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CATHOLIC TIMES

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THE 4TH WEEK IN ORDINARY TIME
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**RALLYING IN DEFENSE OF LIFE
AT THE OHIO STATEHOUSE**

The Editor's Notebook

Standing for Life

By David Garick, Editor



It's been 43 years. That's how long we have been fighting against the horror of legalized abortion in the United States. In the context of the entire history of mankind, that's not a long time. But when you consider the life experience of people alive today, this fight has been going on for most of their lives. For the women most likely to be victims of this phony choice for which they supposedly have a constitutional entitlement, this struggle has gone on for their entire lives. And for millions of innocent children, this injustice has kept them from drawing their first breath on this earth. It's been 43 years and the fight goes on. It goes on because it matters.

This is where the new secularism has led us. We live in a society where the most socially unacceptable thing you can do is to hint that there might be some hard and fast rules about what is right and wrong. Today's conventional wisdom insists that everybody has to decide for himself or herself what is right or wrong, based on the situation they are in at that moment. Our world today is centered on our choice of lifestyle, yet that choice is intimately linked to the denial of life itself ... to the culture of death.

We live in a society where religion is viewed as a quaint artifact of days gone by. Belief in an all-powerful God is sneered at as being unsophisticated and judgmental. What goes unstated is that these hip, modern people have a religion of their own. They also worship a god. That god is themselves. Members of this self-indulgent generation have decided to cut out the middle man and be their own god. Right and wrong are something everyone can decide for themselves. Choice is the prime directive. If it feels

good, do it. And don't let anyone tell you what to do. Not even God.

That is what has led us to this point. This self-worship has no use for 50 million developing children deemed to be too inconvenient to be born. This self-worship has led to the notion that sexuality is a toy to be used without any regard to its consequences and its essential role in the creation of life and the establishment of families. This self-worship says that when a life becomes inconvenient, through old age, infirmity, criminal conduct, or a variety of other reasons, it can be terminated through capital punishment, assisted suicide, euthanasia, or denial of medical care that is deemed "not cost-effective." This self-worship tells us that it is perfectly fine to create a new human life, then simply destroy it for the sake of obtaining embryonic stem cells for medical research or to harvest organs from aborted babies for similar scientific purposes.

People of faith are standing up against this latest form of paganism. The stories in this week's edition of *Catholic Times* tell of some of the people who took to the streets in Columbus and in Washington to say to the world that killing our next generation, the previous generation, or any generation of human beings is wrong. Not because we say so, but because God says so. People are taking a stand because they have faith in a God who created us, nurtured us, and sent his Son to live among us, to die for us, and to rise again to bring us to eternal life with him. After 43 years, people are standing up because even in the face of the culture of death, life still matters.

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Correction - A story in the Jan. 17 *Catholic Times* incorrectly listed the date for a citywide prayer gathering sponsored by the diocesan Catholic Charismatic Renewal at Columbus Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal Church as Sunday, Feb. 13. The date should be Saturday, Feb. 13.



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Bishop Frederick F. Campbell, D.D., Ph.D. ~ President & Publisher
 David Garick ~ Editor (dgarick@coldioc.org)
 Tim Puet ~ Reporter (tpuet@coldioc.org)
 Alexandra Keves ~ Graphic Design Manager (akeves@coldioc.org)
 Mailing Address: 197 E. Gay St., Columbus OH 43215
 Editorial/Advertising: (614) 224-5195 FAX (614) 241-2518
 Subscriptions (614) 224-6530 FAX (614) 241-2573
 (subscriptions@coldioc.org)

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Front Page photo: Participants in the Jan. 22 pro-life rally at the Ohio Statehouse unfold a banner promoting the 40 Days for Life prayer vigil which begins Wednesday, Feb. 10.

CT photo by Ken Snow

Don't confuse marriage with other kinds of unions, pope says

By Carol Glatz
 Catholic News Service

Pope Francis said God's plan for marriage as an indissoluble bond between one man and one woman who are open to life cannot be confused with other sorts of unions.

"The church, in fact, can demonstrate God's unwavering merciful love toward families, especially those wounded by sin and life's trials, and at the same time proclaim the essential truth of marriage according to God's plan," the pope said on Jan. 22 in a meeting with members of the Roman Rota. The pope holds the annual meeting to inaugurate the Vatican court's judicial year.

Pope Francis said the court, which hears requests for marriage annulments, helps support families and the truth about the sacred bond of marriage.

In evaluating and judging marriage cases and contributing to formation, the Roman Rota helps promote and proclaim the truth, he said.

When the church, through the court's service, seeks to declare the truth about marriage in each specific case, it always bears in mind that those "who, through free choice or unfortunate circumstances in life, live in an objective state of error continue to be the object of the merciful love of Christ and therefore of the church, too," he said.



The two recent gatherings of the Synod of Bishops which focused on the family were occasions of "in-depth, knowledgeable discernment" and gave the church a chance to tell "the world that there can be no confusion between the family desired by God and any other kind of union," the pope said. "The family, based on indissoluble, unitive and procreative marriage, is part of God's 'dream' and the church's for the salvation of humanity," he said. The church will always offer the truth about marriage, he said, "not as an ideal

for the few, despite modern examples based on what is fleeting and transitory, but as a reality that, with Christ's grace, can be lived by all the baptized faithful."

That means there is great pastoral urgency for adequate marriage preparation; for example, he said, with a kind of marriage "catechumenate" that was suggested during the synods on the family. A catechumenate would entail a longer process of formation before marriage, as well as during the years right after the wedding.

While the family is considered to be a

"domestic church," he said, the church is the family of God. Therefore, the church must be filled with a loving "family spirit," where people are "no longer strangers and sojourners," but members of God's family, he said.

The church -- as both mother and teacher -- knows that not every one of her children is perfect, he said.

"The church knows that some Christians have a faith that's strong, formed from love, strengthened by good catechesis, and nourished by prayer and a sacramental life," the pope said, "while others have a faith that's weak, neglected, unformed, poorly taught, or forgotten."

The pope reiterated church teaching that the level of a person's faith "is not an essential condition of matrimonial consent," and, in fact, he said, it is not unusual for engaged couples to go into a marriage with a limited understanding of the fullness of God's plan.

"The lack of formation in the faith and even error concerning the unity, indissolubility, and the sacramental dignity of marriage invalidate matrimonial consent only when they determine" or condition a person's will, he said.

Precisely for this reason, "errors which concern the sacramentality of marriage must be evaluated very carefully," he said.

JEFF BERNARD IS 2016 CATHOLIC MAN OF THE YEAR

Jeff Bernard of Gahanna St. Matthew Church has been selected as the Catholic Men's Luncheon Club's 2016 diocesan Catholic Man of the Year.

Bishop Frederick Campbell will present him the award at the club's meeting following the 11:45 a.m. Mass on Friday, Feb. 5 at Columbus St. Patrick Church, 280 N. Grant Ave. A \$10 donation is requested to cover the cost of the luncheon.

Bernard is serving his second term as grand knight of St. Jude Council 5801 of the Knights of Columbus, which he has led to Star Council status, the highest council honor in the organization. He has been instrumental in starting a women's group for the wives of council members.

He was active in formation three years ago of the Columbus chapter of the

Militia Immaculata, a worldwide evangelization movement founded by St. Maximilian Kolbe in 1917 that encourages total consecration to the Blessed Virgin Mary as a means of spiritual renewal. The chapter has more than 200 members.

He also helped start a perpetual adoration program which began at the church on Ash Wednesday last year in a chapel created for the program in the church basement. He teaches Confirmation readiness classes for seventh- and eighth-graders in the Parish School of Religion.

He recently became involved in a multiparish effort to respond to the continuing poverty in Vinton County. Each Friday, he and others in the program drive a van with needed supplies to the St. Francis Center in McArthur.

He and his wife, Heather, have been married 14 years and have five children ages 12 to one, three of whom have special needs. The parish's pastor, Father Theodore Sill, said the Bernards "provide an inspirational example in the raising of their young children. ... They are a family who work at living their faith by attending Mass regularly."

He described Bernard as "a fine Catholic gentleman who strives to live his faith as a committed Christian father, husband, and mentor to others. He is generous and gentle, one to whom others look for advice and good example." "He is everything that a man should be. He is a devoted husband and a spiritual leader in his household," said Deacon Joe Meyer, who serves the parish.

Bernard has been employed by Cat-

erpillar Financial Services for 13 years. He was unanimously chosen as the recipient of the award by a selection committee consisting of David Ball and Kurt Purcell of the Catholic Men's Retreat League, Andrew Baker and Steve Friend of the Catholic Men's Ministry, Roger Baughman and Bill Messerly of the Serra Club, Gary Anderson and Fred Scheltz of the Knights of Columbus, and Tim Merkle, Frank Hartge, and John Schechter of the luncheon club. Father Michael Lumpe, rector of Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral, was the group's spiritual adviser.

The club established the award in 1957 and has presented it in each year since. The 2015 recipient was Bill Hinger of Columbus Immaculate Conception Church.

PRACTICAL STEWARDSHIP

By Rick Jeric

Chaplains

I want to thank everyone for their great support of St. John's Food Pantry. The "Cocktails for a Cause" event at Double Comfort in the Short North was a nice success. I made and sold a lot of drinks – I hope at least one more than Pete Beirne. I do know that together, we raised a good bit of cash to help our brothers and sisters in need. At the time of my writing this, the totals had not been confirmed. Thank you for your generosity. Were you able to meditate in a little different way this past week? Using music or video or a book from a favorite artist can provide some variety to our prayer life and meditation. Many parts of the spoken, sung, or written word can help us relate to God. We continue to thank Him for all our good gifts, and pray that our life on earth paves the way for eternal life in Heaven. We hope to see everyone there – especially family, friends, and those we admired in this life.

One of the most difficult challenges we face these days is maintaining a spirit of ecumenical love and cooperation. Yes, there are many good and successful efforts happening. But overall, especially given the current state of Muslim and Christian relations, things are not the best. It is not easy to sort through everything. While we hold fast to the love and mercy of Jesus Christ, there is reasonable rationale for combating and fighting the evil of ISIS and other religious fanaticism, even to the point of death. We rightfully honor our servicemen and women for protecting our freedom and putting their lives on the line each day. It becomes more and more difficult to find stories and examples of heroism and bravery that cross religions and are interfaith in practice. I want to share a great story that is reflective of this heroism. It is a true story from World War II, and involves four chaplains. Feb. 3 is approaching, and that is the official commemoration of "Four Chaplains Day." I will gladly use my next two columns to briefly tell the story. The heroic and selfless actions of these men, along with our prayers for peace and ecumenical harmony in the world, should provide plenty of meditation and spiritual pondering. No plagiarism here – I want to thank Dr. Tony Joseph for bringing this to my attention, and please note that there is Internet research used.

The Four Chaplains were in the Army together in 1943. They gave their lives to save other military and civilians as the SS Dorchester sank on Feb. 3, 1943 after being torpedoed by a German U-boat. Together, they helped others board lifeboats, and even gave up their own life jackets when they ran out. The chaplains are remembered as joining arms, praying, and singing hymns together as they went down with the ship. Each held the rank of first lieutenant. They were Methodist minister the Rev. George Fox, Rabbi Alexander Goode, Roman Catholic priest Father John Washington, and Reformed Church minister the Rev. Clark Poling. They were traveling to Europe together to report to their new assignments. Next week – their story. Our practical challenge this week is to pray for our brave men and women who protect us, while praying in earnest for a genuine and lasting peace, especially between different faiths.

Jeric is director of development and planning for the Columbus Diocese.



Year of Mercy Speaker Series

During this Year of Mercy, Columbus St. Mary Magdalene Church, 473 S. Roys Ave., will present a series of talks on topics related to mercy.

The series begins at 5 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 31 with a discussion on the Year of Mercy by Mark Huddy, episcopal moderator for the diocesan Office for Social Concerns. A wine and cheese reception will follow.

Other topics scheduled so far for the series, with times and dates, are: "Feeding and Clothing the Poor" with Heather Swiger of the St. Vincent de Paul Society and Lisa Keita of the Joint Organization for Inner-City Needs, 5 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 13; "Sheltering" with Monica

Siemer of The Lamb Catholic Worker Group, 5 p.m. Saturday, March 12; "Fiber Ministry" with Erin Cordle of the Office for Social Concerns, 9:45 a.m. Saturday, April 9; "Care for Creation" with Jerry Freewalt of the Office for Social Concerns, noon Wednesday, May 18; and "Welcome the Stranger" with Angela Johnston of the Office for Social Concerns, 7 p.m. Tuesday, June 21.

All events are free and will be held at the church. Please RSVP to Cindy at (614) 274-1121, extension 13 or coddii@saintmarymag.org. The parish extends a special thanks to the series sponsors, The Catholic Foundation and the Office for Social Concerns.

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.

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Going Beyond Labels, New Marist Poll Shows Consensus on Abortion Limits

Survey shows 8 in 10 Americans and 2 out of 3 pro-choice supporters want restrictions

As the 43rd anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court's *Roe v. Wade* decision legalizing abortion approaches, a strong majority of Americans – including a majority of those who consider themselves "pro-choice" – support substantial abortion restrictions, transcending the typical "pro-life" or "pro-choice" labeling. The findings are detailed in a new Marist Poll commissioned by the Knights of Columbus.

While Americans who identify as "pro-life" overwhelmingly support restrictions on abortion, "pro-choice" Americans also support such propos-

als – with majorities saying they favor several types of restrictions.

The survey found that more than eight in 10 Americans (81 percent), including women (82 percent) and nearly two-thirds of pro-choice supporters (66 percent), would restrict abortion to – at most – the first three months of pregnancy. The answer to this question has been approximately eight in 10 since the survey was launched in 2008.

Additionally, 77 percent of Americans, including 79 percent of women and 71 percent of "pro-choice" sup-

porters, say that laws can protect both a mother and her unborn child. Only about one in five (17 percent of Americans, 15 percent of women, 23 percent of pro-choice identifiers) disagree.

The poll also found that majorities of Americans see abortion as both ultimately harmful to women and morally wrong.

By a 25-point margin, Americans (55 to 30 percent) say that abortion ultimately does a woman more harm than good. A similar proportion of women agree (56 percent to 31 percent). More than one in four who identify as pro-choice (27 percent) also share this view.

Six in 10 Americans (60 percent), including 61 percent of women, say abortion is "morally wrong." One-third of pro-choice Americans (33 percent) agree.

"Year in and year out since we began polling on this issue, the American people have understood that the law can protect mother and child alike and have expressed a strong consensus in favor of abortion restrictions," said Knights of Columbus Supreme Knight Carl Anderson. "It is time for a new national conversation on abortion – one that begins with this consensus in favor of restrictions: a consensus that American women and men have already reached, and that includes a majority even of those who call themselves pro-choice."

In addition, nearly seven in 10 Americans (68 percent), including 69 percent

of women, oppose taxpayer funding of abortion. This includes 51 percent of those who consider themselves pro-choice. Fewer than three in 10 Americans (29 percent) support it.

Similarly, more than six in 10 Americans (61 percent), including 60 percent of women, support laws that would ban abortion after 20 weeks of pregnancy, except to save the life of the mother. The percentage was the same for pro-choice supporters (62 percent).

Fifty-one percent of Americans – including 50 percent of women – believe health care providers and organizations should have the right to opt out of providing abortion services if they have moral objections. About four in 10 (42 percent) of both groups disagree. Notably, even one-third (34 percent) of those who identify as pro-choice would protect the right to opt out.

The survey of 1,686 adults was conducted from Nov. 15-22, 2015, by the Marist Institute for Public Opinion and sponsored by the Knights of Columbus. Adults 18 years age and older residing in the continental United States were interviewed in English and Spanish by telephone using live interviewers. Results for adults are statistically significant within plus or minus 2.4 percentage points. The error margin increases for cross-tabulations.

For more details about the survey results and methodology, visit kofc.org/polls.

Respect Life Conference

The 2016 diocesan Respect Life conference will have the theme "Being Pro-Life in the Year of Mercy" and will take place from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, March 5 at Plain City St. Joseph Church, 670 W. Main St.

The keynote speaker will be Father Kevin Lutz, pastor of Columbus St. Mary, St. Ladislav, and Corpus Christi churches.

Subjects of other talks will be practical parish resources to promote the Church's teaching on respect for human life; an overview of the pro-life elements in Pope Francis' encyclical *Laudato Si'*; community outreach

programs offering hope and healing, such as the Guardian Angel Project of Pregnancy Decision Health Centers; and updates on legislation and advocacy efforts.

The \$20 registration fee, due by Monday, March 1, includes lunch.

Checks may be made payable to the diocesan Office for Social Concerns. Please inform the office of any special-needs accommodations.

For more information, go to www.social.concerns.colsdioc.org, email socmailbox@colsdioc.org, or call (614) 241-2540.

Diocese of Columbus Child Protection Plan

It is the goal of the Diocese of Columbus to make the Church a place of safety: a place of prayer, ministry and comfort. Everyone who enters our churches, schools, or facilities must be confident in this. Not one child or young person should suffer from abuse while at Church. In order to assure the safety of our youth, the Diocese of Columbus has enacted a complete program of protection. As part of this program, the Diocese of Columbus will provide appropriate, just, and pastoral care for anyone who has suffered the crime of sexual abuse of a minor at the hands of diocesan clergy or church employees or volunteers. The Diocese of Columbus will report any and all allegations of abuse reported to it to the authorities and will cooperate fully with those authorities.

Help is available: The Diocese of Columbus wants to hear from anyone who has suffered. If you wish to report an allegation of abuse or need pastoral and/or clinical care in order to begin or continue the process of healing from sexual abuse as a child at the hands of a member of the clergy or a church employee or volunteer, simply call the diocesan Victims' Assistance Coordinator. You can find contact information at the bottom of this notice. If you wish to receive a copy of the diocesan complaint form or any of the diocesan policies and procedures, simply call the number below or visit the diocesan web site at www.colsdioc.org

To contact the diocesan Victim's Assistance Coordinator, call:
The Rev. Msgr. Stephan J. Moloney
614.224.2251 • helpisavailable@colsdioc.org

Repentance required for forgiveness?



QUESTION & ANSWER
by: FATHER KENNETH DOYLE
Catholic News Service

Regarding your recent column on forgiving ISIS: Must forgiveness be predicated on remorse and repentance by the offending party? I am thinking of Christ being crucified and saying "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they are doing" -- or St. Stephen forgiving those who had stoned him. (Greenwich, Connecticut)

Jesus said that we must forgive or our heavenly father will not forgive us. The forgiving of the offending person -- with my will -- can happen right away, with God's grace, even when I am still very hurt and angry. Forgiving does not mean that the person is exonerated, should be let out of prison if there has been a crime, or that I should trust him or even relate to him if he continues to be dangerous. (Pope John Paul II forgave his would-be assassin in prison, but never requested that he be released.) The clincher for me was hearing a speaker say that if I held on to resentment, hate, or anger toward a person who hurt me, how was I different from that person? (Columbus)

We are called to pray for the very souls of those who commit atrocities in the name of ISIS -- that God turn their hearts of stone and have mercy on them. I disagree with you that we don't have to forgive them -- we, too, risk separating ourselves from God if we choose not to forgive. (McLean, Virginia)

It has been my formation and my understanding that forgiveness is not about the other. It is about us. Forgiveness is a decision one makes to let go of the power that the perpetrator has over your mind, your heart, your emotions. Holocaust survivors such as Corrie ten Boom have forgiven their Nazi persecutors, even those who killed her family members. (City of origin withheld)

I would like to differ with you with respect to what appears to be your description of a twofold conditional model of forgiveness that requires remorse and repentance (i.e., a pledge of changed behavior). In my mind, conditional forgiveness is merely a secular model of forgiveness, rather than the unconditional higher moral ideal to which we are called as Christians. (Atlanta)

In a recent column regarding forgiveness, I said this in part: "A parishioner happened to ask me, after the Paris bombings, how he could ever 'forgive ISIS.' I told him that he didn't have to, because forgiveness (in my mind) presumes remorse on the part of the perpetrator and a pledge

of changed behavior, both of which are notably lacking in the ISIS terrorists."

I said that we should pray for those benighted individuals and leave judgment of them to God -- while also remembering, of course, to pray especially for their victims.

Few columns that I have written have generated as much response -- most of it negative. The questions/responses above are just a sampling of the opinions expressed. As with any fair criticism, I think my responsibility is to evaluate it, re-examine the original question, and determine whether the new comments might cause me to modify my first response.

I have done that -- honestly, I hope -- and my answer is still the same. Jesus did say of his persecutors, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they are doing." I have always taken this to mean that Christ realized his executioners had not measured the gravity of their offense; had no awareness that they were killing the author of life, the savior of the world, the icon of all goodness; had felt they were simply fulfilling a civic duty by ridding themselves of someone who threatened to foment revolution in Roman-occupied Israel.

Jesus, I think, was asking God to take all of this into consideration before judging them.

As for the ISIS terrorists, I have no microscope into their minds and their motivation. That is why I chose, in my response, to pray for them, while leaving any judgments to God. But I don't think that I am bound to forgive them -- or to operate on the assumption that they were nobly motivated -- and I base my opinion, in particular, on two other Gospel passages.

In Matthew 18:15-17, Jesus speaks of those who sin against other members of the community of his followers. Jesus says that their faults should be pointed out, but that if they refuse to listen, they should be treated as "a gentile or a tax collector." That, to me, does not sound like a plea for forgiveness.

Even more clearly, in Luke 17:3-4, Jesus says, "If your brother sins, rebuke him; and if he repents, forgive him. And if he wrongs you seven times in one day and returns to you seven times saying, 'I am sorry,' you should forgive him." Note especially that forgiveness is conditioned on the offender's apology.

And isn't this what the church has traditionally taught with regard to the sacrament of penance: that the absolution of the priest is predicated on a "purpose of amendment"? Should the sinner have not the slightest intention of changing the behavior that is sinful, the guilt remains. So if God's forgiveness is conditional, is it wrong for our own to be?

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

Danville fish fry to benefit family of slain police officer

Knights of Columbus Council 910 in Danville is donating the proceeds of its fish fry on Friday, Feb. 19 to the family of Danville Police Officer Thomas Cottrell, who was shot to death on Sunday, Jan. 17 while protecting the community. The fish fry will be from 4 to 7 p.m. at the St. Luke Community Center, 7 W. Rambo St.

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Delaware St. Mary Faith Formation

Delaware St. Mary Church, 82 E. William St., is planning several adult faith formation programs for Lent and beyond.

"Walking Toward Eternity" with Jeff and Emily Cavins will be offered from 7 to 9 p.m. Monday, Feb. 1 and continue through the Monday nights in February. This inspiring series is designed to help participants live their faith more fully through daily prayerful meditation with Scripture. Books for the series cost \$15. Some scholarships are available.

The parish is sponsoring a family movie night on Tuesday, Feb. 9 at 6:30 p.m. in Beitel Commons, featuring the film *A Perfect Game*, about how a ragtag, shoeless bunch of players from Monterrey, Mexico, led by a priest and facing bigotry while traveling in the South, in 1957 became the first team from outside the United States to win the Little League World Series.

The series "Symbolon II: Living the Faith," exploring how Jesus gave us the Sacraments, the Mass, and the treasures of Church teaching, is ongoing on Thursdays at 9:30 a.m. in Kavanagh Hall. Books are \$15, with some scholarships available. Digital books may be obtained for free by going to www.formed.org and using parish access code M2BD6B.

The parish also is offering three monthly social events for anyone 18 and older. Theology on Tap, for those 18 to 35, will begin on Ash Wednesday, Feb. 10, at the El Vaquero restaurant, 259 S. Sandusky St., and continue on every second Wednesday of the month. A speaker will be featured from 7 to 8 p.m.

Catechism Uncorked events for 36- to 64-year-olds are scheduled on the second Thursday of the month at Amato's Woodfired Pizza, 6 S. Sandusky St. They will start with social time and time to submit questions, with a special guest answering. A senior social, with snacks, will take place from 1 to 3 p.m. every first Thursday of the month in Kavanagh Hall.

The parish Lenten mission, "Understanding God's Mercy" with Father Thomas Blau, OP, is scheduled for 7 p.m. Sunday to Tuesday, Feb. 21 to 23. Other Lenten activities will be listed in the calendar of diocesan Lenten activities published in the Feb. 14 *Catholic Times*. For more information, contact Maria Vonada at (740) 513-3325 or mvonada@delawarestmary.org.

Corpus Christi Retreat

The Corpus Christi Center of Peace, 1111 E. Stewart Ave., Columbus, is offering a retreat titled "Come Away and Pray," to be conducted in the spirit and style of the Taize community, from 7 p.m. Friday, Feb. 12 to 4 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 13.

Co-leaders for the retreat will be Pete McClernon and Anita Davidson. McClernon is music director of Hilliard St. Brendan Church and was a Salesian seminarian for 14 years.

Davidson, coordinator of the Corpus Christi center and an Associate of the Dominican Sisters of Peace, has 30 years of experience in church ministry and is a graduate of Shalem Institute's spiritual guidance program.

Taize is an ecumenical monastic community in France of about 100 brothers from more than 30 nations who want their lives to be a sign of reconciliation between divided Christians and separated peoples. Taize prayer is known for its simple, yet beautiful chants, proclamation of Scripture, and silent meditation.

The \$100 cost of the program includes overnight accommodation and breakfast and lunch on Saturday. For commuters, the cost will be \$40, including lunch. Financial assistance is available to anyone who needs it. Those who can be asked to contribute to a scholarship fund for meeting such needs.

For information, register online at www.cccenterofpeace.org, email corpuschristicenterofpeace@gmail.com, or call (614) 512-3731.

AT THE HEART OF THE TRAGEDY OF ADDICTION



MAKING SENSE
Out of Bioethics
Father Tad Pacholczyk

Addiction can be extremely harmful, and, in some cases, fatal for those individuals ensnared by it. It can be seriously disruptive and damaging to those around them. Who is to blame when it comes to addiction? Family and friends may think to themselves, "Why can't Jane just stop drinking?" Or "Doesn't Joe understand that his gambling addiction is bankrupting the family?" Or "Can't Bob see how his pornography habit is destroying his marriage and his relationships?" For those facing addiction, it seems they ought to be able to recognize their behavior as harmful and turn away from it by a resolute decision. Family and friends, however, can face years of frustration when they see their loved ones fall into a slow motion "crash and burn," spiraling downward as they remain unwilling or unable to step away from their addiction.

The individual caught in the web of addiction objectively falls prey to a loss of personal freedom. His will becomes weakened, and he becomes enslaved in a way that limits his ability to recognize the right order of goods in his life. By repetitively choosing the addictive behavior, it becomes ingrained, and the ability to choose better, alternative behaviors becomes enfeebled, if not seemingly impossible. For these reasons, there is almost always diminished personal responsibility in situations of addiction. To be accountable for our acts, we must freely choose those acts, but the internal pressure and downward spiral of the addiction may have already co-opted the individual's ability freely to choose otherwise. Eventually, this bondage can appear to be permanent, and addicted individuals can imagine themselves pathetic and hopeless to such a degree that they almost give up. In the words of a formerly-addicted individual:

"I believe that I did not have a choice to stop. ... It never became clear to me that I could live another way until a medical intervention from my physician and friends took place. Will power plays a small role here, but it too cannot work if one has a malfunctioning brain. I speak for myself here. ... I could not stop. Period. Now I have stopped. Not just because of the intervention, but because I have turned my life and my will over to the God of my understanding. That is something 12-step programs have taught me."

This radical loss of freedom lies at the heart of the tragedy of addiction. Because we are creatures of habit, the choices we make, either for good or for evil, form us in one direction or the other, so we become individuals who are either capable or

incapable of choosing the good freely. Virtue is a habit of good, while vice is a habit of evil. Early choices leading down the road toward addiction, freely made, can quickly snowball into vice, addiction, and a loss of freedom. As one recovered addict graphically described it:

"My beef is with those who claim that they never chose to become an addict or never chose to hurt their families. ... While we likely didn't intend to end up helpless, dysfunctional people who (hurt) our loved ones, the choices we made put us at risk of ending up in a sorry state where we were capable of doing things we would have never dreamed of. Unless you were raised on Mars, we all deep down knew the risk of our choices, especially if you're talking about coke, crack, meth, or heroin, but we chose to roll the dice anyways. At a certain point, when I was starting to do coke almost every week-end, I knew that it would be wise to stop, but I chose not to because I was having fun and I told myself it will never happen to me. By the end, I was going on solo three-day benders with alcohol and cocaine, and I landed in treatment. ... My point is that I made the choice to try the substance, the choice to begin to use the substance more regularly, and the choice not to quit when I could have."

While there may have been significant moral culpability at the beginning of an individual's descent into addiction, it is still critical for us to never stigmatize, patronize, or abandon those who are in the throes of addiction. They may feel they are defined entirely by their addiction, unlovable and wretched, rather than seeing that they are, in fact, human beings who are precious to God and those around them, and even now endowed with some tiny space of remaining freedom. That tiny space will become the key to determining whether they ultimately choose the behavioral changes needed to improve their situation and recover the human freedom that is rightfully theirs. We should support, encourage, and love them in ways that will help lead them toward those good choices and successful outcomes.

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



Lancaster St. Mary Science Fair Winners

Nine students from Lancaster St. Mary School received superior ratings on their science fair projects, allowing them to move on to the district science fair at Ohio University-Lancaster on Saturday, March 19. Students advancing are (from left): first row, Sam Maynard, Katie Maynard, Gina Stuckey, Collin Rimkus, and Emma Martin; second row, Caroline Osburn, Anna Vanderbilt, Bryson Vogel, and Emma Albert.

Photo courtesy St. Mary School



Youth Group Visits Faith Mission

Members of the Columbus St. Anthony School youth group visited Faith Mission for their first activity of the year, bringing cold-weather clothing items and hot dogs for the less fortunate. Pictured are (from left) Colton Yochus, Becker Smith, Ryland Arnold, Anna Meade, Lillian Shillingburg, Audrey Riddle, Jessica Salyer, Paa-Awuah Forjoe, Ablerma Forjoe, Dancan Mutai, and Arshly Langat.

Photo courtesy St. Anthony School

Dominican Sisters Retreat

The Dominican Sisters of Peace invite single Catholic women, ages 18 to 45, to attend a free Come and See discernment retreat from Friday to Sunday, March 11 to 13.

Experience Dominican prayer and community with the sisters and explore the possibility that you may be called to religious life.

No matter where you are in your discernment journey, a Come and See retreat is an excellent opportunity to meet other women who are exploring a call to religious life while growing in

the discernment process.

The retreat will begin at 6 p.m. March 11 and conclude at noon March 13 at the Dominican Sisters of Peace Motherhouse, 2320 Airport Drive, Columbus.

For questions, call or text Sister June Fitzgerald, OP, at (570) 336-3991 or email jfitzgerald@oppeace.org

Participants may register online for the retreat or request a registration form.

See more at www.oppeace.org/come-see-retreat.

CONCERTS IN A COUNTRY CHURCH CONCERT DATE CHANGED

The second concert of the 2015-2016 concert series at Washington Court House St. Colman Church will be at 3 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 7, instead of Feb. 14 as originally announced.

The program, titled “From Head to Heart and Back Again – A Community Hymn Festival,” will feature the series’ music director, parish organist Craig Jaynes, who will be accompanied by the audience.

“Although this concert is normally the organist’s concert, this year we wanted to feature a somewhat different aspect of the instrument, and that is its ability to lead a congregation in singing the great hymns. The best hymns always have a wonderful tune and powerful words, and they are capable of speaking both to the intellect and the emotions, hence the title of the program,” Jaynes said.

Interspersed with the hymns will be organ works based on the tunes. Each hymn will have its own special ar-

rangement. Members of area choirs will be seated together in the middle of the church to help lead. Several of the hymns also will be accompanied by a brass quintet from Cedarville University.

“Our goal is to figuratively ‘raise the roof,’ which is what happens when singing is robust and expressive of a real belief in the truth of the lyrics. It can be a hair-raising experience,” Jaynes said.

Tickets are \$10 and may be purchased at the door.

The church is at 219 S. North St., two blocks east and one block south of the Fayette County Courthouse.

More information is available at www.stcolmanmusic.org or by calling (877) 232-2751. This is the third year for the series, which has brought a variety of serious music and musicians to the community. The final concert of the season on Sunday, May 1, will feature music for double choir.



Wonderfully Made

“I praise you because I am wonderfully made; wonderful are your works!” Psalm 139:14.

This Scripture passage is on my mind a lot as I talk with people about ways to build new healthy habits in the new year.

The human body is an amazing gift from God.

Sometimes, it can be easy to dwell on the things we don’t like about our physical bodies and harder to be grateful for all that our bodies can do. The human body is the vehicle for us to serve God and the people in our lives; to be his literal hands and feet.

With 640 muscles, 600,000 miles of blood vessels, 300 million capillaries, 206 bones, and our incredibly complex brain, this magnificent gift is beyond comprehension.

The start of the new year can be a great time to build some new healthy habits to honor the body. Here are five simple ways get started:

1. Move More - Prolonged periods of sitting can cause tightness in the back, legs, hips, and shoulders.



If you work at a computer, set the alarm to remind you to get up every hour. Mobilize your joints including your neck, shoulders, thoracic spine, elbows, wrists, fingers, hips, knees, ankles, and toes.

2. Use Safe Technique - If you have a physical job, with repetitive movements, be careful how you move, reach, bend, lift, carry, and stand with a load. Move your hips back into a hinge, for example, when you pick up something heavy off the floor, rather than shifting forward with all of your body weight loaded into your knees.

3. Flow Five Minutes Every Morning - Five minutes

of gentle moving/stretching (before or after morning prayer) is a great way to start your day as it gets blood and nutrients flowing into your muscles and joints.

4. Have Good Posture When Standing and Sitting - Align the ears, shoulders, hips, knees, and ankles for good posture to help prevent tightness, asymmetry, pain, and injury. It also improves breathing capacity and heart functionality. Try to place even pressure on both legs when standing. Sit with your feet flat on the floor when sitting. Keep shoulders down and back, rather than shrugging and carrying tension in your neck.

5. Practice Getting Up and Down Off the Floor - This level of fitness is vital to independent living and helps prevent falls. Find a movement coach or medical professional to help you develop a strategy to safely and efficiently get up and down off the floor.

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

2016 “Mercy Changes Everything” Columbus Catholic Women’s Conference

The ninth annual Columbus Catholic Women’s Conference will take place from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 20 at the Voinovich Center on the State Fairgrounds. This year’s theme is “Mercy Changes Everything,” in line with Pope Francis’ declaration of a Jubilee Year of Mercy.

Many women will be there for the ninth year in a row, including Jody, who read about the first conference, which took place at Columbus St. Andrew Church in 2008, in her parish bulletin and decided to attend. In hindsight, she is certain it was a nudge from the Holy Spirit. She was in her early 30s and was hungering for more. She experienced God’s mercy through the Sacrament of Reconciliation that day and it lit a fire in her. She is now one of

the largest cheerleaders for this conference.

Jody said there is much to love about the conference; however, Eucharistic Adoration in 2015 made a particular mark on her heart. She was taken over with emotion. She was moved and awestruck by Jesus’ true Divine Presence. She loves the Catholic faith and the sacraments and devotions that define it. The conference opens the hearts of many first-timers, while at the same time deepening the faith of the more devout. “This day truly captures so many women wherever they may fall in their faith journey – the journey that ultimately defines our



eternity,” Jody said.

The day will begin with Mass, celebrated by Bishop Frederick Campbell, followed by a day of inspiration. This year’s speakers are Jennifer Fulwiler, an atheist who became a Catholic; Father Nathan Cromly, CSJ, a member of the Community of St. John and founder of Eagle Eye Formation Ministries; Sonja Corbitt, a dynamic author and speaker on living out the Scriptures; and singer-songwriter Sarah Kroger.

There will be a Holy Hour of Adoration and Exposition, with dozens of priests available to hear confessions. In attendance will be seminarians,

permanent deacons, sisters, and more than 3,000 laywomen, all taking part in a day of renewal to draw closer to Christ.

This year, the conference will have more vendors offering a chance to get to know many ministries or the opportunity to purchase religious goods.

If you are “on the fence” about attending, go to YouTube or the St. Gabriel Radio archives and find Mother Teresa’s poem *I Thirst*, read by Father John Riccardo. You will understand that Jesus is holding his hand out and inviting you to this day. He truly does thirst for you.

Don’t miss your opportunity to join in this day designed just for women. To register, visit www.columbuscatholic-women.com or call (614) 841-9100.



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March for Life marks 43rd anniversary of Roe decision legalizing abortion

By Kurt Jensen

Catholic News Service

Catholic admonitions about inclusion mixed with strong political language before the March of Life got underway on Friday, Jan. 22 in Washington.

At a Jesuit-sponsored Mass for life at St. Aloysius Gonzaga Church that morning, Father Paddy Gilger's homily reminded a small group of students that because Jesus made an effort to be inclusive when he chose his disciples, they, too, should be respectful of others' opinions.

"As we join in the fight against the scourge of abortion, our differences remain, and that's OK," he said.

Father Gilger told the students to combine prayer and penance to create a culture of life. "Our efforts are to be able to create the same amount of space for people to change their hearts," he said.

Later, at the March for Life rally at the Washington Monument, attended by nearly 50,000 people, Carly Fiorina, the former Hewlett-Packard chief executive officer who is running for the Republican presidential nomination, stuck to her standard political stump speech.

She drew loud cheers with her claim, "You can bet that I will win this fight against Hillary Clinton."

Fiorina said the next president "will decide whether we force taxpayers to fund the political arm of the abortion industry," meaning Planned Parenthood.

"Make no mistake, ladies and gentle-



man," she added, "this election is a fight for the character of our nation."

Fiorina also expressed her continued support for the series of videos released last summer by David Daleiden and the Center for Medical Progress that purport to show California representatives of Planned Parenthood discussing the sale of parts of aborted fetuses.

A lawsuit against Daleiden and the center over the videos has reached the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, with the National Abortion Foundation and Planned Parenthood accusing him of misrepresenting his organization and illegally taping without permission, and aiding in violent threats against abortion clinics and the women who go there.

Planned Parenthood officials claim that the videos were edited to manipulate the interviews and that any mention of money for tissue and body parts is related to customary handling fees. But Daleiden and the Center for Medical Progress stand by the videos.

"Ours is a fight for the character of our nation," Fiorina said. "For the value of life. It is a fight that we must win to take our country back, and, citizens, we must take our country back."

Patrick Kelly, Knights of Columbus vice president for public policy, said opponents of the pro-life movement "insist on dividing and bullying those who disagree with them by speaking of a fictional war on women. Our movement, the movement to protect human

life, is different. It is built by you, the grass roots. ... We come here to show that we cannot be intimidated."

Rep. Chris Smith, R-New Jersey, co-chairman of the Congressional Pro-Life Caucus, praised efforts by state legislatures. "The gains have been historic -- 282 pro-life laws have been enacted since 2010, including laws to stop dismemberment abortions, require a 72-hour waiting period, and informed consent," he said.

Smith, a Catholic, said the House override vote of President Barack Obama's recent veto of a bill removing all federal funding from Planned Parenthood was scheduled for this week.

The rally was the first formal involvement by the evangelical community in the March for Life, held on the anniversary of the Supreme Court's *Roe v. Wade* decision which legalized abortion.

"We are grateful for your leadership on the culture of life," said Jim Daly,

See **MARCH**, Page 11



Cardinal Dolan: Newborn in manger a positive sign of a culture of life

By Mark Pattison

Catholic News Service

A baby in a manger is proof enough for Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan of New York that Americans can express a culture of life.

And this infant wasn't the Christ child. Instead, it was a newborn left by his mother in the crib of a manger scene at a parish in the New York City borough of Queens.

Calling it "a sad but gripping tale" in his homily on Thursday, Jan. 21 during the opening Mass of the National Prayer Vigil for Life at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, Cardinal Dolan said, "No one knew where the baby had come from, or who left him there ... until, a week later, the sobbing mother, a young Mexican woman, remaining anonymous, told her story to a journalist."

Cardinal Dolan, chairman of the U.S. bishops' pro-life committee, recounted the mother's words, noting the irony that the woman had left her baby at Holy Child Jesus Church.

"I was so afraid, and, all alone in the house, suddenly went into labor," she said. "I must have been in excruciat-



ing pain for at least two hours. I started pushing because, each time I did, the pain would let up. I pushed for 15 minutes and finally the baby, a boy, finally came out. He didn't cry at first, so I was afraid he was not all right. I didn't know what to do, so I left the umbilical cord on. I wrapped him in a clean towel and started to look for some place safe and warm.

"I'm very religious," the woman had continued, "so right away I thought of my church, Holy Child Jesus (in the Diocese of Brooklyn). I go there a lot, and the priests and people are so good. I just knew if I left him in God's hands, my baby would be OK. So, I ran into my church and put him in the empty crib. Then he started crying. I just hoped he was warm enough. I hid in the

back of church, knowing Father would find my baby and the people would care for him. They did."

"True story," Cardinal Dolan said, "and I submit it to you, the jury, this evening as Exhibit A in our case for promoting the culture of life."

He added, "It's not far-fetched to imagine another scenario, what might have happened: that mother's legitimate and understandable apprehension and isolation could have led her to Planned Parenthood.

"She could have been going to a parish which she found cold, unwelcoming, and, impersonal, where she did not feel safe, and where she would not have been inclined to turn in her crisis," Cardinal Dolan said.

"Or, in those fretful minutes after her baby's birth, she might have run to a church only to find it bolted-up, with a sign on the outside telling her, probably in English, to come back during office hours. Thank God that scenario remains only a 'might-have-been.'"

He said later, "We are summoned to be such agents of conversion." The way to do that, Cardinal Dolan said, was "by imitating those priests and people of Holy Child Jesus Parish in New York City, by acknowledging that Jose, that abandoned newborn baby (named for St. Joseph, Jesus' foster father), Jose was no-



where more at home than in the empty manger of their parish nativity scene, because he, too, is a child of God."

Cardinal Donald W. Wuerl of Washington, in introductory remarks, welcomed "the many, many, many young people" at the Mass, saying they serve as "a reminder for every generation" that all are "called to show respect for the gospel of life."

The prospect of a major storm carrying heavy snow and high winds made the national shrine slightly less impossibly crowded. Compared to the 11,000 people who were packed in for the opening mass of the National Prayer Vigil

for Life last year, only 9,000 were on hand on Jan. 21, according to Jacquelyn Hayes, a shrine spokeswoman.

Clergy turnout was similarly smaller for the Mass. Unlike entrance processions in recent years, which lasted a half-hour, the Jan. 21 procession took 20 minutes.

One indication of a reduced turnout for the vigil was an announcement on Tuesday, Jan. 19 by the Archdiocese of St. Louis' Catholic Youth Apostolate that as a precaution, it was canceling its annual Generation Life bus caravan that would have sent hundreds of youths to Washington.

RESPECT LIFE RALLY IN COLUMBUS

BY TIM PUET

Reporter, Catholic Times

U.S. Sen. Rob Portman urged a chilled, but enthusiastic crowd at the annual Respect Life rally at the Ohio Statehouse to “be a booming voice for the voiceless” through their continued support for preserving the right to life, from conception to natural death, for everyone, including the unborn.

Portman was a surprise guest speaker at the event, which organizers said was attended by about 450 people who gathered on the state Capitol building’s west lawn at noon Friday, Jan. 22, the 43rd anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court’s *Roe v. Wade* decision legalizing abortion nationwide.

The Republican senator from the Cincinnati area was to have been in Washington to speak at the March for Life there, but decided to return to Ohio in anticipation of a weekend snowstorm that blanketed the nation’s capital, with 22 inches of snow measured at the White House. Beth Vanderkooi, executive director of Greater Columbus Right to Life, sponsor of the Columbus rally, said she didn’t know until moments be-

fore the event that Portman would be there.

The day set for the rally is usually one of the coldest of the year in Columbus, and this year was no exception, with Friday’s noontime temperature at 26 degrees, but feeling much colder because of 20-mph winds.

In spite of the cold, the crowd for the event was greater than anticipated, with many people who planned a trip to Washington deciding because of the snowfall forecast to come to Columbus instead. Those who changed their plans included about 60 high-school students from Lancaster Fisher Catholic, 30 from Newark Catholic, and groups from Columbus Bishop Watterson and St. Charles Preparatory.

Several bus trips to the Washington march from parishes in the Diocese of Columbus also were affected by the weather.

“Our destination was different, but we didn’t want to miss out on a chance to stand up for the transformation of our secular culture and to plant a seed for young people so they can continue that effort and pass it on,” said Joe Holbrook, theology teacher at Fisher. He said students from his school have been going to



Father Michael Mary Dosch, OP, pastor of Columbus St. Patrick Church.

the Washington march for 10 years. This was the first time they had attended the Columbus rally.

“The kids at Newark Catholic have a great desire to show their support for the culture of life, so here we are,” said Andrew Maynard, who teaches theology at the Licking County school. “We had to take this opportunity to give a joyful, peaceful witness in support of Catholic teaching on life.”

Vanderkooi said a booking conflict led to this year’s Columbus rally being held outdoors, after being in the Statehouse atrium in 2014 and 2015.

Most of the speakers at the rally led off with words about the weather. The Rev. John Coates, pastor of the



Metropolitan Church of God in Christ, opened the program by thanking God for the relative warmth of the day, compared with the weather in Washington. Portman started and ended his remarks by telling the crowd it was “freezin’ for a reason.”

The senator pointed out that “Pro-Life and Pro-Woman Go Hand in

Hand” was the theme for this year’s Washington march. “Sometimes, those in the media portray the pro-life movement as against women’s health at all. That’s not true,” he said.

He noted that a bill he supported which would have cut off federal funds for Planned Parenthood would have redirected the money to clinics that provide health care for women and are not involved with abortion. Both houses of Congress approved the bill, which resulted from the release of videos of Planned Parenthood officials discussing the selling of fetal tissues obtained from abortions. President Obama vetoed the measure. A House bill on overriding the veto is set for this week.

The Columbus rally also featured dramatic stories from a priest and a beauty queen about how attitudes related to abortion had affected their lives.

The priest was Father Michael Mary Dosch, OP, pastor of Columbus St. Patrick Church. Father Dosch said that shortly after he was conceived, a doctor told his mother that there was no chance either she or the child in her womb would survive if the pregnancy was carried to term.

This was before the *Roe v. Wade* decision. Father Dosch’s family lived in New Jersey at the time. “The doctor told her she could go to a neighboring

state (New York) and ‘have this problem taken care of’” through abortion, he said. “My mother was always a strong Catholic and had an Irish temperament. She not only refused the doctor’s suggestion, but she told him what she thought about him.

“She gave birth. She and the child survived. That healthy baby boy is a priest today, and he is standing before you,” Father Dosch said, to loud cheers and applause from the crowd. “Every one of our lives has a purpose. Every one of us has a mission within us,” he said. “During this Year of Mercy, we trust the power God has given to every life – that we do make a difference, that mercy is more than forgiveness, when God is able to reach down to a person’s life and transform it.”

The beauty queen, Madison Gesiotto, Miss Ohio in the 2014 Miss USA pageant, is a graduate of The Ohio State University, a second-year student at OSU’s law school, and a video journalist and weekly columnist for *The Washington Times*.

She talked about the response to a column she wrote this past October in which she said statistics from the Centers for Disease Control indicate that “more black Americans die every single day from abortions than from heart disease, cancer, homicide, and motor vehicle accidents

combined.”

After the column was published, “many classmates characterized me as a racist and a dimwitted gender traitor,” she said. “Others engaged in personal attacks. Instead of seeing me as someone who cared about the lives of the unborn, they said I was someone who wanted to control women and take away their rights.”

She told law school administrators about what had happened, but “instead of practicing tolerance and looking into the concerns, the administrators lectured me on how my faith-based beliefs on abortion could harm my legal career and my ability to write as an editor for Ohio State’s journal of law,” Gesiotto said. “Rather than practicing acceptance, they added to the bullying pro-life conservatives have been experiencing across this country.”

“Despite the attacks, I will continue to write on pro-life issues,” she said. “I will not back down to political correctness and religious intolerance. The hardest things and the right things are often the same things. That’s why it’s important that we never back down.”

Not speaking, but carrying a banner reading “I Regret My Abortion,” was Peggy Deeter of Columbus, who works in post-abortion healing at the Columbus-area Pregnancy Decision

Health Centers. She said she talks to women there in confidence about her own abortion because “I feel that God has called me to be open about my experience as a way to shed light on the trauma that abortion really is, which they don’t hear about.”

The invocation was given by Father Don Franks, pastor of Dresden St. Ann Church, who quoted pro-life statements from the soon-to-be-canonized Blessed Mother Teresa and from the encyclicals *Evangelium Vitae* and *Laudato Si’* by Pope St. John Paul II and Pope Francis respectively. He described those active in the pro-life movement as “the valiant warriors. Michael the archangel is at our side, defending us in battle to say what is important.”

Before the rally, hundreds of worshippers attended the annual Diocese of Columbus Respect Life Mass at Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral, with Bishop Frederick Campbell as principal celebrant (pictured above).

“When we look at our task, it is to convey a vital message,” the bishop said in his homily. “It is not one that we should speak of only among ourselves; that is, members of the Church, but a message given to us to speak to the whole world: to call all people to the sense of the dignity and gift of life that the Creator has given each one of us, and to under-

stand that one of our obligations as followers of Our Lord Jesus Christ is to protect the creation of life, no matter how great the challenge may be.

“For life is the first of all human rights. And without the right to life, no other life exists. As we acknowledge this, we also come to realize that if any life is threatened, all of our lives are threatened,” Bishop Campbell said.

Those from central Ohio who had to cut short their plans to march in Washington on Friday included two busloads of pilgrims who had left Sunbury St. John Neumann Church on Wednesday, Jan. 20 for an anticipated midnight arrival in Bowie, Maryland, where one group stayed at a hotel and another was given lodging inside a church. The buses didn’t make it until 5 a.m. Thursday because slippery roads slowed traffic on Interstate 270 about 30 miles outside Washington.

“We knew there was bad weather coming and were prepared to adjust our plans as needed,” said Lorraine Vance, who has organized March for Life trips from Sunbury for the past 17 years. “On Thursday, some of us took part in a full day of conferences, including a private talk from a representative of the Population Research Institute. Others went to the March



Above: Holding a banner representing Newark’s two Catholic parishes are Ryan Allyn (left) and Theresa Geiger, students from Newark Catholic High School. Right: Peggy Deeter, a Columbus resident who works with the post-abortion healing ministry of the Pregnancy Decision Health Centers, which reach out to women in confidence. CT photos by Ken Snow





Annual FINANCIAL Report



My Dear Friends in Christ,

I am pleased to present to you the financial reports of the Diocese of Columbus for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2015.

As Bishop, I have a responsibility to provide all Catholics in the Diocese of Columbus with an annual view of our financial position and activity. I am pleased to inform you that our independent accounting firm has completed their procedures on our reports and have issued unqualified opinions thereon.

2015, was a year of an ever changing financial landscape. The stock market and overall investment environment struggled throughout the year. For both our investment and endowment accounts, we experienced a much lower return than the prior fiscal year. We continue to manage closely the prudent expenditure of funds at a Diocesan level, as well as the issuing of grants to parishes and other Diocesan entities in need.

The on-going market challenges, along with changes in actuarial assumptions, also resulted in a significant increase in our pension liability. Although for financial reporting purposes we reflect an overall liability for pension benefits, our actuaries have confirmed that our pension fund is sound.

On a positive note, our High Schools recorded positive results even with much lower earnings on endowments. For the Parishes, overall it was a positive year with funds generated for repayment of debt and major capital expenditures.

We, the Church, continue to be blessed by the continued generous stewardship of the faithful, giving their time, talent and treasure, for the benefit of others. I continue to pray for those who have been negatively impacted by the economy, and for those who so selflessly serve them.

As we look to the future, our ability to work as one Church, continuing the good works of the Church by assisting those in need, can only occur with the assistance of those in the community, like yourselves, who possess the talents required to meet the challenges that will present themselves.

I am grateful for the generosity of all those who support the work of the Church, and I greatly appreciate as well the many volunteers and committee members, both at the parish and diocesan levels, who assist in this work.

With every best wish, I remain,

Sincerely yours in Christ,
Most Reverend Frederick F. Campbell, D.D., Ph.D.
Bishop of Columbus

DIOCESAN ORGANIZATION FINANCIAL REVIEW FOR FYE JUNE 30, 2015 & 2014

The financial statements entitled Catholic Diocese of Columbus – Diocesan Organization, represent the combined financial position and activity for the Chancery, the Catholic Cemeteries, the Diocesan Offices and funds managed at a diocesan level (i.e. Parish Aid, Self Insurance and Varia Trust Funds). The information presented was extracted from audited financial statements. These statements do not include the financial position or activity of our parishes or schools, or agencies that are governed by their own boards, as each reports their financial information separately to their communities.

The financial statements for the Diocesan Organization are audited by the independent CPA firm of Schneider Downs & Co., Inc. The audit was conducted according to auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. For the fiscal years ended June 30, 2015 and June 30, 2014, the auditors provided an unqualified opinion.

For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2015, Net Assets decreased from the previous fiscal year. Our fi-

ancial position and results were negatively impacted by two significant factors.

The first factor was "Pension-related changes other than net periodic pension cost". In accordance with current accounting principles, we are required to measure our defined benefit pension liability using current economic factors although this liability will be funded and paid well into the future. The lower return on our investments contributed to an increase in our pension liability, as did a change in the mortality tables, which were updated to take into account an increase in life expectancy. The impact of these changes has been recognized as a decrease in net assets in the Statement of Activity.

The second negative impact on Net Assets was due to the limited investment return on our endowments and our internally managed investments. For the year ended June 30, 2015, investment returns on endowments and internally managed investments were \$6.5 million less than for the year ended June 30, 2014.

CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF COLUMBUS - DIOCESAN ORGANIZATION

Combined Statements of Financial Position

	As of 6/30/2015	As of 6/30/2014
ASSETS		
Cash & cash equivalents	\$ 10,249,205	\$ 15,442,437
Accounts receivable, net	2,335,781	2,405,221
Pledges receivable, net	1,758,044	1,807,356
Inventory	887,884	752,021
Prepaid expenses	353,607	459,441
Investments	83,921,021	63,345,468
Loans and advances receivable, net	32,337,900	39,084,186
Land under sale contract	939,842	-
Property and equipment, net	22,928,369	23,803,956
Beneficial interest in perpetual trusts	39,399,559	38,525,813
Total Assets	\$ 195,111,212	\$ 185,625,899
LIABILITIES		
Accounts payable	\$ 1,628,926	\$ 1,506,285
Agency funds	195,736	135,629
Deposits payable	70,489,604	62,911,584
Accrued expenses	1,328,009	1,246,139
Deferred revenue	472,462	234,637
Retired priests accrued costs	13,279,131	11,958,573
Liability for pension benefits	56,934,028	50,075,426
Self-insurance reserve	2,112,800	2,322,000
Total Liabilities	146,440,696	130,390,273
NET ASSETS	48,670,516	55,235,626
Total Liabilities & Net Assets	\$ 195,111,212	\$ 185,625,899

CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF COLUMBUS - DIOCESAN ORGANIZATION

Combined Statements of Activities

	Year Ended 6/30/2015	Year Ended 6/30/2014
REVENUES:		
Bishop's annual appeal, net	\$ 5,677,474	\$ 5,703,540
Investment income, net	1,527,679	1,271,173
Realized/unrealized (loss) gain on investments	(262,643)	3,224,711
Change in fmv of beneficial interests in perpetual trusts	1,483,476	4,703,053
Operating revenue	4,186,723	3,927,026
Diocesan assessment	3,927,047	3,341,597
Other	851,906	313,484
Contributions & other additions	2,731,882	1,595,893
Total Revenues, Gifts, & Grants	20,123,544	24,080,477
EXPENSES:		
Operating expenses	13,114,805	13,916,904
Net periodic pension cost	(1,206,722)	1,499,011
Other post-employment benefit costs	1,620,626	649,127
Diocesan support	4,359,639	3,292,321
Interest	734,982	656,402
Total Expenses	18,623,330	20,013,765
Change in net assets prior to pension-related changes other than net periodic pension cost	1,500,214	4,066,712
Pension-related changes other than net periodic pension cost	(8,065,324)	4,113,066
Changes In Net Assets	(6,565,110)	8,179,778
NET ASSETS		
Beginning of year	55,235,626	47,055,848
End of year	\$ 48,670,516	\$ 55,235,626

**DIOCESAN HIGH SCHOOLS FINANCIAL REVIEW
FOR FYE JUNE 30, 2015 & 2014**

The financial statements entitled Catholic Diocese of Columbus – High Schools, represent the combined financial position and activity for the Diocesan High Schools.

The financial statements for the High Schools are reviewed by the independent CPA firm of Schneider Downs & Co., Inc. The review was conducted according to Statements on Standards for Accounting and Review Services issued by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants.

For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2015, not including the continuing start-up of Cristo Rey, enrollment decreased by .3% and Tuition decreased by .9%. Our ability to increase tuition to offset rising costs continues to be tempered by the reality of the economic challenges being faced by our families.

Total Net Assets increased \$6.09 million. The majority of which was related to Cristo Rey activities. Income was down year over year primarily due to a decrease in the return on endowment assets, and a decrease in contributions which occurred in prior years in support of the start-up of Cristo Rey.

Cristo Rey Columbus High School is a Catholic High School educating underserved students in the Columbus area using a work/study model in support of tuition costs. Cristo Rey's first class began the 2013-2014 school year with 82 students. With the addition of a second class for the 2014-2015 school year, enrollment increased to 187 students.

CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF COLUMBUS - HIGH SCHOOLS		
Combined Statements of Financial Position		
	As of 6/30/2015	As of 6/30/2014
ASSETS		
Cash & cash equivalents	\$ 21,014,806	\$ 18,673,572
Restricted Cash	678,779	5,741,207
Accounts receivable, net	766,089	901,816
Note receivable	5,939,520	5,939,520
Notes receivable - permanently restricted	-	469,938
Pledges receivable, net	1,843,815	3,049,530
Prepaid expenses	24,925	15,444
Buildings, leasehold improvements & equipment, net	55,842,155	51,150,787
Beneficial interest in perpetual trust	25,198,805	24,013,634
Total Assets	\$ 111,308,894	\$ 109,955,448
LIABILITIES		
Accounts payable	\$ 1,657,606	\$ 1,702,723
Accrued liabilities - operations	2,551,303	2,587,182
Accrued liabilities - construction	-	1,555,002
Deferred revenue	219,676	185,557
Prepaid tuition & fees	5,537,499	5,545,673
Notes payable - unrestricted	-	469,938
Notes payable - related party	14,854,126	17,706,913
Notes payable - other	9,760,000	9,560,000
Total Liabilities	34,580,210	39,312,988
NET ASSETS		
Net assets - controlling interest	70,441,360	69,334,564
Net assets - noncontrolling interest	6,287,324	1,307,896
Total Net Assets	76,728,684	70,642,460
Total Liabilities & Net Assets	\$ 111,308,894	\$ 109,955,448

CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF COLUMBUS - HIGH SCHOOLS		
Combined Statements of Activities		
	Year Ended 6/30/2015	Year Ended 6/30/2014
REVENUES AND SUPPORT:		
Tuition	\$ 31,541,183	\$ 30,839,527
Diocese support rent	8,109,296	8,203,040
Extracurricular activities and cafeteria	7,704,013	7,701,292
Contributions & grants	3,153,776	4,439,832
State of Ohio administration cost reimbursement	1,632,597	1,530,398
Net realized and unrealized gains	450,129	3,005,683
Parish support	1,224,000	1,213,976
Other school income	401,762	538,763
Fundraising, net	692,296	1,015,751
Gift and grants - Diocese	513,546	581,918
Investment income, net	360,579	272,771
Interest income	167,735	151,918
Total Revenues and Support	55,950,912	59,494,869
EXPENSES:		
Salaries	21,268,120	21,495,144
Extracurricular activities and cafeteria	8,752,329	8,965,857
Rent expense	8,109,296	8,203,040
Benefits	7,042,792	6,945,414
Depreciation and amortization	3,728,403	3,232,800
Utilities	1,431,017	1,355,129
Maintenance	945,807	1,005,857
Other	1,246,094	1,359,424
Departmental costs	704,837	710,782
Office supplies	817,810	687,257
Interest	510,787	282,779
Insurance	229,541	259,633
Bad debt expense	123,320	185,220
Central administration fees	92,068	84,341
Total Expenses	55,002,221	54,772,677
Net Revenues in Excess of Expenses	\$ 948,691	\$ 4,722,192



**DIOCESAN PARISHES FINANCIAL REVIEW
FOR FYE JUNE 30, 2015 & 2014**

The financial statement entitled Catholic Diocese of Columbus – Parishes, represents the consolidation of the receipts and disbursements for the parishes and associated elementary schools of the Catholic Diocese of Columbus. This statement was compiled from the unaudited financial reports submitted by those organizations.

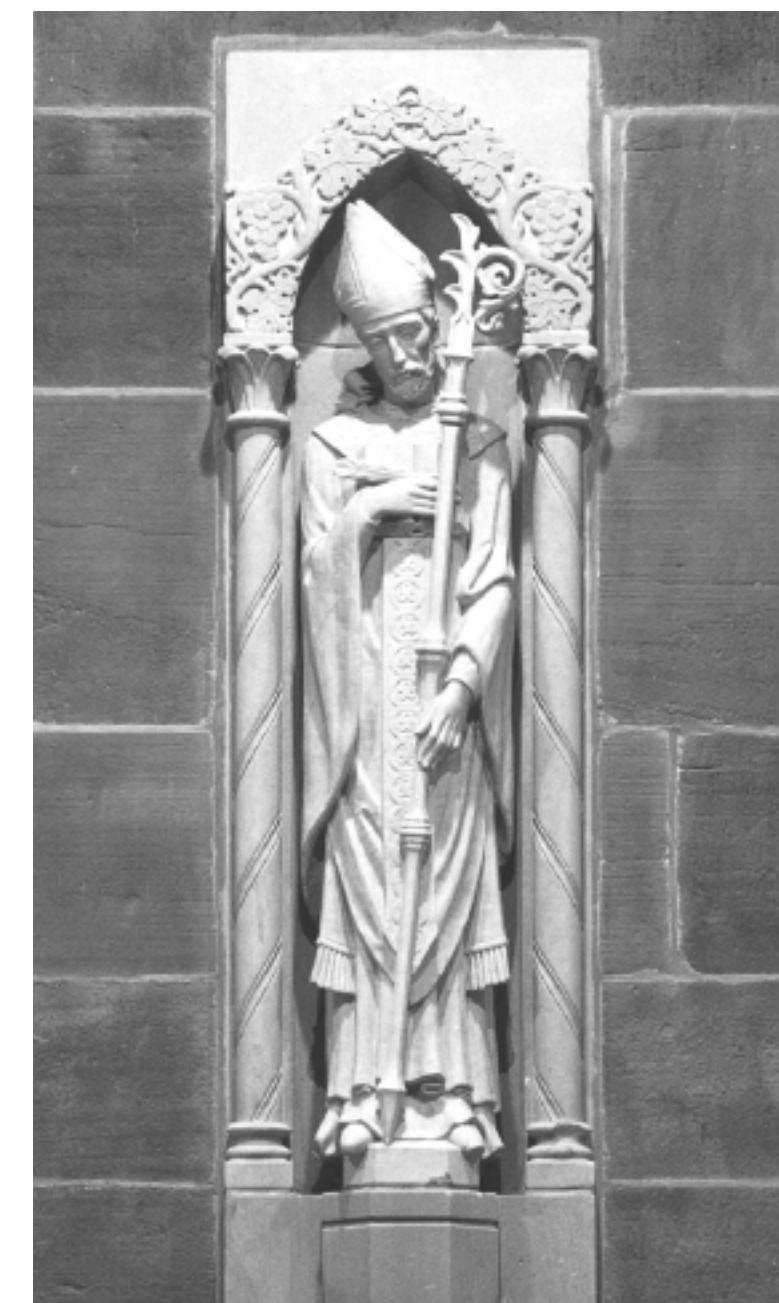
For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2015, Total Parish Receipts increased 5.4%. Offertory rose 3.2% compared to the prior year. Fund Drive receipts increased 55.5% due to several parishes undertaking significant fund drives for major construction compared to the prior year. Other Parish Income decreased by 12.7% due to insurance proceeds received in the prior year related to the Sacred Heart Church fire. School Income rose 4.2% while school costs rose 1.0%

Total Parish Disbursements increased 3.1% year to year mainly due to increases in Parish Salary & Benefits (4.8%), Diocesan Assessment (19.2%) and Depreciation (25.9%). The increase in Diocesan Assessment resulted from the increase in the assessment rate from 5.0% to 6.0%

Overall, Excess Receipts over Disbursements increased by 28.2%. It should be noted that much of this Excess is used to retire debt and for major capital expenditures.

For those interested in the financial results for a particular parish, please contact that parish directly.

CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF COLUMBUS - PARISHES		
Combined Statements of Activities		
	Year Ended 6/30/2015	Year Ended 6/30/2014
RECEIPTS:		
Offertory	\$ 53,863,037	\$ 52,184,511
Fund Drives	8,661,001	5,568,141
Gifts & Bequests	3,264,779	2,941,723
Diocesan Support	3,323,978	3,024,943
Other Parish Income	5,732,804	6,567,877
Religious Education Income	1,923,332	2,044,476
School Income	44,404,347	42,607,869
Total Receipts	121,173,278	114,939,540
DISBURSEMENTS:		
Parish Salary & Benefits	22,359,687	21,332,210
Parish Operating Expenses	20,546,305	20,194,043
Diocesan Assessment	3,806,333	3,194,079
Depreciation	3,312,044	2,629,887
Debt Interest Payments	909,420	1,018,768
Religious Education Salary & Benefits	4,278,422	3,927,367
Other Religious Education Costs	2,047,954	2,220,361
School Salary & Benefits	44,026,902	43,375,870
Other School Costs	6,350,659	6,487,828
Total Disbursements	107,637,727	104,380,413
Excess Receipts over Disbursements	\$ 13,535,550	\$ 10,559,127
New Loan Funds	\$ 854,126	\$ 3,064,083
Payments on Loans	\$ 4,807,533	\$ 1,612,021
Major Capital Expenditures	\$ 9,468,915	\$ 13,330,000



Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Cycle C)

Warmly received by some, utterly rejected by others



Father
Lawrence L. Hummer

**Jeremiah 1:4-5,17-19;
1 Corinthians 12:31-13:13;
Luke 4:21-30**

Occasionally, the Lectionary readings are trying. Look at Jeremiah 1:17 (Sunday's first reading). In all modern translations and revisions, a simple understanding of the imperative mood, and translating it appropriately, solves a difficulty found too often in older translations. Compare the following translations:

"But you, gird up your loins ..." (*New Revised Standard Version*); "So you, gird up loins ..." (*Jewish Study Bible*); "Brace yourself, Jeremiah ..." (*New English Bible*); "But you, prepare yourself ..." (*Revised New American Bible*); "But do you gird your loins ..." (*Sunday's Lectionary reading*).

It means that the Lord commands Jeremiah to get ready to prophesy to the people "all that I command you." Of the examples cited, the *New English Bible* makes the most sense. Those who must proclaim the reading to the congregation will stumble over this one. That need not happen, but probably will.

Jeremiah relates the nature of his call to being sent by the Lord – a call which extended to even while he was still in the womb. The Lord is the one who determines the course of human events, never mind the abilities of the servant called.

The *Lectionary* then jumps to verses 17-19. The Hebrew text uses a pun in the second half of verse 17: "Do not break down before them, lest I break you before them." The Lord strengthens the prophet against Israel's leaders, but the Lord promises Jeremiah that though the leaders will come after him, they will not prevail over him because "I am with you to deliver you."

Women's Conference Choir

The Columbus Catholic Women's Conference, which will take place Saturday, Feb. 20, at the Voinovich Center on the State Fairgrounds, is looking for women who have the gift of a singing voice and would be willing to share it as a member of the choir for the event.

Three practices are scheduled for the choir at Columbus St. Timothy Church, 1088 Thomas Lane. Dates are Tuesday, Feb. 2; Monday, Feb. 8; and Tuesday, Feb. 16, all from 7 to 8 p.m.

More information on the conference is available at www.columbuscatholicwomen.com.

Luke continues the scene of Jesus at the synagogue in Nazareth from last week. Immediately, the people begin to wonder about Jesus: "Isn't this the son of Joseph?" The question is phrased in such a way as to demand an affirmative answer. The question implies that Jesus has been away for a time, perhaps a long time. There is no way to answer where he might have been.

Quoting the contemporary proverb "Physician, heal yourself" seems out of place here. At this point, Jesus is still receiving a favorable hearing and everyone is praising "the gracious words that came from his mouth." Yet his reputation preceded him, because his townsfolk had already heard what he had done in Capernaum. We the readers, however, have not heard of Capernaum before this, so we are in the dark as to what he was supposed to have done.

Jesus will flee to Capernaum after this warm welcome wears out, but Luke's chronology here is also odd: "Do here in your native place the things that we heard were done in Capernaum." The problem is that Luke has not reported anything about Capernaum yet. It is always possible that Jesus had already been there, but Luke has reported nothing about it thus far. Luke's intention to write things down in an "orderly fashion" for Theophilus (Luke 1:3) is slightly skewed here.

Generally, the scene presents Jesus, at the beginning of his public ministry, as a prophet in the line of the great prophets like Isaiah. He is warmly received by some of his townspeople, but utterly rejected by others. This will mirror the effect his actions will generate among his people as a whole. Some will accept him gladly; others will reject him altogether. History has not changed that.

Finally, we have, in the second reading, Paul's paean to love, which is greater than all the other spiritual gifts within the community. Self-giving love is what drives the Church, or it should be. Paul shows how love excels over all other possible gifts by showing us what the ideal Christian community looks like. It is well worth reflecting on during this Holy Year of Mercy, especially on how love is practiced in marriages, in families, in parishes, and in dioceses throughout the world. Without love, we are nothing.

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



Pray the Rosary

The Weekday Bible Readings

MONDAY
2 Samuel 15:13-14,30;16:5-13
Psalm 3:2-7
Mark 5:1-20

TUESDAY
Malachi 3:1-4
Psalm 24:7-10
Hebrews 2:14-18
Luke 2:22-40

WEDNESDAY
2 Samuel 24:2,9-17
Psalm 32:1-2,5-7
Mark 6:1-6

THURSDAY
1 Kings 2:1-4,10-12
1 Chronicles 29:10-11b,11d-12
Mark 6:7-13

FRIDAY
Sirach 47:2-11
Psalm 18:31,47,50-51
Mark 6:14-29

SATURDAY
1 Kings 3:4-13
Psalm 119:9-14
Mark 6:30-34

DIOCESAN WEEKLY RADIO AND TELEVISION MASS SCHEDULE WEEK OF JANUARY 31, 2016

SUNDAY MASS
10:30 a.m. Mass from Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral on St. Gabriel Radio (AM 820), Columbus, and at www.stgabrielradio.com. Mass with the Passionist Fathers at 7:30 a.m. on WWHO-TV (the CW), Channel 53, Columbus, and 10:30 a.m. on WHIZ-TV, Channel 18, Zanesville. Check local cable system for cable channel listing.
Mass from Our Lady of the Angels Monastery, Birmingham, Ala., at 8 a.m. on EWTN (Time Warner Channel 385, Insight Channel 382, or WOW Channel 378).
(Encores at noon, 7 p.m., and midnight).
Mass from the Archdiocese of Milwaukee at 6:30 a.m. on ION TV (AT&T U-verse Channel 195, Dish Network Channel 250, or DirecTV Channel 305).

DAILY MASS
8 a.m., Our Lady of the Angels Monastery in Birmingham, Ala. (Encores at noon, 7 p.m. and midnight). See EWTN above; and on I-Lifetv (Channel 113 in Ada, Logan, Millersburg, Murray City and Washington C.H.; Channel 125 in Marion, Newark, Newcomerstown and New Philadelphia; and Channel 207 in Zanesville); 8 p.m., St. Gabriel Radio (AM 820), Columbus, and at www.stgabrielradio.com.

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

Catholic Culture and Catholic Schools



THE TIDE IS TURNING
TOWARD CATHOLICISM
David Hartline

Catholic culture and Catholic schools go hand in hand. Recently, the whole idea of a Christian culture in general and Catholic culture in particular has come under attack in our Western world. This is a mystery to our friends in Africa, who can't fathom why the West would want to lessen the importance of God and the Church. Sadly and increasingly in Europe and North America, Catholic culture has come under fire not just in academia, but also in the highly influential entertainment world.

This all trickles down to Catholic schools, which have to defend the teachings of the Church and, when they do, are labeled as out-of-date and hostile to the changing times. Whenever you hear this line of reasoning, it might be best to remind those making the point that truth does not change. If they don't believe you, tell them about St. Thomas Aquinas, the father of the Thomist school of philosophical thought. If they don't listen to that, then remind them that Jesus said he is the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. If they don't listen to you at that point, tell them that although they have given up on Jesus and his Church, he will never give up on them.

Our culture is in trouble because we are held hostage to opinion and polls. Recently, I saw a self-professed secularist who was full of glee that religion has lost some of its influence in society. However, she joked that she should be careful about what she asked for after watching the recent nasty strain of political discourse in our nation. This all goes back to Cardinal Robert Sarah's main point in his book *God or Nothing*.

RALLY, continued from Page 13

for Life Expo and Youth Rally at the Renaissance Hotel in Washington. We all gathered at the National Shrine and Basilica of the Immaculate Conception for a Vigil Mass at 5:30 p.m., then went back to Bowie."

After a night's rest and with the weather forecast becoming more ominous, the group decided to return home, departing Bowie by 8 a.m. Friday, well in advance of the storm.

"We would have liked to stay, but leaving early was the prudent thing to do," Vance said. "None of us felt like we missed out on anything. We felt we received what God wanted us to from this pilgrimage."

One of the tour participants, Diane Vincent, noted that the stop at the shrine allowed the group to fulfill most of the requirements for the plenary indulgence related to the Year of Mercy, since priests were available for confession before and after Mass, and the shrine has a Holy Door. The indulgence requirements are being in a state of grace, having a disposition of complete detachment from sin, receiving sacramental confession and Communion, a visit to a Holy Door, and prayers for the pope's intentions.

"It was awesome attending Mass at the basilica among thousands of fellow pro-lifers," said another participant, Melissa Jasko. "You could truly feel the presence of God in every nook and cranny of that sacred space. The videos we watched and talks that we heard at times were difficult, but have helped us

Although His Eminence is from the west African nation of Guinea, he has traveled enough to enable him to see what happens when God is forgotten. If God's love, truth, redemption, and grace don't rule a society, then wars, immorality, and long-running feuds do rule, he lamented.

Sometimes, crises bring out the best in us. During the weekend, some of you may have seen news coverage of several buses, filled with Catholic high-school students, which were caught in a blizzard on the Pennsylvania Turnpike while returning from the March for Life in Washington. Stranded people who needed shelter were brought into the buses. After the people were cared for, everyone went outside and celebrated Mass on an altar made of ice. It certainly showcased our faith in the best possible light.

It is not easy to be a faithful Catholic in these times, just as it is not always easy financially to send your children to Catholic schools. There is a price to be paid in both accounts, but there also are very tangible benefits. Having attended Catholic schools and been a Catholic school teacher, principal, administrator, and

become more knowledgeable about the evils of abortion. I now feel more able to confidently and vehemently defend life each day."

The group had planned to pray at a Planned Parenthood facility in Washington. The weather thwarted those plans, but the buses returned early enough to allow for a stop in front of the Founder's Women's Health Center, an abortion clinic on East Broad Street in Columbus, to pray the Chaplet of Divine Mercy. Vanderkooi greeted the group at the clinic, which will be the site of the next 40 Days for Life pro-life prayer vigil from Ash Wednesday, Feb. 10 to Palm Sunday, March 20.

Danville St. Luke Church's annual bus trip to the Washington march also ended early. It began on Wednesday as scheduled, with participants stopping at the Flight 93 Memorial in Somerset County, Pennsylvania, before arriving at their hotel in Alexandria, Virginia.

They spent the next day in Washington, going to the Capitol building and several of the monuments nearby, the National Air and Space Museum, and the basilica for Mass. The group, which included travelers from Patakalaka and Mount Vernon, left Alexandria, Virginia, at 6:30 a.m. Friday and was back in Danville by 2:30 p.m.

"Safety was always our biggest concern," said Bobbie Thomas, who has been organizing trips to the march since 2000. "It's the first time we've had to leave without taking part in the march, but there was no question about

parent, I know the sacrifices one has to make. However, I never can thank my parents, teachers, priests, and sisters enough for the way they sacrificed to help make me who I am.

Besides the daily religion classes, school Masses and service projects that showcase our faith, there are many other aspects of the Catholic school experience that are often overlooked. For example, we all know that our local Catholic schools are highly thought of academically, enabling their students to often receive larger scholarships than other high school students.

Our society's transient nature often means that people come and go and schools become huge and impersonal. Catholic schools are welcoming places where families and friendships often stay close through the years. While I have friends from all walks of life, my closest friends are those I made at Marion St. Mary School and Marion Catholic High School. Those anchors and bonds have been important to me through the years, especially through trying times. As for the good times, I wouldn't change my school experience for anything. I know I am not alone. While teenage years often can be awkward, the welcoming Catholic school atmosphere gives children of all backgrounds the foundation they need to understand their true, God-given potential.

Hartline is the author of "The Tide is Turning Toward Catholicism" and a former teacher and administrator for the diocese.

doing that, especially because some of us had medical concerns. Sometimes in life, you just have to miss things because other things are more important. It was a nice group. Everyone said they hope to be back next year, and I'll look forward to that."

Dan Schutte Concert

Dan Schutte, composer of familiar liturgical songs such as *Here I Am, Lord*, *City of God*, and *Sing a New Song*, will be at Columbus St. Elizabeth Church, 6077 Sharon Woods Blvd., for a concert at 7:30 p.m. Friday, Feb. 12 and a Lenten day of reflection from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 13.

The concert will include stories, prayer, and reflection based on Schutte's songs. Admission is \$15. The theme for the day of reflection, "Whom Shall I Send: Responding in Faith to God's Calling," will look at the questions asked in *Here I Am, Lord*. The cost of \$25 per person includes breakfast and lunch. A combined ticket for the two events is available for \$35.

This will be Schutte's first visit to Columbus since 2005, when he also came to St. Elizabeth's. He was a member of the St. Louis Jesuits, one of the strongest influences in Catholic music after Vatican II.

More information is available from parish music director Rich Krehnovi at (614) 891-0150, extension 15, or online at www.stelizabethchurch.org.

Pray for our dead

CASSIDY, George M., 75, Jan. 20
St. James the Less Church, Columbus

CONLEY, Barbara J., 84, Jan. 22
St. Peter Church, Chillicothe

CONTINI, Nancy, 83, Jan. 17
St. Joseph Church, Dover

DORSEY, Patricia R., 87, Jan. 14
St. Cecilia Church, Columbus

DREHER, Rose, 76, Jan. 16
St. Joseph Church, Dover

ELLIS, Patrick W., 68, Jan. 16
Holy Family Church, Columbus

FAKLER, George H. Jr., 88, Jan. 21
St. Francis de Sales Church, Newark

GREEN, Lynn F., 72, Jan. 20
St. Edward Church, Granville

GUGLIELMI, Leo, 90, Jan. 15
St. Peter Church, Columbus

HAYES, Helen D., 86, Dec. 30
St. Agatha Church, Columbus

HOFFER, Mary K., 94, Jan. 8
St. Nicholas Church, Zanesville

JONES, Susan, 67, Jan. 22
Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, Grove City

JURLINA, Joseph, 90, Jan. 20
St. Ladislav Church, Columbus

KELNHOFER, Diane M., 55, Jan. 21
St. Matthias Church, Columbus

KNAPP, Veronica J. "Ronnie," 75, Jan. 22
St. Pius X Church, Reynoldsburg

LEADBEATER, Christopher Jr., 31, Jan. 13
St. Paul Church, Westerville

LOTZ, Mary, Jan. 24
St. Cecilia Church, Columbus

MAPLE, Margaret "June," 88, Jan. 14
St. Ladislav Church, Columbus

MATESICH, Martha A., 59, Jan. 14
St. Francis de Sales Church, Newark

METZGER, Brice A., 81, Jan. 15
St. Patrick Church, Junction City

MOYER, Virginia A., 83, Jan. 18
St. Nicholas Church, Zanesville

NATOLI, Teri, 55, Jan. 10
Sacred Heart Church, New Philadelphia

PAUL, Pearl E., 90, Jan. 22
Holy Spirit Church, Columbus

PECK, Donald, 83, Jan. 23
St. Mary Church, Groveport

PETRUZZI, Marjorie A., 82, Jan. 22
St. Matthias Church, Columbus

PETTIBONE, Steven C., 64, Jan. 16
St. Agatha Church, Columbus

PHAM, Phi V., Jan. 20
Ss. Augustine & Gabriel Church, Columbus

ROGERS, Gene F., 92, Jan. 15
St. Mary Church, Delaware

SAGRAVES, Anthony E., 61, Jan. 18
St. Paul Church, Westerville

SELIGMAN, Simon Jr., 88, of Westerville, Jan. 11
St. Bartholomew Church, Fort Worth, Texas

SHUMAKER, Louise, 88, Jan. 12
St. Mary Church, Lancaster

SKEELE, Alice M., 102, Jan. 22
Immaculate Conception Church, Columbus

SPEYER, Paul J., 84, Jan. 18
Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Marysville

SPILLERS, James D., 89, Jan. 19
St. Timothy Church, Columbus

THIMMES, Benjamin L., 39, Jan. 21
St. Mary Church, Lancaster

VENTURA, James V., 92, Jan. 23
St. Francis de Sales Church, Newark

WAGNER, Georgia, 87, Jan. 23
St. Timothy Church, Columbus

WANNER, Christopher F., 61, Jan. 13
St. Peter Church, Columbus

WHALEN, Robert M. "Mike," 66, Jan. 16
Our Lady of Peace Church, Columbus

WILL, Herman H., 93, Nov. 15
St. Timothy Church, Columbus

WORKMAN, Kathryn P., 92, Jan. 21
St. Mark Church, Lancaster

ZETTLER, Patricia L., 68, Jan. 18
St. Catharine Church, Columbus

ZIANTS, Phyllis D., 90, Jan. 11
St. Mary Church, Lancaster

Father Gennaro Sesto, SDB

Funeral Mass for Father Gennaro "Jerry" Sesto, SDB, 84, professor of canon law at the Pontifical College Josephinum for 14 years, who died Friday, Jan. 15, was held Tuesday, Jan. 19, at Don Bosco Preparatory School in Ramsey, New Jersey. Burial was at the Salesian Cemetery in Goshen, New York.

He was born in Biddeford, Maine, on Aug. 1, 1921, to the late Mary and Thomas Sesto. He entered the Salesians of St. John Bosco on Sept. 7, 1939, professed vows as a lay brother on Sept. 8, 1940, and graduated from Don Bosco College in Newton, Massachusetts, in 1943 with a bachelor of arts degree in philosophy. He studied theology at the Pontificio Ateneo Salesiano (PAS) in Turin, Italy, and was ordained a priest on July 2, 1950 at the Basilica of Mary Help of Christians in Turin. He remained in Turin until 1952, when he received a degree in canon law. He earned a doctorate in canon law from the Catholic University of America in 1956.

He served as treasurer and vice director and taught Latin and theology at Don Bosco College from 1953-55, de Namur in 1934, making her first profession of vows on Aug. 13, 1937, taking the name Sister Aimee Julie, and her final profession six years later. She spent 33 years a teacher in Illinois, Maryland, the Archdiocese of Cincinnati, and the Diocese of Columbus, where she taught at Columbus St. Aloysius School (1956-57) and Columbus St. Augustine School (1964-70).

In 1970, she founded the Billiant Reading Center in the Cincinnati suburb of Reading, where she served until its closing in 1994, when she moved to the Mount Notre Dame Center.

She is survived by a niece, Kevin Ann Ford.

Survivors include a brother, Thomas; sisters, Lucy Burke, Ann Gribbin, and Virginia LaCroix; and several nieces and nephews.

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Sister Margaret Michael, SNDdeN

Funeral Mass for Sister Margaret Michael, SNDdeN, 100, who died Monday, Jan. 11, was held Tuesday, Jan. 19 at the Mount Notre Dame Health Center in Cincinnati.

She was born July 11, 1915 in Gallopis to Robert and Amy (McHale) Michael.

She graduated from Columbus Immaculate Conception School and Columbus St. Joseph Academy and received a bachelor of science degree in education from the University of Dayton in 1958 and a master of arts degree in reading from Cardinal Stritch College in Milwaukee in 1971.

She entered the Sisters of Notre Dame

Survivors include a brother, Thomas; sisters, Lucy Burke, Ann Gribbin, and Virginia LaCroix; and several nieces and nephews.

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Send obituaries to:

tpuet@columbuscatholic.org

CLASSIFIED

ST. CHARLES PREPARATORY SCHOOL ANNUAL SPAGHETTI DINNER SUNDAY, FEB. 7TH - NOON TO 7 P.M.
Spaghetti w/meatball, salad, rolls, dessert & drink
Adults:\$10; Seniors:\$8; Kids 4-12: \$5
Kids 3 and under free;
Carry out = Yes!

JANUARY

28, 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. Young Professionals Program at Newman Center 7:30 to 9:30 p.m., St. Thomas More Newman Center, 64 W. Lane Ave., Columbus. Pub trivia night for Catholic young professionals. 614-291-4674

30, 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. Bosco Bash at St. Cecilia School 2:30 to 9 p.m., St. Cecilia School, 440 Norton Road, Columbus. Annual Bosco Bash rally for sixth- to eighth-grade students, sponsored by diocesan Office of Youth

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: The Catholic Times Happenings, 197 East Gay St., Columbus, OH 43215 Fax to: 614-241-2518 E-mail as text to tpuet@colsdioic.org

H A P P E N I N G S

& Young Adult Ministry. Theme: "Unbreakable," with speaker Bob Lesnefsky, also known as Catholic rapper "Righteous B," music by Station 14, skits, games, dinner, and evening Mass. Cost \$20. 614-241-2565

31, SUNDAY

St. Christopher Adult Religious Education

10 to 11:20 a.m., Library, Trinity Catholic School, 1440 Grandview Ave., Columbus. "Architecture and Prayer," with artist Gina Switzer using photos of area churches to discuss how sacred spaces can lead people more deeply into the mysteries of worship and contemplative prayer. 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

Open House at St. Brigid of Kildare School

Noon to 2:30 p.m., St. Brigid of Kildare School, 7175 Avery Road, Dublin. Open house for parents of prospective students. 614-718-5825

Our Lady of Bethlehem Open House

1 to 3 p.m., Our Lady of Bethlehem School and Childcare, 4567 Olentangy River Road, Columbus. Open house for parents of prospective students. School is for students from age six weeks to kindergarten. 614-459-8285

Scout Day with the Bishop

3 p.m., Church of the Resurrection, 6300 E. Dublin-Granville Road, New Albany. Annual Scout Day with the Bishop program, with Bishop Frederick Campbell honoring diocesan Scouts who have received religious awards. Prayer Group Meeting at Christ the King 5 to 7 p.m., Christ the King Church, 2777 E. Livingston Ave., Columbus (enter at daily Mass entrance). Weekly parish prayer group meets for praise, worship, ministry, and teaching. 614-886-8266

St. Mary Magdalene Year of Mercy Speaker Series

5 p.m., St. Mary Magdalene Church, 473 S. Roys Ave., Columbus. Talk by Mark Huddy, diocesan episcopal moderator for social concerns, on the Year of Mercy. First of six monthly talks in parish Year of Mercy speaker series. RSVP to Cindy Oddi at (614) 274-1121, extension 13 or coddi@saintmarymag.org.

Spanish Mass at Columbus St. Peter

7 p.m., St. Peter Church, 6899 Smoky Row Road, Columbus. Mass in Spanish. 706-761-4054

31, FEB. 1-2, SUNDAY-TUESDAY

St. Edward Parish Mission

1 p.m. Sunday, 7 p.m. Monday-Tuesday, St. Edward Church, 785 Newark-Granville Road, Granville. Parish mission, led by Father Paul Fagan, CP. Theme: "Living by Faith the Challenge of the Holy Year of Mercy." 740-587-3254

FEBRUARY

1, MONDAY

'Walking Toward Eternity' at Delaware St. Mary

7 to 9 p.m., St. Mary Church, 82 E. William St., Delaware. First program in five-week "Walking Toward Eternity" series by Jeff and Emily Cavins, designed to help participants live their faith more fully through daily prayerful meditation with Scripture. Books \$15; some scholarships available. 740-513-3325

2, TUESDAY

Open House, Information Night at Holy Spirit School

9 to 11 a.m., Holy Spirit School, 4382 Duchene Lane, Col-

umbus, Open house for prospective students, followed by information night at 7 p.m. 614-861-0475

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. 614-444-4411

Catholic Women's Conference Choir Practice

7 to 8 p.m., St. Timothy Church, 1088 Thomas Lane, Columbus. Practice for women wishing to be choir members for Columbus Catholic Women's Conference on Saturday, Feb. 20. Other practices on Feb. 8 and 16.

Prayer Group Meeting at St. Mark

7:30 p.m., St. Raymond Room, St. Mark Center, 324 Gay St., Lancaster. Light of Life prayer group meeting. 740-654-6928

3, WEDNESDAY

Prayer Shawl Making at Shepherd's Corner

7 to 8:30 p.m., Shepherd's Corner Ecology Center, 987 N. Waggoner Road, Blacklick. First of four biweekly sessions of making hand-knitted and crocheted prayer shawls for those in need, with Sister Diane Kozlowski, OP. Patterns available. Supply list sent on registration. No experience necessary. Suggested donation \$5. Registration deadline Jan. 31. 614-866-4302

4, 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

Art Exhibit Opening at de Porres Center

6:30 to 8 p.m., Martin de Porres Center, 2330 Airport Drive, Columbus. Opening reception for art exhibit "Silver Linings and Personal Favorites: Paintings by Judith Vierow." Exhibit opens Feb. 1, continues through Thursday, March 24. 614-416-1910

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

5, 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.

Catholic Men's Luncheon Club

12:15 p.m., St. Patrick Church, 280 N. Grant Ave., Columbus. Catholic Men's Luncheon Club meeting. Bishop Frederick Campbell presents club's 2016 Catholic Man of the Year award to Jeff Bernard of Gahanna St. Matthew Church.

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, sponsored by church's Knights of Columbus council and Columbus Serra Club.

5-7, FRIDAY-SUNDAY

Hartley Presents 'Romeo and Juliet'

7:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday, 2:30 p.m. Sunday, Columbus Performing Arts Center, 549 Franklin Ave., Columbus. Bishop Hartley High School drama department presents "Romeo and Juliet." 614-237-5421

6, SATURDAY

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

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.

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

Slavic Evening at St. John Chrysostom

6:30 to 11 p.m., St. John Chrysostom Byzantine Catholic Church, 5858 Cleveland Ave., Columbus. A Slavic Evening, featuring the Columbus Croatian dance troupe Selo, and music for dancing with the Tom Katrenich Orchestra. Cabbage rolls, pirogi, and other food for sale, plus beer, wine, soft drinks. 614-882-7578

Filipino Mass at Holy Cross

7:30 p.m., Holy Cross Church, 204 S. 5th St., Columbus. Mass in the Tagalog language for members of the Filipino Catholic community. 614-224-3416

7, SUNDAY

St. Christopher Adult Religious Education

10 to 11:20 a.m., Library, Trinity Catholic School, 1440 Grandview Ave., Columbus. "Today's Gospel in the Movies," with Trinity eighth-grade teacher Elaine Schuttinger discussing "The Outlaw Josey Wales."

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.

Full Sound Chamber Group at de Porres Center

3 to 4:30 p.m., Martin de Porres Center, 2330 Airport Drive, Columbus. Concert with the Full Sound Chamber group, a quintet of brothers from the Bellefontaine area presenting baroque, classical, and romantic music and hymns. \$10 suggested donation. 614-416-1910

Hymn Festival at St. Colman of Cloyne

3 p.m., St. Colman of Cloyne Church, 219 S. North St., Washington Court House. Parish's "Concerts in a Country Church" series presents "From the Head to the Heart and Back Again: A Community Hymn Festival." Tickets \$10.

Prayer Group Meeting at Christ the King

5 to 7 p.m., Christ the King Church, 2777 E. Livingston Ave., Columbus (enter at daily Mass entrance). Weekly parish prayer group meets for praise, worship, ministry, and teaching. 614-886-8266



BOOK REVIEW

Church's credibility found in showing mercy, pope says in new book

THE NAME OF GOD IS MERCY

By Cindy Wooden
Catholic News Service

Being ministers of God's mercy, church members overcome "prejudice and rigidity," taking risks as Jesus did in order to heal and to save, Pope Francis said.

In Jesus' day, lepers were cast out of the community "to avoid contamination: the healthy needed to be protected," but Jesus, at his own risk, "goes up to the leper and he restores him, he heals him," Pope Francis said in a new booklength interview on mercy.

"By welcoming a marginalized person whose body is wounded and by welcoming the sinner whose soul is wounded, we put our credibility as Christians on the line," the pope told Italian journalist Andrea Torielli (pictured) in *The Name of God Is Mercy*, which was released on Tuesday, Jan. 12.

In the interview, the pope spoke about experiencing an overwhelming sense of mercy during confession when he was 17 years old, provided more details about stories he has recounted in homilies, explained his comment, "Who am I to judge?" about a homosexual person seeking God, and discussed the need he saw to invoke a jubilee Year of Mercy.

He also talked about the relationship of mercy and justice and addressed criticism that his focus on mercy amounts to watering down church doctrine and tolerating sin.

Tornielli asked Pope Francis why he so frequently and negatively mentions the "scholars of the law" in his morning homilies. The pope responded that in the Gospels, "they represent the principal opposition to Jesus: they challenge him in the name of doctrine" and such an attitude "is repeated throughout the long history of the church."

Using the example of Jesus' close con-

tact with lepers despite the Old Testament law that lepers be excluded from the community, Pope Francis said it is obvious that the exclusion of lepers was meant to contain disease, but it led to social and emotional suffering and, what is worse, to a sense that lepers had committed some sin which caused their disease. They were excluded from the community, but also from a relationship with God.

In literally reaching out to lepers, the pope said, Jesus "shows us a new horizon, the logic of a God who is love, a God who desires the salvation of all men."

Jesus touched and healed the lepers, he continued. "He didn't sit down at a desk and study the situation, he didn't consult the experts for pros and cons. What really mattered to him was reaching stranded people and saving them."

Pope Francis said a similar attitude by the church today "provokes angry mutterings from those who are only ever used to having things fit into their preconceived notions and ritual purity."

"Caring for outcasts and sinners does not mean letting the wolves attack the flock" or jumping into the darkness with sinners, he said. It means being aware of the reality of sin and sharing the reality that God always is ready to forgive the sinner.

When the grace of God begins to help a person recognize his or her sin and



need for forgiveness, the pope said, that person "needs to find an open door, not a closed one. He needs to find acceptance, not judgment, prejudice, or condemnation. He needs to be helped, not pushed away or cast out."

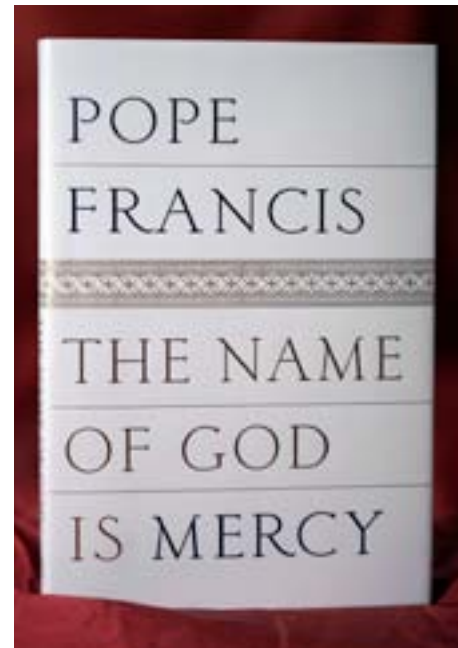
"Jesus sends forth his disciples not as holders of power or masters of a law," the pope said. "The Christian message is transmitted by embracing those in difficulty, by embracing the outcast, the marginalized, and the sinner."

Obviously, he said, the church cannot and does not pretend sin is unimportant.

But "God forgives everyone. He offers new possibilities to everyone. He shows his mercy on everyone who asks for it," Pope Francis said. "We are the ones who do not know how to forgive."

The pope told Tornielli he is convinced that God's mercy is Jesus' most important message and that it is a message people today urgently need to hear.

"Humanity is wounded, deeply wounded," he said. "Either it does not know how to cure its wounds, or it believes that it's not possible to cure them."



To preach the Gospel, the church must counter an attitude that says there are sins that cannot be healed or forgiven, the pope said.

"The church does not exist to condemn people, but to bring about an encounter with the visceral love of God's mercy," he said.

Priests, especially in the confessional, must do all they can to communicate God's love and mercy. If they cannot offer absolution to someone, the pope said, they should at least offer a blessing. The fact that the person entered the confessional is a clear sign of God's grace already at work.

"As a confessor, even when I have found myself before a locked door," he said, "I have always tried to find a crack, just a tiny opening, so that I can pry open that door and grant forgiveness and mercy."

As for his "Who am I to judge?" remark to reporters in July 2013 when asked about the church's attitude toward homosexual persons, Pope Francis said, "I was paraphrasing by heart the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, where it says that these people should be treated with delicacy and not be marginalized."

Speaking to Tornielli, Pope Francis made no comment on homosexuality as such, other than to insist that "people should not be defined only by their sexual tendencies."

"I prefer that homosexuals come to confession, that they stay close to the Lord, and that we all pray together," he said. "You can advise them to pray, show goodwill, show them the way and accompany them along it."



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Romeo and Juliet

The Columbus Bishop Hartley High School drama department will present *Romeo & Juliet* from Friday to Sunday, Feb. 5 to 7 at the Columbus Performing Arts Center, 549 Franklin Ave. Friday and Saturday evening performances begin at 7:30 p.m. Saturday and Sunday matinee performances will be at 2:30 p.m. There is no Sunday evening performance. Tickets are \$7 and will be sold at the door only, beginning one hour before each performance.

The cast includes Josh Duffy Cooper as Romeo and Rachel Staley as Ju-

liet. Supporting cast members include Betsy Huggins, Christian Craig, Ben Smallwood, Ryan Reed, Nick Warrick, Emilee Zoog, Joseph Supino, Abi Allwein, John Amland, Katherine Crosswell, David Rees, Laten Jordan, Sarah Buckingham, Michelle Tyack, Abbi Vina, Madi Weldon, Nina Eku-kole-Sone, and Brenna Kilbarger.

(Pictured: Columbus Bishop Hartley High School students Nick Warrick, Ryan Reed, Emilee Zoog, Ben Smallwood, and Sarah Buckingham rehearse a scene for "Romeo & Juliet.")

Photo courtesy Bishop Hartley High School

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For information and tickets contact Sos at soscod@cs.com or 614.582.7366




2016 COLUMBUS CATHOLIC MEN'S CONFERENCE SPEAKERS

The 2016 annual Columbus Catholic Men's Conference, with the theme "Call to Discipleship," will take place Saturday, Feb. 27 at the Voinovich Center on the State Fairgrounds.

A dynamic lineup of speakers is scheduled, including Father Larry Richards, Hector Molina, and David Karam.

Father Richards was born in Pittsburgh and is pastor of St. Joseph Church in Erie, Pennsylvania.

He speaks from experience as a pastor of an inner-city parish, a high-school chaplain, a counselor, and an evangelist. He has directed hundreds of retreats, parish missions, and conferences.

Not preachy but direct, Father Richards challenges men to be strong, without putting on a mask of false strength or machismo.

He talks to men about how to focus on the right goal, to live as a beloved son of God, to acknowledge their faults and to live according to the Holy Spirit, to be a man of true love and of wisdom, to appreciate properly the differences between men and women, to pursue holiness, and to make a difference in the world.

He hosts the EWTN radio shows *The Reason For Our Hope* and *Open Line*. He can be seen on the EWTN televised programs *Living Right with Dr. Ray* and *Crossing the Goal*.

Molina is a lay evangelist who began his ministry as a lay pastoral associate in the Diocese of Brooklyn, New York.

He then served the Archdiocese of St. Louis as director of Hispanic ministry and later as founding director of the Of-



fice for the New Evangelization.

In 2009, Molina launched a full-time speaking apostolate, through which he ministers at Catholic events throughout the United States, Canada, Australia, southeast Asia, Latin America, and the Caribbean.

He served for two years as an apologist and speaker on the staff of Catholic Answers, the largest lay-run apostolate of apologetics and evangelization in North America. Molina currently is chief executive officer of Casting Nets Ministries. He specializes in evangelization and apologetics, has keynoted



Father Larry Richards



Hector Molina



David Karam

more than 100 conferences, and has conducted scores of parish seminars, workshops, missions, and retreats in English and Spanish throughout the United States and abroad.

Karam is chairman of Sbarro Holdings, LLC. He formerly was president of the Wendy's International Inc. subsidiary of Wendy's Restaurants and as treasurer of Emerald Foods, Inc.

He was responsible for all operations and business activities for Wendy's company- and franchise-owned restaurants in North America.

He serves as chair of the professional advisory council for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in Memphis, Tennessee, and as a trustee of the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption.

Karam holds a bachelor's degree in accounting from The Ohio State Uni-

versity and is a graduate of the owner-president management program at the Harvard University Graduate School of Business Administration.

The conference day will begin at 6 a.m. with Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, led by Father Dan Dury of Columbus St. Catharine Church.

Registration and breakfast will start at 7, with talks beginning at 8.

Sportscaster Doug Lessells will be master of ceremonies. Conference music will be directed by Aaron Richards and Brendan O'Rourke.

The day will conclude with Mass celebrated by Bishop Frederick Campbell. Mass music will be directed by Christopher Walsh, with organist Paul Melcher. The event will end around 2:45 p.m.

Visit www.columbuscatholicmen.com for registration information.

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