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FIRST WEEK OF ADVENT
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**ADVENT PREPARES THE WAY
FOR THE BIRTH OF JESUS**

The Editor's Notebook*Gratitude and Anticipation*

By David Garick, Editor



This week, we have two very significant celebrations: Thanksgiving and the First Sunday of Advent. I think it is very fitting that they come so close together. Thanksgiving often is viewed in popular culture as a time for lots of food and football. But I think none of us is so cynical as to limit our experience of Thanksgiving to those corporeal acts of indulgence. We all feel deep in our hearts the yearning for a Thanksgiving close to family and friends and an expression of gratitude to God for another year. In the face of news of turmoil, strife and conflict, we all can take a moment to thank God for the strength and guidance he provides us in good times and bad.

The First Sunday of Advent marks the beginning of our preparation for the Nativity of Our Lord. Yes, I'm talking about Mass on Sunday, not the 5 a.m. sales at the shopping malls on "Black Friday." The crass commercialism of holiday shopping can be a bit annoying, but it does us good to strip that part away and get to the root of what the gift-giving binge is all about.

Advent is a time of anticipation, and anticipation can be a little overwhelming. It certainly was for me as a child. This was the weekend every year when Santa Claus made his arrival. Growing up in Newark, there were no shopping malls all over town with a different Santa in each one, as we have today. There was just the one Santa, and he came to town riding on a fire engine to turn on the decorative lights on the courthouse. I never understood why he chose that mode of transportation, but at least if all those colored lights had a short circuit, he'd be in a position to

fight the fire.

Even as a child, I understood that Christmas was a lot more than just the gifts under the tree. The anticipation was for something much greater. I always enjoyed the Advent calendar I received at church. It was always a winter scene of a European-looking village with snow and lots of glitter. Opening one of the shuttered windows every day not only revealed a small surprise, but also brought me one day closer to Christmas. Even as a child, I understood that although the gifts were great, the most important thing was the event itself. I really looked forward to the Christmas pageant and the special worship on Christmas Eve. I really felt like I was part of something much bigger, that God was closer to me than at any other time of the year.

It's OK to get excited about this time of year. It's all right to want to give great gifts and have special parties. We just need to keep it all in context. We need to remember that these acts of love for family and friends are just a manifestation of the great love God showed to each of us through his incarnation. He became like us so we could become like him. That is the gift of Christmas we must prepare for. That is what the anticipation is all about. In the end, we are preparing for another Thanksgiving. In November, we give thanks for the gifts we have received in the past year. Then during Advent, we prepare for another thanksgiving ... the day we express our gratitude for the greatest gift of all: God's loving presence among us now and for all eternity.

THE FIRST WEEK OF ADVENT**Pope extends special Year of Mercy provisions on confession**

By Cindy Wooden

Catholic News Service

Acknowledging and sharing God's mercy is a permanent part of the Christian life, so initiatives undertaken during the special Year of Mercy must continue, Pope Francis said.

"Mercy cannot become a mere parenthesis in the life of the church," the pope wrote in an apostolic letter, "Misericordia et Misera," ("Mercy and Misery"), which he signed Nov. 20 at the end of the Year of Mercy. The Vatican released the text the next day.

The Catholic Church's focus on God's mercy must continue with individual acts of kindness, assistance to the poor and, particularly, with encouraging Catholics to participate in the sacrament of reconciliation and making it easier for them to do so, the pope wrote.

In his letter, Pope Francis said he formally was giving all priests permanent permission to grant absolution to those who confess to having procured an abortion. While many bishops around the world, and almost all bishops in the United States, routinely grant that faculty to all their priests, Pope Francis had made it universal during the Holy Year.

According to canon law, procuring an abortion brings automatic excommunication to those who know of the penalty, but procure the abortion anyway. Without formal permission, priests had been

required to refer the case to their bishops before the excommunication could be lifted and sacramental absolution could be granted to a woman who had an abortion or those directly involved in the procedure.

"I wish to restate as firmly as I can that abortion is a grave sin, since it puts an end to an innocent life," the pope wrote. "In the same way, however, I can and must state that there is no sin that God's mercy cannot reach and wipe away when it finds a repentant heart seeking to be reconciled with the Father."

Speaking to reporters during a Vatican news conference Nov. 21, Archbishop Rino Fisichella said procuring an abortion still results in automatic excommunication the very moment the procedure is carried out.

Sacramental absolution, therefore, is not just forgiving the sin of abortion, but also means "the excommunication is removed," he said.

In another continuation of a Year of Mercy project, Pope Francis asked the more than 1,100 priests he commissioned as "missionaries of mercy" to continue leading retreats, missions, prayer services and offering confession in dioceses around the world.

"Their pastoral activity sought to emphasize that God places no roadblocks in the way of those who seek him with a contrite heart, because he goes out to meet everyone like a father," the pope said.

*Front Page photo:*

A lit candle is seen on an Advent wreath. Advent, a season of joyful expectation before Christmas, begins on Sunday, Nov. 27 this year.

CNS photo/Lisa Johnston, St. Louis Review

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USCCB president-elect stresses need to listen, continue dialogue

By Carol Zimmermann

Catholic News Service

The newly elected president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops said he is not planning on “creating a new vision,” but hopes to continue the bishops’ priorities, particularly focusing on dialogue and listening to Catholics.

The bishops “intend to be attentive,” said Cardinal Daniel N. DiNardo of Galveston-Houston hours after his Nov. 15 election to a three-year term that began at the close of the bishops’ fall assembly in Baltimore.

For the past three years, he has been USCCB vice president, a role that typically leads to election as president. He succeeds Archbishop Joseph E. Kurtz of Louisville, Kentucky.

The cardinal said he plans to focus on the needs and concerns of Catholics, particularly members of the immigrant community who fear deportation with the recent election of Donald Trump as president. But he also said he remained hopeful about working with the new administration, saying its newness “offers options and possibilities.”

“We hope for a whole lot. This is brand new,” he told Catholic News Service.



Cardinal Daniel N. DiNardo of Galveston-Houston addresses a news conference on Nov. 15 at the fall general assembly of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops in Baltimore. The cardinal was elected USCCB president that morning. Seated to his left is Archbishop Jose H. Gomez of Los Angeles, who was elected USCCB vice president. CNS photo/Bob Roller

The cardinal said he would listen to the voices of the immigrants and would work to ensure that government leaders treat them with dignity, adding that the church in the U.S. has always stood with immigrants. “We make our voices heard,” he said, “not by

screaming in the streets, but rather, our voices are heard in the streets by our care and concern and our clarity, what we think is essential.”

Cardinal DiNardo, 67, said the key part of his role remains as a church leader, which is “where we show our shepherd’s heart.”

His Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston includes 1.3 million Catholics, 440 priests in 146 parishes, and 60 schools spread over 8,880 square miles.

The cardinal, who was born in Steubenville, was ordained to the priesthood for the Diocese of Pittsburgh in 1977 and became a bishop 20 years later. He is a former bishop of Sioux City, Iowa. He has been archbishop of Galveston-Houston since 2006. He became a cardinal in 2007 and participated in the 2013 conclave that elected Pope Francis.

This summer, after the shooting of police officers in Dallas in response to shootings by police officers, Cardinal DiNardo said, “These tragedies call for our prayer for healing and for change. It seems as though at times our hearts are stony and paralyzed. We need God’s spirit of mercy to melt them and reopen our hearts to the beauty of human life and to rebuilding human communities.”

Bishops’ strategic plan urges ‘missionary discipleship’ across the church

By Dennis Sadowski/Catholic News Service

A new strategic plan adopted by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops on Nov. 15 during its fall general assembly reflects the efforts of Pope Francis to establish a more merciful and accompanying church, said the archbishop who led the planning process.

The plan, adopted by a vote of 199-4 with two abstentions, will govern the work of the conference and its committees from 2017 to 2020. It takes effect in January.

“We have adapted these priorities to coincide with the priorities of Pope Francis,” Archbishop Gregory M. Aymond of New Orleans, chairman of the bishops’ committee on priorities and plans, told the assembled bishops before their vote.

The plan incorporates the theme “Encountering the Mercy of Christ and Accompanying His People With Joy” in setting five priorities: evangelization, marriage and family life, human life and dignity, vocations, and religious freedom. The five priorities identify more than 740 individual projects to accomplish in the next four years.

Cardinal-designate Joseph W. Tobin of Indianapolis, who recently was appointed archbishop of Newark, New Jersey, asked where concern for the environment and people who are experiencing the negative effects of climate change might fit into the plan.

“It is more urgent than ever, given the possibility that the new (presidential) administration is not going to be interested in the issues Pope Francis is interested in,” Cardinal-designate Tobin said.

Archbishop Aymond responded that the plan’s work

on the environment, climate change, and a response to the needs of people on the margins of society worldwide falls under the human life and dignity priority.

In that section, one of the areas addressed includes teaching and advocating about what the pope has described as integral ecology, “emphasizing environmental degradation and its impact on the lives of the most vulnerable.”

The plan also calls for the Catholic Church in the United States to move from a “silo approach” to ministry, as expressed through the USCCB committees, to deeper collaboration and cooperation in service of each bishops’ ministry.

“Committee chairmen and committee members will need to make sure we stay on track,” Archbishop Aymond said.

The plan, which has been under discussion for more than a year by the bishops through their committees, subcommittees and an ad hoc committee, stems in large part from Pope Francis’ message to the bishops when he visited the U.S. in 2015.

The 28-page document offers an overview of the plan and outlines several specific areas to address under each priority. Much of the plan was developed to support individuals of all ages, as well as families, as people go through daily life, and to encourage actions that carry out what is described as “missionary discipleship.”

Another passage in the plan stresses that it charts “a path of hope for the people in need of a loving



embrace as they face the challenges of the world.”

Further, the document states, “The USCCB strategic plan exists to serve the mission of evangelization entrusted in a particular way to each bishop;

it is the tool the U.S. bishops rely upon to prioritize, organize, optimize and resource good works which will allow the conference to fulfill its mission.”

Two major events are expected to help achieve the priorities: the national Convocation of Catholic Leaders scheduled for July 1-4, 2017, in Orlando, Florida, and the V Encuentro for Hispanic Latino Ministry in 2018.

Thousands of Catholics at each event are expected to discuss, learn, pray, and act on ideas to strengthen the church at the local level and inspire new leaders to take on the challenges posed by modern society.

The strategic plan also mentions that the early projects being undertaken will help the bishops as they prepare a pastoral letter on race relations that is planned for the 50th anniversary of the death of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. in 2018.

In his Nov. 14 presentation, Atlanta Archbishop Wilton D. Gregory, chairman of the USCCB task force to promote peace in our communities, urged his brother bishops to issue the statement on racism sooner than scheduled, because of the racial turmoil that has affected many of the nation’s communities after police shootings of African-Americans. The archbishop also said such a statement would help address postelection tensions across the nation.

Faith in Action

By Erin Cordle

When Mother Nature and Human Nature Act Out, U.S. Catholics Step Up At Home and Abroad

Catholic Charities USA (CCUSA) and Catholic Relief Services (CRS) are the official domestic and international relief agencies of the Catholic Church in the United States. When disaster and calamity strike at home or abroad, these organizations provide immediate relief and long-term rebuilding efforts.

This is proving to be a very busy disaster-response year for both organizations. At home, the year started with severe storms in the South and Midwest. West Virginia, still recovering from a chemical spill into the Kanawha River in 2014, was hit with deadly flooding in June. Louisiana again was impacted with severe flooding in August. Abroad, there were magnitude-7.8 earthquakes in Ecuador and Nepal in April, the CRS responses to Christians in crisis in the Middle East continue, and, as military operations continue in Mosul, it is estimated that more than 10 million people are in urgent need of humanitarian aid throughout Iraq. CRS and Caritas Iraq have been responding to the needs of people fleeing the fighting. In 2015, 13 million people were aided through CRS emergency work. Given this year's events, that number will increase in 2016.

Funds donated to CCUSA and CRS allow them to provide humanitarian aid in the form of water, food, shelter, and medical care, as well as long-term efforts to recover, restore, and rebuild communities after widespread destruction.

CCUSA and local agencies collaborate on effective disaster responses and recovery efforts. When disasters strike in the U.S., CCUSA member agencies network with other community agencies to provide direct support through their unique understanding of needs before, during, and long after disaster strikes. They give help and hope to disaster survivors.

CRS carries out the commitment of the bishops of the United States to assist the poor and vulnerable overseas. They are motivated by the Gospel of Jesus Christ to cherish, preserve, and uphold the sacredness and dignity of all human life, foster charity and justice, and embody Catholic social and moral teaching. They promote human development by responding to major emergencies, fighting disease and poverty, and nurturing peaceful and just societies. They also help Catholics in the U.S. live their faith in solidarity with our brothers and sisters around the world. As part of the universal mission of the Catholic Church, CRS works with local, national, and international Catholic and non-Catholic institutions and structures to assist people on the basis of need rather than creed, race, or nationality.

Both these Catholic organizations strive to promote social justice, solidarity, and compassion through timely emergency and recovery actions that address the needs of the most vulnerable. They take comprehensive, long-view approaches to emergency response and recovery. They provide lifesaving help to get survivors back on their feet. They help people obtain the tools and skills they need to manage their own recovery, and their projects build on local systems to ensure long-term success.

For more information about CCUSA and CRS, visit their websites at <https://catholiccharitiesusa.org> and <http://www.crs.org>, or contact the diocesan Office for Social Concerns at (614) 241-2540 or socmail-box@columbuscatholic.org.

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



Record Society Meeting

The Catholic Record Society's quarterly meeting on Sunday, Dec. 4 will feature society member Ann Hansen talking about her travels in 63 nations, with emphasis on certain religious structures and their architecture, particularly the Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham in England.

The meeting will be at 2 p.m. in Nugent Hall of Columbus St. Andrew Church, 1899 McCoy Road. Following the presentation, there will be a reception and a business meeting of the society. A silent auction of surplus society materials also will take place.

Hansen is a graduate of St. Mary of the Springs Academy and the College of St. Mary of the Springs

(now Ohio Dominican University). She received a master of arts degree from The Ohio State University and a bachelor of letters degree from Somerville College of Oxford University in England. She also attended Denison University, the University of Oslo, Norway, and the Institute of Historical Research at the University of London.

She is a former member of the editorial staff of *The Columbus Dispatch*, has written five books on historical topics, and has contributed articles to several historical and Catholic magazines.

For more information, contact Mike Finn at (614) 268-4166 or fcoolavin@aol.com.

ODU to Host Annual Christmas Celebration

Ohio Dominican University will ring in the holiday season with its annual Christmas celebration, which will take place on the university's main campus, 1216 Sunbury Road, Columbus.

The festivities will kick off with the university's tree-lighting ceremony, which will take place at 6 p.m., Monday, Dec. 5 on the front steps of Erskine Hall. With more than 100,000 lights illuminating ODU's campus, it will offer an enchanting evening of lights and holiday cheer.

The celebration will continue as

ODU's chorus performs lessons and carols at 6 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 6, at Christ the King Chapel in Sansbury Hall. A blessing of the creche will take place following the performance.

ODU will host its annual holiday art market from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 8, in the Bishop James A. Griffin Student Center.

The market will feature a variety of handcrafted items including scarves, paintings, stained glass, jewelry, and much more. Cash and checks will be accepted.

Men's Luncheon Club Meeting

The Catholic Men's Luncheon Club meeting on Friday, Dec. 2, will feature a talk by Father Daniel Swartz, parochial vicar at Gahanna St. Matthew Church, who was ordained a priest earlier this year and anticipates becoming a military chaplain after a period of service in the Diocese of Columbus.

The meeting will follow the 11:45 a.m. Mass at Columbus St. Patrick

Church, 280 N. Grant Ave., and will end no later than 1 p.m. No reservations are necessary. A donation of \$10 is requested to cover lunch and meeting costs.

For information on Catholic men's luncheons, visit www.Columbus-CatholicMen.com or contact Tim Merkle, CMLC president, at htm@ejhlaw.com.

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Josephinum Lectors and Acolytes



Ten seminarians of the Diocese of Columbus were among 26 students of the Pontifical College Josephinum who were installed as lectors or acolytes at a Mass on Tuesday, Nov. 1, the Solemnity of All Saints, at Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral. Bishop Frederick Campbell was principal celebrant. Pictured are (from left): first row, Kyle Tennant, acolyte; Christopher Yakkell, acolyte; Pushkar Baum, lector; Austin Hill, lector; and Gordon Mott, lector; second row, Paul Brandimarti, acolyte; Bryant Haren, acolyte; Msgr. Christopher J. Schreck, Josephinum rector/president; Bishop Campbell; Michael Fulton, lector; Frank Brown, lector; and Seth Keller, lector. Seminarians installed as lectors typically are first-year theologians and are commissioned to proclaim the Word of God in the liturgical assembly and to catechize the faithful. Acolytes, traditionally second-year theologians, are entrusted with the duties of attending to the altar, assisting the deacon and priest at Mass, and distributing Communion as extraordinary ministers of the Eucharist.

CT photo by Ken Snow

Our Lady of Bethlehem Anniversary Gala

The Development Foundation of Our Lady of Bethlehem School and Childcare (OLB) will celebrate the school's 60th anniversary at a diamond jubilee gala. The 1920's speakeasy-style event will take place at 6:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 11 at Columbus St. Charles Preparatory School, 2010 E. Broad St. Guests will make their way through silent and live auction areas and enjoy dinner and dancing to the music of the Rick Brunetto Big Band.

OLB is a private, Catholic school which provides exemplary faith-based education and care, rooted in the rich history and tradition of the Sisters of the Poor Child Jesus from Aachen, Germany. Today, the school's offerings include the area's only Catholic infant and

toddler care, flexible full and part-time child care, Totally Terrific Twos, preschool, pre-kindergarten, full- and half-day kindergarten, and a summer program for students through sixth grade. The school serves students and families from 19 parishes in the Diocese of Columbus.

Proceeds from the gala will support the development foundation's mission to provide funds for tuition assistance; expansion of programs such as infant and toddler care; capital improvements and savings; and the continued work of the school and the sisters. OLB relies almost solely on families and the community it serves for financial support. For more information, visit www.ourladyofbethlehem.org.

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PAYING FOR INDULGENCES; GOD AND MASCULINE PRONOUN



QUESTION & ANSWER

by: **FATHER KENNETH DOYLE**
Catholic News Service

Q. When did the church stop asking for money for indulgences? And why did it ask for money in the first place? (Wichita, Kansas)

A. I am almost reluctant to answer your question because, as asked, a simple response would imply a serious admission. Though it has been accused for centuries of having “sold” indulgences, the Catholic Church never approved such a practice.

Undeniably, individual Catholics were guilty of selling indulgences, but the practice never was countenanced by the church. Coupled with these abuses, though, was the fact (and this gave a basis to Martin Luther’s challenge) that indulgences could be gained for giving alms to one of the church’s charitable endeavors.

All of this came to an end with the Council of Trent, which decreed that the church “ordains in a general way by the present decree that all evil traffic in them (indulgences), which has been a most prolific source of abuses among the Christian people, be absolutely abolished.” According to The Catholic Encyclopedia, in 1567, soon after the council, Pope Pius V “canceled all grants of indulgences involving any fees or other financial transactions.”

Q. I would very much like to know the church’s official position on whether God should be referred to as “Father” (that is, in masculine terms) or as a genderless being. I find it troubling when the words in traditional hymns are changed to remove any references to “his” or “him.” Recently I was singing from memory the refrain, “Lift up your hearts to the Lord in praise of his mercy,” only to hear myself “out of sync” with many others in the congregation who were singing from the hymnal, “Praise God’s gracious mercy.”

In a similar way, I often hear during the Liturgy of the Eucharist many people responding, “May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of God’s name, for our good and

the good of God’s holy church.” And yet, when I look up that response in the Roman Missal itself, I find “his name” and “his holy church.”

What is next? I fear the day when some people will start the Lord’s Prayer with, “Our God who art in heaven.” I feel that we are pandering to a minority of overly sensitive feminists who have difficulty comprehending God’s identity as a male being, as our Father -- and yet that is exactly how Jesus referred to God and taught us to pray to him. He is not some generic, abstract and neutered being. (City of origin withheld)

A. It is the clear teaching of the church that God is neither male nor female. As the divine being, God transcends gender.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church says, “In no way is God in man’s image. He is neither man nor woman. God is pure spirit in which there is no place for the difference between the sexes. But the respective ‘perfections’ of man and woman reflect something of the infinite perfection of God: those of a mother and those of a father” (No. 370).

The traditional use, then, of the masculine pronoun does not equate to a belief in the masculinity of God.

Having said that, I would make the argument that -- for the sake of uniformity within a congregation and across the wider church -- it is best to stick with the responses given in the Roman Missal and hope that the liturgical translators eventually catch up with the church’s theology.

As for the Our Father, that of course has a special sacredness because it was the prayer taught directly by Jesus. In order to convey the ready accessibility to us of the Lord, Jesus called his Father by the Aramaic word “Abba” -- which, some scholars say, really translates to our warm and familiar word “Daddy.”

That word must have shocked Christ’s Jewish listeners, who felt that God was so far above them that they ought not even pronounce his name. Since Jesus used these very words, this prayer ought never to change. (Can you imagine if Jesus had invited us instead to pray to “Our divine and genderless being”?)

Questions may be sent to Father Kenneth Doyle at askfatherdoyle@gmail.com and 40 Hopewell St., Albany, N.Y. 12208.



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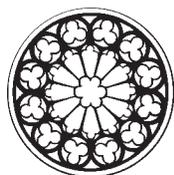
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“I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way” — a voice of one calling in the wilderness, ‘Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.’” -- Mark 1:3



Bishop Watterson Signees

Six Columbus Bishop Watterson high school seniors recently signed letters of intent to play college sports. They are (from left): first row, Abigail Meyers, golf, Loyola (Chicago); Grace Hetterscheidt, volleyball, Niagara; and Grace Schreiber, volleyball, Tiffin; second row, Dylan Appolloni, baseball, Ohio Dominican; Cal McAninch, baseball, Northern Kentucky; and Matt Dockman, baseball, Duke. Photo courtesy Bishop Watterson High School



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THE EVERYDAY CATHOLIC

By Rick Jeric

The Width of a Circle



I was never very good at math. I could do some numbers in my head, and I think that came from my having to make change and figure what was owed on my paper route when I was about 10 years old. Of course, the best customers were the ones who just said, "Keep the change." Does anyone even say that any more? When it came to circles and geometry, I was always lost. How could you figure how wide a circle is? What about the circumference? And why should anyone care? The poetic justice is that my daughter was born on March 14 (3.14), pi day. Thankfully, she has her mom's brains and is quite the math whiz.

Advent begins this Sunday. Another new liturgical year, and more purple. As I began to reflect on Advent spiritually, my mind wandered to circles. Not on how wide they are, but why they are. This is a random thought, but was it really that difficult to invent the wheel? Anyhow, we have the beauty and symbolism of the Advent wreath for the next four weeks. And it is a full four weeks this year. The wreath is a circle, and shows the four candles representing each Sunday and another week of preparation. It all comes full circle, focusing on the Incarnation via the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. The random pink (or rose) candle represents the halfway point of Gaudete Sunday, reminding us that we really need to be sure that we are well prepared spiritually, as well as materially, for Christmas. Circles do teach us a lot about life. We may even be reminded of such things as the famous song "Circle of Life" from "The Lion King." Through the usual extreme personification of Disney, we are reminded of the great circle of life, from conception and birth, to living life to the fullest, to death and eternal life. It begins again every day. We recently had the great fortune of experiencing the "super moon." For the first time in 68 years or so, the moon was as close as it can be to earth at the time when it is a full moon. It was a huge circle in the sky, helping to show us another brief glimpse of the glory and incomprehensible power and majesty of our God, not to mention the somewhat coordinated orbits of the earth and moon – not exactly circles, but elliptical. I wonder how you measure the width of an ellipse. Just now, the song "Red Rubber Ball" came on the radio. The name of the band was Cyrkle. Yes, really. "The morning sun is rising like a red rubber ball," they sang. Whenever we admire a beautiful sunset or sunrise, can there be any doubt that there is hope and that God loves us? And for further reflection, whenever we experience another roundabout when driving around town, can there be any doubt that God has a sense of humor?

As we joyfully and prayerfully experience Advent and prepare for Christmas, keep in mind all the circles in our lives. The wreath is a symbol of the love of our families and the universal Church. Look at your wedding ring. It is a circle for a reason – not just because it has to fit your finger, but it fits with your vows and your Faith. Finally, any David Bowie fans will know his early song "Width of a Circle." One of the lines is "I realized that God's a young man, too." While God is neither young nor old, I believe that He exudes the love and positive energy of a young person. As we prepare for Christmas, let us live our lives with youthful love and a circular spirit.

Vatican Nativity scene to highlight care for migrants, sick, environment

By Junno Arocho Esteves/*Catholic News Service*

The Vatican's Christmas tree and Nativity scene will feature unique designs and decorations highlighting several issues close to Pope Francis, including care for the environment, the sick and migrants.

An 82-foot spruce tree will be the centerpiece of the Vatican's Christmas holidays, the governing office of Vatican City said.

The tree was harvested Sunday, Nov. 13 in the Lago-rai forest near Scurelle in the northern Italian province of Trent, and will benefit from a unique gesture in keeping with the pope's call for the care of creation: Elementary school students "will plant nearly 40 new spruce and larch seedlings in a nearby area where some trees affected by parasites fell in autumn," the governing office said.

The Vatican added that the tree will be adorned with handmade ornaments featuring drawings made by children receiving treatment at several Italian hospitals.

"These children, with their parents, participated in a ceramics recreational therapy program" organized by the Countess Lene Thune Onlus Foundation, a non-profit organization dedicated to therapeutic recreation for young boys and girls suffering from oncological and hematological disorders, the Vatican said.

While the towering tree and its decorations will come from Italy, the Nativity scene will be donated



by the Maltese government and the Archdiocese of Malta. Its artist, Manwel Grech, won a contest conducted last year to determine the Nativity scene's designer.

Grech will join representatives from Trent and Malta, as well as several children who designed the Christmas tree's ornaments, in an audience with Pope Francis on the morning of Friday, Dec. 9, before the tree-lighting ceremony.

Measuring an astounding 55 feet wide, the Nativ-

ity scene will feature 17 figures dressed in traditional Maltese attire, as well as a replica of a "luzzu," a Maltese boat.

The boat, the Vatican's governing office said, "not only represents tradition -- fish and life -- but also, unfortunately, the realities of migrants who in those very waters sail on makeshift boats to Italy."

The lit tree will remain in St. Peter's Square until the feast of the Lord's Baptism on Sunday, Jan. 8, the Governorate of Vatican City State announced.

ADVENT MORNING OF REFLECTIONS

Saturday, December 10, 2016 • 9 a.m. – Noon

"HERE I AM"

FACILITATED BY: SR. LOUIS MARY PASSERI



God is always near us waiting to be found.

We are called to deepen our awareness of God's presence and desire to share our lives more intimately.

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The cost is \$20.00 per person and includes continental breakfast.

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Please register via the following methods:

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Perseverance is a virtue that helps us get something done despite difficulties

When we begin to exercise, perseverance is vital because there is a lot of learning that isn't easy, and it takes time for the body to acclimate to new movements. Building a new habit of regular exercise on certain days and times each week also requires a commitment to good time management.

I admire people who have persevered in the habit of exercise for many years. It is exciting to see how physically strong they become. I especially enjoy hearing how their perseverance in exercise has helped them build positive changes in other areas of their lives.

It's not surprising that commitment to one healthy habit can contribute to the practice of other healthy habits, such as setting aside daily prayer and spiritual reading time, getting plenty of sleep, de-stressing, and seeking life/work balance.

Perseverance is vital for a healthy spiritual life.

We know that St. Teresa of Kolkata persevered in prayer and service to Christ, and to the body of



HOLY AND HEALTHY

Lori Crock

Christ, despite years of darkness in her prayer life. We hear stories about many of our saintly brothers and sisters who persevered through spiritual and physical hardships so severe that their stories read like adventure novels. They inspire us and give us exciting examples of spiritual and physical strength.

One of my favorite stories of perseverance from sacred Scripture is the "shipwrecked" passage from St. Paul in 2 Corinthians 11:24-26:

"Five times I received from the Jews the forty lashes minus one. Three times I was beaten with rods, once I was pelted with stones, three times I was shipwrecked,

I spent a night and a day in the open sea, I have been constantly on the move. I have been in danger from rivers, in danger from bandits, in danger from my fellow Jews, in danger from Gentiles; in danger in the city, in danger in the country, in danger at sea; and in danger from false believers."

We can pray for the grace to seize our "St. Paul moments" with hope and trust. Difficulties can shape and sharpen us when we look at them in light of Christ's love and sacrifice for us. Offering up our difficulties for the greater good, or for the good of someone we love, is a beautiful way to persevere through a hardship or challenge, no matter how severe.

May we aspire for the perseverance of St. Paul, as in 2 Timothy 4:7: "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith."

Lori Crock is a wife, mother, Plain City St. Joseph Church parishioner, strength and movement coach, and owner of MoveStrong Kettlebells in Dublin. Lori is online at movestrongkbs.com and hollyandhealthycatholic.com.



Veterans Day Celebration in Arlington National Cemetery

Armindia Crawford, national commander of the Catholic War Veterans, is shown carrying a wreath from the organization just before presenting it to a guard at the Tomb of the Unknowns at Arlington National Cemetery on Veterans Day, Nov. 11. Crawford, who works at the Pontifical College Josephinum, is a member of CWV Post 1936 in Columbus and is in her second year as commander of the nation's only congressionally chartered national veterans service organization. Photo courtesy Catholic War Veterans

Eagle Scout Jacob Thompson

Jacob Thompson, a member of Pickerington St. Elizabeth Seton Parish, has earned the rank of Eagle Scout, the highest rank in the Boy Scouts of America.

He has been active in Scouting since first grade, when he joined Cub Scout Pack 326 at Reynoldsburg St. Pius X Elementary School. As a member of Boy Scout Troop 141, he has held several leadership roles, has earned approximately 25 merit badges, has completed the requirements for several religious emblems, including the St. Tarcisius, Light of Christ, and Parvuli Dei awards, and has been inducted into the Order of the Arrow.

For his Eagle Scout project, he researched, designed, raised funds for, and, with the help of many other Scouts and other adults, built an over/



under obstacle at Reynoldsburg Civic Park for the city's annual obstacle 5K race to raise money for police and fire charities.

He plans to be a meteorologist in the military and hopes to go to college at either the Air Force Academy, Texas A&M, or Virginia Tech upon graduation from Columbus Bishop Hartley High School in June.

DIOCESAN ADVENT ACTIVITIES

Churches and other organizations throughout the Diocese of Columbus will be conducting special holiday programs and collecting goods for the needy throughout the Advent and Christmas seasons. In addition to the events listed, a number of parishes have scheduled penance services at various times throughout the season.

The following is a sampling of seasonal events in the diocese:

Buckeye Lake Our Lady of Mount Carmel – Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, followed by prayer service, Sundays, Nov. 27 and Dec. 4, 11, and 18, 9:15 to 10:15 a.m. Parish has a Giving Tree to benefit needy residents of Buckeye Lake and surrounding communities. Parish bell chorus and choir will perform at Ohio Statehouse at noon Wednesday, Dec. 7.

Columbus Holy Spirit – Parish Knights of Columbus host Christmas party for People of God organization for developmentally challenged young people and adults, Sunday, Dec. 11, 1 p.m. German Epiphany celebration sponsored by Columbus Germania Verein, Friday, Jan. 6, 7 p.m. Giving Trees support Whitehall Kid's Christmas program.

Columbus Our Lady of Peace – Parish youth group is teaming with young people from Columbus Immaculate Conception, St. Agatha, and St. Peter churches for weekend winter mission day benefiting students in Run the Race Club on city's west side. Event includes providing beds and bedroom makeovers, as well as other home repairs, followed by evening activities including Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, Mass, and dinner. Parish Boy Scouts sponsor Giving Tree.

Columbus St. Elizabeth – “Born is the King” Christmas concert, Sunday, Dec. 4, 3 p.m. Anointing of the Sick at conclusion of Mass, Saturday, Dec. 10, 5:30 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 11, 9 and 11 a.m. Simbang Gabi, a Filipino Christmas tradition, featuring celebration of Mass for nine consecutive days, Thursday, Dec. 15 to Friday, Dec. 23, 7:30 p.m. nightly except Dec. 23, when Mass will be at 7, followed by potluck in Pastors' Hall. Giving Tree benefits St. Vincent Family Centers.

Columbus St. Francis of Assisi – Giving Tree has gift card ideas for teenagers in need. Cards are distributed by Joint Organization for Inner-City Needs.

Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral – Lessons and carols with cathedral choir and brass ensemble, Sunday, Dec. 11, 3 p.m. Giving Trees provide items for residents of Bryden Place nursing home and gift cards for JOIN.

Columbus St. Margaret of Cortona – Parish's regular Thursday Eucharistic Adoration concludes with sung Vespers and Benediction of the Blessed

Sacrament, Dec. 1 and 15, 7 p.m.; Dec. 8, 8 p.m.; Dec. 22, 6 p.m.

Columbus St. Mary – Christmas concert featuring parish handbell choir and the Magpie Consort vocal group, Sunday, Dec. 4, 5:30 p.m., school gym.

Columbus St. Mary Magdalene – Bilingual Advent concert featuring The Lambs of Jesus choral group, consisting of second-graders through adults, which sings every Sunday at Columbus St. Agnes Church bilingual Mass, Sunday, Dec. 18, 4 p.m.

Columbus St. Matthias – Parish refers four families to MoMM (Miracle of Mom's Meory) Foundation for its annual Holiday Blessings program, which provides families with support on holidays throughout the year and at back-to-school time.

Columbus St. Philip – Annual Advent celebration for young people from St. Philip and Holy Spirit churches, where children can obtain small gifts for family members at no charge, Sunday, Dec. 11, after 9 a.m. Mass. Giving Trees benefit residents of Eastland Care Center.

Columbus St. Thomas More Newman Center – Ninth annual “Blue Christmas” Liturgy of Hope for people who may not be feeling joyful during the holidays or may be experiencing life challenges, Saturday, Dec. 24, 7 p.m.

Coshocton Sacred Heart – Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, with Evening Prayer and Benediction, Sundays, Nov. 27 and Dec. 4, 11, and 18, 4 to 5 p.m.

Dover St. Joseph – Advent and Christmas lessons and carols, Sunday, Dec. 11, 6 p.m., with prelude music beginning at 5:30. Giving Tree benefits local Share-A-Christmas fund and needy parish families. Parish choir visits homes of senior citizens and the homebound for caroling.

Dublin St. Brigid of Kildare – EPIC middle-school youth group hosts Run the Race Club students for Christmas program.

Granville St. Edward – Giving Tree benefits foster children and residents of The Haven shelter for homeless men in Newark. Parish donates to Catholic Social Services Baskets of Love program for homebound seniors. Women of St. Edward sponsor Adopt-A-Family program.

Hilliard St. Brendan – “Waiting in Joyful Hope” Advent concert of song, Scripture, and praise, Sunday, Dec. 11, 4 p.m. Live Nativity scene in parking lot, Sunday, Dec. 18, 6:30 to 8 p.m. Giving Tree benefits St. Francis Center in McArthur, Columbus Holy Family Church, and families in Hilliard and the parish.

Logan St. John – Parish take part in Hocking County Ministerial Association “Tour of Light” of six downtown churches, Saturday, Dec. 10, 6 to 9

p.m. Proceeds benefit Smith Chapel Food Bank.

London St. Patrick – Ecumenical lessons and carols, Sunday, Dec. 18, 3 p.m. Giving Tree benefits Madison County Job and Family Services, HELP House, pregnancy centers, St. Vincent de Paul Society, A Friend's House, and those who come to parish office requesting aid.

Marion St. Mary – Giving Tree benefits those in five local nursing homes who are in need and have no family.

New Philadelphia Sacred Heart – Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and confessions, ending with Evening Prayer, Mondays, Nov. 28 and Dec. 5, 12, and 19, 5 to 6:30 p.m.

Newark St. Francis de Sales – Church is last stop of 16th Sights and Sounds of Christmas tour of eight downtown churches, with proceeds going to Licking County Food Pantry Network, Thursday, Dec. 1, 6 p.m. “Nick Your Neighbor” program celebrating the Feast of St. Nicholas, Tuesday, Dec. 6, 6:30 p.m. Participants will decorate and assemble bags with holy cards, treats, and invitations to Mass and holiday church events, drop them on the porches of homes near the church, ring the doorbell, and disappear, returning to church for cookies and hot chocolate. Advent lessons and carols, Sunday, Dec. 11, 5 p.m. Annual Christmas dinner sponsored by the Nick Curry family, with food and clothing available for all who need it, Sunday, Dec. 25, noon.

Ohio Dominican University – Tree lighting, Monday, Dec. 5, 6 p.m., in front of Erskine Hall. Lessons and carols, followed by blessing of creche, Tuesday, Dec. 6, 6 p.m., Christ the King Chapel.

Portsmouth Holy Redeemer and St. Mary – Annual holiday tour of St. Mary and other churches in Boneyfiddle historic district, Friday, Dec. 19, 6 to 8 p.m. Meet at Scioto County Courthouse, tours every half-hour. Sorting and distribution for Catholic Social Services Portsmouth office Giving Tree program, helping children and school-aged teens, Wednesday, Dec. 14 to Friday, Dec. 16, St. Francis Outreach Center (former St. Joseph Adoration Monastery). Pickerington St. Elizabeth Seton Parish and Catholic Social Services distribution of holiday food baskets, Thursday to Saturday, Dec. 15 to 17, Holy Redeemer activity center.

Powell St. Joan of Arc – 24th annual performance of “A Bethlehem Carol” children's Christmas musical, with about 60 children participating, Saturday, Dec. 3, 7:30 p.m. Giving Trees benefit needy people in the parish, senior citizens, and Childhood Family Cancer Connection.

Reynoldsburg St. Pius X – Communal Anointing of the Sick, Saturday, Dec. 3 at 5 p.m. Mass and Sunday, Dec. 4 at 8:30 a.m. Mass. Advent evening of reflection, Monday, Dec. 5, 7 p.m. Parish's 38th



annual Adopt-A-Child program collects toys and clothes for local children, Saturday, Dec. 3 and Sunday, Dec. 4.

Sts. Peter and Paul Retreat Center, Newark – Morning of reflection with Sister Louis Mary Passeri, OP. Theme: “Here I Am,” Saturday, Dec. 10, 9 a.m. to noon.

Sugar Grove St. Joseph – “Silent Night in Sugar Grove” Christmas programs, beginning at St. Joseph's and continuing at Sugar Grove United Methodist and St. Matthew Lutheran churches, Sunday, Dec. 4, 6 p.m.

Sunbury St. John Neumann – Eucharistic Adoration Holy Hours with praise and worship services, Tuesday, Nov. 29 and Friday, Dec. 9, 7 p.m. “Prepare the Way” Christmas program with approximately 80 elementary-school students, Thursday, Dec. 22, 7 p.m. For Advent, parishioners received a copy of “The Ultimate Relationship” by Catholic Christian Outreach Canada, a book which talks about sharing the Gospel with others. Parish is part of Christmas box drive sponsored by Big Walnut Friends Who Share outreach organization of churches in the Sunbury and Galena areas. Confirmation class and high-school youth group sponsor Giving Tree for members of Columbus Holy Rosary-St. John Church.

Worthington St. Michael – St. Vincent de Paul Society Giving Trees benefit western Scioto County parish cluster and McArthur St. Francis Center. St. Vincent de Paul Society also sponsors Adopt-A-Family program for local families.

ADORATION LIST

For readers who may be interested in taking part in Eucharistic devotions during Advent, here is an updated list of parishes in the diocese where Eucharistic adoration or exposition takes place on a regular basis.

In addition to the activities listed, Advent penance services will be conducted at a number of parishes. Readers are advised to contact parishes for specific dates and times.

Anyone with additions or corrections to this list may contact Tim Puet at Catholic Times.

Ada Our Lady of Lourdes – Exposition: First Fridays, 10 a.m. to noon.

Buckeye Lake Our Lady of Mount Carmel – Exposition: Sundays of Advent, 9:15 to 10:15 a.m.

Cardington Sacred Hearts – Exposition: First Saturdays, after 8:45 a.m., Mass until Benediction at 3:15 p.m.

Chillicothe St. Peter – Adoration: Thursdays, 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Columbus Christ the King – Exposition: First Fridays, 7:30 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Columbus Holy Cross – First Fridays, from end of 7:30 p.m. Mass to 11:30 p.m. Eucharistic vigil begins with Mass, followed by communal prayers, confession, litanies, Rosaries, hymns and quiet time between prayers, concluding with Benediction at 11:30.

Columbus Holy Family – Exposition: Tuesdays, 10 a.m. to 11 p.m., Thursdays, 10 a.m. continuous to 11:45 a.m. Friday, ending with Benediction. Contact church for details concerning entry.

Columbus Holy Name – Exposition: Thursdays, 6 p.m., featuring prayers in the Cenacle format of the Marian Movement of Priests; Fridays, 4:30 to 5:30 p.m., Holy Hour and Benediction, followed by Mass. Adoration: Saturdays following 8:30 a.m. Mass.

Columbus Immaculate Conception – Exposition: 24 hours, seven days a week, except during the Sacred Triduum, in the children's center (former convent). Press rear entry buzzer.

Columbus Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal – Exposition: First Friday, from end of 9 a.m. Mass through Holy Hour at 6 p.m.

Columbus Our Lady of Peace – Exposition, Thursdays, 9 a.m. to 6:45 p.m.

Columbus Our Lady of Victory – Exposition: First Monday, 7 to 8 a.m.; First Friday, from 8 p.m. Friday to start of 8 a.m. Saturday Mass.

Columbus St. Agnes – Exposition: First Sunday, 11:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.

Columbus St. Andrew – Exposition: Daily, 7 to 8:15 a.m. in chapel; Tuesdays, 6 to 9 p.m. in church, concluding with Compline and Benediction.

Columbus St. Anthony – Exposition: First Fridays, from end of 9 a.m. Mass to noon.

Columbus St. Catharine – Holy Hour, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Thursdays with exposition, Benediction, and confession. Exposition: First Friday, after 8 a.m. Mass to 9:30 a.m.

Columbus St. Cecilia – Exposition: First Fridays, 9 a.m. Friday to 4 p.m. Saturday.

Columbus St. Christopher – Adoration and prayer ministry: Weekdays from end of 8:30 a.m. Mass to 4:30 p.m.

Columbus St. Elizabeth – Adoration: Tuesdays, 5 to 6 p.m.

Columbus St. Francis of Assisi – Eucharistic Holy Hour: second Tuesday of the month, following 6 p.m. Mass.

Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral – Holy Hour with Adoration and confession: Wednesdays, following 5:15 p.m. Mass; Thursdays, 10:45 to 11:45 a.m.

Columbus St. Ladislav – Adoration: First Fridays following noon Mass in church, and 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. weekdays in former convent. Call Sister Wilma Ross, SCN, at (614) 444-2598 for instructions on how to enter.

Columbus St. Margaret of Cortona – Exposition: Thursdays, 9:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. year-round. Advent schedule: Dec. 1 and 15, 9:30 a.m. to 8 p.m., with sung Vespers and Benediction at 7; Dec. 8, 9 30 a.m. to 7 p.m. (Holy day Mass at 7, Vespers at 8); Dec. 22, 9:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. (Vespers at 6).

Columbus St. Mary – Exposition: First Fridays, 9 to 10 a.m.

Columbus St. Mary Magdalene – Exposition: second Monday of the month, following 8:15 a.m. Mass in church; fourth Saturday of the month, 9 a.m. to noon in Bishop Campbell Hall.

Columbus St. Patrick – Adoration: Third and fourth Fridays of the month, 8 p.m. Friday to 7 a.m. Saturday (church locked; call church office at (614) 224-9522 for access information). Exposition: 12:15 to 1:15 p.m. Fridays (church open).

See ADORATION, Page 12

ADORATION, *continued from Page 11*

Columbus St. Peter – Exposition: First Fridays, 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.; all other Fridays, 9 to 10 a.m.

Columbus St. Stephen – Exposition: Wednesdays, 6 to 7 p.m., first Fridays, 8:30 a.m. to 9 p.m., other Fridays, 5 to 9 p.m., first Saturdays, 8 p.m. to 7 a.m. Sunday.

Columbus St. Thomas – Adoration: Wednesdays, 7 to 8 p.m., Fridays, 3 to 4 p.m., (bilingual), first Fridays, 6 to 7 p.m.

Columbus St. Timothy – Exposition: Wednesdays, 9:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Coshocton Sacred Heart – Exposition: first Fridays, from end of 9 a.m. Mass to 12:15 p.m., concluding with Benediction; Sundays of Advent, Exposition with Evening Prayer, 4 to 5 p.m., concluding with Benediction.

Danville St. Luke – Exposition: Once a month (date varies), from after 10 a.m. Mass until 8 p.m. prayer service Sunday.

Delaware St. Mary – Exposition, Mondays, 6 p.m. to 11 p.m.

Dover St. Joseph – Exposition: Thursdays from 9 to 10 a.m.

Dublin St. Brigid of Kildare – Exposition: First Fridays from end of 9 a.m. Mass to 5 p.m., in Blessed Sacrament Chapel.

Gahanna St. Matthew – Exposition: 24 hours, seven days a week, except during the Sacred Triduum, in basement adoration chapel. Open to the general public from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily. If you wish to visit at other times when church is locked, call Bryan Gebhart at (614) 226-9617.

Granville St. Edward – Exposition: 9:30 a.m. Monday to 9 a.m. Tuesday.

Grove City Our Lady of Perpetual Help – Exposition: First Fridays, from end of 8:30 a.m. Mass to 8:30 a.m. Saturday.

Groveport St. Mary – Exposition: First Fridays, 9 a.m. to noon, ending with Benediction.

Jackson Holy Trinity – Exposition: First Fridays, 11 a.m. to noon.

Kenton Immaculate Conception – Exposition: First Thursdays, from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., closing with Benediction.

Lancaster St. Bernadette – Exposition: Wednesdays, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Lancaster St. Mark – Exposition: Mondays, 8:30 a.m. to 7 p.m., Tuesdays, 8:30 a.m. to 11 p.m.

Logan St. John – Exposition: First Fridays, from 8:30 a.m. Friday to 9 a.m. Saturday, in adoration chapel.

London St. Patrick – Adoration: First Fridays, from end of 9 a.m. Mass to Benediction at noon.

Marion St. Mary – Adoration: Fridays, from after 8:30 a.m. Mass to 9 a.m. Saturday. Holy Hour with Exposition and confessions: Tuesdays, 5 to 6 p.m.

Marysville Our Lady of Lourdes – Exposition: First Fridays, from after 5:15 p.m. Mass to 10 a.m. Saturday.

Mount Vernon St. Vincent de Paul – Exposition: 5 p.m. Thursday to 5 p.m. Friday, followed by Mass and Benediction.

New Albany Church of the Resurrection – Exposition: Call parish office at (614) 855-1400 for times or go to parish website, www.churchoftheresurrection.com.

New Boston St. Monica – Adoration: Mondays and first Fridays, 6 to 7 p.m.

New Lexington St. Rose – Exposition: First Fridays, from after 8 or 9 a.m. Mass to 4 p.m.

New Philadelphia Sacred Heart – Exposition: 9 a.m. Tuesday to 5:15 p.m. Wednesday. Confession and Adoration, followed by Evening Prayer service, 5 p.m. Mondays during Advent.

Newark Blessed Sacrament – Exposition: Noon to midnight Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays in chapel; 9 a.m. to midnight Wednesdays in sanctuary.

Newark St. Francis de Sales – Exposition: 7 to 10 p.m. Sunday, 5 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday to Thursday, 5 a.m. Friday to 1 a.m. Saturday, and 5 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday in day chapel behind sanctuary all year; 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. on main altar Thursday, Dec. 8.

Pickerington St. Elizabeth Seton – Adoration: 24 hours, seven days a week, except when Mass is being celebrated and during the Sacred Triduum, in the church's Eucharistic Chapel.

Plain City St. Joseph – Exposition: 6 to 11 a.m. Monday through Thursday, 6 to 8 a.m. Friday, and 6 to 11 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Portsmouth Holy Redeemer – Exposition: Thursdays, 8:30 to 10 a.m.

Portsmouth St. Mary – Exposition: Fridays, from end of noon Mass to Benediction at 5:30 p.m.

Powell St. Joan of Arc – Exposition: 9 a.m. Monday to 8 a.m. Friday.

Reynoldsburg St. Pius X – Adoration: 7:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. Wednesdays.

Sunbury St. John Neumann – Exposition: 24 hours, seven days, except for weekend Mass times. Holy hours: Tuesday, Nov. 29 and Friday, Dec. 9, 7 p.m. Chapel is locked from 4 p.m. to 9 a.m. daily. If you wish to visit during those hours, contact Amy Davis at (614) 579-9874 or amymdavis@hotmail.com.

Washington Court House St. Colman of Cloyne – Exposition: Tuesdays during the school year, 6 to 8 p.m..

Waverly St. Mary – Exposition: First Wednesday, from end of 5:30 p.m. Mass to Benediction at 7 p.m.

Westerville St. Paul – Holy Hour: Thursdays, 6 to 7 p.m. all year.

Wheelersburg St. Peter in Chains – Adoration: Sundays, 5 p.m.

Worthington St. Michael – Exposition: 24 hours, seven days a week, except during daily and weekend Masses and during the Sacred Triduum, in the church's Adoration Chapel.

Zaleski St. Sylvester – Exposition: First Wednesday, from end of 5:30 p.m. Mass to Benediction at 7 p.m.

Zanesville St. Nicholas – Exposition: First Fridays, 8 a.m. to 5:15 p.m.

Zanesville St. Thomas Aquinas – Exposition: Wednesdays, after noon Mass to 8 p.m., with Holy Hour from 7 to 8.



St. Anthony student volunteers

Members of the St. Vincent de Paul Youth Group at Columbus St. Anthony School meet once a month to make sandwiches that will be delivered downtown to St. Lawrence Haven. Eighth-grade students go there once a week as volunteers to serve lunch to those in need.

Photo courtesy St. Anthony School

Year of Mercy affirmed dignity, sacredness of human life, pope says

By Cindy Wooden
Catholic News Service

Visiting young women rescued from forced prostitution and meeting with a mother inconsolable over the loss of one of her newborn triplets are images from the Year of Mercy that Pope Francis said remain impressed on his heart.

Reviewing the Holy Year in a 40-minute interview aired Nov. 20 on TV2000, a television station owned by the Italian bishops' conference, Pope Francis also spoke about handling stress, his upcoming 80th birthday and a sense of humor, among other topics.

Asked about the Mercy Friday visits he made once a month during the Holy Year, the pope said the visit with women rescued from human trafficking and his visit to the neonatal ward of a Rome hospital were the visits that stand out.

Visiting Rome's San Giovanni Hospital in September, he said, "there was a woman who cried and cried and cried standing by her two infants -- tiny, but beautiful. The third had died."

"She cried for that dead child while she caressed the other two," the pope said. "It's the gift of life."

"And I thought of the practice of getting rid of babies before they are born -- this horrible crime. They get rid of them because 'it's better that way,' because it is easier, 'it is a big responsibility.' That is a serious sin," the pope said. "This woman had three children and wept for the one who died; she was unable to console herself with the two remaining."

The other Mercy Friday event that was powerful, he said, was visiting a community of 15 young women who had been rescued from the traffickers who had forced them into prostitution.

One from Africa, "very beautiful, very young," was pregnant. And she told the pope that her traffickers had beat and tortured her, even when she was pregnant. In a previous pregnancy, they made her work the streets the whole time.

"She told me, 'Father, I gave birth on the street in winter. Alone. All alone. My daughter died,'" the pope



said, clutching his heart.

Each of the young women told horror stories, he said, and he kept thinking not only about the traffickers, but about the men who went to the young women. "Don't they know that with the money they paid for sexual satisfaction they were helping the traffickers?"

Pope Francis said he believes God used the Year of Mercy to plant seeds and "I believe the Lord will make grow good, simple, daily things in the life of the people -- nothing spectacular."

The pope has told interviewers before that he prays a prayer of St. Thomas More that includes the request, "Grant me, O Lord, a sense of good humor. Allow me the grace to be able to take a joke to discover in life a bit of joy, and to be able to share it with others."

The TV2000 interviewers said that sounded strange coming from a pope and asked him why.

"A sense of humor gives you relief, it helps you see what is temporary in life and take things with the spirit of a soul who has been redeemed," the pope said. "It's a human attitude, but it is very close to the grace of God."

Having a sense of humor, he said, helps one be like a child before God and "to praise the Lord with a smile,

but also a joke well told."

The interviewers began a question, "Holy Father, in a month you will be 80 ..." but he cut them off, "Who me?"

Insisting, they asked the pope how he manages to do all he does. The pope joked that he has "magic tea," but then said what helps most is prayer. "That helps me a lot. I pray. Prayer is a help; it is being with the Lord. I celebrate Mass, pray the breviary, speak to the Lord, pray the rosary."

Another thing, he said, is "I sleep well, which is a gift from the Lord. I sleep like a log" six hours each night.

Is it easier to put up with "detractors" or with "the false admiration" of sycophants, he was asked. "The second!" he responded.

"I'm allergic to flatterers," the pope said.

In Argentina, he said, they would be referred to as "sock-lickers" -- like bootlickers -- "which is a really good name."

As for critics, the pope said that he knows he deserves criticism because he is a sinner, so even if a specific critique is not fair, he still deserves it.



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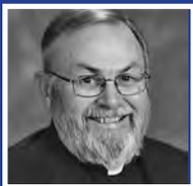
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First Sunday of Advent (Cycle A)

Renewing the call to peace is a good way to set forth



Father
Lawrence L. Hummer

**Isaiah 2:1-5; Romans 13:11-14;
Matthew 24:37-44**

With the return to the “A” cycle of readings, most Gospel selections will be taken from Matthew’s Gospel. For the First Sunday of Advent, the first reading comes from Isaiah. Not all of Isaiah’s 66 chapters belong to one hand. However, the first 39 belong to a prophet who, for the most part, wrote before the fall of the northern kingdom, beginning about 740 BC. Isaiah lived in Jerusalem, but he also prophesied about Israel, the northern kingdom.

Isaiah notes the importance of Jerusalem, Mount Zion, and the Temple. Historically, Jerusalem’s Temple became the sole focus of Judaism’s worship and its religious life only *after* the northern kingdom had been destroyed by the Assyrians in 722 BC. We see this in the opening sentence, which speaks only about Judah (the southern kingdom) and Jerusalem. The desire to climb the Lord’s mountain and there to receive instruction in the Lord’s ways also emphasizes Jerusalem and Judah.

Verses four and five have a more universal appeal: for judgment and the pursuit of peace. Whether expressing a future desire or prophesying a time when such a thing will happen, “beating swords into plowshares and spears into pruning hooks” has become part of the universal hope for disarmament and pursuing pathways of peace. It never goes very far, because nations constantly train for war. That is not what Isaiah meant when he invited the house of Jacob to walk in the light of the Lord. He meant a time when Judah would give up war altogether.

As an introduction to a new liturgical year, and with the

awareness that we are people who take the long view of things because God does so with us, renewing our call to be peacemakers is a good way to set forth. The work must begin with us in our individual lives. In small steps and by looking to the Lord for guidance in life, we can and must transform the world.

The Gospel comes from part of the “end time discourse” in which Jesus details some of the things to expect at the “end.” Much of the material has to do with the end of the Temple, which was destroyed in 70 AD. Christians are warned not to go in search of some other Messiah or to believe rumors that he is to be found here or there. In all likelihood, Matthew’s Gospel was written between 80 and 90 AD, and he would have known the Temple had been destroyed.

Now Matthew turns to events more directly connected with the end and the return of Jesus. In using the example of Noah, he notes how people kept on doing their everyday activities right up until the flood came “and carried them all away.” Jesus compares this to the coming of the Son of Man. Everyday work is being done, but one is taken while another remains. It isn’t really clear what’s to be preferred: “to be taken” or “to be left.” Here, the comparison with the people of Noah’s day breaks down a bit. **All** were swept away in Noah’s day. Here, only random ones are taken and others are left. Jesus urges alertness in either case, “for you do not know on which day your Lord will come.” Generally, this line cautions people to be ready for death whenever it comes, “for at an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come.”

Finally, Paul tells the Romans that it’s wake-up time: “For our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed.” He issues an invitation to turn from evil and abandon the flesh and fleshly desires. Advent is a good time to start.

Father Lawrence Hummer, pastor of Chillicothe St. Mary Church, may be reached at hummerl@stmarychillicothe.com.



A BETHLEHEM CAROL

“A Bethlehem Carol” will be presented by children of Powell St. Joan of Arc Church at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 3 in the church, 10700 Liberty Road. The children are from Columbus, Dublin, Worthington, Powell, and Delaware. Admission to the musical retelling of the story of Jesus’ birth, now in its 24th year, is free. For more information, call the parish office at (614) 761-0905. Participants in the play include (from left): first row, Brianna Carberry, Mia Carberry, and Ellie Mitrey; second row, Ellie Okonak, Kate Mosher, Sadie Okonak, Maci Mitrey as Mary, Manny Seyboldt as Joseph, and Luke Seyboldt.

Photo courtesy St. Joan of Arc Church

The Weekday Bible Readings

MONDAY

Isaiah 4:2-6
Psalm 122:1-2,3-4ab,4b-5,6-7,8-9
Matthew 8:5-11

TUESDAY

Isaiah 11:1-10
Psalm 72: 1-2,7-8,12-13,17
Luke 10:21-24

WEDNESDAY

Romans 10:9-18
Psalm 19:8-9,10,11
Matthew 4:18-22

THURSDAY

Isaiah 26:1-6
Psalm 118:1,8-9,19-21,25-27a
Matthew 7:21,24-27

FRIDAY

Isaiah 29:17-24
Psalm 27:1,4,13-14
Matthew 9:27-31

SATURDAY

Isaiah 309:19-21,23-26
Psalm 147:1-2,3-4,5-6
Matthew 9:35-10:1,5a,6-8

DIOCESAN WEEKLY RADIO AND TELEVISION MASS SCHEDULE WEEK OF NOVEMBER 27, 2016

SUNDAY MASS

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

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. Check local cable system for cable channel listing.

Mass from Our Lady of the Angels Monastery, Birmingham, Ala., at 8 a.m. on EWTN (Time Warner Channel 385, Insight Channel 382, or WOW Channel 378).

(Encores at noon, 7 p.m., and midnight).

Mass from the Archdiocese of Milwaukee at 6:30 a.m. on ION TV (AT&T U-verse Channel 195, Dish Network Channel 250, or DirecTV Channel 305).

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 in Ada, Logan, Millersburg, Murray City and Washington C.H.; Channel 125 in Marion, Newark, Newcomerstown and New Philadelphia; and Channel 207 in Zanesville); 8 p.m., St. Gabriel Radio (AM 820), Columbus, and at www.stgabrielradio.com.

We pray Week I, Seasonal Proper of the Liturgy of the Hours

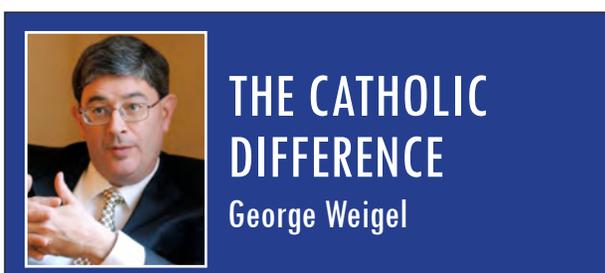
On our need for the real Thomas More

Next month marks the 50th anniversary of the film, *A Man for All Seasons*. And if it's impossible to imagine such a picture on such a theme winning Oscars today, then let's be grateful that the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences got it right by giving Fred Zinnemann's splendid movie six of its awards in 1967 – when, reputedly, Audrey Hepburn lifted her eyes to heaven before announcing with obvious pleasure that this cinematic celebration of the witness and martyrdom of Sir Thomas More had beaten *The Sand Pebbles*, *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*, *Alfie*, and *The Russians Are Coming, the Russians Are Coming* for best picture.

Intriguingly, though, *A Man for All Seasons* is a magnificent religious film – perhaps the best ever – despite its author's stated intentions.

Robert Bolt's introduction to his play, which led to the movie, makes it rather clear that author Bolt saw More less as a Catholic martyr than as an existential hero, an approach befitting the hot philosophical movement of the day (which was, of course, the '60s). As Bolt put it:

"Thomas More ... became for me a man with an adamant sense of his own self. He knew where he began and left off, what areas of himself he could yield to the encroachments of his enemies, and what to the encroachments of those he loved. It was a substantial area in both cases, for he had a proper sense of fear and was a busy lover. Since he was a clever man and a great lawyer, he was able to retire from those areas in wonderfully good order, but at last he was asked to retreat from that final area where he located his self.



THE CATHOLIC DIFFERENCE

George Weigel

And there this supple, humorous, unassuming, and sophisticated person set like metal, was overtaken by an absolutely primitive rigor, and could no more be budged than a cliff. ...

"What attracted me was a person who could not be accused of any incapacity for life, who indeed seized life in great variety and almost greedy quantities, who nevertheless found something in himself without which life was valueless and when that was denied him was able to grasp his death."

Yet this portrait of Thomas-More as Tudor-era existentialist doesn't quite convince, because Bolt, perhaps in spite of himself, gave us a different More in his drama and later in his screenplay – a More who "grasps" his death, not as an existential stalwart, a courageously autonomous "self," but as a Catholic willing to die for the truth, which has grasped him as the love of God in Christ. Thus, when More's intellectually gifted daughter, Margaret, having failed to argue him out of his refusal to countenance Henry VIII's divorce and subsequent marriage to Anne Boleyn, plays her final card and cries, "But in reason! Haven't you done as much as God can reasonably

want?"; More replies, haltingly, "Well ... finally ... it isn't a matter of reason; finally it's a matter of love."

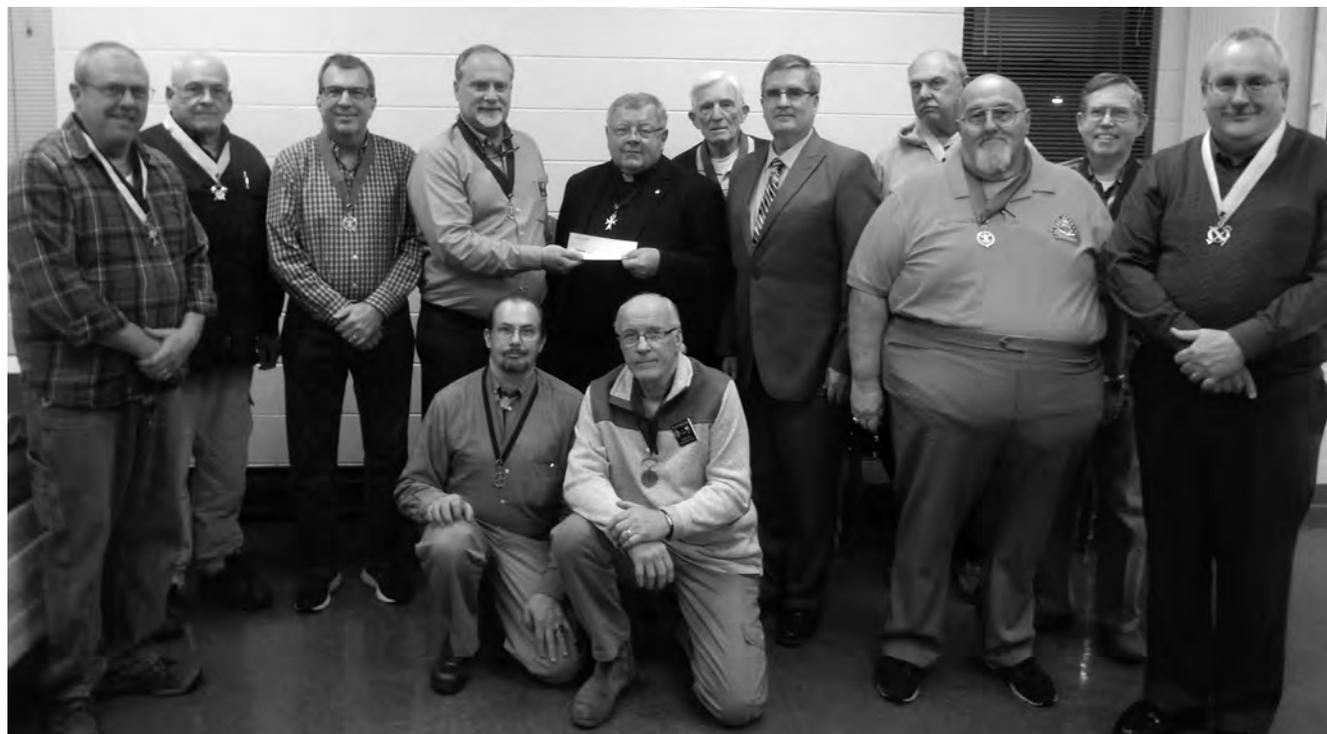
And not love of self, but love of God and love of the truth. For the God who is truth all the way through is also, St. John the Evangelist teaches us, love itself. And to be transformed by that love is to live in the truth – the truth that sets us free in the deepest and noblest meaning of human liberation.

There was something worthy and inspiring about certain aspects of existentialism: not the soured existentialism of Jean-Paul Sartre, which quickly decomposed into nihilism, but the heroic existentialism of a Camus, who could not abide the anticlerical Catholic progressives of his day and who sought a world in which we could be, as he put it, "neither victims nor executioners." But it was Sartrean existentialism that won the day, at least insofar as one can trace a line from Sartre to contemporary narcissism, displayed today in everything from temper tantrums on university campuses by overprivileged and undereducated barbarians to voters across the Western world who seek relief from their grievances – some quite legitimate – in adherence to some pretty dreadful characters.

In this unhappy situation, we need the real Thomas More: the Thomas More who bore witness and ultimately "grasped his death," not to vindicate his sense of self, but as the final and ultimate act of thanks for his having been grasped, and saved, by Truth itself, the Thrice-Holy God.

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

Knights of Columbus donate to St. Pius X Church and School building campaign



Father Hohman Council 5253 of the Knights of Columbus presented an \$89,000 donation to Reynoldsburg St. Pius X Church and School for its building campaign. The money represents part of the accumulated interest from investments made with the proceeds of the sale of the council's former hall in 1989. The \$6 million campaign is raising funds for additions to the parish campus, including a new youth ministry center and latchkey building, expansion of the business offices, and an industrial-type kitchen attached to a new parish hall, which will provide additional meeting space for the Knights and other St. Pius X organizations. Council officers pictured are (from left): first row, Gordon Pickett Jr., warden, and Larry Armstrong, deputy grand knight; second row, Scott Marsh, chancellor; Thomas Vollmer, inside guard; Scott Banaski, trustee; John Swisher, grand knight; Msgr. David Funk, chaplain and St. Pius X pastor; Lee Brock, trustee; Deacon James Kelly of St. Pius X; Steve Valentine, advocate; Dominic Nocera, past grand knight; Gordon Burke, treasurer; and John Beyer, financial secretary. Photo courtesy K of C Council 5253

Pray for our dead

ALBERT, Kathleen M. (O'Meara), 85, Nov. 15
St. Margaret of Cortona Church, Columbus

BABULAK, Michael J., 78, Nov. 9
Church of the Resurrection, New Albany

BOWERS, Kenneth P., 87, Nov. 15
St. Francis de Sales Church, Newark

BROOKS, Doris C. (Schrader), 93, Oct. 28
St. John Church, Logan

COURTNEY, Heath M., 40, Nov. 13
St. Ladislus Church, Columbus

DeSTEPHEN, Lucille (Sedlock), 88, Nov. 3
Holy Trinity Church, Jackson

JOHNSON, Mary C. (Fuchs), 99, Nov. 19
St. Mary Church, Lancaster

MAYERNIK, Ronald J., 73, Nov. 16
Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal Church,
Columbus

McQUINIFF, Lyn (Smolinski), 59, Nov. 13
Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, Grove City

MERRILL, Toni C. (Bonitatibus), 52, Nov. 15
St. Paul Church, Westerville

MOORE, Josephine K., 101, Nov. 19
St. Agatha Church, Columbus

SEEGERT, Helena C. (Forche), 96, Nov. 13
St. Pius X Church, Reynoldsburg

SMITH, Patricia (Hunter), 74, Nov. 11
St. Paul Church, Westerville

SOMPLE, Adeline A. (Knoppel), 93, Nov. 20
St. Thomas Aquinas Church, Zanesville

SPINELL, Robert, 89, Nov. 14
St. Joseph Church, Dover

STICKDORN, Mary E. (Gossman), 80, Nov. 10
St. Rose Church, New Lexington

THOMAS, Sharon L. (Tobin), 80, Nov. 16
Christ the King Church, Columbus

TOOTLE, Miriam L., 83, Nov. 20
St. John Church, Logan

VAN ORDER, Lucille A. (Cenci), 90, Nov. 13
St. Edward Church, Granville

WOODFORD, Diedre L. "Dee Dee" (Wil-
liams), 53, Nov. 1
St. Catharine Church, Columbus



ST. FRANCIS DeSALES SIGNEES

Columbus St. Francis DeSales High School seniors who recently signed letters of intent to continue their athletic careers in college are (from left): Jaclyn Gilmore, lacrosse, Ursuline; Jennie Finotti, lacrosse, Cincinnati; Jalyn Willard, volleyball, Slippery Rock; Maureen Cummins, swimming, Xavier; and Caden Sanchez, basketball, High Point.

Photo courtesy St. Francis DeSales High School

**START YOUR DAY
A BETTER WAY!**

**AM 820
CATHOLIC RADIO**



NEW CHRIST CHILD SOCIETY BOARD

The Columbus chapter of the Christ Child Society has elected new board members. Pictured are (from left): Millie Watkins, Beth Kistler (president), Kathy Kelly (vice president), and Molly Fanning; second row, Leslie Williamson, Molly Wood, Lisa Davies, Jeannette Oxender, Kathy Murnane, Mary Halas, Barb Bringardner, and Barb Groner

Photo courtesy Christ Child Society

Happy Thanksgiving!

H A P P E N I N G S

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All fund-raising events (festivals,
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bake sales, pizza/sub sales, candy sales,
etc.) will be placed in the "Fund-Raising
Guide."

An entry into the Guide will be \$18.50
for the first six lines, and \$2.65 for each
additional line.

For more information,
call David Garick at 614-224-5195.

'Happenings' submissions

Notices for items of Catholic interest must
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publication date. We will print them as
space permits.

Items not received before this deadline may
not be published.

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NOVEMBER

26, SATURDAY

Life and Mercy Mass in Plain City
9 a.m. Mass, St. Joseph Church, 140 West Ave., Plain City.
Saturday Life and Mercy Mass, followed by rosary and
confession.

Ordination of Permanent Deacons at Cathedral
10 a.m., St. Joseph Cathedral, 212 E. Broad St., Columbus.
Bishop Frederick Campbell ordains 12 men to the perma-
nent diaconate for the Diocese of Columbus.

27, SUNDAY

Exposition at Buckeye Lake Our Lady of Mount Carmel
9:15 to 10:15 a.m., Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church,
5133 Walnut Road S.E., Buckeye Lake. Exposition of the
Blessed Sacrament every Sunday during Advent.

740-928-3266

Praise Mass at Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal
11 a.m., Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal Church, 5225
Refugee Road, Columbus. Praise Mass with upbeat con-
temporary music.

614-861-1242

Padre Pio Prayer Group at St. John the Baptist
12:30 p.m., St. John the Baptist Church, 168 E. Lincoln Ave.,
Columbus. Padre Pio Prayer Group meeting, including ro-
sary, devotions, and 1 p.m. Mass.

614-294-5319

Columbus Immaculate Conception Centennial Mass
4 p.m., Immaculate Conception Church, 414 E. North
Broadway, Columbus. Mass celebrating the parish's 100th
anniversary, with previous pastors and associate pastors
concelebrating, followed by dinner in Marian Hall.

614-267-9241

Exposition, Evening Prayer at Coshocton Sacred Heart
4 to 5 p.m., Sacred Heart Church, Walnut Street and Park
Avenue, Coshocton. Exposition of the Blessed Sacra-
ment, with Evening Prayer and Benediction, every Sunday
during Advent.

740-622-8817

Prayer Group Meeting at Christ the King
5 to 7 p.m., Christ the King Church, 2777 E. Livingston
Ave., Columbus (enter at daily Mass entrance). Weekly
parish prayer group meets for praise, worship, ministry,
and teaching.

614-886-8266

Spanish Mass at Columbus St. Peter
7 p.m., St. Peter Church, 6899 Smoky Row Road, Colum-
bus. Mass in Spanish.

706-761-4054

28, MONDAY

Adoration, Evening Prayer at New Philadelphia
5 p.m., Sacred Heart Church, 139 3rd St. N.E., New Phila-
delphia. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, with Sacra-
ment of Reconciliation available, concluding with Eve-
ning Prayer at 6:30 on all Advent Mondays.

330-343-6976

Bethesda Post-Abortion Healing Ministry
6:30 p.m., support group meeting, 2744 Dover Road, Co-
lumbus (Christ the King convent, first building west of the
church). 614-718-0277, 614-309-2651, 614-309-0157

Our Lady of Peace Men's Bible Study
7 p.m., Our Lady of Peace Church, 20 E. Dominion Blvd.,
Columbus. Bible study of Sunday Scripture readings.

29, TUESDAY

Padre Pio Prayer Group at St. John the Baptist
12:30 p.m., St. John the Baptist Church, 168 E. Lincoln Ave.,
Columbus. Padre Pio Prayer Group meeting, including ro-
sary, devotions, and 1 p.m. Mass.

614-294-5319

Holy Hour at St. John Neumann
7 p.m., St. John Neumann Church, 9633 E. State Route
37, Sunbury. Advent Eucharistic Adoration Holy Hour and
Reconciliation service.

740-965-1358

30, WEDNESDAY

ODU Med School Early Assurance Information Session
6 to 7:30 p.m., Battelle Hall, Ohio Dominican University,
1216 Sunbury Road, Columbus. Information session on
ODU's medical school early assurance program, which of-
fers a limited number of students guaranteed acceptance
into the university and to Ohio University's college of
osteopathic medicine. Register at www.ohiodominican.edu/OpenHouse.

Columbus Catholic Renewal Mass at St. Matthias
7:30 p.m., St. Matthias Church, 1582 Ferris Road, Colum-
bus. Charismatic Mass sponsored by Columbus Catholic
Renewal, preceded by rosary at 6 and praise at 6:30, led
by Station 14 praise band, and followed by social time.
Trained teams will be available for individual prayer.

614-500-8115

DECEMBER

1, THURSDAY

Christmas Tour of Newark Churches
6 to 8 p.m., St. Francis de Sales Church, 40 Granville St.,
Newark, will be the last stop of the evening "Sights and
Sounds of Christmas" tour of eight downtown churches.
\$5 donation for the Licking County food pantry network.

740-345-9874

Cenacle at Holy Name
6 p.m., Holy Name Church, 154 E. Patterson Ave., Colum-
bus. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, with prayers in
the Cenacle format of the Marian Movement of Priests.

Holy Hour at Holy Family
6 to 7 p.m., Holy Family Church, 584 W. Broad St., Colum-
bus. Holy Hour of Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament,
followed by meeting of parish Holy Name and Junior
Holy Name societies, with refreshments.

614-221-4323

2, FRIDAY

St. Cecilia Adoration of Blessed Sacrament
St. Cecilia Church, 434 Norton Road, Columbus. Begins
after 8:15 a.m. Mass; continues to 5 p.m. Saturday.

Monthly Adoration of Blessed Sacrament
Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal Church, 5225 Refu-
gee Road, Columbus. Begins after 9 a.m. Mass; continues
through 6 p.m. Holy Hour.

Catholic Men's Luncheon Club
12:15 p.m., St. Patrick Church, 280 N. Grant Ave., Columbus.
Catholic Men's Luncheon Club meeting. Speaker: Father
Daniel Swartz, parochial vicar of Gahanna St. Matthew
Church, on his first few months as a priest and plans to
be a military chaplain.

No St. John Chrysostom First Friday Sale
St. John Chrysostom Byzantine Catholic Church's monthly
First Friday sale of pirogi, stuffed cabbage, noodles, and
baked goods will not take place this month. Its annual
Christmas cookie sale will be on Saturday, Dec. 10.

Eucharistic Vigil at Holy Cross
Holy Cross Church, 205 S. 5th St., Columbus. 7:30 p.m.
Mass, followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
with various prayers, ending with Benediction at 11:30.

All-Night Exposition at Our Lady of Victory
Our Lady of Victory Church, 1559 Roxbury Road, Colum-
bus. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament from 8 p.m.
until Mass at 8 a.m. Saturday.

3, SATURDAY

Fatima Devotions at Columbus St. Patrick
7 a.m., St. Patrick Church, 280 N. Grant Ave., Columbus.
Mass, followed by devotions to Our Lady of Fatima, pre-
ceded by confessions at 6:30.

614-240-5910

Mary's Little Children Prayer Group
Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal Church, 5225 Refugee
Road, Columbus. 8:30 a.m., confessions, 9 a.m., Mass, fol-
lowed by Fatima prayers and Rosary (Shepherds of Christ
format); 10 a.m., meeting.

614-861-4888

Lay Missionaries of Charity Day of Prayer
9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Sacred Heart Church, 893 Hamlet St.,
Columbus. Monthly day of prayer for Columbus chapter
of Lay Missionaries of Charity.

614-372-5249

Life and Mercy Mass in Plain City
9 a.m. Mass, St. Joseph Church, 140 West Ave., Plain City.
Saturday Life and Mercy Mass, followed by rosary and
confession.

First Saturday Mass at Holy Family
9 a.m., Holy Family Church, 584 W. Broad St., Columbus.
First Saturday Mass for world peace and in reparation for
blasphemies against the Virgin Mary, as requested by Our
Lady of Fatima.

614-221-1890

Bishop Hartley Admissions Testing
9 a.m., Bishop Hartley High School, 1285 Zettler Road,
Columbus. Admissions testing for members of the
school's Class of 2021. Those wishing to be consid-
ered for a scholarship must take test on this date.

614-237-5421

St. Mary Magdalene Speaker Series
10 a.m., St. Mary Magdalene Church, 473 S. Roys Ave., Co-
lumbus. Parish Year of Mercy series concludes with talk
on burying the dead by Kambra Malone of the Back in His
Arms Again ministry. Cocoa and cookies available. RSVP
to 614-274-1121, extension 13.

Centering Prayer Group Meeting at Corpus Christi
10:30 a.m. to noon, Corpus Christi Center of Peace, 1111 E.
Stewart Ave., Columbus. Centering prayer group meeting,
beginning with silent prayer, followed by Contemplative
Outreach DVD and discussion.

614-512-3731

Anointing of the Sick at St. Pius X
5 p.m., St. Pius X Church, 1051 S. Waggoner Road, Reyn-
oldsburg. Communal Anointing of the Sick at Mass.

614-866-2859

Watterson Presents 'A Midsummer Night's Dream'
7 p.m., Bishop Watterson High School, 99 E. Cooke Road,
Columbus. School's drama department presents Shake-
speare's "A Midsummer Night's Dream." Tickets \$5 to \$10.

614-268-8671

'A Bethlehem Carol' at St. Joan of Arc
7:30 p.m., St. Joan of Arc Church, 10700 Liberty Road,
Powell. 24th annual performance of "A Bethlehem Carol"
children's Christmas musical.

614-761-0905

Filipino Mass at St. Elizabeth
7:30 p.m., St. Elizabeth Church, 6077 Sharon Woods
Blvd., Columbus. Mass in the Tagalog language
for members of the Filipino Catholic community.

614-891-0150

4, SUNDAY

Anointing of the Sick at St. Pius X
8:30 a.m., St. Pius X Church, 1051 S. Waggoner Road, Reyn-
oldsburg. Communal Anointing of the Sick at Mass.

614-866-2859

Exposition at Buckeye Lake Our Lady of Mount Carmel
9:15 to 10:15 a.m., Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church,
5133 Walnut Road S.E., Buckeye Lake. Exposition of the
Blessed Sacrament every Sunday during Advent.

740-928-3266

St. Christopher Adult Religious Education
10 to 11:20 a.m., Library, Trinity Catholic School, 1440
Grandview Ave., Columbus. Talk by Angela Lariviere of
the Youth Empowerment Program.

BOOK REVIEW

DEAR POPE FRANCIS

If you could ask Pope Francis one question, what would it be?

Small children have BIG questions. Some are fun. Some are serious. And some will quietly break your heart. In *Dear Pope Francis*, the Pope's first book for children, he personally responds to 30 questions from children all over the world. With his optimistic heart, Pope Francis writes with an honesty that will impact every reader long after the final page is turned. Illuminating and inspiring, *Dear Pope Francis* is a lasting book with a universal message for children and adults.

On Feb. 22, 2016, twelve child co-authors of the book *Dear Pope Francis* spent an afternoon with their co-author, the pope. The children came from twelve different countries, including China, Belgium, Australia, Kenya, and the United States. These children's questions and illustrations are featured in the pope's first and only children's book, along with the pope's personal responses.

The Holy Father talked with his young guests at the Vatican. During the extraordinary visit, each of the children gave Pope Francis a gift from their respective homelands, including maple syrup from Canada, a woven painting from India, Ugg boots from Australia, and a soccer ball from the United States.

The pope in turn greeted and blessed each of the children and presented them with a copy of *Dear Pope Francis*, as well as a "Jesus the Teacher" plush figure. It was the first time the children had seen the pope's response to their questions. The children



also had the unique opportunity to ask Pope Francis additional questions and even sing a song for him.

The impact of this once-in-a-lifetime experience

for the children was expressed poignantly by Ryan from Canada, "One moment, I felt excited, but then I thought, 'This is probably the only time I'm ever going to meet him, so I don't want to blow this.'" Clara from Ireland said she would be friends with the children she met on this special journey for the rest of her life.

The trip, which included a tour of Rome for the children and their parents, was sponsored by Loyola Press, publisher of *Dear Pope Francis*. Father Antonio Spadaro, SJ, who helped facilitate and edit the project, offered some insight as to why the pope immediately said "Yes" to the book and the visit: "The pope knows that when he speaks to adults, children may not listen ... but when he speaks to children, then adults listen," Father Spadaro said. In this way, the children's visit to the Vatican helped bring the world's attention to the pope's desire to share a message of mercy with all people.

A SERVICE OF ADVENT LESSONS AND CAROLS AT ST FRANCIS DE SALES, NEWARK

The choir of Newark St. Francis de Sales Church, 40 Granville St., will present its annual service of Advent lessons and carols at 5 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 11.

This service is a moving combination of the Scriptural prophecies of Christ's coming and the beautiful carols of Advent, sung by choir and congregation. The service is sung by choirs of many denominations and finds its home in the English collegiate and cathedral tradition.

If you did not attend last year, consider making the service part of your preparation for Christmas. It can be a welcome moment of prayerful rest in the busy weeks of Advent.

A reception will follow.

Veterans Day Celebration

Lancaster St. Bernadette School hosted a Veterans Day assembly attended by 30 military veterans and more than 100 other guests and parents. Pictured are second-grade students signing and singing "God Bless America." Students from all grades presented patriotic poems, essays, and songs. The area where the assembly took place was decorated with patriotic student artwork. At the building entrance was a wall of honor, which held an American flag on which photographs of veterans past and present were affixed. The fourth-degree honor guard of the local Knights of Columbus opened and closed the assembly with a flag procession. Guest speaker Leslie Reynolds of the Fairfield County Veterans Service Commission spoke of his own military service and his current work of assisting the county's 12,000 veterans in obtaining benefits to which their service entitles them. St. Bernadette School also is supporting the Blue Star Mothers group, which consists of mothers of those who are or have been in the military. Students donated hundreds of snack, grooming, and entertainment items to the group, which will assemble Christmas care packages for local servicemen and women serving abroad. Photo courtesy St. Bernadette School



Report commissioned by bishops finds diversity abounds in U.S. church

By Rhina Guidos

Catholic News Service

The Catholic Church already is one of the most culturally diverse institutions in the United States, but Catholic institutions and ministries need to adapt and prepare for additional growth in diversity, said a report presented to the nation's bishops on Nov. 15.

The report, by the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate at Georgetown University, was commissioned in 2013 by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' committee on cultural diversity to help identify the size and distribution of the nation's ethnic communities.

Archbishop Gustavo Garcia-Siller of San Antonio, chairman of the committee, said the study was "groundbreak-

ing" because it combines, for the first time, all information available from Catholic and non-Catholic sources in an attempt to give a more detailed picture of the church's multicultural and ethnic diversity nationwide.

The study found that less than six percent of the world's estimated 1.3 billion Catholics live in the United States.

Of the U.S. Catholic population: 42.5 million are white (non-Hispanic); 29.7 million are Hispanic or Latino; 2.9 million are Asian or Native Hawaiian; 2.1 million are black, African-American, African, or Afro-Caribbean; and 537,000 are American Indian or Alaskan Native.

"The Catholic Church in the United States has always been a very diverse

entity, but it is the first time that all available data was brought together to map this diversity nationwide in remarkable detail," said Archbishop Garcia-Siller. "It is also the first time that parish life was looked at from the point of view of the experience of diversity. Multicultural parishes are a growing phenomenon in the United States. This is what makes this study so fascinating and groundbreaking."

He said that to arrive at the numbers, the study identified 6,332 parishes with "particular racial, ethnic, cultural, and/or linguistic" communities. This represents about 36 percent of U.S. parishes. CARA said that in 2014, it began conducting "in-pew surveys" at those parishes. Surveys had been completed at most of those parishes by May 2016.

Among those who responded to the survey, the median age was 52. For non-Hispanic white Catholics, it was 10 years older. Conversely, Latino Catholics who responded had a median age of 39.

Another distinction in the report involved Catholics born before and after the Second Vatican Council.

The report said three-quarters of U.S. Catholics born before Vatican II are non-Hispanic whites, while more than half—54 percent—of what it describes as millennial-generation Catholics (born 1982 or later) are Hispanic or Latino.

"The thought and behavior of today's millennial Catholics will likely have a profound effect on the future of the church in the United States," given that millennials are "removed from pre-Vatican II Catholicism," CARA said.

Many of those people have Catholic parents with "little or no experience with the traditional Catholic practices and catechesis," CARA said, adding that this doesn't mean they are anti-religious.

Archbishop Garcia-Siller asked the bishops to look at the information and see how it speaks to their regions. He said it could help dioceses plan, set priorities, and allocate resources.

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U.S. Church Prepares for 2018 Encuentro in Fort Worth

By Mark Pattison

Catholic News Service

The Catholic Church in the United States is gearing up for the fifth National *Encuentro* of Hispanic/Latino Ministry, which will take place in September 2018 in Fort Worth, Texas.

The effort received a personal endorsement from Pope Francis in his Nov. 15 video message to the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops at its fall general assembly in Baltimore.

“The church in America, as elsewhere, is called to go out from its comfort zone and be a leaven of communion — communion among ourselves, with our fellow Christians, and with all who seek a future of hope,” the pope said.

“The Christian community is meant to be a sign of prophecy, of God’s plan for the entire human family,” he said.

“We are called to be bearers of good news for a society gripped by disconcerting social, cultural, and spiritual shifts and increasing polarization.”



The theme for the *V Encuentro*, as it is known in shorthand, is “Missionary Disciples: Witnesses of God’s Love,” said Auxiliary Bishop Nelson J. Perez of Rockville Centre, New York, chairman of the bishops’ subcommittee on Hispanic affairs.

“It is a great opportunity for the church to reach out to our Hispanic brothers and sisters with Christ’s message of hope and love,” he said.

“It is a time to listen, a time to develop meaningful relationships, a time to learn and bear abundant fruits, and a time to rejoice in God’s love.”

The *V Encuentro* will be the culmination of parish, diocesan, and regional *encuentros* in which the bishops anticipate more than one million Catholics will participate during the next two years.

Starting in January and going through June next year, missionary activity and consultation will take place.

Parish *encuentros* will take place next May and June in an estimated 5,000 parishes nationwide.

Diocesan *encuentros* are scheduled in the fall of 2017, with expectations that more than 150 dioceses will be taking part, with a hoped-for 200,000 participants.

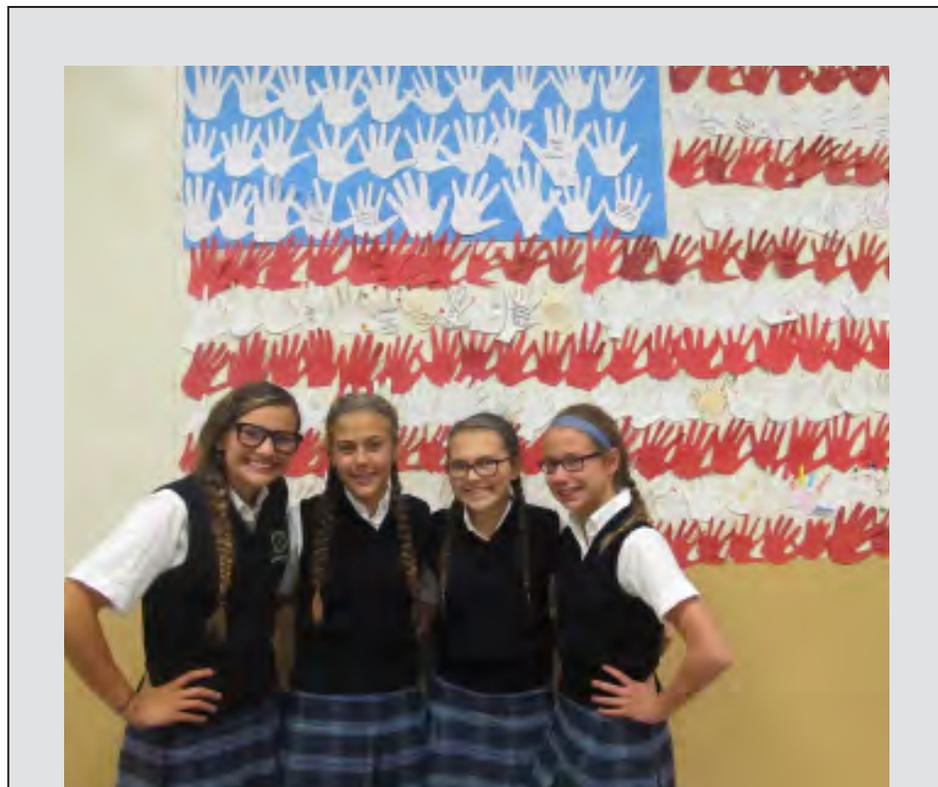
Regional *encuentros* are slated for March to June 2018, with 10,000 delegates expected. The regions will conform to the U.S. bishops’ 14 episcopal regions.

Then comes the *V Encuentro* from Sept. 20-23, 2018. But that’s not the end, as there will be a post-*encuentro* working document written to implement the *V Encuentro*’s results.

The ultimate goals of the *encuentro* process are “two sides of the same coin,” Bishop Perez said. “To discern

the ways in which the church in the United States can better respond to Hispanic/Latinos, and strengthen the ways in which Hispanics respond to the call to the new evangelization.”

Among the outcomes Bishop Perez said should result from the *V Encuentro* are identification of best practices and pastoral initiatives in developing resources in parishes, dioceses, schools and national organizations; an increase in the number of vocations to priesthood, religious life, and the permanent diaconate; an increase in the percentage of Hispanic students in Catholic schools from the current 15.5 percent to 20 percent; identification of at least 20,000 emerging leaders ready for ongoing formation and ministry in the church; and an increased sense of belonging and stewardship among Hispanics.



Columbus St. Andrew School Student Council members created a flag to honor the nation’s veterans. Each student traced his or her hand and wrote a note of thanks to veterans. The hands were assembled in the design of an American flag. Pictured are Student Council members (from left) Vinni Paradiso, Alex Picolo, Sydney Johnson, and Brooklyn Brush.

Photo courtesy St. Andrew School



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Presented by Dr. Perry J. Cahall,
Academic Dean, School of Theology; Professor of
Historical Theology Pontifical College Josephinum

Dr. Cahall is the author of *The Mystery of Marriage: A Theology of the Body and the Sacrament*

DECEMBER 11TH, 12TH, AND 13TH
(SUN, MON, TUES) FROM 7PM - 8PM

SUNDAY 12/11 AT 6PM

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- A Married Spirituality of Tenderness
- What Marriage and Celibacy Have to Say to Each Other – Looking at the Marriage of Mary and Joseph.

For More Information, Contact the Parish Office:
614-231-4509, or email Jimmie Davis at jimmieadavis@gmail.com or Kristina Keiffer, Director of Parish Ministries at kristina@stcatharine.com