



DIOCESE OF COLUMBUS

CATHOLIC TIMES

A journal of Catholic life in Ohio

DECEMBER 25, 2016
THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD
VOLUME 66:13

Be not afraid;
for behold, I bring you
good news of a great
joy which will come to
all the people;
for to you is born
this day
in the city of David
a Savior, who is Christ
the Lord.

Luke 2:10



The Editor's Notebook

Joy to the World

By David Garick, Editor



The big day is finally upon us. The time of preparation and anticipation is over. Christmas is here. What a wonderful time of year! These are troubling times around the world. But at Christmastide, Earth wears a smile. None of us is immune to this feast of joy.

It's hard not to relive the Christmas elation of childhood. When I was really little, the anticipation of Christmas was almost overpowering. I could hardly wait for Christmas to arrive. I had to be ready for Santa! I knew his elves were keeping an eye on me to be certain that I was being good. I sure didn't want to do something mean to my little brother and blow it in the final days before Christmas. I kept looking out my bedroom window for the elves that Mom and Dad said were watching me. I thought I saw them out there, below my window, on the roof over the porch. Actually, it was just a shadow from a tree branch that moved in the light of the street lamp as the winter wind blew. But it kept me excited. Of course, now I know that Santa does not have elves watching me. That task has been outsourced to the Department of Homeland Security.

But even as a child, I understood that what I was feeling at this time of year was special. And it was not just from the expectation that I was going to receive presents. Not that I did not want the gifts. But they were just a part of something much bigger. Love was everywhere around me. Christmas seemed to bring this joy to everyone. It still does. People at work and at school smile more. Their spirits are lighter. Even total strangers that you pass on the

street or in stores are quick to give you a smile and a "Merry Christmas." Parties are everywhere and you have a chance to celebrate friendship. And, of course, families gather together and share love across the generations. Hope and joy make everything special.

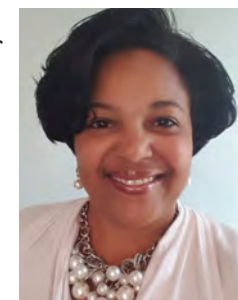
It seems a very long way from the birth of a solitary child in a stable in Bethlehem 2,000 years ago. But that is how powerful our God is. Human history was broken open on that silent night. God became man and the light of the incarnation split the darkness that engulfs our souls, bringing us joy and light.

We can go into a lot of theological detail about how the birth of Christ set in motion the process of salvation for all who believe in him. But before we get to beliefs and creeds and salvation, we have that initial light of love. On Christmas, we are transformed. We give gifts, we receive gifts, we reach out to one another. We may not even fully understand why. Some may not even have accepted Christ. But we act out of love in this time of anticipation because Christ has given us hope. It is not the result of anything we have done. That is the power of God's grace. Before we ever knew him, he loved us and came to be with us and to teach us to love him and to love one another. Through the power of his incarnation, we feel his love in our lives at this time of year. We are filled with hope and joy.

Merry Christmas.

Diocesan Development Director Appointed

Andrea C. Pannell has accepted the position of director of the diocesan Office and Development and Planning. She has been employed by the office since 2009, has been associate director since 2012, and previously worked in Columbus as a business development specialist, administrative assistant, substitute teacher, and consultant.



She succeeds Rick Jeric, who had been development director for 13 1-2 years before joining the staff of the Women's Care Centers of Columbus in a development and fundraising role.

In her new position, she will be responsible for the Bishop's Annual Appeal, other capital campaigns, major gifts, strategic planning, stewardship, feasibility studies, and pastoral planning, and will assist in putting together the annual budget for the 23-county diocese and in helping parish and school fundraising efforts.

"In my years with the department, I have always been impressed by the generosity of our faith community," she said. "The people of the Diocese of Columbus are such generous and devoted stewards. I want to continue Rick's work of helping strengthen parishes. The Bishop's Annual Appeal is one important aspect, but all the capital campaign and stewardship work we do has this as its goal. When parishes are strong, the diocese is strong. I'm eager to work with pastors throughout the diocese to create more vibrant parishes and engaged parishioners."

Pannell, 50, is a lifelong member of Columbus St. Dominic Church and has lived in Columbus for most of her life, with the exception of short periods in New York City; Charlotte, North Carolina; and Europe. She is a graduate of Columbus Walnut Ridge

High School, and received a bachelor's degree in business marketing from Franklin University and a master's degree in theology from Ohio Dominican University. She has served on various boards for the diocese, including those of Black Catholic Ministries, St. John's Hermitage, and the Martin de Porres Center, and is a member of the St. Dominic Gospel choir and the Bakhita Dance Ministry.

She is the daughter of Octayria and the late Thomas Pannell and has one son, Shawyn, 28; and a brother, Thomas Jr. Her grandfather, Earl Pannell, was posthumously named diocesan Catholic Man of the Year for 2007.

"I know that many people have the tendency to try to define the Catholic Church in terms of what it is not, especially for women, and it can be very challenging for many of us to understand," she said. "I will say that as a Catholic woman, I have been blessed with a continuous journey of endless possibilities and opportunities to share my gifts."

"I have spent some time in discernment with the Dominican Sisters of Peace and they have taught me how not to focus on what I feel I am being denied or what isn't open to me. I try hard to focus on what can I do from where I stand, because God desires a witness of how you love—God, neighbor, and self. The lives of Catholic women like my mother and aunts; Sister Thea Bowman; my grandmothers, Winifred Pannell and Effie Johnson; and Dominican Sisters Pat Dual, Pat Twohill, and Cathy Arnold testify to what my life can be if I trust in God and the wisdom of the Church."

"There are so many Catholic women doing phenomenal work, and I will be working hard to do them proud," Pannell said.

*Front Page photo:*

Mary and the Christ Child are depicted in this 17th-century painting by Giovanni Battista Salvi. The Feast of the Nativity of Christ, a holy day of obligation, is celebrated on Dec. 25.

CNS/Bridgeman Images

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My dear friends in Christ,

What is it precisely that faithful Christians celebrate when they celebrate Christmas? After all the gifts have been unwrapped, the excitement of their discovery has faded, the festive meal has been shared, and we sink back into a tired contentment, what is there about Christmas that is the source of an abiding joy? There is, of course, a lot of innocent enjoyment and excitement in all of this, but if Christmas is merely merriment, providing a respite from a long, dim, and unusually cold winter, then it runs the danger of being another form of vaguely happy paganism, which lasts but a season and is soon forgotten.

The birth of Jesus Christ to Mary in that stable some 2,000 years ago is the axis around which all of human history revolves. Christians account all that has occurred before that event as “before time,” and all that follows as the time that now stretches into the everlasting Kingdom. By taking on human reality, Jesus has begun the process of redeeming all of human existence, from infancy through adulthood to infirmity, passing even through natural death. In the Christ Child, God has revealed to us the fundamental dignity of each unique and irreplaceable human person. He has offered us the possibility of transformation according to the pattern of Jesus. God has conferred upon us a purpose and a future for our lives. He has asserted the ultimate victory of light over darkness, of goodness over sin, and of love over hatred. It will take the Cross for Christ finally to accomplish this radical transformation, but the Resurrection will seal its power. As the old German carol “In dulci jubilo” has it: “Christ was born for this.”

The abiding joy of Christmas is not a mere giddiness, a manufactured emotion impossible to maintain. The joy of Christmas is the perduring happiness, often quiet and sometimes challenged, promised to those who stand with Christ. In such joy, Christians find peace of heart and mind, casting out all fear.

It is my prayer that all of you experience this joy during the coming holy season and throughout the coming year.

*Most Reverend Frederick F. Campbell, DD, PhD
Bishop of Columbus*



HOLY DAYS OF OBLIGATION

NATIVITY OF THE LORD
DECEMBER 25

SOLEMNITY OF MARY,
MOTHER OF GOD
JANUARY 1

Check individual parishes for schedule of
Holy Day Mass times



Christmas tunes by Grove City choir

Grove City Our Lady of Perpetual Help School sixth-, seventh-, and eighth-grade choir members traveled to several assisted-living communities and nursing homes in the two weeks before Christmas to perform a medley of Christmas carols and new tunes. They also performed on two evenings preceding school programs, in front of the school during the annual caroling extravaganza that accompanies end-of-year parties, and for the Grove City Kiwanis Club. In the span of two weeks, choir members performed their 30-minute set eight times. Comments they received, particularly at the assisted-living and nursing facilities, made them realize the importance of their service through music and gave them a thrill to realize how they brought joy to many people.

Photo courtesy Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church



Bishop Hartley Rosary House carolers

Members of Rosary House at Columbus Bishop Hartley High School participate in the school's seventh annual house Christmas carol competition. The Springs House won the all-cappella event.

Photo courtesy Bishop Hartley High School

St. Andrew prayer service

Columbus St. Andrew School eighth-grade students led a prayer service in which they recited prayers, sang songs, and read Scripture passages.

Photo courtesy St. Andrew School



Living Faith Awards nominations accepted

The Spirituality Network announces that nominations are being accepted for its 26th annual Living Faith Awards. Candidates are those in the community whose faith is both "lived" and "alive" in ways that inspire, challenge, and serve.

People wishing to submit nominations are asked to consider those who are peacemakers, those who tend to the "least of these" by honoring the dignity of the marginalized, those caring for creation, or those who are loving neighbors, reacting across divisions in the culture and community

to honor common ground.

Nominations also are open for three special categories: The Alvin R. Hadley Social Justice Award, The Interfaith/Multicultural Award, and The Hope for Tomorrow Award for someone age 18 to 30 who lives a life of service, leadership, and integrity. The deadline for nominations is Sunday, Jan. 15.

For more information or to submit a nomination, visit the Spirituality Network website at <http://www.spiritualitynetwork.org> and follow the Living Faith Awards link.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR POSITION

St. Vincent de Paul Housing Facilities

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This position provides leadership and operational management of a 26 bed men's emergency shelter and transitional housing and oversees the operation of a 24 unit transitional family housing unit in Newark, OH. Operating as a non-profit 501c3 organization by the St Vincent de Paul, a Catholic lay ministry. In addition the Executive Director will be expected to work fully in accordance with the mission and values of The Society of St Vincent de Paul.

The executive Director will report to the Board of Directors and will be responsible for:

- Grant writing and coordinating of any and all fund raisers
- All operational activity of 2 facilities
- Manage staff and volunteers
- Have total P & L responsibilities
- Manage Human Resources

The candidate will have BA, MSW or work experience equivalent, good organizational skills and a working knowledge of excel and Word programs. Willing to locate to Newark, Ohio or in the vicinity. Experience in Grant writing. Be involved in the community. Have experience with programs where they have given a "Hand up approach not a Hand Out".

Salary is negotiable.

Submit resume and references to the above address, in care of Board of Directors or electronically to SVH@svdpHaven.org

Upon request we will provide detailed job duties.

Hark the herald angels: How sacred music evangelizes, lifts up hearts

By Carol Glatz/Catholic News Service

'Tis the season for a huge assortment of holiday concerts and carols to choose from, making Advent and Christmas a unique period for reminding

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people of the evergreen beauty of sacred music.

And music can be that gentle lure that helps welcome and embrace those who have become distant from the church, said one liturgy and music expert.

As with weddings and baptisms, "Christmas is a great time" to reach out and offer people an experience that encourages them to return to church more regularly, said Paul Inwood, a British composer and former director of liturgy and music for the Diocese of Portsmouth, England.

"When it comes to Christmas, I'm always very aware of the people who perhaps come just once or twice a year" to church, he told Catholic News Service.

For that reason, he said, the music programmed by parishes should be "beautiful and magnificent," but also "hospitable" and "accessible" to everyone.

"You can't find anything more religious and more joyful in sacred celebrations than the whole congregation expressing its faith and devotion in song," Inwood said.

Msgr. Vincenzo De Gregorio, director of the Pontifical Institute of Sacred Music in Rome, told CNS that accessibility means respectfully matching the complexity of the music to the abilities of the congregation so that everyone can participate and feel elevated by the music.

Inwood said that before the Second Vatican Council, liturgical music was performed by choirs and the people in the pews were spectators.

"After Vatican II, the kind of liturgy that we had changed its nature and went back to the traditions of the earlier church, when participation in the liturgy was the norm," he said.

Music was seen "as a ministry, rather than a performance, and it serves the people and helps them lift up their voices and praise to God," the composer said.

This push for musical reform was well under way before the Second Vatican Council, which is why Pope St. Pius X founded the pontifical institute in 1911. The institute was established to respond to the growing belief that "the people must sing," Msgr. De Gregorio said.

The institute teaches religious and laypeople from all over the world about liturgical music, as well as giving them the practical skills to include and promote new forms of artistic expression appropriate to the current culture and people.

The tendency toward inclusion is a unique characteristic of the Latin-rite Catholic Church, said Msgr. De Gregorio, who is an expert in the pipe organ and Gregorian chant and has degrees in sacred theology and modern literature.

He said Roman Catholicism was heavily influenced by "the ancient Roman mentality," which saw that expanding into new territories and spreading its influence meant including and assimilating all that was good and useful from the local cultures.

This history of inclusion "is the secret of the development of music" and all arts, he said.

The Latin-rite Catholic Church "never chose one style. It never said 'No'" to new developments and allowing instruments, which "for around 1,000 years

were never used in (Christian) worship because they stunk of paganism," Msgr. DeGregorio said.

Instruments first used by pagan Greece and Rome -- including the organ, flute, trumpet, and string instruments -- today are considered by many to be uniquely sacred instruments, the monsignor said.

"In her wisdom," he said, the church embraces appealing local traditions, elevates them, and finds a way to fold them into the sacred.

He said the institute is so important because the desire for inclusion was never about "wanting to lower the level" of standards, but was formed to skillfully elevate the music of the people to a higher plane.

"Here, then, is the reason for our school, to create and form people who can make music of the highest level," he said.

He thinks the debate over "folk" versus "traditional" forms of music stems from an "ignorance" about music in general.

Fears that "the church has abandoned its great music" find fertile ground "where there is no widespread musical culture" in schools and parishes and people lack basic skills in reading or understanding music, he said, adding that problems and polemics occurred where the reform of liturgical song was "introduced without the necessary preparation."

The answer, then, isn't "creating an aristocracy" of experts, but of increasing awareness and preparation for everyone so they can hold onto, develop, and appreciate musical traditions, he said.

He and Inwood said education and formation have to tackle both fronts: the risk that clergy don't understand music and its proper expression, and the risk that musicians don't know enough about liturgy.

Inwood said "there's a lot of goodwill" on both sides to do the right thing, but people need to understand how music is "integral to the rite and not just an option stuck on top of it, which is how it sometimes comes across."

"The music needs to fit the ritual like a glove," which requires people understand not just music, but also "what liturgical action is doing so they can tailor the music to what is going on," a skill not unlike what composers do when fitting musical scores to action unfolding on film or the stage, he said.

Being respectful of the ritual and sensitive to the congregation mean sacred music can shine anywhere -- whether it's a parish in a poor shanty town or in a monumental cathedral, the two men said.

Inwood said it doesn't depend solely on resources such as a pipe organ or a professional choir. It's about "authenticity."

"You can do wonderful things with what you have," even just a cantor and assembly, he said. "The music isn't inferior in any way, it's just different and reflects who the community is at that particular point" and aims to draw them together in praise.

"It's much better to do (music) you can manage and do it well than try very hard to do things you can't achieve," he added.

Ministers in wartime conditions; 'Orans' posture during Our Father



QUESTION & ANSWER
by: FATHER KENNETH DOYLE
Catholic News Service

Q. I have long been a fan of the television series "MASH" that takes place during the Korean conflict. In a couple of the episodes, the priest on the show is asked by a soldier if he can perform a Methodist, a Jewish, or a Presbyterian service for him.

In each case, the priest answers that he is allowed to perform services for all denominations. From what I gather, this type of service was also offered during World War II as well.

My question is this: Were ministers of all faiths permitted to say Mass, distribute Communion and hear confessions of Catholic servicemen during those battlefield and hospital-stay conditions? (Woodbury, Minnesota)

A. In wartime situations, it has always been common to have interfaith services offered by chaplains of various religious denominations.

Needless to say, not every religion can supply a member of the clergy for every military outpost; so regularly, for centuries, clergy have presided at services -- open to members of all religions or of none -- consisting of scriptural readings, "sermonettes," words of spiritual comfort, and prayers of blessing.

To your specific question, though, ministers of other faiths never have been permitted to celebrate Mass or hear the confessions of Catholic servicemen and women. The church's *Code of Canon Law* (No. 900.1) explains that "the minister who is able to confect the sacrament of the Eucharist in the person of Christ is a validly ordained priest alone."

Likewise, another provision (No. 965) notes that "a priest alone is the minister of the sacrament of penance," and Canon 1003 stipulates that "every priest and a priest alone validly administers the anointing of the sick."

Of course -- and this happens regularly -- clergy of any faith may offer prayers of blessing and words of comfort over a sick or dying Catholic, but they may not absolve or anoint.

An exception to this sacramental strictness comes with baptism: Canon 861.2 provides that "in a case of necessity, any person with the right intention" may confer the sacrament of baptism licitly.

So if a serviceman dying on the battlefield wanted to be baptized a Catholic, a member of the clergy of any denomination (or a layperson, for that matter) could do so by pouring the water and saying the words of baptism.

Q. A discussion that is common between the more "orthodox" members of the parish and the more "progressive" ones is whether the faithful should use the *orans* posture during the Our Father.

I remember being instructed several years ago that we were to start stretching out our hands while praying the Lord's Prayer at Mass. I felt odd doing this at first but decided that I needed to follow along as instructed.

Years later, I noticed that our nun and our deacon did not observe this. So are we supposed to stretch out our hands when offering this prayer or not? (Missouri)

A. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops is quite concise on the issue, saying in its guidelines that "no position is prescribed in the *Roman Missal* for an assembly gesture during the Lord's Prayer." There is simply no "rule" or guideline.

As you say, though, it has become common in some congregations for the faithful to adopt the *orans* posture -- with hands extended to the side and facing up or out. The priest, by contrast, is directed specifically in the rubrics to adopt the *orans* posture during the Our Father.

Some liturgists have pointed to this as a bit of an anomaly: Generally, the celebrant extends his hands during the parts of the Mass when he is praying aloud and alone, on behalf of the congregation. During the Our Father, he is praying not on behalf of the congregation, but along with them -- as in the *Gloria* and the creed, when his hands are joined.

Perhaps future liturgical guidelines will clarify this; in the meanwhile, though, I can't imagine that it matters a lot to God.

Questions may be sent to Father Kenneth Doyle at askfatherdoyle@gmail.com and 30 Columbia Circle Dr., Albany NY 12203.

Byzantine Catholics prepare for Christmas with 40-day fast

By Father Andrew Summerson
Catholic News Service

A 40-day period known as the Philip's Fast, which began Tuesday, Nov. 15, is being observed by the faithful of the Byzantine Catholic Church as they prepare to celebrate the Feast of the Nativity.

Such periods of preparation teach that in order to feast, we must fast.

Named for the Feast of St. Philip the Apostle, which is celebrated the day before, the Philip's Fast is one of four fasting periods in the Byzantine liturgical year. The others are Great Lent before Pascha (or Easter); the Apostle's Fast before the feast of Sts. Peter and Paul (June 29); and the Dormition Fast before Our Lady's Falling Asleep (Aug. 15, the Feast of the Assumption in the Latin Catholic Church).

By calming our busy minds and distracted souls through the ascetic disciplines of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, we can receive the Savior more readily into our lives.

In the Byzantine Metropolia of the United States, the Philip's Fast is optional, but the faithful are highly encouraged, in cooperation with their spiritual father, to make an effort and to participate according to their own ability.

Perhaps the Lord's encounter with Philip can teach us something about the special character of the pre-Nativity period.

In the Gospel of John (1:43), Christ calls Philip with the simple words "Follow me."

The Lord offers little explanation and simply invites Philip to join him on his journey.

Soon after, Philip speaks about Jesus to Nathanael, who is sitting

beneath a fig tree, explaining, "We have found the one about whom Moses wrote in the Law, and also the prophets, Jesus, son of Joseph, from Nazareth" (John 1:45).

Philip understands the incredible novelty of Christ, yet Philip's excited explanation is met with Nathanael's cynicism: "Can anything good come from Nazareth?" (John 1:46).

There is a little of Philip and a little of Nathanael in each of us. As baptized Christians, we have been found by the Lord, and his words, "Follow me," rest upon all of us.

While liturgy and preaching repeat Philip's initial excitement, Nathanael's cynicism often lays its snares on the hearts of well-intentioned Christians.

Yet as Christ makes his dwelling in Nazareth to dwell among men, so also does he remain with the church to be with us until the end of the ages.

Hence, something good can come from Nazareth and from the church -- Christ himself, the source of all goodness.

The Philip's Fast is an opportunity to leave the fig tree of our cynicism and to walk with the Lord, who promises us the heavenly vision, as he did to Nathanael: "Amen, amen, I say to you, you will see the sky opened, and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man" (John 1:51).

This article originally was published in "Horizons," the newspaper of the Byzantine Catholic Eparchy of Parma, Ohio. It was written by Father Andrew Summerson, assistant director of religious education for the eparchy and a lecturer at John Carroll University.

It can be difficult for Catholics to find a Mass when traveling or when it is not practical to attend their regular parishes. The website www.MassTimes.org makes it much easier to search for a Mass by presenting all the possibilities in a geographical area on one page. It includes Mass schedules for 117,000 churches in 201 nations or territories. The service also is available by phone. The number is (1-858) 207-6277.

THE EVERYDAY CATHOLIC



By Rick Jeric

Incarnation and Indulgence

Merry Christmas, everyone! Happy Holidays, too, but let us always begin with Merry Christmas. We never should have a reason to leave the blessed and eternal word “Christmas” out of anything. I always do my best to use both greetings

for wonderful people like an agnostic friend (I am going to get him to RCIA one of these years), a Muslim acquaintance, and a Jewish sister-in-law. Both greetings are well-received and appreciated. How are they both appreciated by non-Christians? Because the greetings are genuine, sincere, and loving. Sometimes that is all it takes. As passionate as we are about keeping Christ in Christmas, we do so in the most impactful way by our example and how we live our lives each day. Will I have more of an effect on my agnostic friend by too much “Merry Christmas” in his face every chance I get, or by a year-round, genuine example of how the joy and grace of the Eucharist shapes my life and how I live it every day? So, yes, we do both, we acknowledge both, we do not dismiss one, but we focus on the other in a sincere and pragmatic way that impacts those we encounter. What better time of year than right now!

I hate to date myself, but I grew up with, and somewhat raised my children with, Christmas classics such as A Charlie Brown Christmas, How The Grinch Stole Christmas, Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer, Frosty the Snowman, and A Christmas Story. Charlie Brown, innocently enough, was so preoccupied with his surroundings, such as trees and plays, that it took Linus to give us that wonderful rendition of the Nativity in the innocent voice of a child, to keep us all focused on what is most important. The Grinch had his heart grow three times in size that day, simply out of the love and song that never could be silenced on Christmas, even without the presence of presents. Rudolph was not cute because Clarice said so, but because he was able to lead the way for Yukon Cornelius and eventually win over the Bumble. He not only saved the Island of Misfit Toys, but he saw that the star was placed at the top of the tree, representing the star of Bethlehem. Bumbles not only bounce, but they appreciate the example of love, joy, and world peace, even at the hands of a would-be dentist. Frosty was my least favorite, and a little weird, but he did remind us that this is the celebration of the birth of Jesus. All the characters in A Christmas Story give us reasons to relate and rejoice. There is a little bit of Ralphie in all of us. We all think we can taste the challenges to our Faith, but then we get our tongues stuck to that frozen pole of evil. Fortunately, we also can fight back when we have enough of that evil. Bullies need to be smacked around sometimes, not just identified and scolded. And then there is the secret decoder ring. May we all drink freely from the warm Ovaltine of life this Christmas.

In the beginning was the Word. Our Lord has always existed and always will. The benefits and pleasures of this world have always existed and always will. The Word of the Lord, thanks be to God. We have the Word of God and we are forever thankful. The Liturgy of the Word is the first part of the sacrifice of the Mass. And the Word was made flesh. The Incarnation. God made man. He dwelt among us. We always have a choice. Incarnation or indulgence. This Christmas season, we choose between a focus on God sending His Son as the Word made flesh, or indulgence in family celebrations. We can do both with love, peace, joy, and respect. Have a blessed Christmas!

St. Anthony wreath craft

Kathy McBride's third-grade class at Columbus St Anthony School created Advent wreaths out of pipe cleaners and beads. The students each took home a wreath to celebrate Advent with their families. Olivia Sarpong is pictured holding the wreath she made.

Photo courtesy St. Anthony School



ODU rated military-friendly for eighth year

For the eighth consecutive year, Victory Media has selected Ohio Dominican University as a military-friendly school. The organization also has listed ODU as a Top 10 Gold school, ranking it fifth in the nation and the best in Ohio among private colleges and universities with fewer than 10,000 students.

The 2017 military-friendly schools list recognizes colleges, universities, and trade schools that are doing the most to embrace America's active military, veterans, and their spouses as students and ensure their success on campus.

“This honor from a highly respected organization like Victory Media reflects ODU's long-standing commitment to the success of veterans as they make the transition from combat to the classroom to their career,” said ODU's PATRIOTS program director, retired Army Major Gen. Dennis Laich, “Our veterans perform extraordinarily well in the classroom and go on to success in their workplace and their communities. With this honor, we are more committed than ever to serving America's veterans.”

ODU first launched the PATRIOTS

program more than 20 years ago to meet the educational needs of returning Vietnam veterans. Through PATRIOTS, veterans can achieve their academic goals by pursuing either an associate, bachelor's, or master's degree. The university reintroduced the program in response to the Post-9/11 GI Bill of 2008. ODU is an active participant in the yellow ribbon program of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

The Post-9/11 GI Bill enables those veterans who qualify for the educational benefit to earn a college degree or graduate degree. Depending on the number of active-duty months they have served, post-9/11 veterans in Ohio may qualify for as much as 100 percent of their schooling expenses, with allowances for monthly living expenses, books, and student activity fees. Veterans may receive as much as 36 months, or four academic years, of assistance.

The list of military-friendly schools may be viewed by visiting <https://militaryfriendly.com>. For more information on ODU's PATRIOTS program, visit www.odupatriots.com, or contact (614) 251-4500 or laichd@ohiodominican.edu.

Columbus Catholic Renewal program

Columbus Catholic Renewal, also known as the diocesan Catholic Charismatic Renewal, is sponsoring a program of praise and worship from 6 to 9 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 28 at Columbus St. Matthias Church, 1582 Ferris Road.

It will begin with recitation of the rosary, followed by praise adoration led by Justin Yglesias at 6:30, with prayer

teams available for individual prayer. A charismatic Mass will be celebrated at 7:30 by Father William Hritsko, pastor of Buckeye Lake Our Lady of Mount Carmel and Heath St. Leonard churches, with social time following.

For more information, go to www.cccolumbus.org or call (614) 500-8115.



Our Lady of Peace Advent

Columbus Our Lady of Peace School students Joe Zeyen (left) and Liam Meske are shown getting ready to light an Advent wreath in their classroom. Also pictured is a mitten tree on which were placed mittens and headwear for children, which were donated to the Joint Organization for Inner-City Needs.

Photo courtesy Our Lady of Peace School



DeSales Christmas in the Courtyard

Columbus St. Francis DeSales High School students hosted their annual Christmas in the Courtyard program, to which they invited five- to 10-year-olds from St. Stephen's Community House. The children were paired with DeSales seniors to have dinner, make crafts and do other activities, and visit Santa. At the end of the evening, each of the children received a gift from their senior buddies.

Photo courtesy St. Francis DeSales High School

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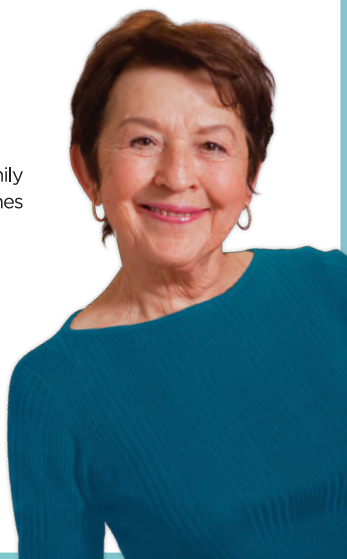
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Prayer: The Keystone Habit

Time is a precious commodity, especially during the Christmas season. I hear people say that their busy lives don't allow them time to exercise.

It's the same with our prayer lives. We may have the desire to pray, but we don't know how to get started, we can't seem to find time in our daily schedule, or people and activities seem to zap our time and energy.

Now is the time for us to dig deep, flex those spiritual muscles, and make time for prayer as a top-priority, healthy habit for the New Year.

Do you think of prayer as a healthy habit? Do you consider prayer the most transformational habit in your life?

Giving God time in prayer not only deepens our relationship with him, but also helps us grow in virtue and can help us reorder our lives — not just our spiritual lives, but every aspect of our lives.

In business training, we learned about the keystone habits. These are habits that lay the groundwork for developing even more practical habits that will “supercharge” our lives and help us become “successful” in business and in life. There are different lists out there, but here is a basic summary:

1. **Set goals.**
2. **Manage your time well.**
3. **Exercise.**
4. **Practice daily gratitude.**



HOLY AND HEALTHY
Lori Crock

5. *Learn a new skill.*

While these are effective habits, I would argue that prayer is the keystone habit that will lay the foundation for these five habits — and every other habit and activity in our lives. Through prayer, we learn to know ourselves better and to know ourselves through God.

This enlightenment through prayer can change our behavior, clarify priorities, lead us to spending our free time in more meaningful ways, remove unhealthy attachments, connect us with people who inspire and encourage us, soften our hearts, bring us more peace, confidence, joy, love, wisdom, kindness, understanding, and so much more.

The impact of prayer on our souls, and on the Body of Christ, is truly infinite!

“Give me a person of prayer, and such a one will be capable of accomplishing anything.” ~ St. Vincent de Paul

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.

May we continue to grow not only in our gratitude but also in our desire to be with Him

By Leandro M. Tapay

I didn't get the job. I did not meet the criteria. The individual who interviewed me at the employment agency told me that to be a Santa Claus at a mall, one must be a big man and have blue eyes and a big stomach. I did not have the qualifications.

Santa Claus was not a famous person at Christmas where I grew up in the Philippines. During the Christmas season, the Nativity scene known as *Belen* was as popular as the Christmas tree in the United States. Santa was not the center of Christmas. It was the *Santo Nino*, the Holy Child in the manger.

Nowadays, it seems that Santa is becoming more and more the centerpiece of the Christmas celebration, especially among children. With Santa and gifts on the children's minds, it seems Jesus is pushed behind the scenes during the Christmas festivities.

I like the saying “Jesus is the reason for the season.” The Bible reminds us that an angel told Joseph that the Child in the womb of Mary was to be named Jesus, which means “God saves.” God saves — that's Jesus' identity; that's His mission; that's what Jesus does. God saves — that is what His life, His ministry, His death and resurrection proclaim.

God saves us from emptiness and meaninglessness, from discouragement and despair, from sadness and sin. God saves us from fear, from hopelessness, and ultimately from death.

Jesus is also called Emmanuel which means, “God is with us.” It means that God is on our side. When it comes to us, who have been created in His image and likeness, God is not neutral, disinterested or distant, passive or detached. God cares. God is involved. God breaks into time and space and history to save us.

God is with us! That's what the Incarnation means. The Word, the Sec-

ond Person of the Blessed Trinity, became flesh and dwells among us. God did not just somehow fill the world with His presence. God actually became visible by taking a human form. God wants us to tangibly experience, see, and hear Him.

In the tabernacle in every Catholic Church is the Blessed Sacrament — Jesus' presence in our midst. The red light that burns brightly near the Blessed Sacrament tells us that Jesus Christ, Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity, is truly with us.

The Blessed Sacrament is the center of our lives as Catholics. The Holy Eucharist is the single greatest gift that God can give to us in this life. It is the gift of His very self.

We need to visit Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament as often as we can. It is true that we can pray anywhere, that the whole world is God's cathedral. But there is something very different about praying in front of the Blessed Sacrament. Just being present with the Lord in the Blessed Sacrament is transforming. In order for our love for Jesus to grow, in order for it to flourish, we need to be in communion with Him. What is true in our human relationships is also true in our relationship with Jesus.

To put it simply, there is nothing that changes our lives more powerfully than getting into the habit of spending time with Jesus in front of the Blessed Sacrament. In the Blessed Sacrament, we learn how much God loves us — the God who saves, who is on our side, and who loves us beyond our imagining.

May the Lord in the Blessed Sacrament open our eyes so we can see what God has done for us and will continue to do for us. May we continue to grow not only in our gratitude, but also in our desire to be with Him.

Merry Christmas.

Leandro Tapay is director of the Columbus diocesan Missions Office.

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YEAR IN REVIEW

BY TIM PUET
Catholic Times Reporter



Deacon Frank Iannarino, director of the diocesan Office of the Diaconate, in St. Peter's Square during a pilgrimage with other deacons. Photo/Diaconate Office



Left: Papal missionaries of mercy at Columbus St. Patrick Church (from left): Dominican Fathers Michael Dosch, Boniface Endorf, Cassian Derbes, and Thomas Blau. Right: Pilgrims kneel before the International Pilgrim Virgin Statue of Our Lady of Fatima at Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral. CT photos by Tim Puet (left), Ken Snow (rest of page)

The Diocese of Columbus joined the Catholic Church worldwide in celebrating the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy throughout most of 2016.

The year began on Dec. 8, 2015, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, when Pope Francis opened the Holy Door of St. Peter's Basilica. It ended with the pope's closing of the door on Nov. 20, 2016, the Feast of Christ the King.

The diocese's Holy Door, located in Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral, was opened by Bishop Frederick Campbell on Dec. 13, 2015, and ceremonially closed by him this past Nov. 20. Father Michael Lumpe, cathedral rector, said there was a significant increase during the year in the number of individual and group pilgrims visiting the cathedral.

Many of those visits were made so participants could obtain the plenary indulgence associated with Holy Doors in dioceses around the world. Each diocese had one or more sites designated as Holy Door locations.

Five Dominican friars from Columbus were among 1,124 priests world-

wide who were appointed by the pope as missionaries of mercy for the Jubilee Year. They are Fathers Michael Mary Dosch and Cassian Derbes, who at the time were stationed at St. Patrick Church; Fathers Thomas Blau and Boniface Endorf, parochial vicars at St. Patrick; and Father Emmanuel Bertrand, who resides at the Mohun Health Care Center.

The pope told the missionaries that their role was to "carry the sinner on his shoulders and comfort him with the power of compassion," as depicted on the Year of Mercy logo, particularly through the Sacrament of Reconciliation. For the duration of the Year of Mercy, the missionaries also had the faculty of lifting the penalty of excommunication for certain specified sins – a power normally reserved to the pope.

A group of nine deacons and three deacon candidates observed the Year of Mercy by visiting the Vatican in late May to take part in a special Jubilee for Deacons which was part of the overall celebration.

Practicing of the spiritual and cor-



Left: Bishop Frederick Campbell prays at the ordination of Fathers (from left) Timothy Lynch, Stephen Smith, and Daniel Swartz.



Right: At the ordination of 12 deacons are (from left): first row, Deacon Iannarino, Deacons Jason Nguyen, Stephen Petrill, David Bezusko, and Byron Phillips; second row, Deacons Thomas Berg Jr., Mark Weiner, Kevin Murrin, Thomas Phillips III, and Ronald Onslow; third row, Deacons C. Gregory Waybright, Thomas Rowlands, and Paul Zemanek, Bishop Campbell, and Deacons Michael Kopczewski and David Lozowski.

poral works of mercy in everyday life was a dominant theme of the national assembly of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, which met in Columbus from Aug. 31 to Sept. 3. One of the programs highlighted during the event was the think tank on poverty, a monthly program sponsored by the Newark St. Vincent de Paul Conference.

One diocesan church was closed and another suffered severe damage during the year. Following a process of review, the Church of the Nativity in Utica was permanently closed and merged into Mount Vernon St. Vincent de Paul Church, effective June 30. The decision to close the parish was made after the church building was torn down in 2015 because local officials had declared it to be structurally unsafe.

Columbus St. Mary, Mother of God Church was closed indefinitely in October because of the effects of a lightning strike on Aug. 28. Inspection of the building revealed significant damage to the roof truss joints. The lightning strike also damaged some of the building's brick exterior and caused plaster to fall, cracks in the ceiling, and movement in the north wall. The parish's Masses are being celebrated in the St. Mary School gymnasium while the church is undergoing extensive repair.

Newark Blessed Sacrament Church was rededicated in late November following a renovation process which

was designed to restore it as closely as possible to the way it looked at the time of its dedication in 1942. The work took more than two years to plan and eight months to carry out. Parishioners worshiped in the school gym while the renovation took place.

The project included a new altar and altar furnishings, restoration of a tabernacle donated by schoolchildren in 1928 and of a baptismal font, return of the confessionals to their original location, installation of new pews and statues, and several structural improvements.

Sunbury St. John Neumann Church ushered in the new year on Jan. 3 with the start of perpetual Eucharistic Adoration in its new adoration chapel.

The Corpus Christi Center of Peace, located at Columbus Corpus Christi Church, closed at the end of June because bequests that paid the salary of its coordinator, Anita Davidson, no longer were available.

The center had served Columbus' south side for nearly four years, offering programs on a variety of subjects. Its restorative justice circles. Women to Women Listening Circle, centering prayer group, and Taize evening prayer gatherings are continuing at the church. In addition, the Dominican Sisters of Peace continue to provide adult education in the Dominican Learning Center at Corpus Christi.

Two new parish clusters were formed this year. One consists of

Canal Winchester St. John XXIII and Groveport St. Mary churches in southeast Franklin County. The other includes Marion St. Mary and Cardington Sacred Hearts churches, which serve all of Marion and Morrow counties respectively. The diocese now has 25 parish clusters among its 105 parishes. The clusters have been formed to address changing diocesan demographics, resources, and needs.

The International Pilgrim Virgin Statue of Our Lady of Fatima visited Columbus Holy Name/Santa Cruz, Holy Family, St. Patrick, and St. Catharine churches for one day each in August, concluding its time in the city with an Aug. 26 noon Mass that filled St. Joseph Cathedral with pilgrims.

The statue was sculpted in 1947 by Portuguese artist Jose Thedim to mark the 30th anniversary of the Fatima apparitions, in response to precise instructions from Sister Lucia dos Santos, the only one of the three Fatima visionaries to live to adulthood. It is one of two identical images of Mary and has traveled the world almost continuously since it was completed, while its "twin" has remained in Fatima. It is on a two-year tour of the United States that began in March and will continue until Dec. 20, 2017.

Diocesan development and planning director Rick Jeric left that position after 13 ½ years to join the Women's Care Centers of Columbus in a de-

velopment and fundraising role. He also will work with other Women's Care Centers nationwide. His successor is Andrea Pannell, development department associate director.

Dan Thimons, director of the diocesan Office of Marriage and Family Life, took a similar position with the Archdiocese of Cincinnati. The new director is Stephanie Rapp, who had been a family coordinator for The Buckeye Ranch in Columbus and has served as a Fair Trade ambassador for Catholic Relief Services.

Marian Hutson retired as principal of Columbus Bishop Watterson High School after 24 years in the position and 39 years at the school as a teacher or administrator there. She became assistant principal and academic dean in 1983 and principal in 2000, replacing John Durant, who had been principal for 24 years. She was the fourth principal in the school's 62-year history. The others were Msgr. Edward Spiers (1954-71), Msgr. Kenneth Grimes (1971-76), and Durant. Replacing her in the fall was Deacon Christopher Campbell, who had been assistant principal.

Among other diocesan school principals retiring was Kathy Milligan of Portsmouth Notre Dame High School, who spent 36 years at the school, including the last 21 as principal.

Dr. Peter Cimboic announced his retirement as president of Ohio Dominican University, effective this coming Aug. 1. He has served as the

university's 15th president for seven years.

Barbara Romanello-Wichtman, director of the diocesan Office of Religious Education and Catechesis since 1997, received the distinguished service award of the National Conference for Catechetical Leadership at the organization's annual conference in Jacksonville, Florida. The association presents the award to one catechist nationwide each year.

Robert D. "Bob" Owens, a member of Grove City Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, died on May 29, two days before his 75th birthday, after being struck by a motorcycle in Siem Reap, Cambodia, while on a lay missionary trip with his wife, Kim, four fellow parishioners, and a granddaughter.

They were to spend time working at a family-style children's home run by Asia's Hope, a Columbus-based, multid denominational, grassroots movement working in Cambodia, Thailand, and India to aid orphaned children.

Jeff Bernard of Gahanna St. Matthew Church was selected as the Catholic Men's Luncheon Club's diocesan Catholic Man of the Year. He was honored for helping start his parish's perpetual adoration program, his involvement in a multiparish effort to respond to the continuing poverty in Vinton County, his two terms as grand knight of the parish's Knights of Columbus council, his

Beyond expectations: Pope sees God of surprises at work in 2016

By **Cindy Wooden**

Catholic News Service

Pope Francis described 2016 as a “packed year,” filled with initiatives that helped Catholics “see and touch with their hands the fruits of the mercy of God.”

“The Lord always surprises us and goes beyond our expectations,” the pope said on Nov. 28, looking back at what happened during the previous 12 months, especially in events related to the Year of Mercy.

While the jubilee celebrations dominated the papal calendar, they did not halt other activities and responsibilities, nor other surprises.

After decades of work, hope, and prayer, Pope Francis finally was the first pope to meet with the Russian Orthodox patriarch. He and Patriarch Kirill of Moscow met briefly in Cuba in February and signed a joint declaration.

In April, after visiting with refugees on the Greek island of Lesbos, Pope Francis -- without prior announcement -- brought 12 of them back to Rome. The Vatican is providing the funds needed for their living expenses, and the Rome-based Sant’Egidio Community is helping them with language lessons and logistics. The 12 all had the legal paperwork necessary to move to Italy.

In May, Pope Francis conducted a dialogue with the superiors general of women’s religious orders from around the world. One of the women asked him



Pope Francis closes the Holy Door of St. Peter’s Basilica before a Mass to conclude the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy at the Vatican on Nov. 20. In concluding the Holy Year, the pope called for mercy to become a permanent part of the lives of believers.

CNS photo/Maria Grazia Picciarella, pool

to establish “an official commission to study the question” of the identity and role of the women who are described as deacons in the New Testament and early Christian writings.

The pope agreed and selected six men and six women for the commission, in addition to commission president Archbishop Luis Ladaria Ferrer, secretary of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith. The commission’s first meeting was in late November.

Here’s a look back at some other items from the pope’s 2016 diary:

In January, Pope Francis became the third modern pope to visit Rome’s main synagogue. He told the congregation that while the Catholic Church affirms that salvation comes through Jesus, it also recognizes that God is faithful and has not revoked his covenant with the Jewish people. He paid special tribute to a handful of Holocaust survivors present for his visit, saying “their sufferings, anguish, and tears must never be forgotten.”

In February, his meeting with Patriarch Kirill took place during a stopover

on his way to Mexico for a pastoral visit that included intense personal prayer at the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe and a special Mass in Ciudad Juarez at a site a few yards from the U.S.-Mexico border. He insisted the migration crisis is not just about numbers, but about “names, stories, and families.”

In March, he continued his practice of conducting a Lenten penance service in St. Peter’s Basilica, going to confession and hearing confessions. The sacrament was a centerpiece of the Year of Mercy celebrations. The pope told priests, “May every man and woman who comes to confession find a father: a father who is waiting, the Father who forgives.”

In April, the Vatican released Pope Francis’ postsynodal apostolic exhortation on the family, *Amoris Laetitia*, insisting that God’s plan for the family is that it be built on the lifelong union of one man and one woman open to having children. The pope called for an overhaul of marriage preparation programs and for the prayerful accompaniment of Catholic couples whose marriages have failed.

In May, the pope received the Charlemagne Prize and delivered a major speech on his vision for a Europe that overcomes division, economic struggles, and fear of immigrants. “We are asked to promote an integration that finds in solidarity a way of acting, a means of making history,” he said. “Sol-

See 2016, Page 13



Pope Francis greets Syrian refugees he brought to Rome from the Greek island of Lesbos at Ciampino airport in Rome on April 16. The pope concluded a one-day visit to Greece by bringing 12 Syrian refugees to Italy aboard his flight.



Pope Francis and Russian Orthodox Patriarch Kirill of Moscow sign a joint declaration on religious unity during a meeting at Jose Marti International Airport in Havana on Feb. 12. The historic meeting marked the first time a pope and a Russian Orthodox patriarch had met since the schism of 1054.

CNS photos/Paul Haring



Pope Francis attends an ecumenical prayer service at the Lutheran cathedral in Lund, Sweden, on Oct. 31. Also pictured are the Rev. Martin Junge, general secretary of the Lutheran World Federation, and Archbishop Antje Jackelen, primate of the Lutheran Church in Sweden. The pope made a two-day visit to Sweden to attend events marking the 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation.



New U.S. Cardinals (from left) Joseph W. Tobin of Newark, New Jersey; Kevin J. Farrell, prefect of the new Vatican office for laity, family and life; and Blase J. Cupich of Chicago, former rector-president of the Pontifical College Josephinum, talk as they arrive for a consistory in St. Peter's Basilica on Nov. 19. They were among 17 new cardinals created by Pope Francis.

2016, continued from Page 12

idity should never be confused with charitable assistance, but understood as a means of creating opportunities for all the inhabitants of our cities -- and of so many other cities -- to live with dignity."

In June, in a small, family-like gathering, Pope Francis helped retired Pope Benedict XVI celebrate the 65th anniversary of his priestly ordination. Even in retirement, he said, Pope Benedict continues to serve the church and "truly contributes with vigor and wisdom to its growth" from the "little *Mater Ecclesiae* monastery in the Vatican."

In July, the pope joined hundreds of thousands of Catholic young people in Krakow, Poland, for World Youth Day. Like many of them, he paid a silent, prayerful visit to Auschwitz, the nearby Nazi death camp. At the closing WYD Mass, he told the young people, "God counts on you for what you are, not for what you possess. In his eyes, the clothes you wear or the kind of cellphone you use are of absolutely no concern. He doesn't care whether you are stylish or not. He cares about you! In his eyes, you are precious and your value is priceless."

In August, he made a brief visit to Assisi for the 800th anniversary of the "Pardon of Assisi," a celebration of God's forgiveness. Pope Francis ended his talk by asking the Franciscan friars

and bishops present to go to one of the confessionals and be available to offer the Sacrament of Reconciliation. He also put on a purple stole and heard confessions.

In September, Pope Francis canonized St. Teresa of Kolkata in the presence of hundreds of Missionaries of Charity, thousands of poor people assisted by the order, and tens of thousands of Catholics from around the world. He said Mother Teresa was "a generous dispenser of divine mercy, making herself available for everyone through her welcome and defense of human life, those unborn, and those abandoned and discarded."

In October, he flew to Sweden to join Lutheran leaders beginning a yearlong commemoration of the 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation. The pope and the Lutherans, focusing on a common baptism in Christ and a common call of discipleship, formally pledged that their communities would work together in peacemaking and social service.

In November, the pope closed the Year of Mercy. Before doing so, he created 17 new cardinals, including three from the United States: Cardinals Blase J. Cupich of Chicago, former rector-president of the Pontifical College Josephinum; Kevin J. Farrell, pre-

fect of the new Vatican office for laity, family and life; and Joseph W. Tobin, recently appointed archbishop of Newark, New Jersey.

Meeting on Nov. 28 with people who had been involved in coordinating Year

of Mercy events, Pope Francis said, "Something truly extraordinary happened, and now it must be inserted into our daily lives so that mercy becomes a commitment and a permanent lifestyle of believers."



Pope Francis carries a candle as he visits the Auschwitz Nazi death camp in Oswiecim, Poland, on July 29. The pope visited the camp while attending World Youth Day.

CNS photos/Paul Haring

The Nativity of the Lord (Cycle A)

Each reading contributes to a part of the day's mystery



**Father
Lawrence L. Hummer**

**Isaiah 62:1-5;
Acts 13:16-17,22-25;
Matthew 1:1-25 (Vigil)**

**Isaiah 9:1-6;
Titus 2:11-14;
Luke 2:1-14 (Night)**

**Isaiah 62:11-12;
Titus 3:4-7;
Luke 2:15-20 (Dawn)**

**Isaiah 52:7-10;
Hebrews 1:1-6;
John 1:1-18 (Day)**

Any given preacher of the Word may well choose any of these readings at any of the Masses, whether at the Vigil or on Christmas day itself. Each reading in some way contributes some aspect of the full mystery of the Christ event that is the real focus of this day in the Church. Unfortunately, this message competes with a society in the United States that is so completely opposite to the message of Christianity that too many of us will fail to hear the Church's proclamation.

The only way to comment effectively is in a cursory manner, drawing themes from each of the Masses. In the Vigil Mass, which often is ignored because of the long list of ancestors connected with that Gospel, we have the theme of liberation from suffering and sin which is so joyfully proclaimed by Isaiah. The delight the Lord takes is not limited to Israel or Jerusalem, but, with the birth of Christ Jesus, is extended to embrace all humanity. The reading from Acts points us to the reality that Jesus came as a savior and descendant of David. The Gospel sets forth an ancestral line for Jesus, tracing his ancestry back to Abraham. It is carefully arranged by Matthew into 14 generations. Like any family tree, the ancestors of Jesus present a lively list of characters, both good and bad. All, in some way, contribute to the birth of the Messiah, as-

uring us that God is indeed with us.

During the Mass at Night, Isaiah announces the light of the Lord shining over a land of darkness and gloom because a child is born who bears with him titles fit for a king's son and more. Today, where wars and terror are a part of everyday life, where homeless immigrants wander, looking for a place to be welcomed where they can make a home, we certainly can identify with the Holy Family as they birth a child, only to have to lay him in a manger because they have no room. Luke redeems the scene with the appearance of the heavenly host to shepherds, as they announce "the good news of great joy for all the people ... a savior has been born for you who is Christ and Lord." Paul, too, announces to Titus that "the grace of God has appeared, saving all ... to cleanse for himself a people as his own, eager to do what is good."

The early Mass on Christmas includes Isaiah's proclamation of the result of the Lord's coming. The "holy people" of the Lord shall be called "the redeemed of the Lord" and "Frequented, a city not Forsaken." Paul writes to Titus that "the kindness and generous love of God our savior appeared." Paul uses the language of baptism when he says we were saved through "the bath of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he richly poured out on us through Jesus Christ our savior." Through baptism, we become "justified by his grace" and "heirs in hope of eternal life." The Gospel contains the joyful visit of the shepherds to the manger, where they find Mary and Joseph and the infant.

The Mass During the Day begins with Isaiah noting "How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings glad tidings." This refers to the announcement that the exile in Babylon is over. Sentinels even see the returning exiles being comforted, much as the Church, acting like a field hospital, nurses those bruised and battered by the world we live in – a world created in harmony, but brought into disharmony by sin. Hebrews soars to the heights in reflecting on the nature of the Son who radiates the glory of the Father. Finally, John reaches back: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." Yet that is not where John ends his reflection: "And the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us and we saw his glory, the glory as of the Father's only Son, full of grace and truth."

In many different ways, by example, by story, by tears and by expressions of joy, preachers of the Word will try to capture something of the mystery of our existence, consecrated by the entrance of the timeless God into life itself. The fullness of that mystery culminates in the death and resurrection of the Son. It is ever inseparable from the Word made flesh to dwell among us. A joyful celebration of the season to you all!

Father Lawrence Hummer, pastor at Chillicothe St. Mary Church, may be reached at hummerl@st-marychillicothe.com.

The Weekday Bible Readings

12/26-12/31	1/2-1/7
MONDAY Acts 6:8-10;7:54-59 Psalm 31:3cd-4,6-8b,16bc,17 Matthew 10:17-22	MONDAY 1 John 2:22-28 Psalm 98:1-4 John 1:19-28
TUESDAY 1 John 1:1-4 Psalm 97:1-2,5-6,11-12 John 20:1a,2-8	TUESDAY 1 John 2:29-3:6 Psalm 98:1,3c-4,5-6 John 1:29-34
WEDNESDAY 1 John 1:5-2:2 Psalm 124:2-5,7b-8 Matthew 2:13-18	WEDNESDAY 1 John 3:7-10 Psalm 98:1,7-9 John 1:35-42
THURSDAY 1 John 2:3-11 Psalm 96:1-3,5-6 Luke 2:22-35	THURSDAY 1 John 3:11-21 Psalm 100:1b-5 John 1:43-51
FRIDAY Sirach 3:2-6,12:14 or Colossians 3:12-21 Psalm 128:1-5 Matthew 2:13-15,19-23	FRIDAY 1 John 5:5-13 Psalm 147:12-15,19-20 Mark 1:7-11, Luke 3:23-28 or Luke 3:23,31-34,36,38
SATURDAY 1 John 2:18-21 Psalm 96:1-2, 11-13 John 1:1-18	SATURDAY 1 John 5:14-21 Psalm 149:1-6a,9b John 2:1-11

DIOCESAN WEEKLY RADIO AND TELEVISION MASS SCHEDULE WEEKS OF DEC. 25, 2016 AND JAN. 1, 2017

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 Ch. 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 the Sanctoral and Seasonal Propers and Week II of the Liturgy of the Hours

In the marriage case styled SHARP - WILSON, 2016-0308, the Tribunal of the Diocese of Columbus, Ohio, is currently unaware of the present address of IZABELLA MARIE WILSON. The Tribunal herewith informs her of the case and invites her to contact REVEREND ROBERT J KITSMILLER, JCL, Presiding and sole Judge, no later than 03 JANUARY 2017. Phone: 614-241-2500. Anyone who knows of the whereabouts of IZABELLA MARIE WILSON is herewith asked to make this Citation known to her or to inform the Tribunal of her current address. Given this 25 day of DECEMBER, 2016. REVEREND ROBERT J KITSMILLER, JCL, Presiding Judge.

The Persecution of Professor Esolen

Professor Anthony Esolen is a bright jewel in the crown of Catholic higher education in the United States, a scholar whose brilliant translation of, and commentary on, Dante's *Divine Comedy* is appreciated far beyond the boundaries of Catholic literary and intellectual life. Tony Esolen is also a wonderful man, a scintillating spiritual writer, and a teacher who takes character formation as seriously as intellectual formation because he wants his students to be virtuous and happy, not just smart and employable. If I were drafting a university-level dream team of instructors for my grandchildren, Tony Esolen would be a very high first-round pick.

So why is Professor Esolen being persecuted at the school where he's taught for 25 years, Providence (Rhode Island) College?

Because he spoke his mind plainly on questions of great consequence for the future of Catholic higher learning and got the PC storm troopers into an uproar. To make matters worse, the college's administration has shown more sympathy to those determined to bully Esolen into silence than to one of Providence's star professors.

The offenses? Two articles that Professor Esolen wrote which proposed that "diversity" (which the professor welcomed) be located within a biblical



THE CATHOLIC DIFFERENCE

George Weigel

vision of the ultimate unity of all humanity in God: a vision that would, he suggested, deepen Providence College's Catholic identity and distinguish it from competitors. Absent that purifying vision, he warned, making a fetish of diversity risks creating a coercive campus ethos inimical to true learning.

Anyone paying attention to campus life in recent years knows that America's colleges and universities are filled with pampered millennials who require "trigger warnings" if their tender sensibilities might be offended by this, that, or the other idea or text. Well, Tony Esolen provided no trigger warning, only robust and bracing argument. And certain students and faculty at Providence College reacted with fits of rage more befitting a day-care center than an institution of higher education. Which, of course, perfectly illustrated one point Esolen made in his articles.

This is sad beyond words. I've long been happy to point parents, students, and donors to Providence College as a school that takes the classic liberal arts tradition seriously and does so with a distinctively Catholic flavor. It will be much harder to do that in the future, unless the college administration reverses its present course, calls the faculty and students who have been brutalizing Profes-

sor Esolen to order, and reaffirms Providence College's commitment to genuine academic freedom and to a Catholic vision of the human person that challenges the tribalism and identity politics eroding our culture and our politics.

As for that erosion, recent data from the World Values Survey tells us that only 30 percent of U.S. millennials (i.e., those born after 1980) think it "essential" to live in a democracy, 24 percent of those same millennials think democracy a "bad" or "very bad" way to run a country, and only 19 percent judge it "illegitimate" for the military to take over when the government is incompetent or failing to do its job. Those numbers might seem appalling. But what should we expect when other survey data tells us that something like 50 percent of recent college graduates are historical illiterates, who (as George Will recently pointed out) don't know that George Washington led the Continental Army at Yorktown, or that Theodore Roosevelt had a role in building the Panama Canal, or that FDR designed the New Deal? When almost half of recent college graduates don't know the length of terms served by members of the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate, is it really surprising that so many in their age cohort claim to value efficient autocracy over the often-messy business of democratic self-governance?

Catholic higher education is uniquely positioned to do something about these twinned problems of historical amnesia and political-cultural corruption. The Church invented the university and its ethos of open inquiry, which was rooted in the conviction that human beings can, with effort, get at the truth of things. Anthony Esolen stands firmly in that great Catholic tradition of liberal learning. A college whose leadership is committed to that tradition, and to Catholic leadership in the reform of an increasingly incoherent and authoritarian American intellectual and educational culture, would celebrate Tony Esolen's contributions. It certainly wouldn't coddle his persecutors.

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



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12:00 Midnight ~ Mass

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10:30 a.m. ~ Mass

5:15 p.m. ~ Mass

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Pray for our dead

BARWICK, Fred J., 76, Dec. 15
St. Elizabeth Seton Parish, Pickerington

BAUER, Edward V., 90, Dec. 14
St. Brendan Church, Hilliard

BOWERS, Dr. Donald F., 81, Dec. 14
Our Lady of Victory Church, Columbus

BRUBECK, Mary, 84, Dec. 10
Immaculate Conception Church, Columbus

KOVACS, Emery "Jim," 88, Dec. 10
St. Peter Church, Columbus

PAULINE, Joseph, 77, Dec. 11
St. Joseph Church, Dover

RENKEL, Marca M. (Gaudio), 46, Dec. 14
Holy Cross Church, Columbus

ROESCH, Patricia (Egger), 86, Dec. 2
St. Mary Church, Delaware

SENCISHIN, Velma (Vilchinsky), 90, Dec. 14
St. Peter Church, Columbus

SIMMONS, Herbert E., 95, Dec. 16
Ss. Peter and Paul Church, Glenmont

SMITH, Mary A. (Conway), 93, Dec. 12
St. Andrew Church, Columbus

TOM, Margaret (Kirchhoff), 79, Dec. 13
Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, Grove City

JoAnn C. Seitz

Funeral Mass for JoAnn C. Seitz, 88, who died Saturday, Dec. 10, was held Monday, Dec. 19 at Grove City Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church.

She was born July 24, 1928 in Cleveland to John and Lillian (Hancy) Burns.

She was the cook and the housekeeper for many years at her parish's rectory and was active in the parish women's club and Silver Streaks group. She also was employed at the

Monterey Nursing Inn, volunteered at the Grove City Cancer Thrift Shop, and participated in events at the Harrisburg and Grove City senior centers.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Robert; and son, James. Survivors include a daughter, Marikay Aitchison; sisters, Colleen Thornton and Ellen June Cowher; four granddaughters; and two great-grandchildren.

Richard E. Frecker

Funeral Mass for Richard E. Frecker, 86, who died Monday, Dec. 12, was held Thursday, Dec. 15 in the chapel of Mother Angeline McCrory Manor, Columbus. Burial was at New Lexington Cemetery.

He was born Nov. 17, 1920, in Gaylord, Michigan to the late Frederick and Irene (Freriks) Frecker.

He was a retired employee of the Zanesville Mold Co. and a fourth-degree member of Knights of Columbus Council 505 in Zanesville.

Survivors include brothers, Msgr. Anthony Frecker, a retired priest of the Diocese of Columbus, and Fred (Teresa); a niece; and three nephews.

Sister Marie Granger, OP

Funeral Mass for Sister Marie Granger, OP, 83, who died Friday, Dec. 16, was held Thursday, Dec. 22 at the Motherhouse of the Dominican Sisters of Peace. Burial was at St. Joseph Cemetery, Columbus.

She was born Ruth Granger April 8, 1929 in Marion to Alonzo and Gertrude (Conway) Granger.

She entered the congregation of the Dominican Sisters of St. Mary of the Springs (now the Dominican Sisters of Peace) in 1950, made her final profession of vows in 1952, and earned degrees from the College of St. Mary of the Springs (now Ohio Dominican University), the University of Notre Dame, and Providence (Rhode Island) College and an administrator's certification from Pace University in New York.

She was an associate professor of education at Ohio Dominican for 41

years between 1959 and 2004, leaving the university only to serve as a school principal in Brooklyn, New York, and Marietta for separate two-year periods. She also taught at Coshocton Sacred Heart (1955-57) and Columbus St. Gabriel (1958-59) schools and in Michigan, Pennsylvania, and the Diocese of Steubenville. In addition, she was the first director of the Dominican Learning Center in Columbus, serving in that position from 1994-2004 and continuing at the center until 2010. She then entered a ministry of prayer and presence until 2014 at the Motherhouse and then at the Mohun Health Care Center.

She was preceded in death by her parents; brothers, Paul, Carl, and Ed; and sister, Marie Zimmer. Survivors include a brother, Richard; and a sister, Jane Edgington.

Submit obituaries to:
tpuet@columbuscatholic.org

Delaware St. Mary Blessing Bags



Students in the third-grade classes taught by Nikki Ford (left) and Paige Oman at Delaware St. Mary School are shown with the blessing bags they assembled for the homeless. St. Mary students in grades kindergarten through eight brought in toiletries, food, gloves, and socks as part of their celebration of the Feast of St. Nicholas.

Photo courtesy St. Mary School

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**AM 820
CATHOLIC RADIO**

H A P P E N I N G S

DECEMBER

22, THURSDAY

Cenacle at Holy Name

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

Children's Christmas Program at St. John Neumann

7 p.m., St. John Neumann Church, 9633 E. State Route 37, Sunbury. "Prepare the Way" Christmas program with approximately 80 elementary-school students.

740-965-1358

Holy Hour of Reparation at Columbus Sacred Heart

7 to 8 p.m., Sacred Heart Church, 893 Hamlet St., Columbus. Eucharistic Holy Hour following Holy Hour of Reparation prayer format, concluding with Benediction and social period.

614-372-5249

24, 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.

'Blue Christmas' Mass at Newman Center

7 p.m., St. Thomas More Newman Center, 64 W. Lane Ave., Columbus. "Blue Christmas" Mass, a traditional Christmas Eve liturgy designed to be more quiet and reflective for people who do not feel joy during the holiday season.

614-291-4674

Midnight Mass with Bishop at Cathedral

11 p.m., St. Joseph Cathedral, 212 E. Broad St., Columbus. Seasonal music with the Cathedral Choir and Brass, followed by midnight Mass celebrated by Bishop Frederick Campbell.

614-241-2526

All fund-raising events (festivals, bazaars, spaghetti dinners, fish fries, 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 be received at least 12 days before expected publication date. We will print them as space permits.

Items not received before this deadline may not be published.

Listings cannot be taken by phone.
Mail to Catholic Times Happenings,
197 E. Gay St., Columbus OH 43215
Fax to 614-241-2518
E-mail as text to
tputet@columbuscatholic.org

25, SUNDAY

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 contemporary music.

614-861-1242

Curry Family Christmas Dinner at Newark St. Francis

Noon, St. Francis de Sales Church, 40 Granville St., Newark. Christmas dinner sponsored by Nick Curry family and open to all.

740-345-9874

Spanish Mass at Columbus St. Peter

4:30 p.m., St. Peter Church, 6899 Smoky Row Road, Columbus. Mass in Spanish.

706-761-4054

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.

614-861-1242

26, MONDAY

Feast Day Mass at St. Stephen

6 p.m., St. Stephen Church, 4131 Clime Road, Columbus. Bilingual Mass celebrating Feast of St. Stephen, followed by potluck.

614-272-5206

Bethesda Post-Abortion Healing Ministry

6:30 p.m., support group meeting, 2744 Dover Road, Columbus (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.

27, 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 rosary, devotions, and 1 p.m. Mass.

614-294-5319

28, WEDNESDAY

Columbus Catholic Renewal Mass at St. Matthias

6 p.m., St. Matthias Church, 1582 Ferris Road, Columbus. Columbus Catholic Renewal program, beginning with rosary, followed by praise adoration led by Justin Yglesias at 6:30, with teams available for individual prayer, and Mass at 7:30 celebrated by Father William Hritsko, followed by social time.

614-500-8115

31, 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.

JANUARY

1, SUNDAY

Exposition at Church of the Resurrection

Our Lady of the Resurrection Chapel, Church of the Resurrection, 6300 E. Dublin-Granville Road, New Albany. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, beginning with procession following 11 a.m. Mass and continuing to 5 p.m.

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.

614-861-1242

Spanish Mass at Columbus St. Peter

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

706-761-4054

Compline at Cathedral

9 p.m., St. Joseph Cathedral, 212 E. Broad St., Columbus. Chanting of Compline, the Catholic Church's official night prayer.

614-241-2526

3, TUESDAY

Catholic War Veterans Monthly Meeting

7 p.m., Red Room, St. Peter Church, 6899 Smoky Row Road, Columbus. Catholic War Veterans Post 1936 meeting. For those who served three months, were honorably discharged, or are on active duty.

614-221-7601

Abortion Recovery Network Group

7 p.m., Pregnancy Decision Health Center, 665 E. Dublin-Granville Road, Columbus. Abortion recovery network group meeting for anyone interested in recovering from abortion or who has been through a recovery program and wants to stay connected.

614-721-2100

Relevant Program for Young Adults

7 p.m., Church of the Resurrection, 6300 E. Dublin-Granville Road, New Albany. Relevant program for adults ages 21-35(ish). Begins with Mass, followed by light appetizers and conversation with Father Jim Csaszar at Wyandotte Winery, 4640 Wyandotte Drive. Cost \$5, with wine available for purchase.

614-855-1400

4, WEDNESDAY

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Novena at St. Elizabeth

7 p.m., St. Elizabeth Church, 6077 Sharon Woods Blvd., Columbus. Mass and monthly novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help, with Father Ramon Owerla, CFIC.

614-891-0150

5, THURSDAY

Cenacle at Holy Name

6 p.m., Holy Name Church, 154 E. Patterson Ave., Columbus. 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., Columbus. 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

Frassati Society Meeting at Columbus St. Patrick

7 p.m., Aquinas Hall, St. Patrick Church, 280 N. Grant Ave., Columbus. Meeting of parish's Frassati Society for young adults, beginning discussion of "I Believe in Love: A Personal Retreat Based on the Teaching of St. Therese of Lisieux" by Father Jean D'Elbee, followed by refreshments at a local pub.

614-224-9522

6, 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 Refugee Road, Columbus. Begins after 9 a.m. Mass; continues through 6 p.m. Holy Hour.

German Epiphany Celebration at Holy Spirit

7 p.m., Holy Spirit Church, 4383 E. Broad St., Columbus. German Epiphany celebration sponsored by Columbus Germania Verein, featuring lessons and carols in German for the traditional Epiphany celebration of Germany, Austria, and Switzerland.

614-861-1521

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, Columbus. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament from 8 p.m. until Mass at 8 a.m. Saturday.

7, 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, preceded 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, followed 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 Ready Scholarship Exam

9 to 11 a.m., Bishop Ready High School, 707 Salisbury Road, Columbus. Scholarship examination for prospective entering students.

614-276-5263

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

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

8, SUNDAY

St. Christopher Adult Religious Education

10 to 11:20 a.m., Library, Trinity Catholic School, 1440 Grandview Ave., Columbus. Introduction to a training program that focuses on a pastoral letter, "The Racial Divide in the United States," by Bishop Edward Braxton of Belleville, Illinois, with speaker James White of Performance Consulting Services.

Kateri Prayer Circle at St. Mark

1 p.m., Aranda Center, St. Mark Church, 324 Gay St., Lancaster. Kateri Prayer Circle meeting to honor St. Kateri Tekakwitha and promote Native Catholic spirituality.

Lay Fraternities of St. Dominic Meeting

1:30 p.m., St. Patrick Church, 280 N. Grant Ave., Columbus. Meeting of St. Catherine of Siena chapter, Lay Fraternities of St. Dominic.

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.

614-861-1242

Spanish Mass at Columbus St. Peter

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

706-761-4054

9, MONDAY

Bethesda Post-Abortion Healing Ministry

6:30 p.m., support group meeting, 2744 Dover Road, Columbus (Christ the King convent, first building west of the church).

614-718-0277, 614-309-2651, 614-309-0157

Divorce Survival Guide at St. Michael

7 to 9 p.m., Upper meeting room, St. Michael Church, 5750 N. High St., Worthington. First session of 12-week "Divorce Survival Guide" program for Catholics dealing with divorce.

614-885-7814

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.

BOOK REVIEW

Pilgrimage: search for the real Pope Francis



For book on Pope Francis, author retraces pope's life

By Mark Zimmermann
Catholic News Service

When Pope Francis first stepped onto the balcony overlooking St. Peter's Square in Rome, Mark Shriver, like millions of other people around the world was captivated by this man, who humbly bowed his head after asking the people there to pray for him before he would offer his first blessing to them.

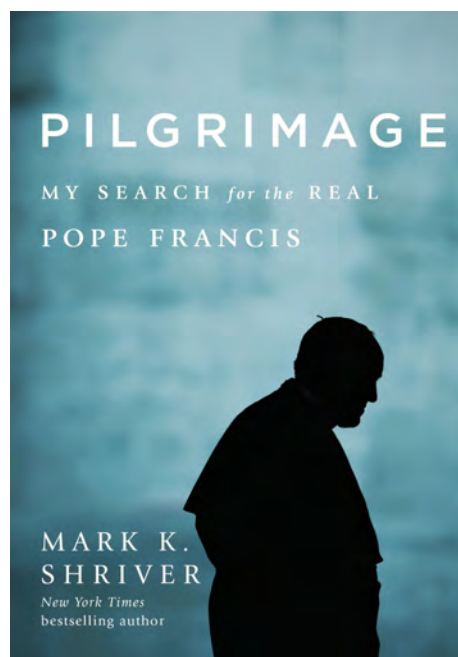
Shriver wondered "Who was this man from Argentina, who joked that the cardinals had gone to the ends of the earth to choose a new pope? Who was this man who rode back on the bus with the cardinals, later paid his own hotel bill, and would move into a Vatican guesthouse rather than the papal apartments?"

"Who was this first pope to choose the name 'Francis,' after St. Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of caring for the poor, protecting the environment and working for peace? Who was this man who washed the feet of juvenile offenders at a detention center, who embraced a man who had a disfigured face, who made his first trip outside Rome to an island where migrants sought safe harbor?"

Then a book publisher invited Shriver to write a book about the new pope. Shriver had written a best-selling biography about his dad -- *A Good Man: Rediscovering My Father, Sargent Shriver* -- but he felt ill-equipped to take on such assignment. He had just begun a new job, as president of Save the Children Action Network in Washington, and he had an active family life with his wife and their three school-age children.

Plus, Shriver didn't speak Spanish, never had been to Argentina, and didn't know much about that South American nation. But in the next two-and-one-half years, he would extensively research the pope's life, writings, and speeches, interview nearly 100 people who knew Jorge Mario Bergoglio before he became pope, and retrace the pope's life from his childhood in Argentina to his papacy in Rome.

The result is Shriver's new Random House book, *Pilgrimage: My Search for the Real Pope Francis*, which went on



sale Nov. 29.

"I wanted to find out who this guy is. I was trying to figure out if what he was doing is real," Shriver said in an interview with the *Catholic Standard*, the newspaper of the Archdiocese of Washington.

For Shriver, the pilgrimage also became a personal journey. He had grown up in a Catholic family, the son of Sargent Shriver, founder of the Peace Corps, and Eunice Kennedy Shriver, founder of the Special Olympics. His parents attended daily Mass, and their faith shaped their lives and work, which was a key theme of Mark Shriver's biography of his father.

But the author, while inspired by his parents' faith and by the witness of many priests and women religious, was disillusioned by the actions of some in the church hierarchy on issues such as the sexual abuse crisis.

Mark Shriver had graduated from a Jesuit high school and college -- Georgetown Preparatory School in North Bethesda, Maryland, and the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, Massachusetts, and he was curious about the first Jesuit pope's background.

"Pope Francis seemed like the right messenger with the right message, a man of substance with an endearing style. His public humility, austerity, the smile, the joy all seemed to emanate from a deep reservoir of peace and self-

knowledge. I wanted to dig in and learn more," Shriver writes in the book.

So Shriver went to Buenos Aires for a two-week visit. During an interview with a rabbi there who had known and worked with the future Pope Francis, he explained, "I am just an American trying to understand Bergoglio and what I can learn from him. I am in search of stories that tell who the man really is."

The pope's home city, Buenos Aires, is a city of contrasts, Shriver points out in the book. Its grand boulevards resemble those of Paris, but are not far from teeming slums, where priests inspired by the future pope continue to serve and bring hope to the poor. There, Shriver witnessed clues to the pope's demeanor: the warmth and affection people demonstrated to each other, and the statues of Mary at subway stations, a sign of how the Catholic faith has been intertwined in Argentina's culture.

With the help of a driver and a translator, Shriver navigated the city's streets and alleyways and interviewed those who knew Jorge Bergoglio as a priest, bishop, cardinal, and friend. He visited the humble home where the future pope grew up, and learned about how Pope Francis' grandmother Rosa -- who had emigrated with her husband and son from Italy -- taught him to pray and respect people from other faiths. He prayed at her bedside when she died at age 90.

"She had an incredible influence on him and wrote a beautiful note he keeps in his breviary today," Shriver said.

Besides Rosa, the other great influence on the future pope was St. Ignatius of Loyola, founder of the Society of Jesus. Bergoglio mirrored the order's founder in surviving a life-threatening lung inflammation as a young man.

Shriver visited the *Colegio Maximo de San Jose*, where the future pope lived off and on for nearly 30 years as a Jesuit student, provincial, rector, and teacher, and he saw his spartan room that reflected the order's militarylike discipline and Bergoglio's humility and simplicity.

In the book, Shriver writes, "For Bergoglio, because of Rosa and St. Ignatius, faith in God was the consuming love of his life."

The future pope was a rising star in his religious order, and became its provincial at a young age. But he later acknowledged in an *America* magazine interview that his authoritarian style of leadership and quick decisions were personal faults. Later, he was transferred to the city of Cordoba, where his ministries included caring for elderly priests.

"How a person changes has always been the narrative that most interests me," Shriver writes, noting that spiritual exile for the future pope offered him time for reflection on how to be a servant and leader in the church.

Then-Father Bergoglio went to be an auxiliary bishop in Buenos Aires, then archbishop and cardinal of that archdiocese.

Today, Pope Francis is known for a leadership style that emphasizes dialogue, listening, and collaboration.

In his pilgrimage to find the real Pope Francis, Shriver said he found a man whose heart is connected to Jesus and whose life is devoted to "doing what he thinks Jesus wants him to do."

The book ends with Shriver, his wife, and their children having a personal encounter with Pope Francis, who offers them a simple message much like that he first expressed on the balcony of St. Peter's.

Reflecting on what he learned from the pope during his pilgrimage, Shriver writes, "His answer starts and ends with faith in God, a faith that opens the windows of your soul so that God can enter into you and do great things."

Like many pilgrimages, the one undertaken by Shriver involved a journey home to examine his own faith and life.

"That's the message of the book. Pope Francis is a great teacher. He's a prophet in our midst. He challenges us to look at ourselves and ask, 'Is God a priority for me?'" Shriver said. "In that regard, it's a pilgrimage to who he is, but it also made me think (about) who I am. Do I really belong to Jesus, do I want to get out of my comfort zone, get mud on my shoes?"

Zimmermann is editor of the *Catholic Standard*, newspaper of the Archdiocese of Washington.



St. Anthony Holiday Craft

Amy Kish's first-grade class at Columbus St Anthony School made snowmen out of recycled fence posts for its holiday craft. Each fence post was cut to the student's height so that in the future, they will be able to see how tall they were in first grade. The students decorated their snowmen as Christmas gifts for their families. Pictured are students (from left) Gabe Smith, DeAudrey Sullivan, and Favor Daley.

Photo courtesy St. Anthony School

COSHOCTON STUDENTS VISIT HEALTH CENTER



Coshocton Sacred Heart School students visited Walnut Grove Health and Rehabilitation Center during the holidays to sing Christmas carols and give the patients handmade Christmas cards and candy canes. Pictured are teacher Valeree Bryant and her pre-kindergarten class.

Photo courtesy Sacred Heart School

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assistance in formation of the Columbus chapter of the Militia Immaculata evangelization movement founded by St. Maximilian Kolbe, and his work in other parish activities.

Students at 20 diocesan elementary and secondary schools or parishes heard talks in February and March from five young people representing The Culture Project, a nationwide organization bringing a message of sexual integrity and individual dignity. Their visit was a project of the diocesan Office of Marriage and Family Life and was made possible with the help of a grant to the office from the *Our Sunday Visitor* Institute,

Bishop Campbell ordained three new diocesan priests on May 28. All are serving as parochial vicars – Father Timothy Lynch at Worthington St. Michael Church, Father Stephen Smith at Jackson Holy Trinity, New Boston St. Monica, and Wheelersburg St. Peter in Chains, and Father Daniel Swartz at Gahanna St. Matthew. Father Swartz will serve in the diocese for at least three years before becoming a chaplain in the Navy, where he will remain on active military duty as a Columbus diocesan priest, subject to recall by Bishop Campbell or his successors at any time.

Father Peter Totleben, OP, was ordained a priest of the Dominican Order

on March 19 at Columbus St. Patrick Church, where he had been serving as a deacon. The ordination was the first to take place at Columbus' second-oldest Catholic church since 1872, 19 years after it was built.

Deacon Daniel Olvera was ordained to the diaconate by Bishop Campbell on May 6. It is anticipated that he will be ordained to the diocesan priesthood this May on completion of his theological studies. Deacon Chad VanHoose, a Portsmouth native, also is completing his studies for the priesthood. He anticipates serving the Archdiocese of St. Paul-Minneapolis, where he has lived for the past several years. He was ordained a deacon on May 14 at the Basilica of St. Mary in Minneapolis.

Bishop Campbell also ordained 12 diocesan laymen as permanent deacons on Nov. 26. The deacons and their parish assignments are Deacon David Bezusko, Marysville Our Lady of Lourdes; Deacon Michael Kopczewski, Grove City Our Lady of Perpetual Help; Deacon David Lozowski, Dresden St. Ann; Deacon Kevin Murrin, New Albany Church of the Resurrection; Deacon Jason Nguyen, Columbus Ss. Augustine & Gabriel; Deacon Ronald Onslow, New Philadelphia Sacred Heart; Deacon Stephen Petrill, Powell St. Joan of Arc; Deacon Thomas Phillips III, Columbus St. Thomas;

Deacon Thomas Rowlands, Columbus St. Margaret of Cortona; Deacon C. Gregory Waybright, Pickerington St. Elizabeth Seton; Deacon Mark Weiner, Perry County Consortium of Catholic Churches; and Deacon Paul Zemanek, Dublin St. Brigid of Kildare.

Father Gennaro "Jerry" Sesto, SDB, 94, a canon law professor for 14 years at the Pontifical College Josephinum, died on Jan. 15. He also served as dean of students (1968-70) and associate academic dean (1970-81) at the college. He was a professed member of the Salesian order for 75 years and a priest for 65 years.

Father Patrick L. Sheridan, 70, died on April 28, about three months after he had been appointed chaplain at Ohio Dominican University. He was a Columbus native who, after a career as a real estate agent, was ordained a priest of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati just after his 53rd birthday. He spent 12 years as pastor at Bellefontaine St. Patrick Church in that archdiocese before being appointed to the Ohio Dominican position.

Deacon William J.F. "Bill" Davis, 86, died on Aug. 9. He had been a deacon for 29 years, retiring from active ministry in 2007, and served at Westerville St. Paul and Columbus St. Peter churches. At Columbus St. Agnes and St. Aloysius churches, he was the dio-

cese's first deacon administrator under the supervision of a priest moderator. He helped out at Powell St. Joan of Arc Church until shortly before his death.

Deacon Joseph P. Checca Jr., 68, died Oct. 6. He served at Columbus St. James the Less Church from his ordination in 1990 until 2012, then was assigned to Pickerington St. Elizabeth Seton Parish, where he continued to serve until the time of his death.

Religious sisters who died in 2016 and served in or were natives of the Diocese of Columbus, or who were living in the diocese at the time of their death, were: Sister Laura Garges, OSF, 97, Jan. 3; Sister M. Thomasina John, PCJ, 88, Jan. 9; Sister Margaret Michael, SNDdeN, 100, Jan. 11; Sister Marguerite McHugh, SNDdeN, 93, Feb. 6; Sister Gavin Hagan, OSF, 91, Feb. 25; Sister Henrietta Schwagler, OSF, 97, March 28; Sister Matilda Vaitekaitis, OP, 97, March 31; Sister Ann Bailie, OP, 87, July 4; Sister Helen Walter, OP, 97, Aug. 27; Sister Agnes Anne Roberts, CSC, 89, Sept. 16; Sister Celia Kiesel, OSF, 90, Oct. 9; Sister Lelia Horkans, OP, 88, Oct. 10; Sister Helena "Peggy" Sause, OP, 74, Oct. 26; Sister Mary Ellen Boyle, OP, 84, Nov. 1; Sister Donna Butler, OSF, 83, Nov. 3; Sister Marguerite of the Sacred Heart Schoenung, SNDdeN, 86, Nov. 14; and Sister Marie Granger, OP, 87, Dec. 16.

BISHOP READY ADVENT PROJECTS

In addition to the traditional lighting of the Advent wreath, celebrations during and immediately before Advent at Columbus Bishop Ready High School focused on service.

The National Honor Society collected gift items for children as part of Operation Christmas Child, a project of Samaritan's Purse, an international organization that provides Christmas gifts for children around the world.

The Student Council led the Angel Tree project, collecting gifts for children ages one through 14 in the Columbus area in cooperation with the Salvation Army.

A challenge from principal Celene Seamen led to the collection of 1,562 nonperishable food items for the Holy Family Soup Kitchen, with 100 percent student participation.

A class in business principles and strategies sponsored a project-based learning activity. All proceeds went to the school chapter of the Future Business Leaders of America, which used the money to purchase items for life bags for the homeless. The bags were donated to the Run the Race organization for distribution.

The project, "It's A Wing Thing," featured five area businesses competing to see who had the best-tasting chicken wings, based on votes placed by participants



who paid \$10 each for the opportunity to sample the wings. A limited number of tickets were sold and more than \$1,000 – enough to fill approximately 100 life bags – was collected.

Ready's Castle Crew program includes students in grades four to eight who attend Ready's feeder schools and other area schools. The crew sponsored two events to promote service, spirituality, collegiality, and fun.

At the first event, Service Knight, 27 crew members

filled meal packages for those in need. More than 600 people were provided with meals through this effort. The second event included an Advent prayer service led by the school's campus ministry department, along with ornament making, cookie decorating, and creating gingerbread houses. Ready students are activity leaders for all Castle Crew events.

Photo: Columbus Bishop Ready High School students with gifts collected for the school's Angel Tree Project.

Photo courtesy Bishop Ready High School

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

The Ohio Dominican University family sends you and your loved ones best wishes for a blessed Christmas and a 2017 filled with wonder!

We hope you'll find time to visit our campus during this joyous season.

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