your parish champion to a group, or for support in starting this ministry, send the contact information to me at the diocesan Office for Social Concerns at socmailbox@columbuscatholic.org. Also, you can call me at 614-241-2540.

The cornerstone of Catholic social teaching is the sacredness of human life and the dignity of the human person. I pray we all start this new year with a focus of living out Catholic social teaching with energy and renewed conviction.

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Through God's grace, we can practice faith, hope and charity

"The theological virtues dispose Christians to live in a relationship with the Holy Trinity. They have God for their origin, their motive, and their object – God known by faith, God hoped in and loved for his own sake. There are three theological virtues: faith, hope, and charity. They inform all the moral (human) virtues and give life to them." – Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC) 1840/1841

Instances of the word "faith" in the Holy Bible number about 380 and eclipse hope and charity. The virtues must exist in you together or they are devoid of their true meaning. Once we are in heaven – as we hope – faith and hope will be truly realized; charity (love) remains.

In his book *God or Nothing*, Cardinal Robert Sarah writes, "Our life of faith most often walks in the night. The more faith has to confront trials, the stronger it becomes. Nights of faith always end with finding the little light of God."

"Faith" is one of those words that gets tossed around, probably more than any other word. With our secular friends, faith seems often to be brought down to the lowest denominator and finds itself sparring with reason.

Christians might be thought of as having some sort of blindness or be irrational to have faith. Like it or not, faith is a necessary part of our human nature. We cannot function without faith. In every encounter, whether with a cashier or our spouse, we exhibit some level of faith, and it is not blind.

The difference is with God. Faith from him is supernatural. Meaning it is, and always will be, true. "It is

AQUINAS CORNER | Richard Arnold

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



certain," as the Catechism says.

Pope St. John Paul II writes, "Faith and reason are like two wings on which the human spirit rises to the contemplation of truth; and God has placed in the human heart a desire to know the truth – in a word, to know himself – so that, by knowing and loving God, men and women may also come to the fullness of truth about themselves." (Fides et Ratio)

On the Christian side, faith also gets brought down to the lowest denominator. All Christians will profess faith in Jesus as being their "Lord and Savior." Anything beyond that, one wonders what the fuss is all about.

Why is supernatural faith denied or refused? God can be reasonably perceived. St. Paul writes, "For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. Ever since the creation of the world his invisible nature, namely, his eternal power and deity, has been clearly perceived in the things that have been made." (Romans 1:19-20)

We read in CCC 154/155, "Believing is possible only by grace and the interior helps of the Holy Spirit. But it is no less true that believing is an authentically human act. Trusting in God and cleaving to the truths he has revealed are contrary neither to human freedom nor to

human reason. ...

"In faith, the human intellect and will cooperate with divine grace, (as St. Thomas says,) 'Believing is an act of the intellect assenting to the divine truth by command of the will moved by God through grace.'"

If the existence of God is perceived just by walking out the door, and you, me and our fellow Christians have faith, why does the world push it away? There is the problem of evil, which is for another time. Could Christians be the fault?

The problem is, the Church split (like Israel), and subsequently the virtues of faith, hope and charity, while true from God, have been distorted, so there no longer is what people perceive as "one faith."

With "once saved, always saved," Christian hope has been achieved before heaven. Additionally, we really have not been the best stewards of our resources, so consequently our hope has been redirected to "saving the planet" through technology.

With charity (love), we have also reduced it to the lowest denominator. We have exchanged the creature for the creator. Love for neighbor (important), competes with, or has usurped, love for God (more important).

St. Thomas defines love as an act of the will: To love is to will the good of the other. If you think closely about this definition, "will" and "good" will have a massive spectrum of meaning and understanding.

Now return to the top of this article and reread the first paragraph. Keep this in mind when you exercise your faith, hope and charity, and you will be truly happy.



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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.



Bishop brings Christmas Mass to inmates in Chillicothe

Bishop Earl Fernandes celebrated two Christmas Masses for male inmates on Friday, Dec. 23 at the Chillicothe Correctional Institution.

The first Mass was offered for the general population in Sacred Heart Chapel and the second Mass was for Death Row inmates in the prison gym.

“We are about to celebrate the Nativ-

ity of the Lord and the true meaning of Christmas,” Bishop Fernandes said in his homily, “which is that God comes to save us from our sins and to give us eternal hope through Jesus Christ. ...

“Christmas is a time when God draws close to us, wanting to embrace us with His joy and receive us in paradise, which to Him is in the human heart...

“Rejoice, rejoice! For Jesus, born of the Virgin Mary, was sent by God the Father as an offering for us to prepare our return to Him in Heaven. Christ, who is the savior of all, was born for us. Rejoice, Rejoice!”

In Sacred Heart Chapel, approximately 75 inmates attended. Some of the men participated as lectors, altar servers and

singers in the choir.

The Mass for death row inmates included six inmates.

The Chillicothe Correctional Institution is a minimum- to medium-security prison with a population of approximately 3,000. The majority of Ohio's male death-row inmates were moved to the facility in late 2011 and early 2012.



Inmates receive Holy Communion and a blessing from Bishop Fernandes during the Mass in Sacred Heart Chapel.

Bishop Earl Fernandes holds the Eucharist during the consecration at a Christmas Mass for inmates in Sacred Heart Chapel at the Chillicothe Correctional Institution on Dec. 23. *CT photos by Ken Snow*



Bishop Fernandes incenses the altar at the start of Mass for the general population in the Sacred Heart Chapel at the Chillicothe Correctional Institution.

Inmates bow their heads in prayer in the pews at Sacred Heart Chapel during the Liturgy of the Eucharist on an extremely cold and wintry Friday afternoon.



Bishop Fernandes offers Mass for death row inmates in the gym at the Chillicothe Correctional Institution.

Bishop celebrates Mass at Marysville prison

After a one-week weather delay, Bishop Earl Fernandes traveled to Marysville to celebrate a Mass for the Nativity of the Lord on Saturday, Dec. 31 at the Ohio Reformatory for Women (ORW).

The bishop was originally scheduled to visit the prison on Christmas Eve, but snow, wind and extreme cold that weekend forced the Mass to be postponed until New Year's Eve morning.

The delay failed to dampen the enthusiasm of approximately 70 inmates and staff members who gathered in the rec room that serves as a Catholic chapel to welcome Bishop Fernandes and attend the delayed Christmas Mass.

He was joined on the altar by Father Joseph Trapp, the chaplain at the prison and the pastor at Plain City St. Joseph Church.

Father Trapp proclaimed the Gospel while inmates served as lectors for the first two readings, led the Responsorial Psalm and provided music for the Mass.

Adriana Guittierrez Santana, one of the inmates who attends the regular weekly Mass celebrated by Father Trapp on Thursdays at ORW, called the bishop's visit a "huge" blessing and an emotional experience for her.

"It means everything to me that the bishop came here and took the time to be with us, that we're not forgotten," she said. "He has a beautiful spirit, and it shows in his smile. And his saying the homily and the communion prayer in Spanish was tremendous! I feel so blessed today!"

Guittierrez Santana, who has been incarcerated at ORW for seven years, explained that she spoke little English when she arrived at the prison and that Father Trapp gave her a Bible and missal written in Spanish, her native language, which she said meant the world to her.

Over the years, she said, she became proficient in English and that Father Trapp has learned some Spanish.

In addition to the bishop speaking some Spanish during the Mass, a sign language interpreter assisted a deaf inmate.

Observers noted that many women were visibly moved during the Mass, and some shed tears.

The Dec. 31 Mass was celebrated just a few hours after the death in Rome of Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI, who retired from the papacy in 2013 after being elected in 2005. He was age 95 when he passed into eternal life on the final day of 2022.

"Pope Benedict XVI, who departed from his earthly life this morning and goes now to be with the Father, said that 'each and every one of us must realize we have proof of the Father's love through His Son, Jesus Christ ... and that God has a plan for each of us,'" Bishop Fernandes said in his homily. "No one is lost because, saint and sinner alike, He is merciful and is for us always.

"Jesus holds His arms wide to us – in the manger and on the cross – and calls us to join Him in eternal life. God sent us His only begotten Son, Jesus, who is the Light of World and the Gift of Eternal Peace."

The bishop continued with his message of hope, saying, "God has come to us and has given the gift of His Son, Jesus, which means the Lord is salvation.

"He has come to save His people from their sins and to bring peace to the world. He has not come in power and in might but as a tiny child. He did not reveal Himself first to the great and mighty. Rather, He showed His sacred face to His lowly mother, a handmaiden; to her spouse, Joseph, a simple carpenter; and to the shepherds when the angel appeared to them and bade them go to Bethlehem to see this great event and to announce great tidings of gladness and joy."

At a reception after the Mass, Bishop Fernandes chatted with inmates and staff members and blessed religious sacramentals and individuals.

The visit to ORW was the first by a Columbus bishop in more than 20 years.



Bishop Earl Fernandes reflects on the mystery of Christ's birth during his homily at a Mass celebrated at the Ohio Reformatory for Women in Marysville on Dec. 31.

CT photos by Ken Snow



Bishop Fernandes and Father Trapp (right), chaplain at the Ohio Reformatory for Women, receive the gifts during the celebration of the Mass.



Bishop Fernandes, with Father Trapp to his left, prays near the beginning of the Mass of the Nativity of the Lord.



Bishop Fernandes blesses a rosary for Michele Williams (center) after Mass while Stacy Kovach (second from left) and Adriana Guittierrez Santana look on.



Bishop Fernandes gives a blessing to Alicia Lopez Zamora after the Saturday morning Mass. The bishop chatted with inmates and staff during a reception.



Inmates receive Holy Communion and a blessing from Bishop Fernandes at Mass.

Order of Malta focuses on respect for life

By Charles Mifsud

In his September 2022 statement, *Building a Culture of Life in a Post-Roe World*, Archbishop William E. Lori, the archbishop of Baltimore and chair of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on Pro-Life Activities said, "In a post-Roe world, Catholics must now work together ... (to) ... shift the paradigm to what Saint Pope John Paul II described as 'radical solidarity,' making the good of others our own good, including especially mothers, babies (born and preborn), and families throughout the entire human lifespan. It is a call to friendship and compassion rooted in the truth that we are made to love our neighbor as ourselves."

The Order of Malta has had this sentiment as its mission for more than 900 years, and respect for life is at the core of everything the order does.

Committed to upholding human dignity and caring for people in need, the Sovereign Order of Malta is one of the oldest institutions of Western and Christian civilization and the fourth oldest religious order in the Church. Its charism is the phrase *Tuitio Fidei et Obsequium Pauperum*, which is Latin for "Defense of the Faith and Care for the Sick and Poor."

The most direct way that members of the Order of Malta carry out their charism and show their respect for life is at their health clinic in Columbus. Founded in 2016, the Order of Malta Center of Care Clinic is a general care, free medical and dental clinic.

The clinic, staffed by the members of the order, is located in one of the poorest areas in the state, with high unemployment and high infant mortality rates. It is located in the parish hall at Holy Rosary-St. John Church, above a soup kitchen and food pantry, providing free health care to any patient. The clinic does not bill insurance or Medicaid and is funded totally from donations.

Doctors treat the sick and the poor, providing medical screenings (blood pressure, blood sugar/diabetes), podiatry, wound care, checkups and flu shots. Dentists are present to perform all routine dental procedures. In addition, many homeless men come to the clinic for basic supplies.

To fill this need, clinic volunteers hand out bags and backpacks filled with hygiene supplies, toiletries and socks. In the winter, hats, gloves and coats are also distributed.

Another important aspect of the Order of Malta's respect for life is the Holy Family Hospital in Bethlehem. In the 1980s, Pope St. John Paul II entrusted management of this important hospital, located just steps from the Church of the Nativity, to the care of the order.

Since 1990, more than 4,600 children have been born there every year, cared for by a staff of 200, including doctors, nurses and midwives. It has recently passed the milestone of the 100,000th birth.

It is the only hospital in the area to have a neonatal intensive care unit for babies of fewer than 24 weeks' gestation. In addition to the maternity wing, the hospital has a pharmacy, a laboratory, a training center and the Well Women clinic for menopausal women.

The facility also has a Mobile Medical Unit that assists remote communities and isolated villages in the desert surrounding Bethlehem. Every week the unit visits Bedouin villages that often lack water and electricity. For many women this is the only health care they have.

Dr. Richard J. Mena, KM, is a medical affairs director in pharmaceutical oncology and a 3rd class lay member of the order from Columbus. In October, he travelled to Bethlehem to visit the hospital.

"What really pleased me was the prenatal care provided by the outreach program to the Bedouin. We are taking the care to



The Order of Malta supports Holy Family Hospital in Bethlehem, where more than 4,600 children have been born since 1990. Photos courtesy Order of Malta

them," he said. "I was also very pleased to see that the hospital maintains the medical standard of care of Europe and the United States, even with such a limited amount of equipment and supplies.

"This is a testament to the dedication of the physicians, staff, volunteers and donors who care for the mothers and babies in the town where our Savior was born."

Another way members of the order carry out their commitment to respect life is by volunteering for pro-life organizations. Six members serve on the board for the Women's Care Center of Columbus.

Founded in 1984, the Women's Care Center serves more than 30,000 women annually at 34 centers in 12 states. It is the largest pregnancy center in the United States and came to Columbus in 2008. In 2021, 3,307 women made 14,467 visits to the center in Columbus, were given 2,850 ultrasounds, resulting in 2,037 babies saved.

Another lay member of the order from Columbus, Dr. Michael Parker, KM, has taken on a significant role.

"I have been involved with the Women's Care Center as the medical adviser and board member since opening the doors here in Columbus. In this role, I advise the counselors on any medical questions related to counseling clients on complex preg-



The local chapter of the Order of Malta operates its Center for Care Clinic in Columbus to provide free medical and dental care to those in need.

nancy issues and standards for performing pregnancy testing and ultrasounds.

"Since 2020, I have also been involved in reviewing first trimester ultrasounds, so that all ultrasounds taken by our volunteer ultrasonographers have been reviewed by a physician, improving the quality of the ultrasounds performed and helping with the early diagnosis and referral of patients for early pregnancy loss and ectopic pregnancies."

With the 2022 U.S. Supreme Court decision overturning *Roe v. Wade*, the need to help those women who would have aborted their babies in the past will expand dramatically. With its commitment to helping the sick and poor, the Order of Malta sees this as an opportunity to help people in need, at all stages of life.

To learn more about the Order of Malta, contact orderofmaltaOH@gmail.com, visit www.orderofmaltafederal.org, or find it on Facebook.

More important, pray that the Order of Malta can expand its services in 2023 and help more of the sick and poor, the homeless and working-poor families in Columbus.

Charles Mifsud, KM is a 3rd Class Lay Member of the Order of Malta who lives in Dublin.

God's love, fellow people of conscience can fight abortion

By Beth Vanderkooi

This Jan. 22 will mark the 50th anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court's infamous decision in *Roe v. Wade*, a decision that instantaneously imposed abortion through all nine months of pregnancy on every state and every American citizen. Since that time, it is estimated that 64 million abortions have occurred in the United States.

On June 24, 2022, after 49 heart-breaking years, the U.S. Supreme Court's *Dobbs* decision overturned *Roe* and related precedent, returning authority over abortion to the states. It was a joyful day. It started repairing the damage done to our Constitution by the legal, scientific and moral errors of *Roe v. Wade*.

Dobbs undid *Roe*, but it did not undo

the destruction wreaked by five decades of abortion-on-demand to our laws, our morality and our understanding of compassion. It did not liberate the unborn from threats of death at the hands of physicians, pharmaceuticals and parents. It did not rebuke the injustice and tyranny that flows when a person's worth is determined by age, ability or utility.

With decisions related to abortion returned to the states, some have outlawed or restricted it, some have expanded and funded it and many are still making their way through political and legal processes.

In Ohio, a state that has benefitted from pro-life political leadership, we are in legal limbo. Our *Heartbeat Law* was in effect for a few months. In that time, abortions dramatically declined. Clinics were at the precipice of closing when pro-abortion legal challenges halted the law.

We believe Ohio's *Heartbeat Law* will prevail in state courts and that legislators will enact more laws that protect children and mothers and strengthen and stabilize families. We can make abortion unthinkable, unnecessary and unlawful in Ohio.

But the wait is excruciating. Based on 2021 numbers, more than 400 children are aborted weekly in Ohio; 67 weekly in Columbus. Currently, those numbers are likely low.

The attacks are coming from every angle. The federal government is unleashing horrific policies. Within a few days, the Biden administration announced withdrawing conscience protections for health-care workers and others who decline to participate in abortion or other morally objectionable actions, announced that retail pharmacies will now be able to sell the abortion pill and an-

nounced that the Department of Justice would not pursue action against those who illegally mail abortion pills.

Well-funded abortion advocates have announced plans to amend Ohio's Constitution to halt even modest protections for unborn children and the health and safety of pregnant women. It will take a massive grassroots effort and tens of millions of dollars to defeat. There is an unrelenting campaign to normalize abortion, promote misinformation and silence pro-life voices.

This is evil unleashed.

While we ultimately place our confidence and our hope in the knowledge that Christ has already conquered death and evil, including abortion, it is natural to feel discouraged or overwhelmed in

See FIFTY YEARS, Page 15

Ohio Right to Life works for statewide abortion ban

By Tim Puet

For *The Catholic Times*

The year that just ended was a victorious one for the pro-life cause because the U.S. Supreme Court's *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* decision on June 24 returned control of abortion laws and regulations to the states.

Ohio Right to Life (ORTL) hopes to follow up on that success in the coming year by working with the state Legislature and expanding its efforts to engage the culture at large.

"Our major focus for 2023 will be continuing to work toward passage of the Human Life Protection Act, a state law which will ban all abortions from the moment of conception," said Elizabeth Marbach, communications director for the statewide organization.

"Bringing a life into this world is never wrong, no matter the circumstance. Human beings have value, and every individual in their mother's womb today is worthy of the right to life."

The *Dobbs* ruling allowed what's known as Ohio's "heartbeat law" to go into effect immediately upon announcement of the Supreme Court decision. The law, which the Ohio Legislature had passed in 2019, banned doctors from preventing abortions until cardiac activ-

ity is detected, which is about six weeks into pregnancy.

But the law was in effect for fewer than three months because on Sept. 14, a Hamilton County Common Pleas Court judge issued a temporary restraining order banning its enforcement. He followed that in October with a preliminary injunction, putting the law on hold permanently while the courts consider whether it violates the state constitution.

Until a final decision on the injunction is made, probably by the Ohio Supreme Court, the state reverts to previous law that made abortion legal until 22 weeks into a pregnancy.

ORTL also is fighting plans by several pro-abortion groups who have said they hope to introduce a ballot initiative that would have voters decide whether to amend Ohio's constitution to specifically permit abortion.

The language for such an initiative has not been released, but Physicians for Reproductive Rights, Planned Parenthood and the American Civil Liberties Union all have expressed support for the plan, which possibly could go before voters as soon as this November.

"Make no mistake, this will be an extreme abortion measure," said Peter Range, ORTL chief executive officer. "The group proposing this measure will talk about health care, but all they

care about will be abortion on demand, which ends the life of an innocent human being."

Some legislators have proposed a constitutional amendment that would make it more difficult for such voter-proposed amendments to be approved by imposing a requirement that they receive a 60 percent majority of votes, rather than the traditional 50 percent plus one. That proposal is likely to come before the Legislature early in this session.

Ohio is considered to have one of the nation's most pro-life state legislatures, which for several years has expanded support for family friendly issues. The year 2022 was no exception, with lawmakers in late December approving amendments to House Bill 45, which will provide new funding for pro-life organizations and adoptive families.

The amendments provide \$3 million for new programs and services for pregnancy resource centers. In addition, they make any adoptive family eligible for a grant of \$10,000 for adopting a child, \$15,000 for adopting a child or \$20,000 for adopting a child with disabilities. HB45 was signed by Gov. Mike DeWine on (Jan. 6) and goes into effect 90 days later.

"Securing this funding was our biggest legislative achievement in 2022," Marbach said. "Increasing the amount available to them is monumental for

adoptive families because it is so expensive to adopt, with the cost ranging from \$30,000 to \$50,000 per child."

State Treasurer Robert Sprague's Family Forward initiative, launched in 2021, is another effort to help Ohioans navigate the adoption process.

Family Forward provides financial relief through a linked deposit program administered by the treasurer's office. Under the program, individuals or families seeking to adopt may be eligible for reduced-interest loans that can be used for qualified adoption expenses of as much as \$50,000.

Qualified expenses include, but are not limited to, adoption agency expenses, court expenses and fees, expenses incurred on behalf of the birth mother, health and psychological examination fees, home studies and travel.

Marbach said Range is putting ORTL more into the public eye by going to nonpublic middle and high schools and presenting an in-depth look at the pro-life movement and its biblical and moral bases. "One of the most important aspects of the pro-life fight is sharing the truth," she said. "We want to encourage churches and schools to invite Peter to visit them to state our case."

ORTL sponsored its first statewide

See LIFE Page 15

'Strong Fathers' program builds men's parenting skills

Across America, approximately 18.3 million children live without a father in the home, constituting about 1 in 4 U.S. children.

To encourage and support a man's role in his family, the Women's Care Center (WCC) in Columbus launched its "Strong Fathers" program in July 2022. The program offers a series of monthly classes with a new topic for each class, ranging from the "Importance of Fathers" to "Dealing with Anger."

Six fathers from the Columbus St. Catharine Church community, ranging in age from 20 to 60, teach the classes. The WCC provides the curriculum; each volunteer instructor adds his personality and insight.

When the program began in July, Kristina Keiffer, WCC parenting instructor and program adviser, worried that the classroom would be empty. She said that, after so much time and preparation, she "prayed that God would send at least one father to class."

"Five minutes before class started, the first father showed up," she recalled. "I had tears coming down my face. Then, one after another kept coming. At the end, 13 men showed up for our very first class." Since then, the classes have continued to grow.

Because a child's biological father isn't always involved, the "Strong Fathers" program is open to any male figure in



Photo courtesy Women's Care Center

a child's life; grandfathers, uncles and cousins have attended the classes.

"I've been surprised by the depth of the conversations," Keiffer said. "I thought that it would be great to have men come and hang out and have community with other men, but it has been so much more than that. We have had men leave in tears. One of the instructors pointed out that men have wounds, too."

WCC's female clients have said that they have seen a change in their parenting partnership with the baby's father in terms of discipline, structure and communication. They also said that the

"Strong Fathers" program has become a comfortable place for participants to talk about things that they normally wouldn't discuss with other men.

In October 2022, The Catholic Foundation approved a \$3,000 grant for the program, so the WCC can provide a meal at every class and a gift for the fathers to take home to the child's mother.

And, in summer 2023, WCC will host an outing so that the male program participants, their children and the instructors' families can spend time together.

Following are quotes from "Strong Fathers" instructors about the program:

"What a joy and a privilege it is for me to help mentor the dads in the WCC 'Strong Fathers' program. These men want to be virtuous fathers who invest in their children's lives with love, mercy and appropriate discipline. They truly are answering God's call to greatness!" – Matt

"It was a tremendous blessing to work alongside these men who are seeking to better the lives of their children by investing in learning and growing as fathers. Witnessing their desire and effort encouraged me a great deal in my own vocation. I pray they took away as much good from participating in the 'Strong Fathers' program as I did in helping to facilitate it." – Nick

"'Strong Fathers' is a platform perfect-

ly suited to remind men who they were created to be, while working to equip them to go back into their families and live it out. This is beautiful work I am grateful to be a part of." – Eric

"I feel very fortunate to be a part of the 'Strong Fathers' program. Unfortunately, a lot of men don't have other men to talk to about fatherhood. It's easy to feel like maybe you're the only one struggling to balance family, work and life's other demands, which can make it that much harder to take a breath, prioritize and be the best man you can be.

"Our society doesn't always encourage men to be good fathers, when that is one of the things the world needs the most. By encouraging the men in the program to answer that call, I have no doubt that these fathers can (and will) make a huge impact in the lives of their families and the community." – Erik

The WCC is grateful for support from the Columbus community, which has enabled the center to stretch its services to the whole family. Through "Strong Fathers," the mission is for every man to recognize that it's never too late to start being a strong father. Investment in children at any age can be life-changing.

PDHC provides care, education, support to women, families

January is Sanctity of Human Life Month, a time to focus on the value of every human life.

On Jan. 22, Pregnancy Decision Health Centers (PDHC) will celebrate 42 years of rescuing lives and impacting generations, one heartbeat at a time. PDHC opened the doors to its first pregnancy resource center on Jan. 22, 1981, on the eighth anniversary of the historic 1973 Roe v. Wade decision by the U.S. Supreme Court that legalized abortion in the United States.

On June 24, 2022, the court overturned Roe, which meant decisions regarding abortion laws and regulations were sent back to the individual states. In Ohio, this meant the Heartbeat Law went into effect, banning abortions in Ohio after a heartbeat is detected.

Not long after, on Sept. 14, 2022, the Heartbeat Law was placed on indefinite hold by a Hamilton County judge, making abortion legal again through 22 weeks of pregnancy, and pending litigation continues.

Through it all, PDHC stands as a beacon of hope for women who need compassionate care and support when faced with an unexpected pregnancy. Practical resources and life-affirming options are provided through a 24-hour hotline, pregnancy tests, ultrasounds, abortion pill reversal services, pregnancy and parenting education, much-needed baby items and outreach to a network of community support and resources.

In 2022, PDHC impacted more than 2,300 individuals in its Pregnancy Resource Centers and more than 44,000 contacts on its hotline. PDHC was blessed with five new 3D/4D ultrasound machines for new moms to see and hear their baby's heartbeat. This resulted in

896 life decisions last year.

PDHC helped new moms who had taken the first set of the abortion pill, regretted their decision and wanted a second chance to save the life of their baby. PDHC witnessed the birth of healthy babies born after successful abortion pill reversal services.

One woman thought she wanted an abortion and took the first set of abortion pills but immediately regretted it.

"I cried and wanted to stop the process," she said. "I found the Abortion Pill Reversal (APR) hotline and was connected to PDHC. They gave me so much hope and encouragement. They prayed for me and my pregnancy and told me they would be there every step of the way.

"They prescribed me progesterone and monitored my pregnancy every week for the first month. I went to prenatal appointments with my regular doctor. Nine months later I birthed a beautiful and healthy baby girl. None of this could have been possible without PDHC, and I am forever grateful for this team."

PDHC empowered 606 new moms and 166 new dads through more than 9,500 online and nearly 1,000 in-person parenting education classes, along with more than 3,100 material aid visits provided through its Family Empowerment Center.

"PDHC has been very supportive of me throughout my pregnancy, and for that I am grateful," a PDHC mom said. "They supported me spiritually, physically and emotionally. They taught me how to take care of my baby through their parenting classes. My journey has been a beautiful one, and I am thankful to God to be a part of the PDHC family."



Moms receive care and support from Pregnancy Decision Health Centers. Photo courtesy PDHC

PDHC touched the hearts and minds of more than 5,500 students in Franklin and Fairfield counties with healthy choice education in 37 middle and high schools. One student said, "You really got me thinking of my own relationship and how I can set better boundaries." Another student said, "I think it is so amazing that you teach this and go around to different schools to make teens think. Thanks again!"

PDHC also helped 170 individuals on their healing journey through abortion recovery (aR) programs and services.

"I found aR support 100% helpful," an Abortion Recovery participant said.

"I was in a dark place and headed back down a dark road! I have been lifted out of a pit that could have ruined me. I cannot express how grateful I am.

"Anyone going through or sitting in a broken place, you can come out! There are people who God sent to help you, and they are so happy to help you with all love and no judgment.

"I sat in a place of loneliness for years feeling unwanted, loveless and broken, but aR at PDHC has opened up a door that I'm walking through with confidence! I have a new mind and heart. Yes, it's hard, but I am changed, and healing is my new friend."

If you or someone you know is struggling from a past abortion experience, call or text the aR CareLine at 614-721-2100, or go to www.abortionrecovery-info.org.

Also, in 2022, PDHC expanded its programs and services to include translation and interpretation services, individual and group counseling to pregnant moms from a licensed staff counselor and additional parenting education and material aid support.

It added a community health advocate to provide additional assistance to pregnant moms and their families to improve the health outcomes of women during pregnancy and infants early in their development to reduce pregnancy complications, infant mortality rates and maternal mortality rates.

PDHC also reached more women in need of its services in the community through billboards, wall murals and increased marketing and outreach efforts.

If you or someone you know is pregnant and needs help, contact PDHC through the 24-hour hotline at 614-444-4411, or go to www.pdhc.org.

Heartbeat International fielding more requests

By Tim Puet

For The Catholic Times

The year just past was full of change for Columbus-based Heartbeat International, the world's largest network of pro-life pregnancy resource centers.

The U.S. Supreme Court on June 24 in its Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization case required the federal government to return control of abortion-related laws and regulations to the states.

This resulted in an increase in requests for Heartbeat's help in finding clinics, resource centers, maternity homes and adoption agencies to provide support for women facing crisis pregnancy situations in more than 90 nations.

Heartbeat serves more than 1.5 million people annually and helps about 300,000 pregnant mothers decide against having an abortion each year,

said Andrea Trudden, Heartbeat vice president of communications and marketing. She said the more than 3,000 pregnancy help organizations linked to the Heartbeat network performed nearly 250,000 ultrasounds last year.

The Dobbs ruling also led to protests, many of them led by a pro-abortion group known as Jane's Revenge, at more than 75 pregnancy centers and other pro-life organizations, as well as about a dozen churches. More than 30 sustained physical damage, which included fires being set at the offices of pro-life organizations in Madison, Wisconsin, and Gresham, Oregon.

"We were prepared for the verbal attacks which began in May, when the anticipated Dobbs decision was leaked to the media," Trudden said. "We weren't anticipating the violence that targeted pro-life organizations and the cyberattacks involving people trying to take

down some of those groups through online hacking.

"Heartbeat is continuing to serve pregnancy health ministries by working with our affiliates to make their locations more secure. We understand the U.S. Department of Justice is looking into possible action against those responsible in instances where physical damage occurred, but no action has been taken so far."

The year for Heartbeat also was notable because its national headquarters moved from Upper Arlington to a larger location at 8405 Pulsar Place, just off Polaris Parkway and near Interstate 71. "It's a larger area than we had before, with lots more open space, all of which is needed as our 24/7 call center continues to expand and we serve as the base for calls to the Abortion Pill Rescue Network," Trudden said.

"We share the building with the Ohio

regional campus of Southeastern University, a Florida-based Christian college which shares our goals. We're part of a faith-filled atmosphere throughout the day, and that's important to us, because we've always tried to be located in a space surrounded by like-minded organizations. Our previous offices were in the former Tree of Life Ministries building in Upper Arlington."

Heartbeat is one of the nation's oldest pro-life organizations, with a history that began before the U.S. Supreme Court in 1973 issued its Roe v. Wade decision – an action legalizing abortion throughout the United States until the Dobbs ruling overturned it.

Practically from the moment the decision was announced, "God's people stepped up in every area of life in our society and worked unceasingly to fight the abortion juggernaut and overturn

See HEARTBEAT, Page 23

Pro-abortion groups seek guarantee in Ohio Constitution

By Beth Vanderkooi

On Dec. 12, which happens to be the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, two different groups announced different efforts to guarantee abortion in the Ohio Constitution. This is a big deal, and pro-life people and people of faith need to take notice.

Many are confused as to the status of abortion in Ohio right now. In late June, the U.S. Supreme Court issued a decision in *Dobbs* that overturned *Roe v. Wade* and returned abortion laws to the states. Some states have responded by expanding and funding efforts, some have not changed their laws and some restricted or banned abortion further.

In Ohio, things are in legal limbo. In the immediate aftermath of the *Dobbs* decision, Ohio's Heartbeat Law, enacted in 2019, went immediately into effect. This banned most abortions after about six weeks of pregnancy. The Heartbeat Law was in effect for about two months, saving an estimated 3,000 lives, when a group of abortion advocates filed a lawsuit in a Hamilton County court alleging that Ohio's Constitution protects abortion as a right.

The court they went to has historically been friendly to abortion, and its judge granted first a temporary and then a permanent injunction – blocking enforcement of the Heartbeat Law. With the Heartbeat Law blocked, abortion is generally legal in Ohio until the point of viability (about 22 weeks), with various legal exceptions that permit abortion further on in pregnancy.

The fate of the Heartbeat Law is expected to work through the legal system

for several months and will ultimately be decided by the Ohio Supreme Court.

In 2021, just over 20,000 Ohio babies were aborted. We can probably expect similar to slightly higher numbers for 2022 when they are published. Although thousands of babies were spared in the two-month reprieve, in the months since, we've seen increased abortions due not only to the economy but also an uptick in abortions from out of state.

Even though their legal challenge of Ohio's Heartbeat Law rests on the fanciful idea that abortion is guaranteed by the Ohio Constitution, abortion advocates are not taking any chances and have been vocalizing for months now their plan to pursue an abortion amendment to guarantee abortion a place in the Ohio Constitution.

The first announcement was made by a new group called Ohio Physicians for Reproductive Rights, which has formed a ballot group called the Protect Ohio Choice coalition. That group announced its intention to place a ballot amendment on the Nov. 7, 2023, ballot.

Shortly thereafter, a group of establishment abortion proponents rushed to announce that they, too, have an effort, under the name "Ohioans for Reproductive Freedom." Initial information suggested that the group planned to place its issue on the 2024 ballot, although updated reports indicate that they are considering both 2023 and 2024.

Neither group has circulated exact language, but each emphasized that its proposals will prioritize abortion access without interference and/or identify

abortion as a fundamental right in Ohio. This is code for unrestricted abortion through all nine months of pregnancy, funded by taxpayers, and enshrined in the Ohio Constitution.

Some previously circulated language along with what we've seen in states such as Michigan suggest that it could include provisions that seek to silence or penalize pregnancy help centers and expand the concept of "reproductive rights" to include fertility treatments as well as gender-affirming mandates.

Coupled with recent announcements by the Biden administration to roll back or eliminate rights of conscience for churches, faith-based institutions such as hospitals and schools and medical providers in areas, this is very serious.

In many ways, this is no surprise. For months, pro-abortion advocates have said that this is their plan, and we have been taking them at their word. We have been working to form a coalition to defeat this extreme abortion agenda in Ohio.

Big abortion's efforts will be seeded with multimillion-dollar donations from out-of-state special interests, far-left social engineers and highly partisan political interests. It is reasonable to estimate that they will spend \$50 million in their efforts, and that to be competitive in a campaign against them we will need to raise a similar amount of money.

On a personal note, before I came to Greater Columbus Right to Life, I worked as a lobbyist and legislative staffer and on numerous local and statewide political campaigns. In that time, I led or had

a leadership role with three different amendments to the Ohio Constitution – first to draft proposed resolutions to place the issue on the ballot and then on the campaigns to pass the amendments. All three passed with significant portions of the vote. I also worked on a team to defeat an initiated constitutional amendment, an effort that kept the issue off the ballot.

First, know that I will be taking every bit of that experience to this fight. We can win, and Ohio can be the first state to defeat big abortion's attempts to buy itself into our Constitution. But we need to know what we are facing. In the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus warns that He is sending the disciples out as sheep among the wolves, so be "wise as serpents and innocent as doves."

To win, we need every one of us to become engaged early in the process. That means joining our response team and supporting our efforts financially (visit gcrtl.org/stop).

We also need you to join us in prayer and fasting. Specifically, I need you to pray that we are unified as a movement, that we are disciplined in our efforts and that we remember that while every one of us needs to commit our best to defeating this great evil, it is God Who ultimately is in control and Who guides our path. Mindful of the timing of their announcements, I suggest we do this under the patronage of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

Beth Vanderkooi is the executive director of Greater Columbus Right to Life.



Thousands turned out for the first Ohio March for Life in October on the lawn in front of the Ohio Statehouse and then marched in downtown Columbus to show their support for human life at all stages.

CT photos by Ken Snow

LIFE, continued from Page 13

Rally for Life at the Statehouse this past October, the U.S. bishops' Respect Life Month, and about 2,000 people from throughout Ohio attended. Marbach said another rally will take place this October. The annual Statehouse remembrance event in January on the anniversary of the Supreme Court's *Roe v. Wade* decision, which the *Dobbs* ruling overturned, also will continue.

"Ohio is in a really good place legislatively to maintain its strong pro-life efforts," Marbach said. "All the state's major officials elected this past November are pro-life, so is the state Supreme Court, and there are pro-life supermajorities in the Ohio House and Senate. Some states were not as successful in electing pro-life candidates in November, but we were very fortunate.

"All of this gives huge encouragement to our organization's work to strategize and engage and change the culture. A half-century after *Roe v. Wade*, the tide has turned, and we are poised and determined to really end abortion."

FIFTY YEARS, continued from Page 12

times like this. Abraham Lincoln once asked how long slavery can endure in the presence of a just God. It is not unreasonable that we would ask the same.

In one of his last audiences before resigning, Pope Benedict XVI closed his general comments with "living out faith means recognizing God's greatness and accepting our smallness, our condition as creatures, letting the Lord fill us with His love and thus develop our true greatness. Evil, with its load of sorrows and sufferings, is a mystery illuminated by the light of faith which gives us the certainty that

we can be freed from it." (www.bit.ly/BX-VIfreedom)

If you are heartbroken, angry or weary from living in a world where the evil of abortion continues to brutally kill innocent children, damage women, destroy families and disrupt the very fabric of our society, you are not alone.

Our proper response to the evil of abortion is that our hearts should be broken, so we can be moved to compassion. We should be angry, tempered by virtue, to move us to action toward justice.

Our weariness is a reminder that while

we fight, we do not have the strength or power to fight this on our own. Fortunately, we are not alone. We have each other, and we have the certainty that we are filled by God's love and can be freed from evil.

How long can abortion endure in the presence of a just God? I do not know. Fifty years is a long time, but we will fight as long as it takes. If you are moved to fight it with us, join us at gcrtl.org/stop.

Beth Vanderkooi is the executive director of Greater Columbus Right to Life.

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

God's call is for all

Isaiah 49:3, 5-6
Psalm 40:2, 4, 7-8, 8-9, 10
1 Corinthians 1:1-3
John 1:29-34

Many things that we cannot understand as we experience them become clear only after extended thought. Life can sort out what is essential. When we allow the "wisdom of age" to influence how we see the world, there are two results:

First, if we have a sense of humor, we can laugh at ourselves. We can see that we are no longer bound by the frustrations of the past because we have learned that they did pass, and we might wonder why they upset us.

Second, the size of our world changes dramatically. We see that our world has been very small and that "the real world" – God's world – is incredibly large.

God says to His servant: "You are my servant, Israel, through whom I show my glory." And He continues: "It is too little ... for you to be my servant, ... I will make you a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth."

What God's people experience is never just for them. What God's servants do for God is intended for a broader purpose. God allows His followers to see only a small portion of what He intends for them. When the people have become truly responsive to God's will, they are invited to learn more of the mind and heart of God.

As we enter into Ordinary Time, we meet John the Baptist pointing out Jesus

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.



as the Lamb of God, the One on Whom God's Spirit rests. John admits that he did not recognize Jesus for Who He is until he put together his own call and what God suggested he would see.

It is the Spirit of Jesus at work in Him and in those who are called to follow Him Who accomplish the purpose God intends. Prophecy can open to us some understanding of the shape of our salvation. But only a response like that of John's – acceptance of the surprise element – can bring about the full testimony we are to give.

Paul sends his greetings to the Christian community at Corinth, reminding them that the call to holiness is universal, as he addresses himself to those "who have been sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be holy, with all those everywhere who call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, their Lord and ours." For Paul and for Isaiah, the world is destined to hear the news of salvation through what the God of Israel accomplishes among His servants.

We ourselves stand in the very world that is called to salvation and holiness. Human beings are not meant to be divided and sorted by the limits that we put on one another. We must recognize those who are related to us by sharing the call and those destined to be one with us in the gift of salvation through

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

Scripture reveals God's summons; how will we respond?

Isaiah 8:23-9:3
Psalm 27:1, 4, 13-14
1 Corinthians 1:10-13, 17
Matthew 4:12-23

The Sunday of the Word of God is celebrated on the Third Sunday in Ordinary Time. In a particular way, this highlights the truth known intuitively by most Catholics but often missed by those who see the Church only from the outside: We are a Bible-believing Church.

The Word of God, that is, the Eternal Son of the Father, has made Himself known to us in word and sacrament. Just as the Risen Lord Jesus is present to us in a substantial and sacramental way through the Eucharist, so the same Son of God is made present through sacred Scriptures, through the word proclaimed to us in the Bible. We are called to receive Him and to allow Him to feed and nourish the world through our response in faith.

With the psalmist, we proclaim, "The Lord is my light and my salvation." The Word of God is the source of the light that we need to put our faith into practice. We are given the salvation that God wills for His people through the Living Presence of Jesus Christ in word and sacrament.

The call of the first disciples of Jesus as presented by Matthew reveals how the Lord shares His will with us. He proclaims the Gospel in word and deed. "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

Passing by the fishermen, He calls them to follow Him. "Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men." First Peter and Andrew, then James and John, leave their former way of life and learn from Jesus. They watch as He goes about preaching, teaching and healing the sick. Salvation is given, and all are called to respond.

When we learn about Jesus from the Scriptures through our own reading and study, alone or in groups, and nowadays through the many resources available

The Weekday Bible Readings

1/16-1/21

MONDAY
Hebrews 5:1-10
Psalm 110:1-4
Mark 2:18-22

TUESDAY
Hebrews 6:10-20
Psalm 111:1-2,4-5,9,10c
Mark 2:23-28

WEDNESDAY
Hebrews 7:1-3,15-17
Psalm 110:1-4
Mark 3:1-6

THURSDAY
Hebrews 7:25-8:6
Psalm 40:7-10,17
Mark 3:7-12

FRIDAY
Hebrews 8:6-13
Psalm 85:8,10-14
Mark 3:13-19

SATURDAY
Hebrews 9:2-3,11-14
Psalm 47:2-3,6-9
Mark 3:20-21

1/23-1/28

MONDAY
Hebrews 9:15,24-28
Psalm 98:1-6
Mark 3:22-30

TUESDAY
Hebrews 10:1-10
Psalm 40:2,4ab,7-8a,10-11
Mark 3:31-35

WEDNESDAY
Acts 22:3-16 or Acts 9:1-22
Psalm 117:1-2
Mark 16:15-18

THURSDAY
2 Timothy 1:1-8
or Titus 1:1-5
Psalm 96:1-3,7-8,10
Mark 4:21-25

FRIDAY
Hebrews 10:32-39
Psalm 37:3-6,23-24,39-40
Mark 4:26-34

SATURDAY
Hebrews 11:1-2,8-19
Luke 1:69-75 (Ps)
Mark 4:35-41

DIOCESAN WEEKLY RADIO AND TELEVISION

Mass Schedule: Weeks of Jan. 15 and Jan. 22, 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 III OF THE LITURGY OF THE HOURS

what God accomplishes among us.

The responsorial psalm offers us the words that allow us to consent to God's action in and among us: "Here am I, Lord; I come to do your will."

Much that is happening around us could be cause for despair if we forget who we are and Who God is. However, remembering the history of God's peo-

ple, we have a reason for hope.

God's call to us as individuals and as a community united in faith is to be holy and to share the invitation to belong with the world. Salvation is offered, and we are given the great privilege of proclaiming it. "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world."

to us, we are confronted just as the first generation of disciples with a call to respond. Jesus penetrates our minds and hearts as we hear His word proclaimed in the Liturgy of the Word and in the prayer of the Church, the Liturgy of the Hours. What is required of us is a decision. Will we follow where He leads?

The word of God presented in the Scriptures can become prayer. Our hearts are centered by the words of the psalm: "One thing I ask of the LORD; this I seek: to dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, that I may gaze on the loveliness of the LORD and contemplate his temple." When we ask one thing of the Lord, we are ready to "leave our nets" and to follow.

Faith is enriched by the words and deeds presented to us in the Scriptures. When we become convinced that the will of God made known to us offers more than we could ask or imagine, we can proclaim: "I believe that I shall see the bounty of the LORD in the land of

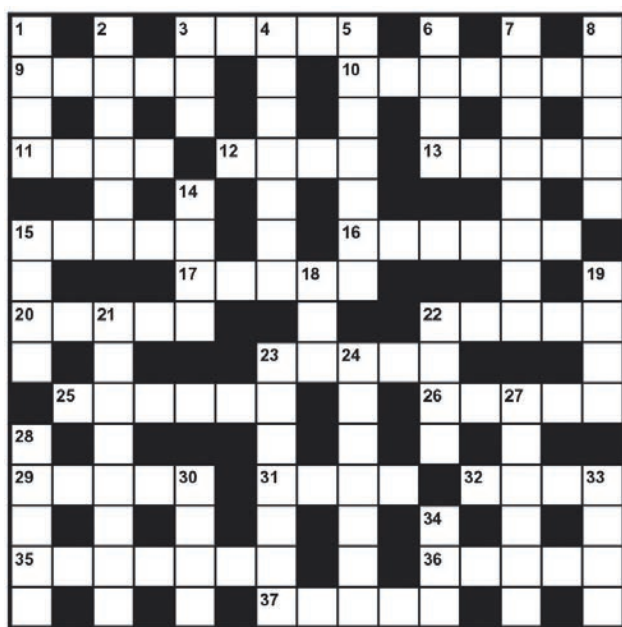
the living."

Our own lives then become a living mirror of the stories told in Scripture. We believe. We live. Our lives make known to those around us what God offers to His followers.

At a time when the world seeks a clear witness of Christian life, the word of God serves to allow that to happen wherever souls are willing to respond. St. Paul invites us to a witness of unity: "I urge you, brothers and sisters, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree in what you say, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and in the same purpose."

The Catholic Church invites all to read and pray and to deepen knowledge of Jesus and His ways through the Scriptures. Each of us, every family can take the Bible home in so many ways. Be creative as you seek to live the Sunday of the Word of God. Let the word of God dwell in you!

CATHOLIC CROSSWORD



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ACROSS

- 3 His name was changed to Israel
- 9 A dove brought this branch back to Noah
- 10 Joshua was buried in this hill country
- 11 "...is now, and ___ shall be..."
- 12 Diocese or bishop starter
- 13 Clerical color
- 15 Second century pope
- 16 "Enter through the ___ gate" (Mt 7:13)
- 17 Fish part for Jonah
- 20 "Regina ___"
- 22 Type of monastery
- 23 Church council
- 25 Member of the Society of Jesus
- 26 Worship
- 29 A no-coveting commandment
- 31 French Christmas
- 32 The Garden
- 35 St. John ___ (Basilica)
- 36 Possible Easter month
- 37 The disciples ate this on the Sabbath in Matthew

DOWN

- 1 "...thy will be ___."
- 2 "___ Night"
- 3 Governor Bush, convert to Catholicism
- 4 First bishop of America
- 5 Biblical city
- 6 Husband of Queen Jezebel
- 7 Secret place for Christians in Rome
- 8 White for a pope, black for no pope
- 14 "___ et Orbi"
- 15 Sacrament of the ___
- 18 Type of Minister
- 19 David played one
- 21 Divine time
- 22 Hebrew month
- 23 Biblical method of execution
- 24 The Archdiocese of Abuja is in this African country
- 27 Holy ___
- 28 Vestment made of a narrow strip of cloth
- 30 What you should do when the herald angels sing
- 33 Founder of Our Sunday Visitor newspaper
- 34 The Solemnity of Mary is celebrated in this month [abbr.]

REACTIONS, continued from Page 5

the truth about the human person, the truth about man's nature and vocation. Perhaps you can say that John Paul II defended the dignity of the human person from a personalistic, anthropological perspective (see his works *Person and Act*, *Love and Responsibility* and the *Theology of the Body*), whereas Benedict did so from a theological and Christological one (see his work *Introduction to Christianity*). But the distinction is not clear-cut.

While John Paul II speaks of the transcendence of the human person, Benedict emphasizes human existence as existence "from" and "for." These are just two distinct aspects of the same reality, as both popes agree in considering love the fundamental dimension of the human person.

I suppose we could speak of differences (between John Paul and Benedict) in the area of emphasis. For example, Benedict spoke more on the Christian liturgy (see, for instance, his *The Spirit of the Liturgy*). But I wish to note the difference in their writing style.

Pope Benedict's style is straightforward, almost childlike, though extremely profound. His writings are a joy to read. John Paul II wrote in a more complex, complicated style that attempts to keep in mind each presented insight as his argument progresses. Reading his works is

challenging but very rewarding, leading you deeper into the mystery of life.

Perhaps the writing style shows us best the difference between the German theologian and the Polish philosopher and poet. Nonetheless, when I read works by both popes, I have a sense of encountering the thought of a saint.

I think (Pope Benedict's) work in fundamental theology (every Catholic should read his book *Introduction to Christianity*), ecclesiology (read *Called to Communion*), liturgy (read *The Spirit of the Liturgy*), Christology (read his books on Jesus Christ), and eschatology (read *Eschatology*) has already left a lasting and transformative mark on the faith of the Church and Christian theology.

Pope Benedict proposes a more profound understanding of who man is vis-à-vis the Incarnation and the Cross, that is, that it is impossible to understand man without God – the God who gives himself to man in Jesus Christ. In his *Introduction to Christianity*, he says, "The Cross is revelation. ... It reveals who God is and who man is." (pp. 222-23)

Incidentally, this is exactly what John Paul II says in his encyclical *Redemptor Hominis* (aa. 9-10), speaking on the divine and human dimensions of the mystery of the Redemption.

I think that his resignation shows Benedict's spirit of sacrifice. It shows that he placed the good of the Church higher than his own. It shows that the Church is not the private property of the pope, but that the pope is the servant of the Church (*servus servorum Dei*). This, of course, does not mean that every pope should resign but that resignation from the papacy can be a prudent decision under certain circumstances.

I use the teaching of Pope Benedict in several of my classes, both core and elective. I use his writings in the following courses: "Fundamental Theology," "Trinity," "Ecclesiology" and "Catholic Response to Secularism and Liberalism." I also teach a course fully devoted to his thought, titled "The Thought of Joseph Ratzinger."

However, I must modestly admit that I know the thought of John Paul II more than that of Benedict, though I love them both. I am a translator of John Paul II's works (such as *'Person and Act' and Related Essays* and *Love and Responsi-*

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.

Be the change you want ...



TO SEE IN OTHER PEOPLE

bility). I also published a book on Karol Wojtyła's thought (*Person and Value*), not to mention various articles.

Father David J. Young
Pastor, Reynoldsburg St. Pius X Church

What I loved most about Pope Benedict was how he could bring brilliant concepts of faith and challenging theology to people in a way that was accessible to anyone. He was a man of great joy, and you could tell he was a man of prayer, and that's where it came from.

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PRAY FOR OUR DEAD

BOWN, Patricia J. (Smith), 76, Dec. 29
St. Agatha Church, Columbus

FAIELLA, Patricia A. (Lee), 81, Dec. 23
St. Paul Church, Westerville

MATZ, Richard H., 86, Dec. 26
St. Elizabeth Seton Parish, Pickerington

SCHILLING, William F., 87, Dec. 26
Church of the Resurrection, New Albany

CASEY, Mary G. (Wells), 96, Dec. 16
St. Brigid of Kildare Church, Dublin

FERRELL JR., Dallas B. "June," 82, Jan. 1
St. Leonard Church, Heath

MAXWELL, Duane I., 82, Dec. 29
St. Rose of Lima, New Lexington

SHAWGER, James R. "Jim," 66, Dec. 22
St. Nicholas Church, Zanesville

CLAGER, Frank J., 80, Dec. 30
St. Peter Church, Columbus

FRENCH, Patrick, 63, Jan. 1
St. Joan of Arc Church, Powell

MOLNAR, Sally A. (McNamara), 77, Dec. 16
Our Lady of Peace Church, Columbus

STOCKERT, Walter, 94, Dec. 17
St. Joseph Church, Dover

DAY, Estelle (Tamborini), 91, Dec. 29
Sacred Heart Church, New Philadelphia

FUGAZZI, Judith (Kerscher), 85, Dec. 24
St. Mary, Mother of God Church, Columbus

PONGONIS, Raymond B., 90, Dec. 28
St. Elizabeth Church, Columbus

TUTTLE, Patrick L., 68, Dec. 29
Holy Cross Church, Columbus

DeRUSHA, Lawrence J., 91, Dec. 26
St. Pius X Church, Reynoldsburg

HOLLAND, Dr. Susan M. (Bianco), 72, Dec. 23
St. Paul Church, Westerville

PORTER, Virginia S. "Ginny" (Orozco), 75, Dec. 20
Our Mother of Sorrows Chapel, Columbus

WEIDIG, Frederick "Fritz," 94, Dec. 31
St. Nicholas Church, Zanesville

DINAPOLI, Bonnie J. (Scott), 85, Dec. 27
St. Pius X Church, Reynoldsburg

HOWARD, Ann B., 80, Jan. 2
St. Charles Preparatory School Chapel, Columbus

PRITCHARD, Beth Ann, 60, Jan. 3
St. Leonard Church, Heath

WOOLFE, Kathy C., 63, Dec. 18
St. Rose of Lima Church, New Lexington

EVANS, Jean M., 95, Dec. 23
Sacred Heart Church, New Philadelphia

JENNINGS, Mary A. (Conti), 78, Dec. 23
St. Patrick Church, Columbus

SAPP, Thomas H., 87, Jan. 1
Holy Spirit Church, Columbus

Sister Mary Justin Fadden, OP

Funeral Mass for Sister Mary Justin Fadden, OP, 95, who died Monday, Dec. 26, 2022 at the Mohun Health Care Center in Columbus, was celebrated Friday, Jan. 6 at the Motherhouse of the Dominican Sisters of Peace. Burial was at St. Joseph Cemetery, Columbus.

She was born Sarah Fadden on Oct. 23, 1927 in Scranton, Pennsylvania to Thomas Travis and Mary McDowell.

She entered the congregation of the Dominican Sisters of St. Catherine de'

Ricci (now the Dominican Sisters of Peace) in 1950 and professed her vows on Feb. 13, 1953.

She served on the staff of retreat centers in Pennsylvania, Ohio and New York for most of her nearly 70 years in the congregation. She was a driver at the sisters' Oxford, Michigan Motherhouse from 2013 to 2019, when she entered a life of prayer and service at the Columbus Motherhouse.

Mary E. "Molly" Landrine

Funeral Mass for Mary E. "Molly" Landrine, 76, who died Tuesday, Dec. 20, 2022 at Kettering (Ohio) Hospital, was celebrated Thursday, Dec. 29, 2022 at Columbus St. Patrick Church. Burial was at Resurrection Cemetery, Lewis Center.

She was born on May 28, 1946 to the

late Bertrand and Margaret Landrine. She was a graduate of Columbus St. Thomas the Apostle School, Columbus St. Mary of the Springs Academy and St. Mary of the Springs College (now Ohio Dominican University).

She spent about 10 years as a teacher at various elementary schools, including Columbus St. Thomas.

In 1976, she received a Master of Science degree in logistics management and began a career with the military, settling in the Dayton area and working for the Air Force at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, retiring in 2007.

Survivors include brothers Michael (Ann) and Patrick (Jean).

Sister Michaeleen Henderson, OP

Funeral Mass for Sister Michaeleen Henderson, OP, 91, who died Thursday, Dec. 22, 2022, was celebrated Friday, Dec. 30 at the Motherhouse of the Dominican Sisters of Peace. Burial was at St. Joseph Cemetery, Columbus.

She was born Martha Henderson on June 24, 1931 in Zanesville to Orville and Laura (Paul) Henderson, was a graduate of Zanesville St. Thomas Aquinas High School and earned a Bachelor of Science degree in elementary education in 1966 from the College of St. Mary of the Springs (now Ohio Dominican University).

She entered the congregation of the Dominican Sisters of St. Mary of the Springs (now the Dominican Sisters of Peace) in 1948 and professed her vows on July 9, 1950.

In the Diocese of Columbus, she was a teacher at Columbus Our Lady of Peace

(1966-1968 and 1969-1970), Columbus St. James the Less (1968-69) and Columbus Holy Name (1970-1980) schools and was a nurse's aide and staff member at the Mohun Health Care Center in Columbus from 1980 until entering a ministry of prayer and presence at the center in 2015.

She also taught at schools in the Diocese of Steubenville and in Connecticut and Pennsylvania and was a nurse's aide at St. George Hospital in Cincinnati.

She was preceded in death by her parents; brothers, John, Robert and Joseph; and sisters, Betty Plants, Dorothy Dudas, Mary Caroline Johnson and Dolores Mahon. Survivors include sisters, Donna Jardine and Celesta Maxwell, and many nieces and nephews.

Walter R. "Buck" Burkley Jr.

Funeral Mass for Walter R. "Buck" Burkley Jr., 97, who died Monday, Dec. 26, 2022, was celebrated Tuesday, Jan. 3 at Columbus St. Margaret of Cortona Church. Burial was at St. Joseph Cemetery, Columbus.

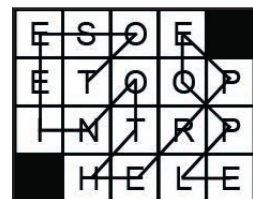
He was born on Nov. 23, 1925 to Walter and Margaret Burkley, was a graduate of Columbus Aquinas High School, and briefly attended Ohio State University after serving in the U.S. Army during World War II in the Philippines and elsewhere.

He left Ohio State to join and ultimately run the Burkley & Son Insurance Agency, which his father started, in Grandview Heights.

The Catholic Men's Luncheon Club honored him as diocesan Catholic Man of the Year in 1969 for his work as a board member of the Rosemont School for Girls and the Diocesan Child Guidance Center, which both at one time were Catholic agencies.

He was preceded in death by his parents and sisters Yvonne, Peggy and Jean. Survivors include his wife, Martha; six sons, John (Nancy), Tom, Chris (Renee), Mike, Steve (Mandy) and Matt (Jenny); five daughters, Janet, Mary, Ann (Brad) Nelson, Kate (Jay) Walker and Meg (Troy) Wernet; 24 grandchildren and 20 great-grandchildren.

CROSSWORD SOLUTION



WORDS OF WISDOM SOLUTION

It's time to plan for long-term care costs

The new year is the next chapter in your book just waiting to be written. Take the time to map out what you really want in retirement.

Maybe you're interested in picking up a new hobby or spending more time with the family, but a key consideration is finding peace of mind by planning properly for long-term care costs.

Many people don't think about long-term health-care services until they are a necessity. In America, someone who is 65 years old has a 70% chance of needing long-term care. This can include assistance with performing everyday tasks such as eating or bathing, medication management, palliative care and skilled nursing.

There are ways to prepare for long-term care costs that will save you and your loved ones from the aggravation of seeking a solution under pressure.

Thinking about care

When considering long-term care, it's impossible to plan to the last detail; however, it is crucial to have some ideas. It's normal to think that you or your loved one can live alone without assistance throughout aging, but that is rare. Almost everyone at one point needs help.

Here are things to consider:

- **Advance directive:** If you or your loved one loses the ability to speak, there should be a trusted person who can carry out your or your loved one's

wishes. If not, your health-care proxy can step in to advocate for you.

- **Housing options:** Many people never think about having to leave their homes, but sometimes moving to a senior care community is the safest or most practical choice. Explore your local options and list the top characteristics you'd want in a community.

- **Medicaid and government programs:** Long-term care costs might be covered through government programs. One example is Medicaid, the largest payer toward long-term care services. Medicaid assists certain low-income groups or those with limited assets in paying medical and long-term care bills.

Making plans

The best route to prepare for long-term care costs is to start saving. This will offer greater flexibility when looking into senior care communities and long-term options.

You should also look into:

- **Long-term care insurance:** It is designed to cover some long-term care costs. Depending on the policy, it can pay for an assisted living facility, care at home or nursing home care.

- **Life insurance:** It can also help pay for long-term care. Some policies might allow participants to borrow/withdraw money or allow people with terminal illnesses to access death benefits early.

Finding advice

When planning for long-term care, it is important to find a financial professional you can trust. Several organizations can assist in connecting you and your loved ones with appropriate resources.

Here are professionals who can help you develop a long-term care plan:

- **Financial planners:** They assess every aspect of your and your loved one's finances. This can include evaluating investments, savings and retirement and estate planning.

- **Investment advisers:** They focus on managing your or your loved one's investments.

- **Insurance agents:** They help you or your loved one examine options for life insurance, annuities and long-term care insurance.

If you or a loved one could benefit from long-term care, consider reaching out to Mother Angelina McCrory Manor and the Villas at Saint Therese in Columbus. They offer memory care in both assisted and skilled nursing settings along with long-term care, independent living and as-

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Eagle Scout projects benefit St. Brendan church and school

By Tim Puet

For The Catholic Times

Nine Hilliard St. Brendan Church parishioners who are members of Scouts BSA Troops 859 and 148 have spent hundreds of hours of their own time and recruited others to assist them in completing projects to benefit their parish and school while also enabling them to earn the rank of Eagle Scout, the highest honor in Scouting.

They are among 28 Scouts from St. Brendan Church who have earned Eagle rank since 2019. Nineteen of them are from Troop 859, which is sponsored by the church and in 2022 received the Bishop's Troop honor from the diocesan Catholic Committee on Scouting, recognizing the unit as the outstanding parish-sponsored troop in the Diocese of Columbus.

St. Brendan's other Eagles are from Troop 148, sponsored by Hilliard United Methodist Church, and Troop 814, sponsored by Scioto Ridge United Methodist Church.

Young men (and since 2018, young women) can be members of a Scout troop from age 10 until they become 18, so they have eight years to become Eagles, but it takes most recipients until

close to their 18th birthday to achieve the honor because of the effort involved.

"I love celebrating 18th birthdays with Scouts, which I've done many times," said Rick Vah, who is in his third year as Troop 859 scoutmaster. "There's lots of paperwork involved, and that's generally what keeps Eagle projects from being completed until the last minute."

Before becoming Eagles, Scouts must attain six lower ranks – Scout, Tenderfoot, Second Class, First Class, Star Scout and Life Scout – by earning merit badges for various activities. An Eagle Scout also must be a troop officer for at least six months and complete a project of benefit to the community.

Eagle Scouts must have earned at least 21 merit badges, including 13 in required fields. The Scouts BSA national office says only about 6 percent of the nation's 1.2 million Scouts reach Eagle status. This makes Troop 859's record in recent years especially remarkable, because it currently has 24 members and is the home of 19 recent Eagle Scouts, several of whom have "aged out" of Scouting since becoming Eagles.

"We don't push Scouts to become Eagles," Vah said, "Our Eagles wanted to earn their rank because they saw that our church had a lot of things they could do as part of the recent expansion which

unified the church and school into one building. Others saw areas at Battelle Darby Creek Metro Park, where we do a lot of our camping, and at other parks where they could fill needs.

"We are fortunate to have a group of Scouts who are enthusiastic about being leaders, as well as younger Scouts who want to follow their example and take their turn at leading when the time comes and get good feedback from the older ones. Our accomplishments don't have anything to do with anything I did, but with what they did."

The first Scout to achieve Eagle rank recently for work he did at St. Brendan Church was Zane Torbert, who had his Eagle court of honor on July 29, 2021. His project involved landscaping and wall repair at Wellnitz Hall, named for the parish's first pastor, Father Michael Wellnitz. The building was completed in 1957 and included the parish's first worship space, located in the basement, with a rectory upstairs.

It was converted into meeting rooms and office space after the current church was built in 1981. The most recent parish expansion in 2020 moved the offices to the church, with the Wellnitz Hall basement now used for storage and a kitchen area and the first floor consisting of meeting rooms.

"I asked Deacon Jim (Morris) for a couple of ideas and took it from there," Torbert said. "I planted flowers along one fence and repaired a retaining wall."

Wellnitz Hall also was the site of several other projects. Paul Roginski of Troop 859 renovated the hall's storage space, painted walls, built shelves and labeled storage space. Troop 859 member Keegan Meloun built storage shelves, and Easton Kernosky of Troop 148 repaired the patio next to the building, in addition to doing landscaping and installing a garden box and two benches.

"I was one of the guys who celebrated my birthday with the scoutmaster," Roginski said. "There weren't any real issues involved with what I did. It was just a question of timing, with delays caused by COVID. I converted a couple of old bathrooms into storage spaces, patched holes in the walls and used plywood for the storage. Deacon Jim kept me on track by asking how the project was going.

"The intensive part of what I did on the patio was working with pavers which were about 1 1/2 inches thick," Kernosky said. "I got some leftovers from contractors, which helped. It also was important to reset all the paving to even everything

See SCOUTS, Page 22



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Father Timothy Hayes' funeral homily for Father Ronald J. Aubry

Someone commented that Father Ron said that when he got to the pearly gates, he would stand in the line of folks who wanted to ask the Almighty a lot of questions before entering. We have all heard of people who are making a list of such questions, and perhaps we ourselves have some right now we would like to get a hint about before we are ready to embrace all that is offered.

When I heard that Father Ron had died, I sent up a secret prayer to him that I would like to have just a glimpse of what he now is able to see.

The response I got, if it was a response from Father Ron, was a night of tossing and turning and a hint that I might end up being the homilist for his funeral. When that was confirmed the next day, I had another restless night, but just before midnight on the day after he died, I awoke with a clear idea of the Gospel that should be used for his funeral.

Within a short time, still before midnight, I discerned the other two readings you just heard. Talk about a last-minute planner! Father Ron did not leave funeral plans and put it off until the day after he died and gave them to a poor schlep who just happened to be looking in his direction at the moment.

So here we are. We have looked at that moment that Father Ron is being given the

invitation to enter the pearly gates. Will he go in or will he stand in the line for those holding on to outstanding questions?

On a number of occasions, I had the opportunity to be with Father Ron as he celebrated Mass. One of the most memorable was his first Mass, at Christ the King Church in Columbus, where he had also been ordained a priest the day before.

What I remember most about the first Mass was that Father Ron also received a new Catholic into the Church, baptizing and confirming him. He happened to be a married person, so it also created a marriage sacrament. Leave it to Father Ron right from the start to get everything in. All he needed was a confession and an anointing and he would have covered all seven sacraments on his first day as a priest.

I do note that his ordination Mass, which was memorable for many reasons, was one of the last to be done in home parishes. After that experience, Bishop Herrmann recalled ordinations to the cathedral.

After I was ordained, I often celebrated Mass with Father Ron. The last several days have brought to mind a number of memorable moments.

Once, Father Ron was preaching and suddenly, in the middle of his own homily, he expressed out loud with incredible exasperation, "I've just forgotten the point I was going to make!" With that, he sat down.

Or maybe he went on to make another point that came to mind. It does not matter which. He carried us with him.

At a Teens Encounter Christ reunion Mass once, Father Ron got so caught up in the consecration that immediately after, he led the congregation in the recitation of the Our Father. As the congregation, a bit surprised, went ahead with him, realizing that something was off, he turned to me quietly and whispered, "Do whatever is needed to be sure this Mass is valid."

I finished the Eucharistic Prayer by myself in time to join in with the sign of peace. Father Ron carried us forward.

Travel to the Holy Land with a group of pilgrims in 2018 organized by Father Ron was also an amazing experience. We had a group of folks who covered all the age groups. Father Ron and I were in the middle. We marveled together at the land of Jesus and the Scriptures. Father Ron's experience a few years before of nearly dying there when he was on a sabbatical made this a poignant time.

He opened to all of us what it meant to him to be at the Shaare Zedek "Gates of Justice" Hospital in Jerusalem while addressing his new diagnosis of leukemia. He arranged for us to see the Chagall windows of the patriarchs at the Hadasah Hospital in Ein Karem, the town of

John the Baptist. Father Ron always saw beauty and wanted to share it.

Many others who have known Father Ron since his younger years will have stories to tell. They will be stories that describe his creativity, his passion for beauty, his love of Scripture and so many other things that might surprise you. The gift of God in him was strong. He wrote and directed plays. He composed songs. He tried to make Scripture come alive for many.

The favorite memory for some is that he always had a pooch as companion – his friends Chase and Jedidiah, who predeceased him, and his last pup, Jethro. (Even though some of the names sound biblical, they were not. Jedidiah, God's name for Solomon, was taken from the son of a friend, and Jethro had his name not from the father-in-law of Moses but from Jethro of The Beverly Hillbillies.)

Father Ron's real claim to fame was that his mother was Dorothy the schoolteacher, who raised her two sons, and that his brother was John, who was personally responsible for bringing Wendy's to Millersburg by writing to Dave Thomas to invite him to open a restaurant here.

All who know Ron will have to admit that he carried throughout his life the heart of a child. To most, Father Ron's love

See AUBRY, Page 22



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SCOUTS, *continued from Page 20*

out and eliminate high spots.”

Kernosky's twin brother, Hayden, also of Troop 148, led a group that built an octagonal pit in the St. Brendan School playground for gaga ball, which is described as a kinder, gentler version of dodgeball. Gaga ball involves throwing a soft foam ball and trying to hit someone below the knees, with the winner being the last person not hit. Any number of people can play, and there are no restrictions on the size of the ball.

Triplets Thomas, Grant and John Rice performed different projects. Grant replaced boards on a railing, stained the railing and a fence protecting the parish's heating, ventilating and air conditioning unit and built benches and trellises for the DiPietro Garden, named for Father Rodric DiPietro, pastor at St. Brendan from 2001 until his death in 2011.

“Most of the job was done during the summer, and I got it done in September,” Grant said. “Plants in the garden were growing in big pots. Having the trellises enables the plants to climb and makes the garden more attractive.”

John Rice cleared overgrowth, replaced fence pickets and power washed an area around Wellnitz Hall and a statue of St. Francis of Assisi and stained a fence. “The overgrowth, mostly ivy, was pretty disgusting,” he said. “It took from June to August to get it cleared. During that time, I uncovered about 20 boards which needed replaced, and that work was done. Now the ivy is growing back again, so this project will continue as one of constant maintenance.”

Thomas Rice led a crew that built a shrine for a statue of St. Sharbel Makh-luf, which was donated to the parish by someone of Lebanese descent and is made of resin. St. Sharbel, who was 70 when he died in 1898, was a Maronite monk and priest from Lebanon. During



Hilliard St. Brendan Church parishioners have donated their time as members of Troops 859 and 148 to working on projects to benefit the parish and the school, helping them earn the rank of Eagle Scout

Photos courtesy Hilliard Boy Scout Troops 859 and 148

his life, he gained a wide reputation for holiness and for his ability to unite Christians and Muslims. He was canonized in 1977.

The three Rice brothers are sophomores at Columbus St. Charles Preparatory School. The Kernosky twins are juniors at Columbus Bishop Ready High School.

Scout Graham Houser is a fan of LEGO building blocks and collected 53,000 of them, which he donated to the parish school. “I have a brother who’s an Eagle Scout, and I wanted to one-up him by doing something big and bold,” he said. I asked Mr. (Walt) O’Dell (Vah’s predecessor as scoutmaster) about it, and he knew I liked LEGOS, so he suggested something LEGO-related.

“I was going to send the blocks to a school in Kenya, but then COVID hit, so I decided to keep them closer to home.” The blocks have been separated by age

and grade level and are being used by all the school’s classes from kindergarten to eighth grade for STEM-related projects.

COVID also delayed Tyler Engram in his efforts to place tent pads and hammock posts at campsites on the backpacking trail in Battelle Darby Creek Park. “I anticipated the project would take four months, and it took about 10,” he said. “In that period, the cost of lumber for the project went from \$350 to \$750 because of the pandemic.” Engram is now a sophomore at Capital University.

Other Troop 859 members who have performed Catholic-related Eagle projects include Layne Smith, who led construction of a patio for use at fish fries at London St. Patrick Church; Joseph Hite, whose crew repaired and replaced structures at Columbus Bishop Watterson High School; and Jack Whetstone, leader of a group building picnic tables and

food storage shelves at Catholic Social Services’ Our Lady of Guadalupe Center in Columbus.

Alex Myron’s project involved expanding outdoor seating and building a picnic table for use of the congregation at Atonement Lutheran Church in Columbus, where a friend’s father is the pastor. “It’s a smaller church, and they appreciated having Scouts from another church help them,” he said. “They have a large field where kids play soccer and other games, and now there’s a place for them to sit and watch.”

The Eagle project for Andrew Fleming of Troop 814 was building a tower at Prairie Oaks Metro Park for the chimney swifts that fly through the area as part of their annual migration. He said the tower took two months to plan and one month to build, with the help of 13 people who put in a total of 150 hours on the project.

Other Troop 859 members who have become Eagle Scouts since September 2020 are Nathan Jamison, Vincent Cutrell, Gregory McGuire, Smith, Trevor Tarlton, Hite, Timothy Govenor, Malik Tarazi and Jahari Henry. Other Troop 814 members from St. Brendan who earned Eagle rank during that time were Nathan Ashbrook, Michael Bruggeman, Donald Search, Mark DeLeo, Kevin Bray and Jonah Halbisen.

Deacon Morris said Troop 859 was founded around 1993 or 1994, with Jim Dvorsky serving as scoutmaster for its first 10 years and Vic Ferdinand holding the same position from 2010 to 2017, when O’Dell succeeded him. Since its founding, about 40 of its members have become Eagles.

Deacon Morris would like to have those Eagles gather for a reunion twice a year to encourage other Scouts to follow their path. Eagle Scouts from the parish are invited to get in touch with him at deaconmorris@stbrendans.net.

AUBRY, *continued from Page 21*

for Disney is known. His license plate always announced it. In better times, his annual Mickey Mouse party gathered friends to live the Disney dream. I first learned of this when I once visited Father Ron at the Church of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal in Columbus.

When I arrived, he showed me first his pastor, Father John Ryan’s office that proclaimed “FDR,” with portraits and books and busts of the late president. Then we went to Father Ron’s quarters, and I saw Mickey Mouse everywhere. It made me burst out laughing. Since then, I have recognized that we characters of the Diocese of Columbus all have different passions that help us cope with the craziness.

There was once a cartoon of two mouse parents being asked about the

prospects for their children’s future. The mother was answering, “Our son Michael is considering being in show business.” The final panel of the cartoon shows a very young mouse, with the recognizable ears of the now world-famous Mickey.

You will note that the final panel of time offered by the prophet Daniel in the first reading includes the reference to Michael the great prince, the archangel who will herald the fulfillment of time. It was that reference that drew me to the text for this celebration. Father Ron would not want to take us anywhere where Disney did not find its counterpart.

“But those with insight shall shine brightly like the splendor of the firmament, and those who lead the many to justice shall be like the stars forever.”

Glory can be seen by the eyes of children.

We have left Father Ron standing at the true gates of justice, awaiting the moment of entry. To our surprise, and no doubt to his, also there at this time are such figures as Pope Benedict XVI and Barbara Walters. I suspect some of Ron’s questions could be answered by them as they stand in line together.

On the other hand, if we take our Scriptures of this Mass to their point, we and Father Ron will realize that the Son has revealed to us the life of the Trinity beyond all understanding through the very experience of life and truth and beauty and creation. Blessed are the eyes that see what you see!

When asked to give us a glimpse of who God is for him at key moments of

commitment in his life among us, Father Ron offered this wording:

I, Father Ronald J. Aubry, accept the responsibility to stand in my ministry as a priest in the worship of the Father and by my life of prayer, seek in the power of His mercy and love to heal, gather together and lift up all creation to His glory.

Father Ron now bows in his spirit before the very mercy and love he sought to serve among us as priest. In the power of the prayer of the one Christ Priest at work in him and among us, may we now be gathered together, lifting all creation to the Father’s glory.

Father Ron, go through the gates of justice and continue to carry us with you in your now-eternal prayer. Blessed be the eyes that see what you see!

LOCAL NEWS AND EVENTS

Catholic Conference of Ohio has new director

Brian Hickey was appointed as executive director of the Catholic Conference of Ohio (CCO), effective Jan. 3, by the conference's board of directors.

He replaces Jerry Freewalt, who resigned from the position in December to return to his former post as director of the Office for Social Concerns of the Diocese of Columbus.

Hickey has been the CCO's associate director for social concerns since December 2021.

During his tenure there, Hickey has lobbied with state legislators on behalf of the conference, which is the voice of Ohio's Catholic bishops on matters of public policy, in collaboration with diocesan directors of social service, Respect Life, and social action programs.

He previously was associate director of the Office for Human Dignity in the Diocese of Joliet, Illinois.

He also has worked for Caritas, an international Catholic relief agency, in the

east African nation of Djibouti, teaching in a classroom and assisting migrant and refugee children with humanitarian aid.

Additionally, he taught English literature and leadership in a Palestinian high school in the West Bank through the Jerusalem School of Bethlehem. As an intern for the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, he provided mentoring and life coaching to young men in Zambia and South Africa. He also has worked as a consultant to Catholic Relief Services.

He has a Bachelor's degree in business management from Valparaiso University and a Master's degree in global affairs, specializing in Catholic social teaching and public policy, from the University of Notre Dame.

"Brian's diverse background in ministry and the professionalism he has displayed while working for the conference make him an outstanding choice for the executive director position. The bishops

of Ohio look forward to his leadership of the conference," said Cincinnati Archbishop Dennis Schnurr, CCO chairman.

Hickey and his wife, Kelli, are members of Gahanna St. Matthew Church.

Tickets are available for Newark Catholic's Cinderella

Newark Catholic High School's drama department will present Rodgers & Hammerstein's Cinderella at 7:30 p.m. Friday, Jan. 27 and Saturday, Jan. 28 in the school's auditorium, 1 Green Wave Drive.

Tickets are \$15 each for the school's winter drama production and can be purchased by calling the school office at 740-344-3594.

Catholic Renewal announces 2023 schedule

The Columbus Catholic Renewal's first event for 2023 will be a day of equipping

from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, Jan. 21 at the Columbus Church of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal, 5225 Refugee Road.

The program will include a talk on holiness by Father Patrick Toner, as well as talks on healing, intercessory prayer and prophetic activation, updates from the renewal and an enthronement of the Sacred Heart. No registration is required.

The renewal also will sponsor citywide praise and adoration programs on Feb. 4, April 29, July 22 and Nov. 18, all Saturdays, from 9 a.m. to noon at the same location.

Its other activities for the year include a concert by Ark and the Dove Sisters on Saturday, March 18 at a time and place to be determined; a Pentecost Mass with Bishop Earl Fernandes on Sunday, May 28 at Grove City Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church and a healing Mass on Wednesday, Sept. 13 at Sunbury St. John Neumann Church.

For more information, go to www.cccolumbus.org.

HEARTBEAT, continued from Page 14

Roe," said Heartbeat chairman Peggy Hartshorn.

"That was finally accomplished in the Dobbs decision through the grace of God and the work of the amazingly creative movement that also grew and developed over these 50 years."

Heartbeat's predecessor, Alternatives to Abortion, began in Toledo in 1971, led by Dr. John Hillabrand, a Toledo obstetrician, and Lore Maier, a refugee from Nazi Germany. For the next two decades, Alternatives to Abortion was an all-volunteer organization that maintained slow, steady growth and had reached about 200 affiliates.

In 1992, it changed its name to Heartbeat International and began describing itself specifically as an interdenominational Christian association with biblically based programs. The following year, it moved its headquarters from White Plains, New York (where it had moved to from Toledo) to Columbus, the hometown of Hartshorn, co-founder in 1981 of the Columbus-based Pregnancy Decision Health Centers. Heartbeat has been based in Columbus ever since.

Hartshorn became Heartbeat's first full-time employee in 1993, was its chairman from 1990 to 2004 and returned to that position in 2015. She also served as Heartbeat's president from 1993 to 2015.

"One of the best fruits of the Roe era has been the unity developed among Christians called to this work, especially among Catholics (the first to answer the call in the late 1960s and '70s) and evangelical Protestants (who joined the movement in massive numbers in the 1980s)," she said. "We experience it within Heartbeat and see that we are always better together.

"God's people never gave up and never gave in over the last five decades. Some of God's pro-life warriors have passed into eternity already, but so many others have taken their places, and the work goes on."

In 2003, Heartbeat began Option Line, the only fully staffed, bilingual pro-life contact center in the United States, which celebrates its 20th anniversary this year. In those two decades, Option Line has reached more than 5 million people, many of them desperate for answers related to an unexpected pregnancy.

Every day, more than 1,000 people reach out to Option Line through phone calls, live chats, texting and email. It connects callers with their local pregnancy help center and provides consultation on adoption, abortion and parenting.

Heartbeat in 2018 took another major step by taking over management of the Abortion Pill Rescue Network (APRN). Through Option Line, the network answers more than 150 calls per month from women who regret their decision to have begun the chemical abortion process and realize they have a chance to save their baby if they stop the process in time.

Chemical abortion, which has become the most common form of abortion, is a two-part process approved for use up to 10 weeks into a pregnancy. It involves use of the so-called "abortion pill," which is actually two pills. The first, mifepristone or RU-486, blocks the effects of progesterone, a hormone necessary for a pregnancy to thrive. The second pill contains a chemical known as misoprostol, which expels the baby.

Abortion pill reversal involves taking

additional progesterone to overcome the effects of RU-486 within 72 hours of ingesting the first abortion pill. Studies report abortion reversal rates of 64 to 68 percent, no increase in birth defects, and a lower preterm delivery rate than the general population for those following this procedure.

"The APRN provides a chance to save lives for those who have regrets after taking the first pill," Trudden said. "Thousands of babies are alive today because their mothers decided to choose life through the reversal process."

"For more than 50 years, Heartbeat and its predecessors have saved lives because one by one, in response to the spread of legalized abortion, people stepped in to help women escape the temptation and pressure to abort their precious babies.

"Heartbeat's story continues to take exciting and challenging turns. Our ministry may be more important than ever in the post-Roe era as pregnancy help centers become more important.

"One thing that has never changed throughout our history is that the best alternative to abortion is another person. Our story continues as one of helping God's people discover the life-saving, death-defying, soul-satisfying, God-glorifying power of neighborly love."

Respect Life events to be held Jan. 23 in diocese

The Diocese of Columbus' annual Respect Life Mass will take place at 10:30 a.m. Monday, Jan. 23 at Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral.

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., Greater Columbus Right to Life (GCRTL) will sponsor the annual Roe Remembrance in the Ohio Statehouse Atrium. GCRTL said those who wish to attend the event are being asked for the first time to register in advance by visiting gcrtl.org/roe or calling the GCRTL office at (614) 445-8508. Limited onsite registration will be available.

The national March for Life is scheduled for Friday, Jan. 20 in Washington, D.C.



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