

**CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK SPECIAL SECTION INSIDE**

# *The* CATHOLIC TIMES

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**MASS ON MLK DAY**

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### Coming home

Lancaster native and Catholic singer/songwriter Sarah Hart returns to her hometown on Tuesday, Feb. 14 for an evening concert at St. Mark Church, Page 9

# Bishop promotes justice, charity at MLK remembrance Mass

An annual Mass in remembrance of Martin Luther King Jr. attracted an overflow crowd of 250 attendees to Columbus Holy Rosary-St. John Church on Monday, Jan. 16.

Bishop Earl Fernandes was the principal celebrant for the Mass. Father Ramon Owera, pastor at Holy Rosary-St. John and Columbus St. Dominic churches, concelebrated, and Deacon Frank Iannarino assisted at the altar.

Processing into the church ahead of Bishop Fernandes were the fraternal organizations from the Ladies Auxiliary Court 298 of the Knights of St. Peter Claver, the Knights of St. John and the Knights and Dames of the Order of St. John Hospitaller, whose members operate the Order of Malta Center of Care next door to the church in the parish community center.

The parish has commemorated the national holiday in honor of the slain African-American civil rights leader since it was instituted in 1986.

Portions of King's prominent speeches were played before Mass, and local artists, including 85-year-old Holy Rosary-St. John parishioner Ruth Keels, displayed paintings along the outside aisles of the church.

"Today is the day to celebrate the life and death of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and what he stood for, which is really peace and justice," Bishop Fernandes said near the beginning of his homily.

"St. Paul VI, who was the pope when I was a small boy, said, 'If you want peace, work for justice.' Well, what is justice? Justice is being in right relationship with one another, giving another person his or her due. And so, we have gathered, first and foremost for Mass, to give God His due.

"But being enlightened by the Scriptures and receiving Jesus into our soul in Holy Communion, we hope to be transformed, to be witnesses to His justice and, above all, His love in the world. And, therefore, we can give our neighbor his or her due.

"If we want to have peace, if we want to have harmony in our society, we need to work for justice. But we must recognize that charity goes beyond justice. In justice, we were rightly condemned for the sins of our first parents. But in His mercy and in His love, God came into the world,



The Ladies Auxiliary Court 298 of the Knights of St. Peter Claver lead the procession to the altar at Holy Rosary-St. John Church for the Jan. 16 Mass.



Bishop Earl Fernandes elevates the chalice at Mass with Father Ramon Owera (center), pastor of Holy Rosary-St. John and St. Dominic churches, and Deacon Frank Iannarino watching. The bishop celebrated Mass at Holy Rosary-St. John for 250 people on Jan. 16 as part of an annual commemoration at the parish church for Martin Luther King Jr.

born a child, born to live for us, born to die for us, born to redeem us."

Jesus did that, the bishop pointed out, by suffering and dying on the cross for the salvation of those mired in poverty and misery and experiencing injustice.

"Sometimes the people of this world want to exclude," Bishop Fernandes told the assembly. "Sometimes they want to exclude based on the color of your skin. It's not so with Jesus.

"If we repent of our sins, if we unite ourselves with Him, He will have fellowship, friendship, share His life with us and therefore the life of the Father with us. Not only here below, but for all eternity.

"Jesus, too, knows your struggle from what he suffered: injustice. But He makes a promise for something better if we will unite ourselves with Him."

The bishop turned to the Gospel read-



Members of the fraternal order of the Knights of St. John join the opening procession for a Mass at Columbus Holy Rosary-St. John Church on the national holiday honoring Martin Luther King Jr.



Alexa White, 11 a member of Columbus Holy Rosary-St. John church, reads a quotation from Martin Luther King Jr. *CT photo by Ken Snow*

ing for the Mass, saying that King, like God, extended an invitation to believe in "something new."

"But it's not just that he had a dream that we would be brothers and sisters to one another," the bishop said. "His dream was, in fact – or what he articulated – was really God's dream – for humanity reconciled to one another, through the blood of His Son. To be brothers and sisters, children of God by adoption, sons and daughters in the eternal Son, no longer Jew or Gentile, no longer slave or free, but one: one body, one spirit in Christ; one people – God's people.

"This was God's dream and His plan to save us from the beginning. And it was to this dream that Dr. King dedicated his life – in the imitation of Jesus who suffered greatly."

Bishop Fernandes recalled the humble beginnings of his family in their native India and their experience as second-class citizens in that country's caste system.

"And this is what this day, then, is about – to think about what it means to be free," he said. "Jesus spent His whole life working for justice, to reconcile sinful humanity with His Father. He worked His whole life for this justice so that the foreigner and the leper and the tax collector and the sinner might have life.

"But as I said, charity, love is greater than justice. And He showed the depths of His love upon the cross. Do not be afraid of the cross if it comes to your life but embrace it. This is the sign and instrument of our salvation."

The bishop continued, "We've been called to this feast to celebrate the new Paschal Lamb and to rejoice in the fruits of His sacrifice, which is life. And we are a people of life who cherish life and who nourish and protect life. Black lives, white lives, brown lives, everybody's life, because we are children of God, worthy of care and respect.

"The Holy Spirit takes the different gifts of the different peoples of the land and brings them into a marvelous unity and harmony.

"Take all these voices in our choir – each voice is different, each voice is beautiful, each voice comes together in singing the praise of the living God.

"Every voice in this church should do this, and it's not just our physical voices that must praise God, we must sing the song of the soul. A beautiful song which Jesus even sings from the cross with beautiful words in His suffering."

The bishop then called upon the faithful to

*See MLK, Page 11*

## Look for coverage of local pro-life activities online and Feb. 12 issue

Coverage of the annual Respect Life Mass at Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral and the Roe Remembrance at the Ohio Statehouse will be included in the Feb. 12 issue of *The Catholic Times*.

The pro-life events on Monday, Jan. 23 took place after the newspaper's print deadline for the Jan. 29 edition.

To access the newspaper's content online, visit [catholictimescolumbus.org](http://catholictimescolumbus.org).



### Front Page photo: MASS ON MLK DAY

Reese J. Flowers V, 9, reads a quotation from Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. as his mother, Sheena Costa Flowers, stands next to him at the end of a Mass in remembrance of the civil rights leader on Monday, Jan. 16 at Columbus Holy Rosary-St. John Church. Sheena has been a member of Holy Rosary-St. John for 31 years and read the same quote when she was her son's age. *CT photo by Ken Snow*

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## Women's conference aims to shine light in the darkness

"Light Shines in the Darkness" is the theme of this year's Columbus Catholic Women's Conference in Kasich Hall at the Ohio Expo Center (state fairgrounds) from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 18.

Speakers will be Danielle Bean, Father Michael Denk, Father Rob Galea and Paula Umana.

Music will be provided by contemporary Catholic artist Hannah Shaefer. Host for the day will be Debbie Georgianni, co-host of EWTN Radio's daily *Take 2* program.

The day will begin with Mass and end with a Holy Hour. It also will include an opportunity to receive the sacrament of reconciliation, displays by faith-based organizations, and breakfast and lunch.

Registration is \$45 for adults, \$35 for students and free to members of religious orders. Scholarships are available to pay all or half of the cost for those who cannot afford it.

Bean is creator and host of *The Gist*, a weekly women's talk show on Catholic TV. She also is host of the *Girlfriends* podcast and creator of the Girlfriends Community, a supportive and encouraging online community of Catholic women from all walks of life. She has written 10 books. Her latest, *Whisper: Finding God in the Everyday*, encourages people to slow down and experience God in routine moments.

Father Denk is founder of The Prodigal Father, whose mission is to inspire, introduce and guide people in a deep, authentic prayer life, leading them to an intimate, mystical and personal relationship with God, in and through Jesus and through the workings of the Holy Spirit. He is also an author and blogger, whose books include *Pray40Days: The Personal Relationship With God You Have Always Wanted and Pray Advent*.

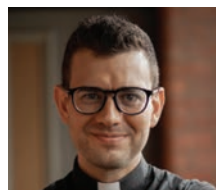
Father Galea, from Australia, is a singer and songwriter with an international fan



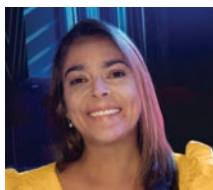
Danielle Bean



Father Denk



Father Galea



Paula Umana

base. He was a contestant on Australia's version of *The X Factor* in 2015 and sang the English versions of the official 2008, 2016 and 2019 World Youth Day songs. He and his team minister to more than 400,000 young people each year. He believes that music and film are important instruments in helping people understand the need for intimacy with God.

Umana is the author of *40 Gifts of Hope* and host of the podcast *Hope for the Sick and Suffering*. Her main vocation is to provide Catholic resources to encourage and help people dealing with suffering and illness. She is from Costa Rica and is a former No. 1 tennis player in Central America.

After giving birth to her fifth child, she suddenly became ill with a nervous system disorder that left her a quadriplegic. She eventually was able to start moving and says that thanks to the prayers of others and to her own Catholic faith, joy from the Holy Spirit, hope and courage she has surpassed everyone's expectations.

For more information on scholarships and the conference, go to [www.columbuscatholicwomen.com/](http://www.columbuscatholicwomen.com/).

## Men's conference theme is 'Called to Be Saints'

This year's 26th annual Columbus Catholic Men's Conference is being dedicated to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Holy Family. Through their intercession – and conference participants' personal consecration to them – those attending the event can experience a love and strength like no other and walk with confidence on the path to sainthood.

The conference, with the theme "Called to Be Saints," will take place from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 25, with Eucharistic Adoration beginning at 6 a.m., in Kasich Hall of the Ohio Expo Center (state fairgrounds). John Sablan and Deacon Charlie Echeverry will be featured speakers.

The program will include Mass at 2 p.m. with Bishop Earl Fernandes as the celebrant plus displays by faith-based organizations, an opportunity to receive the sacrament of reconciliation, and breakfast and lunch.

Music will be provided by the Neumann Project of Sunbury St. John Neumann Church, and the master of ceremonies will be Matt Palmer, board president of the Columbus Catholic Men's Ministry.

Sablan, of Venice California, is a husband, father, Catholic speaker, evangelist and podcaster. He is co-founder and president of World Ablaze Incorporated, which is a Catholic apostolate focused on evangelization and discipleship, and has been interviewed on EWTN, Ave Maria and Sacred Heart Radio, in addition to partnering with Shalom World TV to co-host the *Real Men* series with Deacon Harold Burke-Sivers.

In addition, he has been a part of the "That Man is You!" parish series, as well as the "RISE" parish membership program. He has more than 15 years of min-

Deacon  
Charlie Echeverry

John Sablan

istry experience at both the parish and diocesan level and received a graduate certificate in theology from the Augustine Institute.

Deacon Echeverry, who lives in the Phoenix area, is the founder and chief executive officer of the Black/Brown Collective, a Los Angeles-based strategic advisory and impact studio focused at the intersection of emerging platforms and emerging audiences. He also is vice chairman emeritus of Catholic Answers, the world's largest English-language apologetics and evangelization media company.

He is on the boards of the Catholic Association for Latino Leadership, a professional association of Christian business leaders; the Tepeyac Leadership Initiative, a civic leadership and faith organization; and Sent Ventures, a platform focused on entrepreneurs of faith. In addition, he is chairman of SOFESA, a non-profit founded by his wife that accompanies and serves homeless families in southern California.

Registration for the conference is \$40 for adults, \$25 for students and complimentary for seminarians and members of the clergy. For more information, go to [www.catholicmensministry.com](http://www.catholicmensministry.com) and click on the conference link.

## Dr. Eric Yang chosen as Catholic Man of the Year

By Tim Puet

For *The Catholic Times*

The Catholic Men's Luncheon Club has selected Dr. Eric Yang of Columbus St. Peter Church as the 2023 diocesan Catholic Man of the Year.

Bishop Earl Fernandes will present Yang with the award at the club's meeting on Friday, Feb. 3 following the 11:45 a.m. Mass at Columbus St. Patrick Church, 280 N. Grant Ave. A \$12 donation is required to cover the cost of the luncheon.

Yang, 57, is an adjunct lecturer in biology and developmental biology at the Pontifical College Josephinum and in biology and physiology at Columbus State Community College and is an active member of his parish and the Knights of

Columbus.

"I learned during a Josephinum faculty meeting that I was going to receive the award, then got back to my office and was shocked and humbled when I began to think more about it, knowing who some of the past recipients were," he said. "I'm sure there are many more of



Dr. Eric Yang

this year's nominees more deserving than me."

His current parish activities include membership on leadership teams for the men's spirituality ministry, the core planning team for Eucharistic Adoration and the North Columbus Serra Club.

In the past, he has been part of Parish Council, the parish adult enrichment committee and planning committees for the diocesan Catholic Men's Conference, the diocesan celebration of the Philippine pre-Christmas event known as Simbang Gabi, and his parish's multilingual Holy Hour, where he often leads a decade of the rosary in the Philippine language of Tagalog with his wife of seven years, Josephine.

"We met online and felt a connection

because we shared the same faith and culture," Yang said. "She was in West Virginia and I was in Ohio, and one thing that I think impressed her about me is that when we started calling each other, I asked her to pray the rosary with me.

"We married at somewhat of a late age and don't have children, so we consider the parishioners at St. Peter as our family and are honored to serve them."

He has been a member of the Knights of Columbus for 10 years and is district deputy for District 36, which consists of councils from St. Peter, Dublin St. Brigid of Kildare, Powell St. Joan of Arc, Columbus St. Andrew and Columbus St. Agatha churches. He also is secretary of the Columbus diocesan chapter of the

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# Music at St. Mary

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# Jesus gave adulterous woman a pass – and a command

By Leandro “Lany” Tapay

One beautiful, sunny spring afternoon, I was driving a newly purchased white Camaro with a sunroof. I do not think Chevrolet makes this model anymore.

While on Schrock Road near Westerville, I went through a yellow traffic light, which became red before I completed the crossing. Instinctively, I looked back at my rearview mirror.

A Westerville police officer was behind me. He did not go through the red light. He waited until it became green. For a while, I thought he lost me, but he eventually caught up with me.

He turned on his flashing light. I stopped, and when I rolled down my car window, he politely asked, “Do you know why I am stopping you?”

“Yes, sir. I went through a yellow light,” I politely replied.

“It was not yellow to me,” he retorted.

He took my driver’s license, went to his cruiser and did not come back to my car for a while.

I was anticipating a traffic ticket. But when he finally came back to my car, he said, “Young man, your license is immaculately clean. I do not want to be the first one to dirty it. You can go, and be careful driving.”

Wow! What a relief! I did not get what I expected. The police officer gave me a pass. It was a wonderful feeling.

Have you ever received a pass for wicked or naughty things you have done? If you have, you know the feel-

ing.

Imagine how the woman in the Bible who was caught in the act of adultery felt when Jesus told her, “Neither do I condemn you. Go and sin no more.”

She was on her way to death by stoning, but Jesus gave her a pass to start a new life.

According to the law, the crime of adultery carried the penalty of death by stoning. The accusers already had stones in their hands. They were eager to execute the punishment.

The accusers, who were mostly church leaders, did not bring the woman to Jesus for permission to stone her. They did not need it.

To their question, “Teacher, what shall we do with this woman?” they anticipated that Jesus would have two possible answers: “Go ahead and stone her” or “Give her a pass and let her go.”

The accusers thought that if Jesus told them to stone her, they could accuse Him of not practicing His teachings about love and compassion.

If Jesus told them to let the woman go, they would tell Jesus that He was breaking the law of Moses.

The woman looked at the faces of her accusers. She was searching for compassion from them but found none. What she saw instead were their squinty eyes, their tight lips, their gritted teeth and their hateful stares.

What the woman did not see was their stony hearts. She looked at the rocks in their hands – rocks of self-righteousness. The accusers squeezed them

so tightly that their fingertips became white. They squeezed the stones as if they were Jesus’ throat – for they hated Jesus.

In her despair, the woman looked at Jesus. She saw that His eyes did not glare with hatred. Through Jesus’ eyes, she felt as if He was telling her not to worry, that everything would be OK. In the eyes of Jesus, she saw true kindness for the first time in her life.

Jesus looked at the woman as God originally made her. He looked at her as if God knitted her together. “Knitted together” – this is how the psalmist described the process of God making humankind. (Psalm 139:13)

God has created every one of us with beauty and goodness, but we are blemished and scarred by our hatred for one another.

The woman was like a torn rug – torn by her guilt and by the anger of her accusers. So, with tenderness, Jesus began to untie the knots and repair the holes in her life.

Jesus began by diverting the accusers’ attention from the woman. He drew something on the ground. Every eye looked down. The woman felt relief as the eyes of the accusers looked away from her.

The accusers were persistent: “Teacher, what do you want us to do with her?” Jesus could have asked the accusers why did they not bring with them the man who was her partner in crime. He, too, was guilty according to the law. But Jesus did not ask.

Instead, Jesus raised His head and invited the accusers: “If you have never made any mistakes, then you

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## Live a cross-filled life to stay close to Jesus

The strangest thing about being a Christian is that we are called to carry a cross.

Have you ever looked up from the path you are walking and thought this path is too long or this thing I am struggling with is too hard? Then perhaps a shorter path or an easier load is revealed? You step into it in delight! Why, thank you Jesus! Why didn’t You show that to me earlier?

So, you hippety-hop along your way thinking how much faster this is! Your bag feels lighter, and you take a breath. Now this is the way it should be, and you settle in.

A few days into this journey however, as you sit with ease in your comfortable home or car, you feel yourself struggling with discontent. Why ever could I be frustrated? What is wrong? I “have” everything. This path is so much lighter than the one I was walking!

I am not travelling for surgeries anymore. I am well. My children are on their way to freedom and wellness. I have a beautiful home and good friends. My marriage is strong. What is this discontent? What now do I need?

The strangest thing about being a Christian is that we are called to carry a cross.

Some days we carry a few, and those crosses can be overwhelmingly heavy. Some of us have cancer in our family, or a spouse needs a job, or our children are sick in body or spirit.

It is in carrying those crosses that we are forced to call out to Jesus and surrender. Perhaps it is this surrender that we need to work on. This life we are given is not our own. Day by day what we “have” is always His.

Our fallen nature tells us we can go it on our own, that we know the better way, the faster path. (Satan is prowling in the bushes on that path!) The truth is that we need each other and more so do we need Jesus.

Looking back on my life thus far, I see that it is in the times of greatest strife that paradoxically I have been the most joyful. I was often asked: How can you be so

### 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.



joyful? I remember asking a good priest friend, “How can I be singing praise songs in my room at the Ronald McDonald House while my daughter is literally wasting away at the hospital, and in the next minute, be falling on my knees in supplication because the cross is so heavy?”

I think it is because by our baptism, and the spirit placed within us, this mark of a Christian calls us back to our roots, to Him. Both in suffering and in joy, when we stay close to the Lord and offer those as a gift to Him, we engage. We are not passive in our faith.

It is the strangest feeling for me to not be in a hospital season. It feels even stranger to crave it. As a mom of eight children, with many special needs, some you see and some you do not, and for whom death has knocked at the door more times than I would like to remember, I recall those seasons so well. How strong my prayer life was! How deep and humble were my friendships!

I stand now out of the valley and in the weirdest way am looking back at the valley instead of the mountain. I think there is much to be learned from that valley experience,

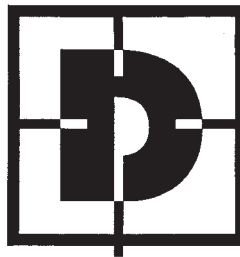
those years in the trenches!

In my mind, I paint a picture as to what that time looked like, and while there are tears, we are surrounded by prayer and loved ones. There is a table set with food for my children. There are people gathered in prayer for me, for my son or daughter.

There are those now within our lives who are in the valley, deep and dark, and for whom the path seems long and unknown. Let us be like Simon of Cyrene and help them carry their cross. Let us go ahead like Joseph of Arimathea and see a need and fill it for them. Let us be present like John of the Cross so that Jesus may call on us in His need.

Let us say “yes” like Mother Mary and change the world, one life at a time. Yes, as Christians we are called to carry a cross, but perhaps sometimes that cross might not be our own. Father in heaven, grant us courage to live a cross-filled life, that we may take up ours and help carry others’. Grant us eyes and hearts to see and serve and in so doing give purpose to our days.

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# Mass with bishop at prison is joyful, comforting memory

By Michele Williams

A couple of weeks ago, *The Catholic Times* ran a story and photos about Bishop Earl Fernandes visiting two Ohio prisons for Christmas Mass. If you recall, he went to the Chillicothe Correctional Institution and the Ohio Reformatory for Women (ORW) in Marysville.

I was part of the Mass in ORW, and my role as inmate musician/cantor allowed me a unique perspective. I had wanted to write the original *Times* story, but for days and days I was so overwhelmed with heavenly emotion I couldn't find the words. And anyone who knows me knows I'm never without words!

It's taken this long to get my thoughts and feelings in order well enough to share, but the Holy Spirit guided me through the process – and gave me plenty of words.

Mass was supposed to be celebrated on Saturday, Dec. 24, but the "Arctic Nightmare" cancelled everything in Union County that day. The Mass was rescheduled for one week later, Dec. 31, which was a miracle because nothing gets rescheduled that fast, so this Mass was destined to be special. I believe God knew we needed it, and He was going to make it happen.

On Saturday morning, the chapel was alive with activity well before the sun came up. The sacristans were making last-minute preparations, and our prison chaplain, Father Joseph Trapp, was fielding phone calls from everywhere. The energy of anticipation was infectious.

I was trying to practice at the keyboard but was becoming more excitedly nervous by the minute. I couldn't sit still long enough to play more than a few lines of music. I'd play a little, have to wipe my sweaty, shaking hands, try again, get up for a drink of water, try again, hug one of my friends.

It should've been easier because I'd chosen all my family's favorite Christmas carols, which was my way of keeping them close during Mass, but I was a giddy mess. The pressure (which I probably put on myself) just kept growing. I mean, the bishop, the warden, the deputy warden, more than 70 of my peers and a half dozen outside volunteers were counting on me to lead them in song. Yikes!

Prior to Mass, Father Trapp and Bishop Fernandes made their way to the altar and lectern to discuss logistics, and because the keyboard is next to the lectern, they stopped to say hello. I've never been so tongue-tied in my life! I think aliens took over my brain because my usual friendly, outgoing confidence was replaced with a weird puddle of extreme shyness.

I finally got a grip enough to talk about music issues, and I was slightly perplexed that Bishop Fernandes was willing to go along with whatever I wanted to do in terms of the Gloria, Our Father and Lamb of God.

I said, "But you're the bishop, shouldn't you decide?" He smiled and countered with, "It's your Mass, you decide." So, I took a deep breath and decided: We'd sing all of them. He happily agreed, but I was ready to faint.

Finally, we began Mass with *O Come All Ye Faithful*, and I wondered how the music even happened because all my fingers had morphed into thumbs. By some miracle, my voice had the volume and oomph necessary to lead our congregation. By another miracle, my nerves slowly subsided, and I regained some composure as the service continued.

There was a particular moment during Bishop Fernandes' homily that I finally relaxed. It was when he told us that after his installation in May, he went to Rome for 10 days of "bishop school!" The way he said it struck me as funny, and (thankfully) everybody else giggled, too.

He went on to say that after school one day, the 12 new bishops met with Pope Francis. The pope told them to make sure they went into prisons and spent time with prisoners. He wanted us to know we are not forgotten, we are loved, we are children of God, and He has a plan for each of us.

The bishop said God wants us to be the best children of His we can be despite our circumstances. That we can grow, learn, change our thinking and change our lives. He said God loves us and wants us to receive His mercy and carry it with us every day, whether in prison or in society.

There wasn't a dry eye in the chapel after Bishop Fernandes finished speaking. It was the most powerful, encouraging message he could have given us.

The next musical hurdle came at communion. I'd forgotten to ask if I should go first to receive the host or wait until last or go sometime in between, and I didn't know what to do! Bishop Fernandes ended my internal conflict when he left the altar, came to the keyboard and offered me the Eucharist as everyone else was getting in line.

Receiving the Body of Christ from the hand of our bishop was the most holy moment of my life. The smile on my face was reflected on his as I said, "Amen," and I felt the very real presence of Jesus.

Overjoyed as I was, I still had music to play, and it was time to sing. I'd selected *Angels We Have Heard on High* and *Away in a Manger* because people know most of the words by heart. Surprisingly, most of the congregation opted not to sing (they were busy receiving communion or praying), so it became an impromptu solo of sorts. I credit the angels for helping me and making the song so blessedly smooth.

Before Bishop Fernandes gave us the final blessing, he thanked the warden and her staff for allowing him to come here. His sincere gratitude for coming to prison would make Pope Francis proud. We then sang *Joy to the World* with great joy indeed. Mass officially ended, everyone was happy and I almost wept at the gravity of what just took place. We were so blessed!

After Mass, there was a small reception where Bishop Fernandes talked with us individually or in little groups. I was among the last to visit with him because I had to put away the keyboard and help the sacristans clear the altar. But when we did get to chat, our conversation is one I'll never forget.

He was so attentive and sincere, I felt truly heard and seen (through the residual shyness). Then he blessed my little, one-decade wooden rosary that I pray with every day while I walk or run.

All too soon, it was time for him to leave us. I still feel honored, humbled and happily jumbled by our incredible Christmas Mass with Bishop Fernandes. His message of mercy and hope is forever imprinted on my heart.

*Michele Williams is an inmate at the Ohio Reformatory for Women.*

## Cardinal George Pell: The Encourager

On Tuesday, January 3, when Cardinal George Pell and I went to pay our respects to Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI, lying in state in St. Peter's, I couldn't help but notice the reverence with which the basilica's little people, the Sanpietrini, greeted the tall Australian who walked slowly with a cane. These ushers and guards are used to ecclesiastical eminence, but there was something different about their evident respect and affection for Cardinal Pell. Here was a man who had suffered greatly for the Church and the truth. Here was a "white martyr." Attention should be paid. And it was.

We prayed for 15 minutes at the bier before the high altar on which the Pope Emeritus rested, and later at the tomb of Saint John Paul II, before leaving the basilica by a back door, where the cardinal's car was waiting for us. I only became aware of how difficult walking was for my friend of 55 years when he asked to lean on my arm as we descended a slight decline leading to the door. Outside, we saw Archbishop Georg Ganswein, longtime secretary to the deceased Pope Emeritus, who was coming into St. Peter's with a small group. We exchanged condolences, during which the archbishop told the cardinal that the last book Pope Benedict had read was the first volume of Pell's *Prison Journal* (to which I had the honor of contributing a foreword).

The previous evening, Cardinal Pell and I had enjoyed dinner with some 50 Milwaukee province seminarians at the Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls, hosted by its archpriest (and Milwaukee native), Cardinal James Harvey. They were an impressive group of men and hung on

### THE CATHOLIC DIFFERENCE

George Weigel

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



every word the cardinal, in cracking good form, said in his brief after-dinner remarks. Pell gently but firmly stressed the importance of courage in the priesthood: the courage to evangelize, the courage to face cultural headwinds, the courage to put one's faith totally in the Lord.

And in the hours immediately after his shocking, unexpected death on January 10, it came to me, through the mental and spiritual fog of a deep grief, that, in those brief comments, George Pell had inadvertently but quite authentically written his own epitaph: He was a courageous man who "en-couraged" others — who gave others courage, or, perhaps better, drew out of others the courage they did not know lay within them.

I know of few, if any, public figures who have displayed the moral courage George Pell displayed for decades as he defended and promoted the truth of Catholic faith in the face of a relentless, vicious Australian media campaign to destroy him. At the request of Pope Francis, he courageously set about cleaning the Augean Stables of Vatican finance and was making serious progress on that Herculean task when the support he had counted on evaporated. Knowing that he was innocent of the absurd charges on which he was first

convicted, he courageously turned 404 days in prison into an extended retreat, during which he wrote three volumes of reflections that have given spiritual comfort and encouragement to readers around the world. Returning to Rome after he had been vindicated in his innocence by Australia's High Court, he played a quiet but effective role behind the scenes, encouraging the defenders of Catholic orthodoxy to think through the requisites for a more vibrant Catholic future.

We were together in Rome almost every day of what turned out to be the last week of his life. And during that time, we discussed at length the nature of the crisis confronting the Catholic Church in 2023: in Germany, to be sure, where the Synodal Path is turning toward apostasy, but also throughout the world Church, as preparations for the October 2023 Synod on Synodality risk stripping the bishops of their authority and turning the Church into a woke discussion club. It was, we agreed, a crisis of apostolicity: Would the teachings of the Lord Jesus, handed on to us by an authoritative apostolic tradition that traces its origins to the original apostolic band, continue to be taught in the 21st century? Would the truths of divine revelation, borne by the apostolic tradition, continue to be taught, held, cherished and lived?

Answering those questions with a robust "yes" requires the kind of courage that Cardinal George Pell displayed for over eight decades, up to the day he died. Others in the Church's leadership, ordained and lay, must now display that same grit, strengthening each other's courage in what promise to be difficult, turbulent months ahead.

# What to make of 'dissolving the dead'

In recent years, a number of U.S. states have legalized a new way to process human corpses that some have called “dissolving the dead.” Its technical name is “alkaline hydrolysis,” but it is also known as biocremation, aquamation, green cremation, resomation and human composting.

The basic process involves placing a body in a heated, pressurized metal chamber and hastening its decomposition by adding lye (water mixed with a small quantity of potassium hydroxide or sodium hydroxide) to break down proteins, fats, DNA, etc. This rapidly digests the tissues of the body and reduces it to skeletal fragments. The procedure, which some claim is merely an accelerated version of what happens if you're buried, requires three to four hours.

Afterward, the dissolved tissue, a brown soup composed of simple organic materials like salts, sugars and lipids, is released from the machine into a drain, then into the sewer system before it makes its way to water treatment facilities. The leftover bone fragments inside the machine are collected, ground up and, as in standard cremation, pulverized into a powder (colloquially and imprecisely termed “ashes”), which can be given to the family in an urn.

Many instinctively object that dissolving bodies in a vat of chemicals and pouring the resultant liquid down the drain is not a respectful way to dispose of our loved ones' remains, because it seems to treat their bodies as waste to be flushed away.

Others note that standard embalming involves similar steps, as the drained blood and viscera that are extracted through the aspiration of the body cavities are also sent down the drain. The idea of flame cremation, they add, raises parallel concerns, as numerous parts of a person's body are degraded and flare up a pipe or chimney into the atmosphere.

As a society, we have laws prohibiting desecration of

## MAKING SENSE OUT OF BIOETHICS | Father Tad Pacholczyk

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



the human body, illegal burial and other abuses against the human body, and we can ask whether human composting or liquification of the human body raises any of the same concerns and whether the process meets the standard of reverent treatment of our earthly remains.

Because of the novelty of alkaline hydrolysis, the Catholic Church does not yet have an official teaching that addresses the practice. Instead, the Church stresses the importance of showing careful regard for human remains and honoring the memory of the deceased. These considerations should influence our decisions as Catholics when we are offered options like cremation or alkaline hydrolysis. Neither is intrinsically evil, but each can lead to abuses and provoke misunderstandings about our human nature. In an age in which many misidentify the human person as only corresponding to the soul, without recognizing the sacredness of the human body, the Church tries to emphasize the importance of full-body burial as the best way to assure loving homage toward those who have died as well as witnessing to our belief in bodily Resurrection.

Both cremation and alkaline hydrolysis, meanwhile, bring with them the potential for irreverence and a certain casualness when it comes to attending to human remains.

After cremation, rather than being reverently disposed, ashes are often kept in the attic or in the living

room on the fireplace mantel, something that would never be done with a whole human body. Instead of being reverently reserved in the consecrated ground of a cemetery, our loved one's remains may be subjected to unbecoming or even superstitious treatment. At a deeper level, do we minimize or even negate someone's embodied human reality when we dissolve them in lye, or incinerate them in fire?

On the other hand, when the whole body is buried in the ground, there is a greater sense of connection to those mortal remains, which speak to us of the full embodiment of the person who once lived and breathed as we do, body and soul.

These notable differences in terms of according respect toward the deceased means that we should generally prefer whole body disposition of human remains, as the Church recommends, even though extenuating circumstances can allow for cremation and, until the Church formally teaches otherwise, alkaline hydrolysis. I believe it is unlikely the Church will ultimately counsel or encourage the use of this latter method for laying our loved ones to rest after death.

When alkaline hydrolysis is carried out, the same basic principles that are at work in cremation to protect human dignity should be applied. Bone fragments, powder and ashes left over from the process should be placed in a suitable container like an urn, and not scattered or divided among family members. The urn should be interred in the family plot, a mausoleum, or a columbarium. This establishes a specific point of reference in time, space and geography where we can commemorate our deceased family members. In this way, we are not only invited to respect their mortal remains, but also to pray for the repose of their souls as we mourn their passing in the hope of Resurrection and beatitude.

## Symbols of Christmas must include Christ

As I write this, the Solemnity of the Epiphany and the Baptism of the Lord have just passed, and Lent is in our sights. Before holiday gifts are returned, I need to address the Christmas season. But, first, let me deal with another subject.

St. Thomas Aquinas was a prolific author, and arguably his best-known work is the *Summa Theologiae*, which I have cited in many of my columns. St. Thomas' *Summa* has 512 questions with 2,669 articles.

In Pope Benedict XVI's weekly catechesis of July 9, 2010, he said, “My predecessor, Pope Paul VI, reminded us of this in a talk he gave in Fossanova on Sept. 14, 1974, on the 700th anniversary of St. Thomas' death. He posed the following question: ‘Master Thomas, what can you teach us?’ His answer was as follows: ‘To trust in the truth of Catholic religious thought, which he defended, expounded and laid open to the human mind's understanding.’ (Insegnamenti di Paolo VI, XII [1974], pp. 833-834)

“In his (St. Thomas') reflections on genuine questions of his time that are often the same questions we have, St. Thomas uses the thought and methods of the ancient philosophers as well, especially Aristotle. St. Thomas' precise, clear and relevant maxims outline the truths of the faith; truth is the gift of the faith, shining forth and becoming accessible to us for reflection.”

The *Summa Theologiae* is a great work by any measurement. It also an “apologetic” work by answering questions defending the faith and was drawn on at the Council of Trent, which was sometimes referred to as the “Catholic Counter-Reformation.”

## 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.



Why do I bring this up? Christians, primarily Catholics, get poked in the eye every year by secularists claiming that we “appropriated” pagan holidays to make Christian holidays, such as Christmas. I submit that the secularists are (really) appropriating Christmas by slowly removing Christ from Christmas. Like St. Thomas, we need to defend the faith!

We are urged to get caught up in the shopping and such. It seemed like there was a time when anything Christmas waited until Thanksgiving was over. Now Christmas merchandise is crowding out “fall” decorations.

We need to reappropriate the truth of Christmas and reassert “the reason for the season.” This reappropriating (or defending) the truth can't start and be fought in academic circles or the media industry but on our streets.

We appreciate the technology and efficiencies that have made Christmas “decorations” attractive. Who doesn't like to see beautiful lights on a snowy night? Many will flock to places such as Clifton Mill in Greene County to see a marvelous light display. It is all “part of the season.”

Many towns or communities try to build out on this, drawing tourists (and dollars) with drive-thru areas to see “Christmas” lights. And more private homes put up lighted inflatables. “Grinch” seems to be outpacing

“Frosty” and “Santa.”

What I have noticed is how Nativity scenes are becoming fewer and fewer. Even in the most elaborate displays of towns and neighborhoods, the “reason for the season” is being chipped away.

We must have the True Light of the World “literally” illuminating our streets. We must reappropriate Christmas in the public sphere before it's too late. If you think I'm too alarmist, do you recall Nativity scenes in your neighborhood or town/city? I hope I'm wrong, but I don't think so.

How can we reappropriate CHRISTmas? In part by reappropriating our family history. We (Catholics) have amnesia when it comes to the Old Testament. This is not just “Jewish” history, it is “our” history, and it speaks about “our” ancestors.

I propose where there is a public display of Christmas lights, as in a park, we have a display of “the burning bush” and a menorah flanking a Nativity scene. These are perfect symbols for the “Light of the World” through time.

The burning bush, I think, is obvious; the menorah, see Exodus 25:31-40 and 27:20-21. In the middle of all is a Nativity with the infant as the brightest light. Ever see the Nativity painting by Guido Reni where Jesus is illuminating everyone?

While we are at it, surely we can come up with an Advent wreath to place outside our churches? And let's get Advent wreaths back in our homes, too!

We have a rich, beautiful tradition that the secularists have seized upon. Don't let them appropriate it or water it down. Let's plan now for next Christmas.

## Josephinum boosts enrollment, dioceses served

The 2022-2023 formation year of the Pontifical College Josephinum gives every indication of hope for the future of the Church. Fall brought the arrival of 20 new seminarians, an overall enrollment increase and two new sending dioceses.

The seminary now serves 15 (arch)dioceses and religious orders: Birmingham (Alabama), Cincinnati, Columbus, Fathers of Mercy, Gaylord (Michigan), Jefferson City (Missouri), Joliet (Illinois), Kiyinda-Mityana (Uganda), Lugazi (Uganda), Oakland (California), Ogdensburg (New York), St. Thomas (Virgin Islands), Santa Fe (New Mexico), Steubenville and Wheeling-Charleston (West Virginia).

With 21 seminarians in formation, the Diocese of Columbus has the largest contingent of men at the Josephinum. Four are currently on pastoral year, residing in parish rectories and engaging full-time in ministry while supervised by pastors.

"This year we've been blessed with one of the largest entering classes in many years," said Father Steven Beseau, rector/president. "But it's not just about numbers, it's also about the quality of the men. The Josephinum has a very rigorous acceptance process; we don't accept everyone who applies. These seminarians would not be here if they weren't good men. They really are exceptional, and we are very blessed to have them."

The formation of the Josephinum's 60 seminarians is guided by 10 full-time resident priest formators who themselves reflect the national character of the seminary, coming from the (arch)dioceses of Kansas City (Missouri), Metuchen (New Jersey), Savannah (Georgia), Chicago, Columbus and Plymouth (England), as well as the Institute of the Incarnate Word, the Dominican Order and the Fathers of Mercy.

Many full- and part-time lay professors make possible an academic excellence for which the Josephinum has



Diocese of Columbus seminarians studying at the Pontifical College Josephinum during the 2022-23 academic year pictured with Bishop Earl Fernandes are (from left) Justin Fagge, Michael Haemmerle, Samuel Severance, Branden Cullinan, Tyler Carter, Parker Grove, Christopher Dixon, Andrew Van Buren, Michael Rhatican, Dominic Ratliff, Ayi Adjanoh, Luke Eschmeyer, Zachary Goodchild, David Johnstone, Matthew Waldman, Daniel Colby and Brandt Boyden. Seminarians not pictured who are on a sabbatical year are Jake Asuncion, Kevin Girardi, John Haemmerle and Joey Rolwing.

*Photo courtesy Pontifical College Josephinum*

long been known. "We have some of the finest professors in the country," Father Beseau said. "This is seen not only in the classroom but also in the love and dedication they offer to the seminarians."

Bishop Earl Fernandes serves as the Josephinum's vice-chancellor. Many clergy of the Columbus diocese take part in the Josephinum's mission as full- or part-time administrators, professors and spiritual directors: Bishop Emeritus Frederick Campbell; Father Stash Dailey (vice-rector); Mercedarian Fathers Joseph Eddy, OdeM, and Father Michael Donovan, OdeM; Father Thomas Blau, OP; Father David Arroyo Alonso, CR; Father Peter Fegan, OP (dean of men); Father Thomas Kessler; Msgr. John Johnson; Father Bernard Mulcahy, OP; and Father David Schalk.

Priestly formation consists of four dimensions – human, spiritual, intellectual and pastoral – the integration of which is reflected in seminary life. The Liturgy of the Hours, Mass, Holy Hours, academic classes, opportunities for the Sacrament of Reconciliation and Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, off-campus

pastoral formation assignments, formation conferences, one-on-one meetings with advisers and spiritual directors and many recreational activities are all part of the seminary experience.

It is an experience that fosters a deep sense of brotherhood among the seminarians. "The best part of the Josephinum is the fraternity I experience with my fellow seminarians," Michael Haemmerle said. "It is great to be surrounded with men who are all striving for the same goal."

Seminary administrators are preparing to guide the institution into the future as it adopts a new comprehensive five-year Strategic Plan, currently under final review by the Board of Trustees. Planning acknowledges the rising cost of seminary formation, reflected in the Josephinum's highest-ever annual fundraising goal of more than \$1.8 million.

"Funds are needed primarily for seminarian scholarships, to give seminarians the opportunity to discern and be formed," Father Beseau said, "so that, if called to the priesthood, they are ready to respond as holy, generous, adaptable and resilient priests."

Appeal gifts also will fund program adjustments required of all seminaries by the new edition of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' "Program of Priestly Formation."

Independent of any one diocese or religious community, the Josephinum has a 134-year history of being sustained by the generosity of benefactors. "The historic support of the Josephinum is remarkable," Father Beseau said. "Helping to form future priests is an incredibly unique and deeply rewarding experience. It is a privilege to have so many people share in this journey."

To learn more about the Josephinum's mission and upcoming events, or to make a gift to support the seminarians, visit [www.pcj.edu](http://www.pcj.edu).

## Bethlehem with the Bridgettines retreat



A Bethlehem with the Bridgettines mini-retreat brought 100 women together on Saturday, Jan. 7 for an event that included Mass at Columbus Holy Family Church and continued at the Bridgettine Sisters' convent adjacent to the parish just west of downtown with a light breakfast and carols sung by the sisters, including *O Come, All Ye Faithful, We Three Kings of Orient Are, The First Noel and Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*. The Bridgettine Sisters plan to build a chapel and retreat house that the nuns hope to use as a place for visiting families to stay while their loved ones are receiving medical treatment at Columbus-area hospitals. The retreat speaker was Father Stash Dailey (at podium), a vice rector at the Pontifical College Josephinum and the diocesan vicar for religious who reminded those attending that Jesus was born outside the city of Bethlehem, which means place of bread, and in a place that means place of food, which reinforces the truth of the true presence of Jesus in the Eucharist.

*Photo courtesy Amanda Mahle*

## Immaculate Conception makes donation to Mommies Matter



As part of this year's Giving Tuesday campaign, Columbus Immaculate Conception Church raised \$9,866 for Mommies Matter, a faith-based, non-profit organization that provides group and one-on-one mentoring support as well as housing, educational, employment and financial assistance to single pregnant mothers. Father Matt Hoover, the parish's pastor, presented a check on Dec. 28 to Mommies Matter family advocate Kendra Utt and volunteer Kim Mazzon, who received the donation on behalf of the organization.

*Photo courtesy Immaculate Conception Church*

## MAN OF THE YEAR, continued from Page 3

Knights, pilot for Ohio District 3 of the fourth-degree Knights and Columbian Martyrs Assembly 2380, and a past grand knight, trustee and faith activity director of St. Peter Council 11216.

"I'm honored to be a Knight because of the fraternity Knights share and all the activities we do," he said. "As a professor, I know that I can't guide my students unless I see them, and it's the same way as a district deputy. I oversee five councils in that role, and I can't help them serve the Church and community if I don't see their members, so I try to attend as many of their functions as I can.

"I can't drive because I have mobility

issues and a mild form of cerebral palsy, so I depend on Josephine to take me to events. I never could have received this honor without her."

In his nomination of Yang for the honor, retired Deacon Phil Paulucci of St. Peter Church said, "In every parish there are people who form the core of parish life. These are the people who are active and involved in the spiritual, social and intellectual life of the parish. ... Eric Yang and his wife, Josephine, are among those people for St. Peter Parish. ...

"The schedule that they keep is mind-boggling. I literally cannot think of any parish event without them being

present. But more, much more, they are two deeply spiritual and devoted people who exemplify the sacramental nature of matrimony."

St. Peter parishioner Matt Rubal said in his nomination letter, "In the time I've known him, Eric seems to be involved in everything at our parish that brings people closer to Christ. ... Most unique to Eric is his sincere and joyful demeanor that you can tell flows from his core beliefs.

"It inspires those about him in a positive and affirming way to become better people and step up as followers of Christ. I for one am continually inspired by his

**See MAN OF THE YEAR, Page 9**



# Singer-songwriter back in Lancaster to present concert

Lancaster native Sarah Hart is excited to be returning next month to her familial and musical roots for the first time in more than a decade to perform a collection of her contemporary Catholic Christian songs at a live concert.

The singer-songwriter is making a special Valentine's Day appearance at Lancaster St. Mark Church that is scheduled to begin at 7 p.m. Feb. 14.

The Evening with Sarah Hart event was arranged by Randall Tipple, the music director at St. Mark who asked Hart last year at a Catholic musicians' conference in Louisville, Kentucky, whether she'd consider coming back home for a concert, and she accepted.

Hart's last performance in her hometown came 15 years ago when she released her Road to Ohio album.

"I'm really super excited that we landed on that day because it's a special time," Hart said recently from her home in Nashville, Tennessee, where she lives with her husband and two children. "So, we've got that spirit of love going on Valentine's Day, and I do hope that couples – and just anybody – will come."

Hart jokingly refers to herself as an accidental artist, but her accomplishments include a Grammy nomination for songwriting and a performance for Pope Francis during a World Meeting of Families

A prolific writer, she has composed music for television, film and audiobooks, and her songs have been recorded by notables such as Amy Grant, Celtic Woman, Matt Maher and The Newsboys. Among her credits are a musical, Bernadette of Lourdes, based on the life of St. Bernadette, a Mass of St. Mary Magdalene and the publication of four retreat books.

Hart's busy touring schedule includes not only concerts and performances at conventions throughout the country but parish missions and retreats, workshops for musicians, diocesan youth ministry events, Masses and Eucharistic Adoration.

Hart traces her formation as a musician to her family.

"We were involved in a lot of different folk groups and singing at church," Hart recalled. "So, I was always sitting at the feet of guitars, autoharps and mandolins and whatever anybody had, just learning music, soaking it up, and so from the

time I was very little it was just always part of who I was.

"I like to explain it like this: I feel like when it comes to music, it was never really a choice I made, but it was a choice that was made for me. I was kind of that weird little kid who would have much preferred to be there than playing outside."

Her Catholic education began at Lancaster St. Bernadette School. She moved to Lancaster St. Mary for middle school and then on to Lancaster Fisher Catholic High School.

"Music obviously became part of my formation," Hart said. But I didn't really intend in any way, shape or form to do what I'm doing now with my life. But looking back, I can see how deeply those roots go."

In high school, she was contemplating a career other than music before Lon Cass, then the director of bands at Fisher Catholic, intervened.

"I'll never forget the day that he sat me down and said, 'What are you going to do with your life?'" Hart recalled. "And I said, 'I think I want to be a pediatrician.' And he laughed at me. He totally laughed in my face and said, 'You are not going to be a pediatrician, you're going to be a musician.'"

"To which I said, 'You know, I don't think so because I want to make money. Musicians are always thinking about that. He said, 'You know, that's fine. You can be a pediatrician, but you'll be the most miserable pediatrician on the planet because you're built for music. Even if you don't make any money, you're still built for music.' So, he was right. And I took his advice."

Hart went off to Columbus to study at Ohio State University, graduating with a degree in music theory and composition.

"And it ended up working for me," she said. "When you're in music, you have to work twice as hard as everybody in every other fields, but I've loved every moment of it. So grateful."

During those Ohio State years, Hart strayed from the Catholic faith of her upbringing but came back to the Church during her senior year with a rekindled passion. At that point, she had started listening to contemporary Christian mu-

sic for the first time.

"A friend of mine had given me a couple of tapes and said, 'Listen to these,'" Hart recalled. "I didn't know such a thing existed. I really had only grown up on liturgical music. I knew who Amy Grant was, but that was about it. I didn't realize there was a whole world of people doing it, and it was a thing you could do."

After college, she moved to Nashville, and her career began. In 2010, Hart wrote Better Than a Hallelujah, performed by Grant and nominated for a Grammy as Best Gospel Song. Her writing career includes movie soundtracks, audiobook soundtracks in the Curious George series and hymns published by Oregon Catholic Press.

"I just wanted to write songs, and I wanted to write songs for other people," Hart said. "And that was really where I thought it would land. But once I moved to town, I had so many publishers who were like, maybe you should think about doing some of these yourself, because these seem to be Sarah Hart songs for lack of better terminology."

"So, I kind of accidentally landed with a label, and I accidentally made a first record, and then I just kept going."

Hart recorded her latest collection of songs, and lovely it is, in 2019. Other album titles include Sacramento, Til the Song Is Sung and SaintSong.

The inspiration for her songs and her spiritual writing comes through daily prayer, life experiences and collaboration with other musicians. And what's most rewarding is when someone tells her a song helped them get through a tough time in their life.

"I'm really the last person who cares about accolades and all that stuff," she said. "I just really want to know that what I'm doing when I'm writing is helping somebody in some way – that somebody's heart is changing, or that they're able to feel something that they haven't felt before."

"The ones that touch me the most are from people who have lost a child. Those always strike me so deeply, and there are a lot of them."

"There's just a lot of struggle and suffering



Lancaster native Sarah Hart is a Fisher Catholic and Ohio State University graduate.

*Photo courtesy Sarah Hart Music*

out there, and knowing that, in a way, we can be doctors and nurses with our simple little lyrics and melodies, it's really a humbling thing.

"I think that's the real power of music and the real power of what musicians do."

Tickets for the Lancaster concert, which are \$10 each, can be purchased online at [stmarklancaster.com/music-ministry](http://stmarklancaster.com/music-ministry).

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## MAN OF THE YEAR, continued from Page 8

example, and it has caused me to become a better and more devoted person in my faith life."

Yang came with his family to the United States from the Philippines in the 1970s. He earned an undergraduate degree in biology/pre-medicine and Asian studies in 1987 at Seton Hall University in New Jersey, then came to Columbus to attend Ohio State University, where he earned a doctorate in molecular, cellular and developmental biology in 1992. He did postdoctoral studies at the University of California-Irvine from 1992 to 1997, then returned to Columbus, where he has lived ever since.

He was chosen from 14 nominees for the Catholic Man of the Year award by representatives from the Catholic Men's Luncheon Club, Young Catholic Professionals, the Catholic Men's Ministry, the Knights of Columbus and the Serra Club.

The club established the honor in 1957, awarding it to John Igoe of Columbus St. Agatha Church, and presented it every year through 2020. No 2021 award was presented because of the COVID-19 pandemic. The 2022 recipient was Dr. Allen Lewis of Sunbury St. John Neumann Church.

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# At SEEK23, college students express hope for Church

By Patrick Towles

“SEEK23: You Are Called” conference, held Jan. 2-6 at the America’s Center Convention Complex in St. Louis, brought together souls from throughout the world seeking Him, including groups from Ireland, Austria, Germany, Mexico and other countries.

Of the nearly 19,000 people registered for SEEK23, about 8,800 college students participated in the Collegiate Track. FOCUS (Fellowship of Catholic University Students) took 65 participants to SEEK23 from Ohio State University.

Bishop Earl Fernandes attended and celebrated Mass with hundreds of priests. His homily is on the FOCUS Catholic YouTube page [bit.ly/3wiOWn7](https://bit.ly/3wiOWn7).

SEEK is a time that brings great hope to many people. Seeing the many young Catholics and non-Catholics who are hungry to know the truth of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and his holy Church and sitting in the convention center’s domed area amid flags representing campuses from New York City to southern California, from Oregon to Miami, Florida, are evidence that the Church is alive.

“SEEK was very inspiring to me,” said Stephen, a fourth-year engineering student set to graduate in May. “To see all those young people striving to know

Jesus gives me hope for the future. I also enjoyed seeing the army of priests process into Mass every day. It was an amazing sight. We are so blessed to have so many great spiritual fathers.”

Jonathan Roumie, the actor who portrays Jesus in the television series *The Chosen*, surprised the SEEK23 audience by playing trivia with students and speakers onstage and then sharing his testimony:

“If you feel like you need some sort of breakthrough in your life, if you need some sort of opportunity to go further and something’s holding you back, ask yourself: Have you completely surrendered to God?”

SEEK23 included tributes to the late Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI, including a memorial at the Adoration Chapel all week and a Requiem Mass on Thursday, Jan. 5. FOCUS founder and CEO Curtis Martin led a rosary before the Mass in honor of Benedict, who in 2011 appointed Martin as a consultant to the Pontifical Council for Promoting the New Evangelization.

More than 50 SEEK23 speakers, such as Father Josh Johnson; Sister Bethany Madonna, SV; Chika Anyanwu; Jason Evert; Paul J. Kim; and Dr. Edward Sri encouraged attendees to heed the call of the Gospel and make disciples of all nations.

After morning Mass, the men and women were split into concurrent sessions where each group could be ad-

ressed specifically. One of the favorite lines from the talks to the men came from Father Agustino Torres, CFR.

Father Torres frequently celebrates Mass at a men’s maximum-security prison, and before coming to the conference he asked the inmates what they wanted to tell the men at SEEK. One inmate said, “Tell them that we are redeemable.”

That was a theme of the men’s talks: That although as men we have made mistakes, and society has written us off, we are redeemable.

People encountered the Lord in deeper ways throughout SEEK23 during daily Mass, confession and Eucharistic Adoration. At Wednesday evening Eucharistic Adoration, more than 500 priests heard more than 3,000 confessions in two hours, along with thousands more throughout the event.

Jocelyn, a second-year student from Cleveland, said, “The beauty of offering the holy sacrifice of the Mass with 17,000 other Catholics, the keynote speakers, impact sessions and even (singer-songwriter) Ben Rector were all blessings I could not have encountered without the SEEK conference.

“However, if I were to be honest, those things matter less when you consider the true impact of the week resided in the silence of a convention center ballroom. Spending a week with Jesus is never a week wasted, and for that I am



A group from Ohio State University was among more than 8,000 college students from throughout the world participating in the SEEK23 conference in St. Louis. *Photo courtesy FOCUS*

thankful.”

During Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, the national chaplains of FOCUS and other university chaplains processed with Jesus in the Eucharist around the domed area of the convention center. All the servers who were assisting with the procession were seminarians and former FOCUS missionaries.

FOCUS will return to St. Louis for SEEK24, set for Jan 1-5, 2024. Registration is open at [seek.focus.org/seek24](https://seek.focus.org/seek24).

*Patrick Towles is a FOCUS missionary at Ohio State University.*



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## 40 Days for Life campaign seeks volunteers

By Beth Vanderkooi

This Lent, you are once again invited to participate in the Spring 40 Days for Life campaign, which begins Ash Wednesday, Feb. 22, and runs through Palm Sunday, April 2.

The campaign will return to Planned Parenthood's East Columbus Surgical Center abortion clinic, 3255 E. Main St.

In central Ohio, 40 Days for Life Columbus is in its 17th year, and this will be the second 40 Days for Life since the U.S. Supreme Court overturned *Roe v. Wade*. In Ohio, abortion is currently legal until approximately 22 weeks because of an injunction blocking enforcement of the state's Heartbeat Law. The Ohio Supreme Court is expected to weigh in on

that injunction this spring.

Internationally, 40 Days for Life has been instrumental in saving thousands of lives and closing numerous abortion clinics, and that success has been echoed here in Columbus. Three abortion facilities that were sites of 40 Days vigils have closed, and dozens of women reported leaving their appointments before going through with an abortion.

While this is impressive and important, what makes 40 Days for Life, like all of Greater Columbus Right to Life's sidewalk prayer ministry, the most effective is in the less tangible results. When we pray and fast, we are using some of the most powerful spiritual tools that we have to defeat the evil of abortion.

When you pray and fast on the sidewalks in front of Planned Parenthood and

other abortion centers, you take that one step further, because you are standing in the breach at the line between good and evil, between life and death.

This has a powerful effect. To the external world you are the last sign of hope and the first sign of mercy to those at the abortion clinic. It has an inward effect as well as you engage in this act of mercy and grow in faith.

This Lent, will you spend one hour of prayer with us in front of Columbus' busiest abortion clinic? It is a year where so much is on the line: Ohio's Heartbeat Law will be decided by the courts. Ohioans might be asked to vote on an amendment enshrining abortion into the state's Constitution. Most important, the lives of Ohio's youngest and most vulnerable are at stake. We need to be prayerful, peaceful and present.

To join the 40 Days for Life campaign, you can either participate with your church on its adopted day (or contact Greater Columbus Right to Life about organizing one) or pledge an hour (or more) over the course of the campaign.

The campaign will run from 7 a.m. until 7 p.m. Parking is available on South Hampton Street. Participants are reminded to stay on the public sidewalks, being mindful not to block passers-by or impede the sightline of anyone attempting to turn onto Main Street.

To learn more or sign up, visit the Greater Columbus Right to Life website, [www.gcrtl.org/40-days-for-life](http://www.gcrtl.org/40-days-for-life), or call 614-445-8508.

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

### JESUS, continued from Page 5

have the right to stone the woman." Then He looked down and again drew something on the ground.

When the accusers heard what Jesus said, no one spoke. Feet shuffled. Eyes dropped. Rocks fell to the ground. And the accusers walked away one by one, starting with the oldest and ending with the youngest. The accusers came together but walked away one by one.

Jesus told the woman to look up and asked her, "Is

there anyone condemning you?" Jesus smiled as the woman raised her head.

She saw no one, only stones like tombstones on a burial ground marking man's arrogance.

"Is there anyone who condemns you?" Jesus asked her.

What was the woman thinking when she heard Jesus' question? Was she thinking that Jesus was going to scold her or give her a sermon and let her go her way?

We do not know. But of this we are sure: She got a pass from Jesus; she did not get what she anticipated.

She was given a promise and a commission. The promise: "Neither do I condemn you." And the commission: "Go and sin no more."

*Leandro "Lany" Tapay is the former director of the diocesan Missions Office.*

### MLK, continued from Page 2

have merciful hearts, saying, "If we are to be the Church God wants us to be, then we must forgive even those who have harmed us. ...

"Or when everything seems lost and everything seems dark and everything feels so alone in our suffering and no one will understand us, how about these words: 'My son, my daughter, behold your mother. Woman, behold your son.' How beautiful it is to have Mother Mary, who watches over us and protects us.

"No, we are never alone. Not in our sufferings and certainly not in our joy. We have one another in Christ's Church.

"But we must now ask ourselves, 'Do we want peace, do we want justice, do

we want a better future?' If so, what type of Church do we want to be? What type of Church does the Church of Columbus want to be?

"I hope, I pray, that we will be bold witnesses to the Lord Jesus Christ who shows us that there is a love stronger than death.

"For this, Dr. King gave his life – to be a witness to love. May every woman, every man, every child in this church say, 'Yes, Lord, I am your servant. I will be your witness to the ends of the earth.'"

At the end of Mass, adults and students read some of King's famous quotes referring to justice, peace and equality.





## Annual St. Charles Spaghetti Dinner



Sunday, February 5th from 1:00-6:30 p.m.  
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Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

# Beatitudes a map to heaven

Zephaniah 2:3; 3:12-13  
Psalm 146:6-7, 8-9, 9-10  
1 Corinthians 1:26-31  
Matthew 5:1-12a

Speaking the truth used to be an expectation of public discourse. A person was identified by the “word” that he or she spoke. To take a person at his or her word was to put into practice the public trust of its members. On solemn occasions, an oath was required, adding a depth to the presumed veracity of the word and emphasizing the importance of hearing the truth.

Societies tend to fall when there is a separation between the person and the truth of the word associated with that person. God’s people are characterized by being utterly sincere and truthful. Humility is truth.

When God’s people have been humbled by what has happened to them, they are made ready to receive a deeper understanding of truth, and their lives are presented by God Himself as a witness to the truth of His relationship to us.

God speaks to His people after the period of purification and sifting known as the Exile: “I will leave as a remnant in your midst a people humble and lowly, who shall take refuge in the name of the Lord: the remnant of Israel. They shall do no wrong and speak no lies; nor shall there be found in their mouths a deceitful tongue; they shall pasture and couch their flocks with none to disturb them.”

God uses everything that happens as a means of bringing out the truth that is planted deep within the souls of those faithful to Him. This happens for the people as a whole and for each member.

The Beatitudes, as formulated in the Gospel of Matthew, offer a way of seeing the

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

## SCRIPTURE READINGS

Father Timothy Hayes

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



world through the eyes of the humble.

The “poor in spirit” are the “anawim” prophesied by Zephaniah. Each beatitude is really a description of the same people, from different points of view.

The kingdom of heaven is promised to those who are ready to receive it, empty of themselves and open to God’s perspective. To be poor in spirit is to have an attitude that is humble and lowly. To mourn is to acknowledge loss and be willing to learn from what has happened in the past.

To be meek is to remain steadfast, relying not on one’s personal gifts, talents and strengths but on trust that God will fulfill His promises. To hunger and thirst deeply, not for earthly sustenance alone but for spiritual food and drink, is to be ready for what God wants to reveal.

The merciful are those who allow God’s grace to flow through them, aware that they are not alone in their struggles but willing to attend to the needs of others. The clean of heart are those who do not allow themselves to be caught by their own narrow vision, created by the sorrows and wounds that have been inflicted upon them.

Peacemakers are those who allow God’s fullness to complete them, convinced that God desires to bring them to fullness of life. Those who are persecuted because of their pursuit of a relationship with God that is in proper balance have the attitude that allows the kingdom to enter our world.

# Our acts of charity can shine with Christ’s light

Isaiah 58:7-10  
Psalm 112:4-5, 6-7, 8-9  
1 Corinthians 2:1-5  
Matthew 5:13-16

Light and darkness are themes that help us to understand many things. When we can see, we realize that we have been enlightened. When we cannot grasp something, we remain in the dark.

Gray and cloudy days have an effect on our spirits that tends to make us sad and lonely. Days of sunshine lift our spirits and bring a sense of joy and hope.

As He continues the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus speaks to us about our place in the world. He tells us that we are salt, which is meant to bring out and preserve flavor.

He tells us further: “You are the light of the world. A city set on a mountain cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and then put it under a bushel basket; it is set on a lampstand, where

it gives light to all in the house. Just so, your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father.”

Our life in Christ is not for ourselves. It is intended to be a witness to the offer of relationship that is the kingdom of God. We are called, not to hide away, as if under a bushel basket, but to be engaged in the world, strengthened by our connection to God through Christ, that allows us to bring light to all. “The just man is a light in darkness to the upright.”

The light that we are meant to be is not a mere metaphor. It is not primarily about imparting mere intellectual knowledge, words that express truths that our minds grasp. Rather, it is about a way of living that is directed outward.

Isaiah, writing for a people who have been called to share the wisdom that they have learned through their relationship with God in the midst of times

## The Weekday Bible Readings

1/30-2/4	<b>THURSDAY</b> Malachi 3:1-4 Psalm 24:7-10 Hebrews 2:14-18 Luke 2:22-40	2/6-2/11	<b>THURSDAY</b> Galatians 2:18-25 Psalm 128:1-5 Mark 7:24-30
<b>MONDAY</b> Hebrews 11:32-40 Psalm 31:20-24 Mark 5:1-20	<b>FRIDAY</b> Hebrews 13:1-8 Psalm 27:1,3,5,8-9 Mark 6:14-29	<b>MONDAY</b> Galatians 1:1-19 Psalm 104:1-2,5-6,10,12,24,35 Mark 6:53-56	<b>FRIDAY</b> Galatians 3:1-8 Psalm 32:1,2,5-7 Mark 7:31-37
<b>TUESDAY</b> Hebrews 12:1-4 Psalm 22:26-28,30-32 Mark 5:21-43	<b>SATURDAY</b> Hebrews 13:15-17,20-21 Psalm 23:1-6 Mark 6:30-34	<b>TUESDAY</b> Galatians 1:1-20-2:4a Psalm 8:4-9 Mark 7:1-13	<b>SATURDAY</b> Genesis 3:9-24 Psalm 90:2-6,12-13 Mark 8:1-10
<b>WEDNESDAY</b> Hebrews 12:4-7,11-15 Psalm 103:1-2,13-14,17-18a Mark 6:1-6		<b>WEDNESDAY</b> Galatians 2:4b-9,15-17 Psalm 104:1-2,27-30 Mark 7:14-23	

## DIOCESAN WEEKLY RADIO AND TELEVISION

Mass Schedule: Weeks of Jan. 29 and Feb. 5, 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](http://www.stgabrielradio.com) and diocesan website, [www.columbuscatholic.org](http://www.columbuscatholic.org).

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

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

Mass from Our Lady of the Angels Monastery, Birmingham, Ala., at 8 a.m. on EWTN (Spectrum Channel 385,

Insight Channel 382, or 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](http://www.stgabrielradio.com). 12:05 p.m. weekdays, 8 a.m. Saturdays, Mass from Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral on St. Gabriel Radio (AM 820), Columbus, and at [www.stgabrielradio.com](http://www.stgabrielradio.com) and diocesan website, [www.columbuscatholic.org](http://www.columbuscatholic.org). (Saturdays on radio only).

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

**WE PRAY WEEKS II AND III OF THE LITURGY OF THE HOURS**

The Beatitudes, presented in the Sermon on the Mount, are Jesus’ programmatic offer of a way of life that engages each person who realizes the brokenness of the world. They provide the wisdom needed to see everything as an occasion for the kingdom to break through.

“Blessed are you” in the face of insults, persecution and slander due to your relationship with Jesus Christ, Who “became for us wisdom from God, as well as righ-

teousness, sanctification, and redemption.” The reward of a relationship that is real, true and everlasting is promised.

May we put our trust in the Lord Who speaks to our hearts and invites us to reach for the kingdom in the midst of the world that can never satisfy our longings. May the truth dawn on us that we are among those called to witness to the truth of God’s love. “Blessed are the poor in spirit; the kingdom of heaven is theirs!”

of darkness, brings out the kinds of actions that serve as light. Each of these actions is addressed to some aspect of human experience that points to human limitations and weakness.

“Share your bread with the hungry, shelter the oppressed and the homeless; clothe the naked when you see them, and do not turn your back on your own.”

The purpose of this activity is not merely to attend to earthly needs. It is to extend each person’s relationship with God and to allow God to reach out through each person to others. When we serve others – our own and those beyond our own circle – we become capable of receiving what only God can offer: light, healing, vindication and glory.

We experience a true connection with God that is open to His activity in us: “Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say: Here I am!”

Jesus Christ offered Himself fully for

us, body, mind and spirit. This is expressed most truly in the crucifixion. Paul acknowledges this as God’s power in human weakness.

“For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ, and him crucified. I came to you in weakness and fear and much trembling, and my message and my proclamation were not with persuasive words of wisdom, but with a demonstration of Spirit and power, so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God.”

To be light for the world requires us not to rely on ourselves but on our relationship with God in Christ. Attending to the charge to share God’s wisdom and power with others, we discover that God is with us, and that in us and through us, He makes Himself present for others.

This is true light. This is the way of life that will heal the world. May we live in this light!

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LOCAL NEWS AND EVENTS

Foundation scholarship period opens

The Catholic Foundation's online scholarship application period will open on Monday, Jan. 30. A complete listing of available scholarships, qualifications and applications is available online. The submission deadline is Tuesday, Feb. 27 and recipients will be notified in May.

There are 28 scholarships available to students in the Diocese of Columbus. Last year, the foundation awarded more than \$200,000 in scholarships to 41 students. To date, it has granted more than \$1.5 million, empowering more than 250 young people to continue their academic and vocational studies.

For detailed information, visit [www.catholic-foundation.org/scholarships](http://www.catholic-foundation.org/scholarships). If you have questions about a particular scholarship or the application process, contact Dan Kurth at (614) 443-8893 or [dkurth@catholic-foundation.org](mailto:dkurth@catholic-foundation.org).

located in Baton Rouge; Cleveland; Gainesville, Florida; San Antonio, Texas; and Lemon Grove, California.

Three Mercedarian friars currently serve at Columbus Holy Family Church, assisting in the life of the parish and its many apostolates and establishing a house for men studying at the Pontifical College Josephinum to become priests of the order.

To make donations online visit [www.mercedariansisters.org/novitiate-house-building-fund/](http://www.mercedariansisters.org/novitiate-house-building-fund/) or mail checks payable to The Sister Dulce Foundation, Inc., 17560 George O'Neal Road., Baton Rouge LA 70817. For more information, contact Kim Johnson at (225) 752.8480.

the cathedral's bulletin for Saturday and Sunday, Jan. 14 and 15. "The Saturday 5:15 p.m. and Sunday 8 a.m. are our lowest attended Masses. Also, our average Sunday Mass population has been averaging approximately 450 people for many months now. The cathedral can seat 390 people and comfortably seat 250 people. Thus, three Masses would be sufficient for the number of people who attend Mass at the cathedral."

The statement also said the reduction will free priests to cover other Masses in the diocese, especially at Columbus Holy Cross Church, which now shares priests with the cathedral. Holy Cross has Sunday Masses at 9 and 11 a.m. and is at the corner of Rich and Fifth streets. The cathedral is at 212 E. Broad St.

Luncheon club presents annual award

Bishop Earl Fernandes will present the Catholic Men's Luncheon Club's 2023 Catholic Man of the Year award to Dr. Eric Yang of Columbus St. Peter Church at the club's meeting on Friday, Feb. 3, following the 11:45 a.m. Mass at Columbus St. Patrick Church, 280 N. Grant Ave.

Free parking is available in the Columbus State Community College Grant Avenue parking lot (25-S), across the street from the church. No reservations are necessary. A \$12 donation for the lunch and meeting is suggested.

The club's next meeting will be on Friday, Feb. 3, when the speaker will be Douglas H. Stein, vice president for advancement of the pontifical College Josephinum. The February luncheon will be sponsored by AM 820 St. Gabriel Radio. Contact Jim Gernetzke at [jimgernetzke@noslumine.com](mailto:jimgernetzke@noslumine.com) if you are interested in sponsoring a future luncheon.

St. John Chrysostom offers iconography workshop

Father Marek Visnovsky will present an iconography workshop at Columbus St. John Chrysostom Byzantine Catholic Church, 5858 Cleveland Ave., on Friday, Feb. 24 from 5 to 10 p.m.; Saturday, Feb. 25 from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday, Feb. 26 from 1 to 6 p.m.

There will be time for prayer, talk, discussion, personal instructions, reflections and a hands-on demonstration. Participants will paint the Icon of Christ "Mandylion," also known as "Made With No Human Hands." The cost of \$350 includes icon boards and painting material). Beginners and advanced artists alike are welcome. The deadline for registration is Sunday, Feb. 12, 2023. For the registration form and any further information, email Father Visnovsky at [marekvisnovsky@yahoo.com](mailto:marekvisnovsky@yahoo.com)

Father Visnovsky is a married Byzantine Catholic priest, serving the Eparchy of Parma. He and his wife, Miriam, have three children. For 22 years, he has been teaching iconography classes in the United States and Europe. He has painted more than 700 icons that are venerated in churches and homes around the world.

Mercedarians break ground for novitiate house

The Mercedarian Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament broke ground for a new novitiate house on Thursday, Jan. 26 in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

The projected completion date is December 2023, with an estimated construction cost of \$5.2 million. To date, \$2.7 million has been raised for the two-story, 14,574 square-foot building, which will have 18 bedrooms to accommodate 36 novices. A novice is a young woman who is admitted into a religious community on a probationary period, generally two years.

Within the Mercedarian Institute, novices spend their days in prayer, study and learning to live in community. During this time, they get to know God and themselves more deeply while learning to live according to the rule of the community. After her period of formation, the novice emits her first vows of poverty, chastity and obedience.

Currently, there are five Mercedarian convents in the United States,

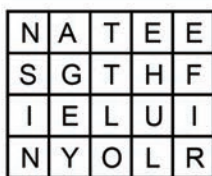
Words of Wisdom

by Pat Battaglia, aka Dr. Fun

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# PRAY FOR OUR DEAD

**ALDRIN**, Anne C., 39, Oct. 19  
St. Paul Church, Westerville

**ANTHONY**, James W., 86, Jan. 16  
St. Patrick Church, London

**APRILE**, Mary A. (Carney), 92, Jan. 1  
St. Philip Church, Columbus

**AZBELL**, Danielle "Danie," 84, Jan. 10  
Lancaster St. Bernadette Church

**BINDER**, Betty M. (McCann), 101, Dec. 30  
St. Timothy Church, Columbus

**BRADLEY**, Mary Joyce, 80, Jan. 8  
St. Nicholas Church, Zanesville

**BRYAN**, Willard E., 88, Dec. 28  
St. Nicholas Church, Zanesville

**CLARK**, Adrian R. "Ace," 95, Jan. 10  
Our Lady of Peace Church, Columbus

**DEAN**, Carol L. (Starapoli), 82, Jan. 5  
St. Joan of Arc Church, Powell

**DENNY**, Allison L., 34, Jan. 4  
St. Rose of Lima, New Lexington

**FARRELL**, Patricia (McCarthy), 95, Jan. 5  
St. Patrick Church, Columbus

**FULLEN**, Richard W., 92, Jan. 18  
St. Joseph Church, Circleville

**FURBEE**, Roberta (Pucci), 81, Jan. 13  
Sacred Heart Church, New Philadelphia

**HALLER**, Rodney A., 59, Jan. 6  
St. Mary, Mother of God Church, Columbus

**HEUBEL**, Herman F., 98, Dec. 25  
St. Francis of Assisi Church, Columbus

**HOOGEVEEN**, Jacquelyn M. (Gibala), 73, Jan. 10  
St. Paul Church, Westerville

**ISAACS**, Patricia E. (Russell), 89, Jan. 13  
Our Mother of Sorrows Chapel, Columbus

**JACQUET**, James Joseph, 92, Jan. 9  
St. Francis de Sales Church, Newark

**KEEN**, David L. Jr., 34, Jan. 9  
St. Mary, Mother of God Church, Columbus

**KING**, Kim, 68, Jan. 6  
Sacred Heart Church, New Philadelphia

**LOOMIS**, E. Michael, 84, Jan. 11  
Immaculate Conception Church, Columbus

**McCLURE**, Jack H., 87, Jan. 10  
Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, Grove City

**McQUADE**, Lena (Kitzmilller), 88, Dec. 29  
Resurrection Cemetery Chapel, Lewis Center

**MORAN**, George, 82, Jan. 18  
St. Joseph Church, Dover

**NIGGEMEYER**, John W., 92, Jan. 13  
St. Leonard Church, Heath

**NOLAN**, Dorothy K. (Ziskovsky), 91, Jan. 16  
St. Andrew Church, Columbus

**PARKER**, Clara "Janet," 93, Jan. 18  
St. Nicholas Church, Zanesville

**PIEMONTE**, Mary, 88, Jan. 9  
St. Francis de Sales Church, Newark

**RHOADES**, Joanne C. (Ventresca), 90, Dec. 27  
St. Andrew Church, Columbus

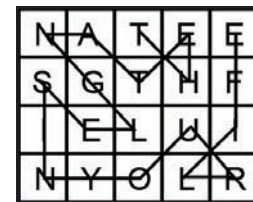
**ROBERTS**, Beverly (Kane), 87, Jan. 16  
Church of the Resurrection, New Albany

**ROEHRENBECK**, Raymond H., 87, Jan. 7  
Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church, Buckeye Lake

**STALEY**, William J. Jr., 78, Jan. 6  
Our Mother of Sorrows Chapel, Columbus

**STORY**, Cheryl A., 74, Jan. 9  
St. Paul Church, Westerville

**TURRIN**, Joseph C., 86, Jan. 12  
Sacred Heart Church, New Philadelphia



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## Dolores E. "Del" Thompson

Funeral Mass for Dolores E. "Del" Thompson, 85, who died Tuesday, Dec. 27, was celebrated Saturday, Jan. 14 in the chapel of Mother Angeline McCrory Manor, Columbus. Burial was at Holy Cross Cemetery, Pataskala.

She was born in Cleveland on Oct. 19, 1937 to the late Frank and Estelle Thompson. She graduated from Parma High School in 1955, from Ohio University, where she was a member of Alpha Delta Pi sorority, in 1959 with a Bachelor's degree in education and from the University of Dayton in 1987 with a Master's degree in education.

She worked for the Ohio attorney gen-

eral's office in 1959-1960 and taught in the Columbus Public Schools from 1960 to 1962. After leaving the workforce to raise her four sons, she returned to teaching in 1975 and taught fourth grade at Reynoldsburg St. Pius X School until 1979, when she began a career in the Reynoldsburg City Schools that lasted until her retirement in 2007. She taught fourth grade and later served as a special instructor in reading at French Run Elementary School.

She is survived by sons Matthew (Sarah Wonson), Daniel (Jennifer Speed), Patrick (Angie) and Timothy (Laurie Rinehart-Thompson) and eight grandchildren.

## Joseph A. Ridgeway Jr.

Funeral Mass for Joseph A. Ridgeway Jr., 83, of Ave Maria, Florida, formerly of Bexley, who died Thursday, Jan. 12, was celebrated Thursday, Jan. 19 at Columbus St. Catharine Church.

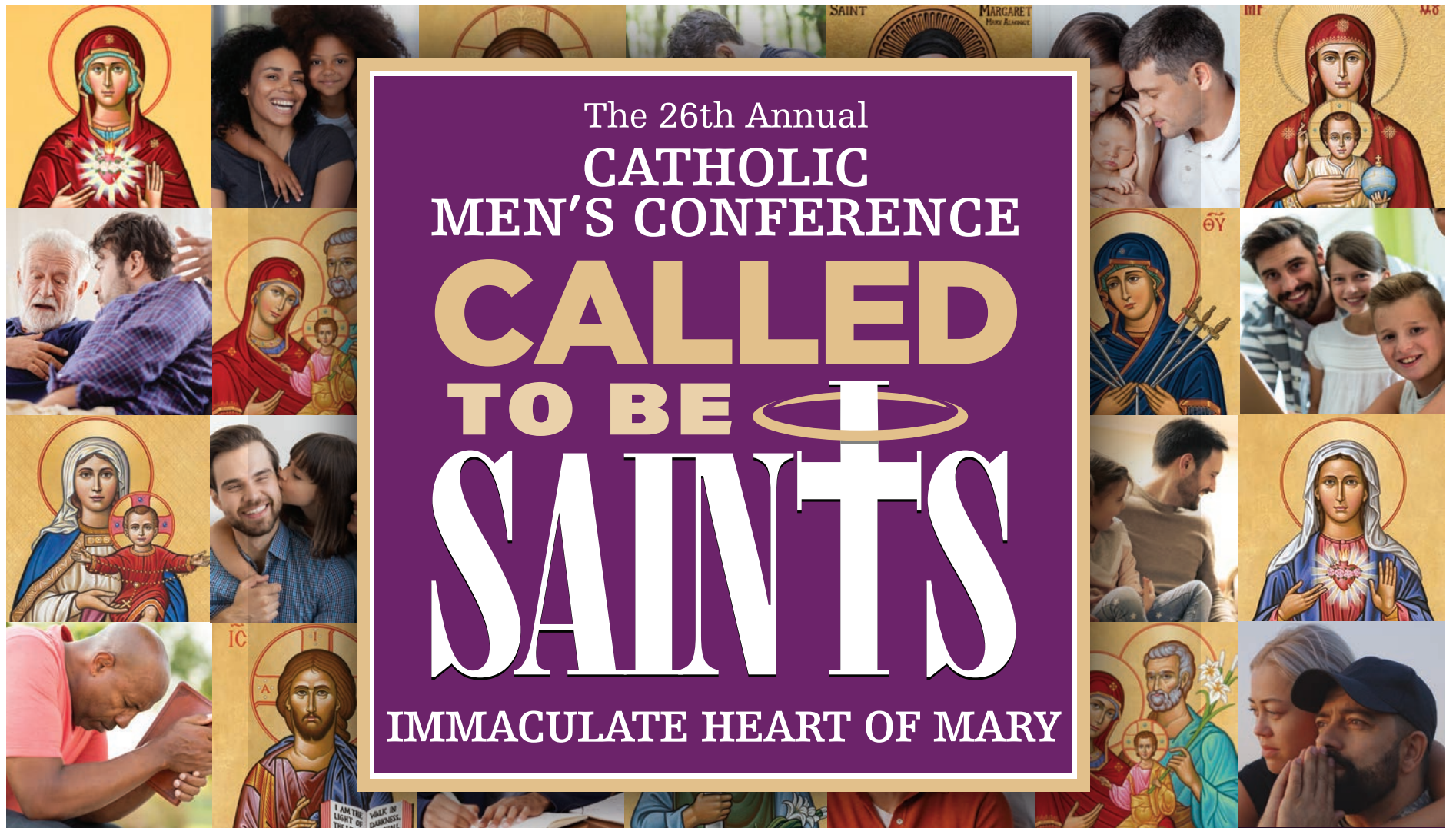
He was born in Columbus in 1939 to Joseph and Margaret (Tritschler) Ridgeway, was a graduate of Columbus St. Charles Preparatory School and Ohio State University (OSU), with a degree in civil engineering, and attended the traffic institute at Northwestern University.

He was a registered professional engineer in Ohio and Florida and retired from the City of Columbus after 31 years serving in several positions, including city engineer and public service director. He later was employed by Sticklen-Belsheim/Moody Nolan and by E.P. Ferris and Associates.

He was a past president of the Catholic Men's Luncheon Club, a Fourth-Degree member of the Knights of Columbus; and grand knight and financial secretary of Knights Council 11354.

He was a past member of the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission and had served as chairman and board member of the Solid Waste Authority of Central Ohio. He was a recipient of the OSU outstanding civil engineering alumny award and a member of the Columbus Country Club and Phi Kappa Theta fraternity.

He was preceded in death by his parents; a brother, John, and a sister, Mimi. Survivors include his wife, Anne (Shanahan); son, Dr. Joseph; daughter, Marie Bruce; brother, James; one grandson; two granddaughters; three great-grandsons and two great-granddaughters.



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JOHN 1:5




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★ *Fr. Michael Denk*

Fr. Denk is the founder of *The Prodigal Father*, whose mission is to inspire, introduce, and guide people in a deep and authentic life of prayer.



★ *Fr. Rob Galea*

Fr. Galea is a former contestant on Australia's *X Factor*, sang the English versions of official **World Youth Day** songs, and believes that music and film are important instruments in helping people understand the need for intimacy with God.



★ *Paula Umana*

Paula is a former #1 Costa Rican tennis player turned speaker and author, who shares her faith-filled recovery from a disorder that once left her quadriplegic.

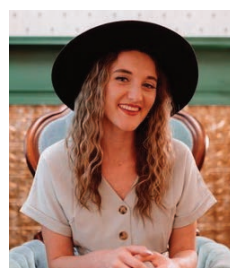
Mass Celebrant:

★ *Bishop Earl Fernandez*



Music By:

★ *Hannah Schaefer*



Emcee:

★ *Debbie Georgianni*

