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SS. AUGUSTINE & GABRIEL CHURCH:
ONE PARISH, TWO COMMUNITIES

The Editor's Notebook

New Year's Resolution

By David Garick, Editor



2017 is here! It's time to work on those New Year's resolutions. I'm starting off by resolving to work on the backlog of resolutions from previous years that I didn't get done. I'm working on 1988 right now.

Let's see: Get rid of leisure suits (only one or two still left in my closet), find someone to buy those Barry Manilow albums I never wanted in the first place (40 years later, some things grow on you – not Barry Manilow), lose a few pounds. That last one is the singular New Year's resolution with an interest-bearing clause. Every year, it comes back with the pounds you planned to lose last year and did not succeed, plus an increase of two to five percent.

Actually, losing weight is at the top of the list of American New Year's resolutions. Joining weight loss are some other health-related resolutions such as eating healthy, getting fit, stopping drinking or smoking, and reducing stress. Then there are the financial-related resolutions like saving money, paying off debt, getting a better job. The only altruistic resolution on the list is volunteering to help others.

The word is that only 10 percent of resolutions are kept. I hope that the feds are not going to get into enforcement. Imagine getting a letter from the IRS (Intended Resolutions Service): "Mr. Garick, it has come to our attention that you are delinquent in your resolution to clean out the collection of rare eastern European wine bottles in your basement. Unless you can demonstrate compliance within 30 days, we will be forced to

penalize you by seizing your entire music collection, except for Barry Manilow records." Nooooooo!

Actually, I think we miss the point with this whole resolution thing. Most of our resolutions are pretty self-centered. We want to lose weight or get fit so that we look better. We want to save or earn more money so we can buy more toys. Instead of asking what I can do this year that will make me happier, we should be asking what I can do today to better follow the example of Jesus.

What things are we called to do? Love the Lord with all our hearts and strength. Love our neighbor as ourselves. Place our trust in God, praying daily, "Jesus, I trust in you." Read, study, and learn the Word. The Bible needs to be taken off the shelf and allowed to illuminate our daily life. Go into the world (including your own home and neighborhood) and proclaim the truth of the good news. Give to those in need and show mercy to all. Those are resolutions that Jesus would have us make. Most of us are pretty deficient in fulfilling those resolutions.

To accomplish those things, we need strength beyond ourselves. We need the grace of God. Go to Mass often. When you take within yourself the Body and Blood of Christ, you will be strengthened. And spending more time in church and less time in McDonald's, you might lose a few pounds as well.

Pope to bishops: Defend children from abuse, protect their dignity, joy

By Carol Glatz
Catholic News Service

Pope Francis has told the world's bishops to stand up and protect children from exploitation, slaughter, and abuse and to commit to a policy of "zero tolerance" of sexual abuse by clergy.

In a letter commemorating the Dec. 28 Feast of the Holy Innocents, the pope told bishops to wake up to what is happening to many of today's innocents and to be moved by their plight and the cries of their mothers, and to do everything to protect life by helping it "be born and grow." The Vatican press office published the letter and translations from the original Italian on Jan. 2.

Just as King Herod's men slaughtered young children of Bethlehem in his "unbridled thirst for power," there are plenty of new Herods today -- gang members, criminal networks, and "merchants of death" -- "who devour the innocence of our children" through slave labor, prostitution, and exploitation, the pope said. Wars and forced immigration also strip children of their innocence, joy, and dignity, he added.

The prophet Jeremiah was aware of this "sobbing and loud lamentation" and knew that Rachel was "weeping for her children, and she would not be consoled since they were no more," the pope said.

"Today too, we hear this heart-rending cry of pain, which we neither desire nor are able to ignore or to silence," he continued.

"Christmas is also accompanied, whether we like it or not, by tears,"

and the Gospel writers "did not disguise reality to make it more credible or attractive," he said.

The pope noted that Christmas and the birth of the son of God aren't about escaping reality, but are a way to help "contemplate this cry of pain, to open our eyes and ears to what is going on around us, and to let our hearts be attentive and open to the pain of our neighbors, especially where children are involved. It also means realizing that that sad chapter in history is still being written today."

Given such challenges, Pope Francis told the world's bishops to look to St. Joseph as a role model.

This obedient and loyal man was capable of recognizing and listening to God's voice, which meant St. Joseph could let himself be guided by his will and be moved by "what was going on around him and was able to interpret these events realistically," the pope said.

"The same thing is asked of us pastors today: to be men attentive, and not deaf, to the voice of God, and hence more sensitive to what is happening all around us," he said.

Like St. Joseph, "we are asked not to let ourselves be robbed of joy. We are asked to protect this joy from the Herods of our own time. Like Joseph, we need the courage to respond to this reality, to arise and take it firmly in hand," the pope said.

He declared that the church weeps not only for children suffering the pain of poverty, malnu-

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Front Page photo:

Columbus Ss. Augustine & Gabriel Church, located in the Linden area, is a home parish for that neighborhood and for the central Ohio Catholic Vietnamese community.

CT photo by Ken Snow



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Touch the World With Your Life!

By Leandro M. Tapay
Diocesan Missions Director

The weekend of Saturday and Sunday, Jan. 14 and 15, is a renewal weekend for our membership to the Society for the Propagation of the Faith. Our promise of support for the Church's mission through our prayers, sacrifices, and financial donation is the only requirement for our membership. There is no other formal dues structure.

The event is an opportunity for us to recommit ourselves to participate in the mission of the Church to spread the Gospel even to the ends of the earth, as Jesus had commanded his disciples – and us – to do (Mark 16:15). Members receive the graces of 15,000 Masses celebrated at St. Peter's Basilica in Rome. Thank you for your generosity.

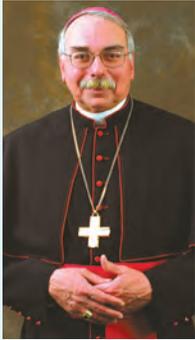
The Society for the Propagation of the Faith, which is under the direction of the Vatican's Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples, is the main source of support for the 1,500 mission dioceses in Asia, Africa, the Pacific Islands, and some regions of Latin America. The society does not have any investments or savings. Every year, all the funds it collects are distributed to mission dioceses and mission congregations or mission societies spreading the Gospel in places where people have yet to hear the good news of our salvation.

The membership drive in January and the World Mission Sunday celebration in October are the two major collection times for the society. In 2015, the Diocese of Columbus contributed \$60,365

during the membership drive and \$95,041 on World Mission Sunday. The society also received \$129,165 in legacies and \$23,369 in miscellaneous gifts from our diocese.

You can touch the world by leaving a gift to the Society for the Propagation of the Faith in your will. Your legacy will live for generations. Your charity will help the Catholic Church spread the Gospel to ends of the earth. A specific amount may be designated, or you can allocate a percentage of your estate. A qualified attorney can help prepare your will or trust. Please notify the diocesan missions office of your bequest, so you can be included in its bequest society and kept updated with its monthly newsletter.

The cross of Christ is a daily reality in the poverty of the Congo, Haiti, Bangladesh,



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Through the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, we partake in the Church's mission to bring the message of God's Kingdom of love, mercy, and forgiveness "even to the ends of the earth."

The weekend of Saturday and Sunday, Jan. 14 and 15, will be when the membership drive of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith takes place. With our membership, we make a special commitment to the Church's mission "to all peoples and nations" by pledging daily prayer and financial help to the society.

In more than 1,150 mission dioceses worldwide, priests, religious brothers and sisters, and lay catechists rely on the prayers and financial assistance of the society's members.

The missionaries count on this support as they help young people search for the meaning of life, comfort refugees in their spiritual and material needs, minister to the sick, teach children, prepare adults for baptism, and bring help to the suffering in times of war and natural disasters.

During the membership drive, let us pray for missionaries everywhere, especially the nine men and women from the Diocese of Columbus who are sharing Christ's Gospel message around the globe.

I am most grateful for your continuing generosity and support for this most important task of the Church: evangelization.

Sincerely yours in Christ,
Most Rev. Frederick F. Campbell, DD, PhD
Bishop of Columbus

Brazil, the Philippines, and India, to name a few nations. Catholics suffer for their faith in Vietnam, Rwanda, Sudan, and many other countries. Your gift through your will or trust to the Society for the Propagation of the Faith means life itself to the Church in these and many other nations. It is a living tribute to you and a lasting hymn of praise to God. It is a lifeline and a sign of hope for our brothers and sisters who cry to God for help.

People establish bequests for many reasons:

In thanksgiving for the blessings of life and love;

To honor deceased loved ones;

To praise God for the gift of faith;

In gratitude for the opportunities of America or of one's career;

As an act of spiritual and social justice;

In reparation for the sins of the past;

As an example of Catholic charity for the next generation.

If concern for the poor and the spread of the Gospel are important to you during your lifetime, a bequest to the society will carry on those principles in a longterm tribute to the power of faith.

As the mission director for the diocese, I attest that legacies, gifts, and bequests left to the Society for the Propagation of the Faith will be used entirely for the missionary work of the Catholic Church. Donors and their intentions remain in the prayers of missionaries the world over. I sincerely thank you on behalf of the Church's missionaries and the people they serve.



Ohio Dominican to honor veterans

Ohio Dominican University will sponsor a Veterans Appreciation Day on Saturday, Jan. 21.

The day will begin at 10:30 a.m. with a meeting of Catholic War Veterans Post 1936 in the Bishop Griffin Center, followed at 11:30 a.m. by a national security briefing with Rear Adm. Deborah Loewer in the President's Dining Hall at the center.

Loewer was the first warfare-qualified woman to be promoted to flag rank in the Navy. She commanded the USS Mount Baker and the USS Camden and was director of the White House situation room on Sept. 11, 2001. During the briefing, free pizza and refreshments will be served. Afterward, veterans will walk to Alumni Hall and watch Ohio Dominican's women's and men's basketball teams play Walsh. Veterans will be honored during the women's game at 1 p.m. and the men's game at 3. Each

veteran attending the briefing will receive two free tickets to the games.

The university will be honoring two accomplished alumni who are military veterans as honorary co-captains of the women's and men's basketball teams. Mary Smart Callaway, a member of the Class of 1979 of what then was Ohio Dominican College, is a retired Air Force colonel with 26 years of service in information technology. Since retiring from the military, she has volunteered for her parish as the leader of its adult faith formation program. Dennis Smith, a 1969 ODC graduate, is a retired Army colonel and played basketball for the Panthers. He was the first recipient of the ODC Distinguished Alumni Award in 1981.

Veterans interested in attending are asked to RSVP to Kyrsten Stenerson at (614) 251-4458 or stenersk@ohiodominican.edu by Friday, Jan. 13.

Family prayer program at St. Matthew

Prayer flows from everyday life, whether it is in the family or in the classroom or a meeting.

Do you have questions on how to pray as a family, in the classroom, or in a meeting? How does family prayer relate to a caring community?

Sr. Janet Schaffler, OP, will give insights on these and other questions in a presentation titled "Families of Prayer, Communities of Care," sponsored by the diocesan Office of Religious Education and Catechesis. It will take place from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 25 at the St. Anthony Room in the undercroft of Gahanna St. Matthew Church, 807 Havens Corners Road.

Practical suggestions will be given for parents, grandparents, catechists and parish communities to help support each other in becoming families of prayer and communities of care. Top-

ics and handouts include creating your personalized family mission statement; a prayer primer for parents and family members; family ideas for outreach and caring; help in identifying your parish's approach to families; and concrete ideas to help parents and catechists in helping form children who care. Sister Janet also will describe authentic faith and give practical steps to help achieve authentic faith for every age level from child to adult.

This presentation is for anyone who wants to learn more about prayer and how it leads to becoming communities of care. Light snacks will be provided. On request, 1.5 hours of religious education methods/enrichment certification credit will be given.

Register by emailing orec@columbus-catholic.org or calling (614) 221-4633, extension 1325.

Hilliard St. Brendan men's retreat at Maria Stein

Hilliard St. Brendan Church is sponsoring a men's retreat from Friday, Jan. 27 to Sunday, Jan. 29 at the Maria Stein Spiritual Center, 2365 St. John's Road, Maria Stein.

Its theme is "The Gospel Toolbox." It will be led by Father Bill Garrott, OP, who is based at the St. Thomas Aquinas Priory in Charlottesville, Virginia, where the Dominican Fathers staff the Catholic campus ministry and parish for the University of Virginia. He was

ordained to the priesthood in 1994 and has served in various parish and campus ministries of the Dominican Province of St. Joseph. Father Garrott, an accomplished pianist and guitarist, has preached more than 100 parish missions throughout the United States.

The cost of the retreat is \$160, which includes all meals and a private room with bath. For registration information, contact Gerry at (614) 946-8117 or email Gerrylyz90@gmail.com.

OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP TO HOST FUNDRAISER FOR ASIA'S HOPE

Grove City Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, 3730 Broadway, will host a dinner to benefit the Asia's Hope Battambang 5 Home in Cambodia at 6 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 29.

Asia's Hope is a Columbus-based multid denominational, grassroots movement working in Cambodia, Thailand, and India to provide quality long-term care for orphaned children at high risk of sexual and economic exploitation. The children live in homes as families, with two adults who serve as parents.

The Grove City parish's engagement with Asia's Hope has grown from the involvement of two parishioners to efforts that include sending missionary groups to Cambodia and providing financial support for the home. In addition, the Our Lady of Perpetual Help School Legacy Leaders, a middle-school service learning organization, has adopted Asia's Hope as its project for 2016-17. It has conducted fundraisers and arranged for each class at the school to have one or two pen pals at the home.

"The mission and purpose of our parish is to form and send intentional missionary disciples of Jesus Christ," said Father Dan Millisor, the parish's pastor. "While much

of our effort goes into forming and equipping disciples, we give equal attention to sending disciples into many mission fields to evangelize and build God's kingdom. Our commitment to Asia's Hope reflects on our desire to sustain a long-term international mission and to embrace the children of our home in Cambodia as our own family."

Speakers at the Jan. 29 dinner will include Father Millisor and associate pastor Father James Colopy, parishioners already involved in supporting Asia's Hope, and Asia's Hope executive director John McCollum.

Guests will be treated to a Cambodian dessert from Aspara Market in Columbus and a traditional Cambodian coconut dance, performed by members of The Ohio State University's Khmer Student Association. The Cambodian people perform the dance to celebrate the coconut, which grows in abundance throughout the nation and provides food and other items used daily. Music for the dance is played on coconut shells.

For more information, contact the parish office at (614) 875-3322, extension 326. The RSVP deadline is Tuesday, Jan. 17.

POPE, continued from Page 2

trition, lack of education, forced displacement, slavery, and sexual exploitation. She also weeps "because she recognizes the sins of some of her members: the sufferings, the experiences and the pain of minors who were abused sexually by priests."

People who were responsible for caring for children "destroyed their dignity," and "it is a sin that shames us," he said.

Deploring "the sin of what happened, the sin of failing to help, the sin of covering up and denial, the sin of the abuse of power," the church also begs for forgiveness, he said.

"Today, as we commemorate the Feast of the Holy Innocents, I would like us to renew our complete commitment to ensuring that these atrocities will no longer take

place in our midst. Let us find the courage needed to take all necessary measures and to protect in every way the lives of our children, so that such crimes may never be repeated. In this area, let us adhere, clearly and faithfully, to 'zero tolerance,'" he said.

The pope urged the bishops to remember that Christian joy doesn't ignore or sugarcoat reality, but "is born from a call" to embrace and protect life, "especially that of the holy innocents."

He asked the bishops to renew their commitment to be shepherds with the courage to acknowledge what so many children are experiencing today, and to work to guarantee the kind of conditions needed so the dignity of children will be respected and defended.

Father Stephen Metzger's homily at the funeral Mass for Msgr. Robert Metzger at Junction City St. Patrick Church on Monday, Jan. 2:

"The cross ... the cross.

"I hope you saw that we processed in behind the cross, because it tells in a symbolic way what voice and lips could never tell about the great sacrifice of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and it summarizes the life of our brother Bob.

"When Bob was born at the old turkey farm, Robert Ernest and Mary Elizabeth decided to bring him to this very baptismal font, and Father Eugene Owens – one of the first things he did was to sign him on the head with the cross.

"When he was confirmed, he was confirmed with the sign of the cross. When he made his first Communion, Father Owens gave him the body and blood of Christ with the sign of the cross. When he was ordained a priest for this diocese, he was anointed on the hands with the sign of the cross.

"And when he lay dying here at the rectory, Bishop Campbell anointed him with the sign of the cross, Dick (*his brother, Father Richard Metzger*) anointed him, I anointed him, and several other priests anointed him with the sign of the cross – this symbolic gesture that summarized his life and the life of Christ and all Christians.

Adult Faith Formation Series

The adult faith formation program of Reynoldsburg St. Pius X Church, 1051 S. Waggoner Road, will present *Catholicism: The Pivotal Players*, the newest study series by Auxiliary Bishop Robert Barron of Los Angeles and his Word on Fire Ministries, beginning Monday, Jan. 16 at 7 p.m. and continuing for the next five weeks.

Using the same breathtaking cinematography as in his original *Catholicism* series, Bishop Barron will bring to life

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Open House

Grove City Our Lady of Perpetual Help School, 3752 Broadway, is sponsoring an open house from 6 to 8 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 19.

Families with children enrolled in the school will be able to explore classrooms, talk with teachers, and see what students are accomplishing. Parents of students attending other schools also are invited.

Parents considering enrolling their children in kindergarten are especially

"Sacrifice comes from the Latin words *sacra* and *facere*. *Sacra* could be translated 'sacred or holy' and *facere* is 'making.' So it's the making of holiness or the making of sanctification, or to infuse something with God's very presence, as the sign of the cross does.

"I translate it in a different way, as 'deifying' or 'divinizing,' or it could be 'infusion with God's presence.' That was the life of Bob, using that sign of the cross in fusing, vivifying, divinizing, and deifying those with whom he met throughout his life – this power of the cross of Christ.

"When Bob was about three, Dad said that it was decided – probably by Mother – that they would have chicken for Sunday dinner. And at that point, Bob was very much identifying with Dad in his footsteps, and he wanted to be helpful. And so Dad showed him how to use the wing feathers and the feet together so that there would be no blood on anyone.

"When Dad chopped that chicken's head off, my brother Bob let out a scream and started dancing on one foot, holding the other leg in the air with both hands, and Dad thought that somehow, he'd cut off one of Bob's fingers.

the stories of some of the greatest Catholic minds of all time, beginning with St. Francis of Assisi and continuing with St. Thomas Aquinas, Blessed John Henry Newman, St. Catherine of Siena, G.K. Chesterton, and Michelangelo.

The cost for the series is \$25 per individual or couple and includes a study guide. To learn more about St. Pius X adult faith formation or to register for an upcoming study, go to <http://spxreynoldsburg.com/adult-faith-formation.html>.

welcome from 7 to 7:30 p.m., when they will have exclusive access to the kindergarten teachers.

Guests will be greeted by student ambassadors who will be available for tours. Attendees can pick up information packets and enjoy student-led hands-on activities. There will be a student talent show from 7 to 8 in the gymnasium.

Contact the school at (614) 875-6779 with questions or to schedule a tour.

"And so he began to look, and all he could see was chicken blood, and he said 'What's wrong? What's wrong?' Eventually, after a few seconds, Bob said, screaming, 'How would *you* like somebody to cut *your* head off?'"

"I think Dad told that story because he saw that as a tipping point in Bob's life. He no longer seemed to identify with Dad that strongly. It seemed, like that, he began to shift his focus at that tipping point and that he somehow wanted to be a server and to be right there with Father Owens.

"It seemed like something in this tipping point was coming through – that something had spilled its blood in sacrifice and its body was taken and eaten and consumed, and those people received new life from Bob in this act somehow – it was connecting with him, this sacred action: life, death, and life again, the paschal mystery. And Bob never liked chicken after that.

"But we don't have to look at the life of Bob for witness for these tipping points, for we heard about it in the Scriptures. Paul reached a tipping point in his life, and as we heard in that first reading, that he desired no earthly wisdom, but only Christ crucified. The cross for him summarized the mystery. And in that Galatians reading, we heard how he said he only boasts in the cross of Our Lord Jesus Christ. It symbolically summarized his life and his own tipping point.

"And in the Gospel of John, we heard a vivid description of Jesus carrying his cross, and the holy women – his mother and his aunt and Mary of Magdala – and the beloved disciple being there, and they were being divinized and deified and being infused with divine presence.

"This was such a powerful scene that Christian artists, starting around the ninth century – give or take maybe eight or nine centuries – began to think that a simple cross needed something more, and they developed iconic crosses; that is, crosses with icons or images on them.

"Probably the most famous of all the iconic crosses is the one that we know now as *San Damiano*, which many of you have seen in Assisi. And legend says that it spoke to St. Francis, that cross, and it was the tipping point in his life.

"That cross has a large square at the top to give room for more images, and the sides of the cross are very wide to give room for these holy people that we

just heard about – his mother, his aunt, Mary Magdalene, and the beloved disciple. And, yes, in that *Damiano* cross, down by the leg of Jesus, there is a rooster there. It's part of the mystery of the cross of Christ.

"Well, maybe we could imagine this whole church property as being an iconic cross, and the main beam down through here and the lateral beam this way, and in the middle, the image of Jesus, with Bob somehow there on that cross, and the sides sort of being where the blood flows still.

"And that body is transformed to be consumed and eaten where the waters of baptism purify, and we become those holy people at the foot of the cross and our image is now imprinted there, and on the wingtips are those holy people who have died and gone before us – my brother Bill, *our* brother Bill, and Mother and Dad and our grandparents and uncles and aunts and your relatives as well, on the top and on the sides – these holy people that we all hope to enjoy someday as we ourselves become deified and divinized and infused with the presence of God.

"Perhaps this liturgy can become a tipping point for you, with God's divine presence and your commitment to be deified and divinized and infused with God's presence. That's what we are praying for for Bob – to complete what was started in Baptism and Eucharist and in the sacrament of Confirmation, this deifying and divinizing infusion of divine presence.

"Well, maybe you've missed seeing the cross and us processing behind the cross. I started getting choked up in the summarizing of Bob's life, this divine presence and infusion. And as I approached the coffin there, we were singing 'What child is this who's laid to rest?' and especially that part where it says 'Nails and spears shall pierce him through. The cross he bore for me, for you. Hail, hail the Word made flesh, the Babe, the Son of Mary' and the Son of God.

"Well, if you missed it coming in, we will process out behind the cross as we take him to be with these other holy people, and we pray for that tipping point in our own life, for deification, divinization, divine infusion. And we will go afterwards to have some chicken, too.

"The cross ... the cross."

Another view on 'football priest'; Polish National wedding



QUESTION & ANSWER

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

Q. I am disturbed by a question you printed from an anonymous person requesting your thoughts on a retired priest who talks about the local sports team and concludes the liturgy with the words, "The Mass never ends; it must be lived by each of us today." I know this priest well and have the honor of assisting him each week.

First, it must be noted that the vast majority of our city and our parish are strong fans of the "local football team." Our priest's comments (which I never recall as having lasted more than 30 seconds) are offered as a way of uniting the worshipping community.

More importantly, his comments are always connected to a virtue that relates either to the scriptural readings or to our relationship with the Lord. I find them most pastoral.

As for his dismissal formula, admittedly that is not the exact wording offered in the *Roman Missal*. But as a more traditionally minded deacon, I always follow the priest by saying (verbatim from the missal) "Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life." And the loving way in which the priest dismisses people has become an encouraging reminder of the universal call to holiness.

The priest described in your column doesn't begin to capture the one who serves our parish. He is widely loved and respected and goes to great lengths to keep the liturgy fresh and relevant. Our priest is a humble and caring individual, and we are incredibly blessed to have him in our lives.

One final thought: Please make it standard policy to print the author's name when you run a letter in your column; that will deter a "ring and run" anonymity. (Columbus, Ohio)

A. few weeks back, I published in this column a letter from Columbus, Ohio. The writer complained about a priest in his parish who takes several minutes each Sunday to comment on the fortunes of the local football team -- the writer said that it "borders on sacrilege" -- and uses his own wording for the dismissal rite.

The original letter and the above response from the deacon serve as an important reminder that a priest's words and actions can be viewed in different ways by different members of a congregation. That is why I support the practice -- used by a few priests I know -- of gathering a small group of parishioners each week for a "debriefing" session; the homily and the entire liturgical celebration are reviewed, together with comments heard from the congregation.

As for your proposal to identify letter-writers by name, I would argue against that. That never has been

the practice in the five years I have been doing this column -- nor, to my knowledge, in the history of the column which long predates me. Though I am normally a big fan of transparency, I think the anonymity gives writers the chance to speak honestly without subjecting themselves to the "sling and arrows" of their neighbors.

Q. My son and his wife were married by a justice of the peace at a lake. A Polish National (Catholic Church) priest said a lovely blessing over the couple. Later, I heard a Catholic priest say that, if the sacrament of marriage was not received in a church, they should not receive holy Communion.

Up until that point, my son had been receiving Communion -- until I told him not to. Does the blessing suffice? (Delmar, New York)

A. To determine the status of your son's relationship with the Roman Catholic Church, I would have to have more information. To be validly married in the church's eyes, a Catholic needs to be married by a Catholic priest or deacon in a Catholic church or, if by a different officiant or in a different setting, to have obtained the necessary permissions ("dispensations") from the church.

I have officiated at weddings involving a Catholic and a Jew (or a Catholic and a Muslim) in "neutral" settings -- e.g., a secular wedding hall or a garden. I have also, on a couple of occasions, obtained permission for a Catholic and a non-Catholic to be married by a civil official when the involvement of clergy of any denomination would have been awkward for one of the parties or for their families.

So it is theoretically possible that your son could have obtained the Catholic Church's permission to be married "by a justice of the peace at a lake," but it is probably unlikely.

The "blessing" by the Polish National Catholic Church priest seems irrelevant to the issue of validity, since he was evidently not the officiant at the wedding. (The Polish National Catholic Church, which is not in union with the Vatican, was established in Pennsylvania in the late 1890s as a result of a series of pastoral misunderstandings and property disputes. There is currently a dialogue between leaders of the Catholic Church and the Polish National Catholic Church, including on the question of the validity of mixed marriages performed by Polish National clergy.)

To be able to receive the Eucharist in the Roman Catholic Church, one needs to be in full communion of faith, which would include being validly married in the Catholic Church's eyes. Why not have your son discuss his situation with your parish priest? If neither he nor his wife had been married before, it may be as simple as doing a few minutes of paperwork and arranging to receive a blessing of their marriage (technically, a "convalidation") by a Catholic priest.

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

Pray the Rosary



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THE EVERYDAY CATHOLIC



By: Rick Jeric

Christmas All Year

Here we are at the middle of January, and it seems like Christmas was so long ago. Liturgically, we sneak in a few weeks of Ordinary Time, just in time for Lent by March 1. The long Christmas season is so merry and wonderful that it does not seem fair to just jump right into Lent a few weeks later. Stores already are full of stuff our waistlines do not need for St. Valentine's Day. And by Presidents' Day, the sales will be featuring spring clothing. College football is done, the Super Bowl is almost here, baseball spring training is coming, and the basketball and hockey seasons seem to go on forever. I will take one sentence here to reiterate how awesome the Columbus Blue Jackets' season has been. Easter will be here in three months, and that is the high point of every Church year. Our redemption and promise of eternal life by way of the passion, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ cannot be matched.

My proposal for 2017 is to make it Christmas all year long. Of course, please put away the lights and decorations, put the tree at the curb, and pay off those credit card bills. And no, we should not continue to go out and buy more gifts. We already know that the greatest gift each of us receives every Christmas is the Christ Child Himself. Without Him, there is no redemption or eternal life. My final thank-you note this season is as follows: "Thank you, God; thank you, Mary, for saying 'Yes'; thank you, Joseph, for being a great father." So how do we make it Christmas all year? We do it as everyday Catholics. No fanfare, no lights or decorations, no presents, and no glitter. We will do it quietly with a gift every day. Think about the gift of pure love from that Christ Child each day of our lives as everyday Catholics in 2017. It will not take much, but the conscious effort is the key. Can we deliberately commit to showing that Christian love in at least one way every day this year? Think of it as the best gift you can give someone at Christmas. Sharing that love in the most simple ways on a daily basis is exactly what Christmas is all about. How much better, and how much more positive will Lent be this year if we apply the joy of Christmas to it! Yes, there is plenty of room for this among the repentance, prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. We are fresh from the Year of Mercy. Love is the product, the love that comes from forgiveness, repentance, and a merciful God. And as difficult as it can be, we are called to embrace and love all, especially those who are our enemies. Look around – there are plenty of enemies in our midst, perceived and real.

Everyday is each day. We fail and we sin, but best of all we forgive and we share love. Make it Christmas everyday all year. One act each day can be significant. Your spouse, your children, your parents, your friends, your co-workers, your fellow students, your communities, your enemies, and all strangers are eligible to be shown love by our words and actions. The simpler, the better. That is our daily gift of the Christ Child as everyday Catholics. And in the spirit of ecumenism, lest we forget Martin Luther King, Jr. on this date, I close with one of his quotes: "I have decided to stick to love. ... Hate is too great a burden to bear."

Junior High Youth Ministry Program

For the past year, Reynoldsburg St. Pius X Church and School has used a grant from The Catholic Foundation to develop a junior high youth ministry program to serve seventh- and eighth-grade students. The grant enabled the parish to hire Katie Lomeo as an assistant to its youth group coordinator, Judie Bryant. Lomeo is a Westerville native and a graduate of Southern Methodist University.

"Faith is a huge component in Katie's life and she has a high ability to connect with the kids," Bryant said. "She lives and breathes her faith and is on fire for God. Her cheerful face and youthful exuberance really helps our young Catholics make a connection with this new program and build healthy relationships. Kids in high school and junior high have a strong desire to have adults pay attention to them in a positive light, and Katie definitely does that."

The new junior high youth group began its year in the summer with a back-to-school event, followed by its first official meeting in September. The ministry was

an outgrowth of junior high participation in high school youth activities such as the St. Paul youth summer camp in Westerville, as well as Vacation Bible School and other parish service activities.

The youth group recently began Timothy Talks on Tuesdays. The name is based on the words of 1 Timothy 4:12: "Let no one have contempt for our youth, but set an example for those who believe, in speech, conduct, love, faith, and purity." Using a dedicated Google chat room, high school participants log in at 8:30 p.m. each Tuesday to discuss a topic related to this verse and to post insights to questions about it.

The Catholic Foundation grant also provides funds to assist the youth ministry in developing programs for parental support, including talks by prominent speakers and parenting workshops. These will be aimed at helping parents understand the social challenges and pressures children face daily and help them raise children with high moral character.

Diocesan Association of Religious Educators to meet

Sister Janet Schaeffler, OP, will talk to the Diocesan Association of Religious Educators on Thursday, Jan. 26 about how God speaks to us in the 21st century.

This event will take place at Powell St. Joan of Arc Church, 10700 Liberty Road, beginning with Mass at 8:30 a.m. Sister Janet's presentation begins at 9:30 a.m. and concludes at 2 p.m. The cost

is \$30 and includes lunch. To register, contact Diana Toth at dtoth@delawarestmary.org or call (740) 369-8228.

You probably are familiar with the story of Jesus coming to the home of Martha and Mary. If you feel too busy and rushed, like Martha, take time to be a Mary, come to this event, and find some answers to Jesus' challenge to us today.



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ANNUAL BOSCO BASH RALLY FOR STUDENTS SET FOR FEB. 11

The diocesan Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry will sponsor the annual Bosco Bash rally for students in grades six to eight from 2:30 to 9 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 11 at Columbus St. Timothy Church, 1088 Thomas Lane. The event will feature music by the Station 14 praise band, time with friends, skits, games, dinner, evening Mass, and featured speaker Paul J. Kim (pictured).



Kim, a philosophy graduate of Franciscan University of Steubenville who worked for several years with at-risk youth as a missionary in New York City. He has earned a reputation as a speaker and a musician through his beatboxing (vocal drumming), harmonies, and faith-filled lyrics. He gives new meaning to the term “one-man band,” using a loop machine that allows him to produce live multitrack vocal instrumentals.

He performs original and cover songs in the acoustic, hip-hop, and spoken-word genres. He has released two albums titled “The World sings” and “Run Fly Fall,” and his YouTube videos have accumulated more than one million views.

A scene from last year’s event is pictured above. The cost is \$25 per youth participant and \$15 per adult par-



icipant. For more information, call (614) 241-2565 or (614) 390-8653, visit www.cdeducation.org/BoscoBash,

or email srobinso@cdeducation.org, mhall@cdeducation.org, or hollyjo.monnier@gmail.com.

Archaeologist Visit

Mary Jo Behrens-meyer, Latin Instructor and world language department chair at Mount Vernon High School, a former senior staff archaeologist for The Ohio State University’s excavations at Isthmia, Greece, visited the sixth- through eighth-grade students and teachers at Mount Vernon St. Vincent de Paul School to share details of the true



story of Christmas. (She is sixth from left in the back row of the photo.) On the day before the students began their Christmas break, she talked about what she has learned about Jesus’ birth and the history of the times through the “Biblical Archaeology Review,” scholar Andrew McGowan, and several personal visits to Bethlehem. Her presentation noted the Roman and Jewish influences which impacted the choice of the date of Dec. 25 for the celebration of the birth of Christ. She also discussed the distance from Nazareth to Bethlehem and the mountain ranges, rivers, wild animals, and potential for bandits Mary and Joseph had to face, and looked at when Christmas celebrations actually began and the evolution of decorations and celebrations. Students viewed a map of the journey to Bethlehem and what possibly occurred on Mary and Joseph’s arrival into Bethlehem, learning about the shepherd’s fields and the cave and inn which may have been referred to in the Gospel accounts. They learned that St. Jerome would later translate the Bible into Latin in that cave and that the task would take him 35 years. As a result of Behrens-meyer’s visit, the true story of what occurred that night, the subsequent celebrations, and the impact of Christ on history made the students’ celebration of Christmas more profoundly spiritual. Photo courtesy St. Vincent de Paul School

World Marriage Day celebration

The annual diocesan World Marriage Day celebration will take place from 1 to 4 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 26 in Marian Hall of Columbus Immaculate Conception Church, 366 E. North Broadway. Deacon Harold Burke-Sivers of Portland, Oregon, will speak on the topic “Male and Female He Created Them: Complementarity and Intimacy in Marriage.” His presentation will be followed by a Holy Hour.

Deacon Burke-Sivers is featured on *The Greatest Commandments: A 40-Week Spiritual Journey for Married Couples*, a marriage enrichment program rooted in Biblical values and designed to help husbands and wives know God better, trust him fully, and love him completely.

The deacon, a Benedictine Oblate of Mount Angel Abbey in Oregon, is host of the weekly *Living Stones* program on Mater Dei Radio, has been a guest on many other radio programs including *Catholic Answers Live* and **Vocation Boom Radio**, has hosted or co-hosted several EWTN television series, and is the author of *Behold the Man: A Catholic Vision of Male Spirituality*.

All married couples are invited, but seating is limited. There is no charge for the event. RSVP by Friday, Feb. 10 at familylife.colsdioc.org or call (614) 241-2560.

Sponsors for the event include the diocesan Offices of Marriage and Family Life, the Diaconate, and Black Catholic Ministries; Worldwide Marriage Encounter Columbus; Columbus Engaged Encounter; Columbus Retrouvaille; the diocesan Parish Latino Pre-Cana Ministry; and the American Catholic Negro American Mission Board.



The Call to Love, Right Where We Are

I spent a nice, low-key last day of 2016. Ran a few errands. Mailed two packages. Shared a leisurely lunch with a good friend who came back to my place for a few last Christmas cookies and conversation. As I write and wait for midnight, I hear one of my daughters and a friend laughing in the living room while they are here for a few hours before heading to a party. A nice, homey New Year's Eve.

I admit to looking forward to 2017 with some trepidation, more aware than usual of the uncertainties we face at home and around the world. The issues are not new, but carry an increased sense of urgency: civil rights, immigration, poverty, global warming, terrorism, war.

During the holidays, a friend shared with me the trauma she is experiencing after returning from working on a documentary in the Holy Land. While she heard lots of talk of Bethlehem as Christmas approached, and the strains of *O Little Town of Bethlehem* filled the air, she was overcome by the suffering she witnessed in the modern occupied city of Bethlehem.

“Both Palestinians and Jewish Israelis say ‘There is no such thing as post-traumatic stress disorder here because there is no post, just traumatic stress disorder,’” she said.

Her experience of one small part of the world speaks to the fear and uncertainty of so many in the global neighborhood.

How do we move forward into this new year? As followers of the Christ, how do we bring the love and peace of God's kingdom into the world? How do we live with hope?

Yesterday, I read the next-to-the-last-last chapter of the *Rule of St. Benedict*, which spoke of the “good zeal” of monastics: to show respect for the other, to seek what is better for others, to support one another, and to show patience and love. Above all, to love God.



GRACE IN THE MOMENT

Mary van Balen

In the face of great challenges, loving those we live with and encounter in our daily lives seems trivial. What difference can such small actions make?

In commentary following the passage from the *Rule*, Benedictine Joan Chittister speaks to Benedict's insistence on listening for God's voice in one another and in the present moment. She recounts a wisdom story from another tradition: A seeker asks the teacher how to reach enlightenment. The answer is deceptively simple: No special time or place is required. No special way of listening or unique places to look. Being present to the moment, to the people around you, to the place where you are is what is needed. Enlightenment happens there.

Jesus in the gospels tells his followers that the Kingdom of God is now, in the moment, as well as coming. He said that whatever we do for the least among us, we do for him. He invited us to live as he lived, present in the moment to his relationship with God and with neighbor. And Jesus' parable of the Good Samaritan clearly shows who that neighbor is – everyone.

Why is hearing God's voice and experiencing God in the moment and in others so difficult? Why is “practicing the presence of God,” as

the 17th century Carmelite Brother Lawrence taught, such a challenge? Reading his work of the same title, we realize being truly present to God in ordinary life is a human struggle, not unique to our time.

The temptation is to imagine, like the seeker in Joan's story, that God is found in extraordinary places. That to participate in transforming the world with Divine Love requires dramatic action, and that only a few exceptionally “holy ones” are called to do so.

As we enter 2017, the temptation is to be overwhelmed and think our lives too small, our actions too insignificant to make a difference. Jesus tells us, “Not so.” The temptation is to look to others more powerful, more “important” to do the work. Jesus turns that upside down, too. He called poor fishermen, women, and people on the fringes of society – ordinary people, not the religious or political bigwigs of his day – to bring Love into the world.

And Jesus assured us that we don't act alone. Joined with the Source of all that is, our acts of love are part of the Divine Act of Love that confronts darkness and is not overcome. Here is the hope we carry into the new year. Be present. Be aware of God-with-us right where we are. And trust in the power of the Love that flows through us to transform the world.

© 2017 Mary van Balen. Visit van Balen's blog at <http://www.maryvanbalen.com/the-scallop>.



Random Acts of Christmas Kindness

Kindergarten students from Logan St. John School and four sixth-grade helpers walk down the street from the school to perform Random Acts of Christmas Kindness (RACK), delivering bags of goodies to the elderly people who live nearby.

Photo courtesy St. John School



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COLUMBUS SS. AUGUSTINE & GABRIEL CHURCH SERVES DUAL PURPOSE

BY TIM PUET

Reporter, Catholic Times

Columbus Ss. Augustine & Gabriel Church is one parish with two distinct identities.

Since its founding in 1925, it has served the city's Linden neighborhood. And for more than 40 years, it has been the home parish for the Catholic Vietnamese community in central Ohio.

As Linden has changed, the number

of families registered in the parish has grown steadily smaller since its peak in the post-World War II era and is now at about 50. But despite the small number, the parish continues to play a significant role through the involvement of those families in neighborhood and parish life and because of the Vietnamese presence.

Father Joseph Bay, a native of Vietnam, has been the parish's pastor for the past eight years and has served the Vietnamese community since he

came to the Pontifical College Josephinum in 1990 to complete his studies for the priesthood.

About 300 Vietnamese families from all over Franklin County and as far away as Zanesville take part in the church's noon Mass in the Vietnamese language on Sundays and in other special events throughout the year. The most important of these is the Vietnamese New Year celebration known as Tet, which takes place in January or February, depending on the date of the first new moon of the year.

This year, Tet will be on Saturday, Jan. 28, and the parish will celebrate it the following day. "Everyone in the Vietnamese community gets excited about this, especially the kids," said parishioner Son Tran. "We also receive a lot of help from the parishioners who live in the neighborhood. The two parish communities collaborate on a lot of things all year, but this is the biggest.

"We've been planning for this since after Thanksgiving," Tran said. "It takes that long for the children to learn the Vietnamese dances that are a traditional part of the celebration. It starts with the noon Mass in church, then we'll go next door to the hall in the school building for a feast to celebrate the new year and offer our wishes for everyone's health and happiness. This will include the dances, games, a lotto-type event, and other activities. We'd love to have *Catholic Times* readers and everyone in the diocese join us. You're all invited."

Other special events sponsored by the Vietnamese community include a Good Friday service, a May Crowning ceremony, a harvest festival picnic in early fall at a local park, and a yearly memorial service in November at a Catholic cemetery. The community's children usually have a Christmas play, but took a break this year and plan to come back with a new program in 2017, Tran said. The community also conducts an annual pilgrimage to one of several Marian shrines in Ohio and a trip to the yearly Marian Days celebration for Vietnamese Catholics in Carthage, Missouri, in August.

The celebration honors Our Lady

of Lavang, whose apparitions beginning in 1798 and continuing throughout the 19th century gave Vietnamese Catholics encouragement in the face of religious persecution. Pope John Paul II repeatedly recognized her in 1988 when he canonized 117 men and women who were among an estimated 130,000 Christians martyred in Vietnam in the 17th to 19th centuries. Their feast day is Nov. 24.

Vietnamese Catholics began coming to central Ohio steadily in the 1970s and the early 1980s after the Vietnam War, followed by another large group who arrived around 1990 after Vietnam's Communist government agreed to release political prisoners it had been holding for years.

Father Bay said most of the immigrants originally settled around Morse Road and State Route 161 in the Northland area of Columbus. When they began requesting a service in Vietnamese, Mass was celebrated a few times a year with visiting priests in the former St. Gabriel Church. The Mass continued after that church was closed and consolidated with St. Augustine in 1984, and became a regular part of the parish schedule following Father Bay's ordination in 1994.

Father Bay gives homilies in both Vietnamese and English at the noon Sunday Mass. The parish's other weekend Masses are at 4:30 p.m. Saturday and 10 a.m. Sunday, with daily Masses at 9:30 a.m. Monday through Thursday.

Priests from Vietnam stop regularly in the parish to see supporters and family members. Father Joseph Kien Oanh came to Columbus at Christmas time from the Diocese of Hung Hoa in the former North Vietnam to visit a family which supported him financially during his priestly formation. He was the homilist at the noon Mass on Jan. 1. The homilist for the following Sunday was Father Joseph Phong, who comes to Columbus regularly to visit his parents and siblings.

Most Vietnamese who came to the United States did so in the two waves of migration that coincided with the end of the war and the release of prisoners. "Nearly all of us who are in the Columbus area have

been here for at least 25 years, so we've become a well-established community," said Robert Pham, who, together with parishioners Son Tran, Son Dinh, and Thang Vu are members of the organizing committee which works with Father Bay on parish activities for the Vietnamese.

"About 30 to 40 percent of us speak no English, and those are primarily the older members of the community," Pham said. "We have settled here and most of us plan to stay here, unless we feel we've exhausted our potential.

"We have the freedom here that we'd be unable to find if we went back to Vietnam, and most of us have no desire to go back because of the corruption that exists with the government there and the continued hostility it shows to Christians. The government allows the Church to exist, but still keeps a watchful eye on Catholics and doesn't hesitate to seize church property for questionable reasons."

Vietnam has a strong Catholic heritage, with about eight million Catholics among its 94 million people. However, the 2016 annual report of the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom lists several instances of government harassment and disruption of activities of Catholics and other religious groups. It also notes that between 100 and 150 people are being held in Vietnam as prisoners of conscience because of their religious beliefs or advocacy of religious freedom.

"Having Father Bay here is a great blessing because his presence helps make this a comfortable place to worship, particularly for the older people," Tran said.

"We Vietnamese have adapted to America, but we still want to be able to speak our native language and maintain our heritage. For that reason, we have weekly Vietnamese language classes in the former St. Augustine School," which is now used on weekdays by the Midnimo Cross-Cultural School, a charter school. "About 50 children ages four to 18 attend classes at six grade levels which combine language instruction with religious education, serving

as our Parish School of Religion," he said. Preparation of the parish's young people for Confirmation takes place as a joint effort with Gahanna St. Matthew Church.

Over the years, the Vietnamese community has become more geographically scattered after starting mostly in Northland. "I live in Pickerington and also attend Seton Parish there, and my children go to Reynoldsburg St. Pius X School," Pham said. "Others on the organizing committee live in other parts of the area. But we all come to Ss. Augustine & Gabriel because we don't want to lose our roots and want to pass them on to our children."

"The original migrations may have ended, but this is still a growing community" of second- and third-generation immigrants, Tran said. "We have a lot of marriages and baptisms every year, and maybe two or three funerals, not to mention two recent ordinations."

Father Vincent Nguyen, who at one time was an altar server at Ss. Augustine & Gabriel, was ordained as a priest of the Diocese of Columbus in 2014 and is parochial vicar of Mount Vernon St. Vincent de Paul and Dan-



Left: Marie Placide, president of the parish St. Vincent de Paul Society. Right: A young parishioner receives the Eucharist from Father Bay for the first time. Below: First Communion procession, with statue of Our Lady of Lavang. CT photo/Ken Snow (left); photos from

ville St. Luke churches. This past November, Deacon Jason Nguyen, a Ss. Augustine & Gabriel parishioner, was ordained a permanent deacon. He now serves his home parish.

Another Vietnamese parishioner, Father Dinh Ngoc Ky, SVD, was ordained in 2008 as a member of the Divine Word order of priests and is serving in California.

"Father Vincent and I are not related," Deacon Nguyen said. "Nguyen

is a common last name in Vietnam. But our families come from the same area of the country. My family arrived in the United States in 1993 as refugees with nothing. We settled in Utica, New York, and were greeted with open arms.

"I'll never forget that feeling. Under Communism, the government had an agenda that was hostile to Catholics. We realized that in America, there

was no agenda, that the people here recognized us as Catholics like them, and any cultural difference didn't matter. It's the same way in Columbus. Now I want to help people in the way I was helped," Deacon Nguyen said. "Being a deacon is a noble task, and I have no agenda other than to be of service."

"I can't express strongly enough how thankful we in the Vietnamese community are for the help we've received for the past 40-plus years from the people of this parish and for the work of the Catholics in Linden who preceded them," Tran said. "We feel it's our job to maintain what they've done and build on it through our spiritual efforts and by keeping the physical facilities here in good shape."

St. Augustine Church was established in Linden in 1925 to serve about 250 families, mostly of railroad and factory workers, who had settled there. By the end of World War II, that number had grown to 1,100, resulting in creation of three nearby parishes – St. James the Less in 1947, St. Gabriel in 1953, and St. Matthias in 1956.

Even with the additional parishes, the growth continued. St. Augustine School was the largest in the Diocese of Columbus during the early post-war years, with enrollment reaching a peak of around 800 at about the time



Top: Father Joseph Bay, pastor of Columbus Ss. Augustine & Gabriel Church, and parish Vietnamese organizing committee members (from left) Son Tran, Son Dinh, and Robert Pham. Bottom: Father Bay celebrates Mass on Jan. 1. CT photos by Ken Snow



CHURCH, *continued from Page 11*

the current church building at 1550 E. Hudson St. was dedicated in 1955.

In the years following, the area's demographics changed, resulting in the closing of St. Gabriel School in 1978, consolidation of St. Augustine and St. Gabriel churches in 1984, and the closing of St. Augustine School in 1991.

Once one of the largest parishes in the diocese, Ss. Augustine & Gabriel is now one of the smallest. "We may be few in number, but we're very involved," said Beata Kefauver, who lives about a block from the church, has been a member since 1971, and edits the parish bulletin.

"We're here because we want to be," she said. "I'm trying to think of how to describe the atmosphere here, and for lack of a better word, the phrase that comes to mind is faith-filled.

"Father Bay contributes to that very much because you can tell how strong his faith is through his homilies. Having the Vietnamese here has meant a great deal to us because they provide so much with their presence.

"It's a great community in the true sense of the word, a real family."

Parish organizations include an outreach committee, a St. Vincent de Paul Society conference, a Knights of Columbus chapter, and a women's club.



Left: Worshippers at the Vietnamese Sunday Mass at Columbus Ss. Augustine & Gabriel Church. Right: One of the parish's quarterly potluck brunches.

"In a parish as small as ours, it's hard to tell where one group ends and the other begins because we work together on a lot of things," said parishioner Ben Schaefer, who is part of a large family involved with all aspects of parish life.

His brother Elijah is religious education director and a member of the finance committee, and his sister-in-law, Nicole, is choir director.

The St. Vincent de Paul conference sponsors a food pantry in the school hall on the third Saturday of each month for residents of the 43211 ZIP code, which covers the Linden area. The next food distribution is scheduled Saturday, Jan. 21.

Its president, Marie Placide, said the conference provided food for about 3,600 people – approximately 300 per month

– last year. It also makes home visits to families to determine their needs, makes sandwiches once a month for St. Lawrence Haven in cooperation with Columbus Holy Spirit Church, and works in cooperation with the Joint Organization for Inner-City Needs to help people pay rent and utility bills.

The conference has business meetings on the third Sunday of the month and spiritual meetings on the last Sunday.

Outreach committee activities include a potluck after the 10 a.m. Sunday Mass once every three months, with coffee and doughnuts on the other Sundays.

The committee sponsors an annual clothing giveaway during the summer, with donated clothing available to neighborhood residents for 25 cents a bag. Last year, it cooperated with Good Shepherd Baptist Church, located across the street, for a health fair, and sponsored neighborhood cleanups and a game night.

The parish's Knights of Columbus Council 10284, named for Father Earl Holtzapfel, pastor of St. Augustine Church from 1942-78, sponsors an ice cream social every September and a Giving Tree to benefit the Holy Family Soup Kitchen during the Advent season, and takes part in the Ohio Knights'

Worshippers use a Vietnamese-language hymnal to sing at Mass.

CT photos by Ken Snow



annual Measure-Up campaign for the developmentally disabled in the spring.

The parish conducts its RCIA program for people interested in becoming Catholics as a joint effort with Columbus St. Dominic, Holy Rosary-St. John, St. Thomas, and Holy Cross churches.

Its choir sings at the 10 a.m. Mass every Sunday of the year, combining with the Vietnamese choir for holy days of obligation and other special events. A children's choir sings three or four times a year.

During the past few years, the parish has undergone substantial renovation. Improvements have been made to its heating, ventilation, and air conditioning system; the boiler has been repaired; a new roof has been

added; the parking lot has been repaved; and there have been upgrades to the security and sound systems.

"All this has been done through volunteer work by both of the parish's two communities," Schaefer said. "Father Bay has provided us with tremendous guidance along the way. When I joined the parish about 10 years ago, some hard decisions had to be made because we needed to shrink expenses.

"Father said, 'If you see something that needs done, just do it' and that's what has happened.

"Volunteers come here nearly every Saturday morning and just chip in and pick up with doing whatever task is needed. It's a practical example of faith in action."

Dr. Martin Luther King Celebration

Columbus Holy Rosary-St. John Church, 660 S. Ohio Ave., will host its annual Martin Luther King Day celebration from noon to 1:30 p.m. Monday, Jan. 16. The guest preacher will be Father Steve Bell, CSP, of the Columbus St. Thomas More Newman Center.

Father Bell grew up in the Church of Christ and converted to Catholicism in 1994. A few years later, he decided to pursue ordination. He became a Paulist priest in 2008. Father Bell's work with the Paulist Fathers has been focused on youth and young adults. Soon after be-

coming a Paulist, he shared his passion for Christ through his work at Busted Halo, an innovative Paulist outreach to spiritual seekers. Since 2014, he has been a pastoral associate at the Newman Center.

Holy Rosary-St. John Church has been celebrating Martin Luther King Day every year since 1986, the first year the holiday was observed. This service is one of the oldest Martin Luther King Day events in Columbus. For additional information, email hrsjevents@gmail.com or call (614) 252-5926, extension 7.



CELEBRATING 10 YEARS OF CATHOLIC WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

This year will be the 10th anniversary of the Columbus Catholic Women's Conference, which has grown to become the largest event of its kind in the United States. Almost 4,000 women are expected for this year's conference from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 18 in the new Cardinal Building on the state fairgrounds.

The conference's mission is to provide opportunities for women to deepen their relationship with Jesus Christ, to grow in their realization of their dignity as Catholic women, and to strengthen their commitment to be a disciple of Christ. The program will include nationally known Catholic speakers, Mass celebrated by Bishop Frederick Campbell, Adoration and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament, an opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation from one of almost 50 priests, and displays by Catholic vendors and ministries.

The conference theme is "Courageous Faith, Contagious Joy," based on Joshua 1:9 – "Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go."

The featured speakers will be Magnus MacFarlane-Barrow, founder and chief executive officer of Mary's



Meals, an international organization providing chronically hungry children with food and education; Jeff Cavins, who is known both nationally and internationally as one of the most effective and engaging speakers in the

church today; Kerri Caviezel, a pro-life woman who has devoted her life to working with youth; and Father Mathias Thelen, spiritual director and instructor of theology, whose focus is on spiritual healing. Music will be provided by Taylor Tripodi, who loves writing and bringing others to Christ through her music. The master of ceremonies will be Brooke Taylor, former co-host of the *Family Friendly Morning Show* in Cleveland.

Powell St. Joan of Arc Church will be the host parish for the second straight year, providing volunteers for the conference. "Our work couldn't be done without the support and help of many priests, deacons, seminarians, sisters, vowed Religious, and more than 100 volunteers," conference organizers said. "We rely upon and thank our many generous sponsors, St. Gabriel Catholic Radio, and The Catholic Foundation, who sustain us financially."

To learn more and to register for the conference, visit www.columbuscatholicwomen.com.

Coleman to talk at ODU

Ohio Dominican University will host former Columbus Mayor Michael B. Coleman at 7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 16 for a talk on "Being Human: Civic Engagement, Civility and Community." The event will take place in Alumni Hall on ODU's main campus, 1216 Sunbury Road, Columbus. Tickets are free, but seating is limited. To register, go to www.ohiodominican.edu.

Coleman was mayor from 2000-15 and is the city's longest-serving mayor. He now is a partner at the law firm of Ice Miller LLP and is the firm's director of business and government strategies.

The talk is one of several events scheduled during the 2016-17 academic year based on the university's academic theme, "What does it mean to be human?"

ODU's core curriculum is a series of courses that provide a unifying academic experience throughout each student's academic journey. The curriculum is unique to Ohio Dominican and is a combination of four seminar courses and the university's general degree requirements. In the seminars, students draw from all their courses to engage in thought-provoking interdisciplinary discussions, readings, and experiences.

For more information on these events and ODU's theme of what it means to be human, visit ohiodominican.edu/Human.

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Second Sunday in Ordinary Time (Cycle A)

Each part of the New Testament reflects its writer



Father
Lawrence L. Hummer

Isaiah 49:3,5-6

1 Corinthians 1:1-3 John 1:29-34

With the Christmas season behind us, we begin the Second Sunday in Ordinary Time with Isaiah. This time, we are dealing with one of the four “servant songs” found in the second part of Isaiah (chapters 40-55).

The actual identity of the servant mentioned by Isaiah remains an unknown, with many people suggesting the servant refers to Isaiah himself. Others suggest an unknown prophet of the future, or some future king. Christians understand the servant to be Jesus Christ, whose death was framed by the evangelists around the sufferings of the “servant” from Isaiah.

Because the New Testament backdrop for the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus is so familiar to Christians, there is a tendency, when reading prophets like Isaiah, to come across a passage such as today’s first reading and think “What a coincidence!” We forget that most, if not all, of the evangelists were weaned on the Old Testament. When writing their Gospels, they were careful to align what they said of Jesus with what the ancient prophets had written.

This affirms a basic point of understanding what we read in the New Testament. The entire New Testament is a statement of faith, constructed by the early Christians to help readers understand how Jesus was the fulfillment of various Old Testament passages.

It is not a historical logbook. It was put together in its oral form over a period which began after the death of Jesus (somewhere between 27 and 30 AD). It continued to be passed on orally until Paul began to write letters to various Christian communities in 51 AD. The written gospels began with Mark (65-70 AD), amplified in unique ways by Matthew and Luke (in the

80’s), and concluded with John (90-100 AD). It was completed no later than 125 AD.

Each part reflects the unique style of the individual writer and also reflects whatever theological development had taken place by the time of the writing. The Christmas narratives heard in liturgies of recent weeks addressed issues with which Mark was totally unconcerned. Matthew and Luke wrote to address the issue of when Jesus gained his identity as Son of God and savior of Israel. John wrote that this identity was always present.

Mark thought it sufficient to place it in the context of Jesus’ baptism by John. Matthew and Luke placed that identity in different ways at the time of his birth. John traced it to his pre-existent co-existence with God: “In the beginning was the word, and the word was with God, and the word was God.” Thus, we can see how theology was developing along with the Scriptures, and in many cases generated what was written.

Sunday’s Gospel involves John the Baptist’s testimony about Jesus, who is called the “Lamb of God” uniquely in the Gospel According to John (**not** the Baptist). The Baptist identifies Jesus as the one “who takes away the sin of the world.” Here, the word “sin” is singular, referring to the *condition* of sin in the world. In 1 John 3:5, he wrote “sins” to refer to individual acts.

The *Glory to God*, the *Lamb of God*, and the announcement before Communion all use “sins.” Curiously, the only time Jesus is identified as “the Lamb of God who takes away the **sin** of the world,” is here in John’s Gospel. It became “sins” in the Latin liturgy for reasons that escape me.

John the Baptist is presented in John’s Gospel as the vehicle by which John the Evangelist’s theology emerges. John is unique in teaching the pre-existence of the divine Son. He uses the Baptist to express this teaching. The Baptist also is presented as having received the revelation of Jesus as the Son of God. Some manuscript traditions use the expression “God’s chosen one” instead of God’s Son.

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

St. Joseph Cathedral to Host Healing Mass and Service on Jan. 16

A Mass of healing, followed by a healing service, will take place at 6:30 p.m. Monday, Jan. 16 at Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral, 212 E. Broad St.

The service will begin with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and veneration of a relic of the True Cross of Christ, followed by an opportunity for everyone present to speak individually with a priest and receive prayers of healing for what they seek. The Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick also will be available. The service will close with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

All persons who seek Christ’s healing are invited, especially those who suffer with physical illness and infirmities, in addition to those who seek emotional and

spiritual healing.

All caregivers, family members, and members of the medical community are invited as well.

Parking is available at the rear of the cathedral. The lot is accessible off East Gay Street. A handicap-accessible elevator is located in the courtyard (west side of the cathedral) on East Broad Street.

Bimonthly healing Masses take place at the cathedral on the third Monday of the month. For the remainder of 2017, they are scheduled for March 20, May 15, July 17, Sept. 18, and Nov. 20.

If you have any questions about this special Mass, call the cathedral at (614) 224-1295.

The Weekday Bible Readings

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

TUESDAY
Hebrews 6:10-20
Psalm 111:1-2,4-5,9,10c
Mark 2:23-38

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

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

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

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

DIOCESAN WEEKLY RADIO AND TELEVISION MASS SCHEDULE WEEK OF JANUARY 15, 2017

SUNDAY MASS

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

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

Mass from Our Lady of the Angels Monastery, Birmingham, Ala., at 8 a.m. on EWTN (Time Warner Channel 385, Insight Channel 382, or WOW 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 II, Seasonal Proper of the Liturgy of the Hours

Getting the New Year off to a good start

This is the time of year when we all hope to end some bad habits and get the year off to a good start. It may be a familiar ritual for some people to say this is the year they are going to lose those extra pounds, start working out regularly, stop swearing, and give up smoking. However, some of us are weighed down by years of guilt over matters we don't think we ever can purge from our psyche.

Yet God gives us the key. As the lyrics in the 1974 Eagles song *Already Gone* say, "So often times it happens that we live our lives in chains, and we never knew we had the key." That key is the Sacrament of Reconciliation, and using it is not as difficult as seeing a top-selling band, which involves waiting in line to buy tickets. All you have to do is go to confession.

As I have said so many times in these columns, Jesus really must have wanted us to go to confession, because it was the first thing he talked about when he came back to see the Apostles after the resurrection on Easter Sunday night (John 20:19-23).

Our souls get burdened with sins of the past that aren't addressed. I was reminded of this recently in a very peculiar way.

Some years ago, before my wife and I had children, I would find myself on YouTube looking up old videos for songs from my youth in the 1970s and '80s. Free



THE TIDE IS TURNING TOWARD CATHOLICISM

David Hartline

time is hard to come by these days. Yet after Christmas, I found enough time to do this again and to read some of the comments under the posted videos, which I don't usually do. Many people reminisced about their youth and how many happy memories a song brought back, but a few poured out their hearts with quite a different story.

These men and women told of how they let a good man or good woman slip away because of their selfish, self-destructive behavior. Some seemed burdened with 30 or 40 years of guilt. This Internet forum was their confession, and yet God had something so much better in mind. Even today, friends who went to Iraq and Afghanistan have told me there is no shortage of soldiers eager to go to confession. Why wait until you are facing difficult circumstances?

Christ, through his Church, gives us so many opportunities through the Scriptures, Sacraments, and devotions. Yet so many people complain about "organized religion," as if they are so much smarter than Jesus, the early

Christians, the saints, and holy men and holy women through the centuries.

The Scriptures tell us that while many people who personally saw Jesus preach, teach, and perform miracles embraced his teachings after his death and resurrection, many did not. This would have required them to change some of their ways, and their pride wouldn't permit them to become better. You hear something similar today when so many people say "Jesus loves me just the way I am." The correct answer to that fallacy should be as follows: "Yes, he does, but he loves you too much to let you stay that way."

Let this year become the year we take our faith more seriously by studying the Scriptures and the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*. Let this be the year we pray more and participate more often in the Sacraments and Eucharistic Adoration. Let this be the year we increase our help to the unborn, the elderly, and those in need because of poverty and disease.

If we can't help financially, then let us give more of our time, and, if we are infirm, let us pray more for those causes we hold dear; for example, the faithful who are being killed in the Middle East, and the Christian way of life that is under attack in the modern Western world. Let this be the year in which, along with becoming healthier in mind and body, we become healthier in faith and action.

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

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR POSITION

St. Vincent de Paul Housing Facilities

St Vincent Haven men's shelter • The Gardens on 6th Transitional Program
115 Wilson Street, Newark, OH 43055 • www.svdphaven.org

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

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

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

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

Salary is negotiable.

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

Upon request we will provide detailed job duties.

Sunbury Women's Retreat

Sunbury St. John Neumann Church, 9633 E. State Route 37, will host its 10th annual women's retreat from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 14 in the parish faith and family center.

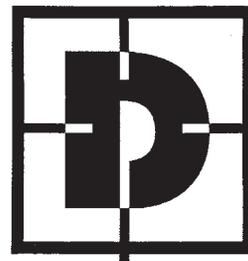
Featured speakers will be Michele Faehnle and Emily Jaminet, hosts of St. Gabriel Radio's *Family Sanctuary* program and authors of *Divine Mercy for Moms* and the forthcoming *The Friendship Project*, and Father Thomas Blau,

OP, chaplain at Ohio Dominican University, who was selected to be one of Pope Francis' missionaries of mercy for the recently concluded Jubilee Year of Mercy and beyond.

The cost of the event is \$50, which includes three meals, wine, retreat materials, and a dessert social from 8 to 9 p.m.

For more information, go to the parish website, www.saintjohnsunbury.org.

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Pray for our dead

BADGLEY, Bonnie E. (Groves), 65, Jan. 6
St. Ladislav Church, Columbus

BRINGARDNER, David F., 81, Jan. 2
Church of the Resurrection, New Albany

CLAY, Charles J., 58, Dec. 25
Immaculate Conception Church, Dennison

COLLURA, Mary D. (Filichia), 98, Jan. 3
Holy Cross Church, Columbus

ELLIS, LeRoy, 93, Jan. 4
Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Marysville

GILLIGAN, Fay (Lemity), 66, Dec. 21
St. Patrick Church, Junction City

HALL, Dr. Ivan K., 63, Jan. 4
St. Edward Church, Granville

KIRILLOW, Eduardo, 57, Dec. 29
St. Michael Church, Worthington

LUDWICK, Gretchen (Myers), 84, Jan. 1
Sacred Heart Church, Coshocton

MANES, Harry E. "Bud," 86, Dec. 31
St. Margaret of Cortona Church, Columbus

MASSAR, Thomas J. "GP" Jr., 88, Jan. 2
St. Michael Church, Worthington

MOLINA, Victoria, 80, Jan. 4
Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal Church,
Columbus

NICOLLI, David A. Jr., 37, of Hilliard, Jan. 3
St. Andrew Abbey, Cleveland

PARKER, Marjorie A., 81, Jan. 5
St. Joan of Arc Church, Powell

PLAGENZ, Richard G., 84, Jan. 4
St. Agatha Church, Columbus

SCHOTT, Jay A., 56, Jan. 4
St. Margaret of Cortona Church, Columbus

SECOY-CAYLOR, Julia M., 49, Dec. 28
Corpus Christi Church, Columbus

SELHORST, Ralph F., 94, Dec. 31
St. Matthias Church, Columbus

SMITH, Scott A., 33, Jan. 1
St. Andrew Church, Columbus

TRAINER, Dora M. (Billings), 97, Jan. 6
Our Lady of Victory Church, Columbus

WASHBUSH, Jane M. (Coonen), 86, Jan. 3
St. Timothy Church, Columbus

Sister Ruth Caspar, OP

Funeral Mass for Sister Ruth Caspar, OP, 81, who died Monday, Jan. 2, will be held at 9 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 14 at the Motherhouse of the Dominican Sisters of Peace. Burial will be at St. Joseph Cemetery, Columbus.

She was born May 3, 1935, in Kansas City, Missouri to the late George and Anne (Cannon) Caspar. She was a graduate of St. Mary of the Springs Academy in Columbus and received a bachelor of arts degree in 1956 from St. Mary of the Springs College (now Ohio Dominican University), a master of arts degree in 1967 from the University of Notre Dame, and a doctoral degree in 1968 from Notre Dame. She also studied at the Weston School of Theology in Cambridge, Massachusetts; the Kennedy Institute of Ethics in Washington; and the Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas in Rome.

She entered the congregation of the Dominican Sisters of St. Mary of the Springs (now the Dominican Sisters of Peace) in 1955 and made her profession of vows on July 9, 1957, tak-

ing the name Sister George Marie.

She was an award-winning professor in Ohio Dominican's division of philosophy and theology, where she taught from 1968-2003, when she was named professor emeritus. She received an honorary doctor of humanities degree from the university in 2003. ODU created an endowed chair in philosophy named for her in 2011 after receiving a \$1.75 million gift from a benefactor.

In the Diocese of Columbus, she also taught at Columbus Christ the King (1957-58) and St. James the Less (1961-62) schools and St. Mary of the Springs Academy (1962-64) and served as a consultant for Mount Carmel Health (1983-96). She also was an elementary school teacher in Pennsylvania. After retiring from Ohio Dominican, she served as a staff writer and historian for her congregation.

She was preceded in death by her parents and a brother, Philip. Survivors include brothers, George and Joseph (Rita); and sister, Helen (Kirk) Quistorff.

Father Michael Scanlan, TOR

Funeral arrangements are pending for Father Michael Scanlan, TOR, 85, president emeritus of Franciscan University of Steubenville, who died Saturday, Jan. 7. There will be a memorial Mass at the university and a Mass of Christian Burial at the Motherhouse of the Franciscan Friars of the Third Order in Loretto, Pennsylvania.

Father Scanlan became president of what then was The College of Steubenville in 1974. In the next 26 years, he transformed the college into Franciscan University of Steubenville. In that time, it gained the worldwide reputation it continues to have for excellence in academics and its passionate Catholic faith environment.

He became chancellor of the university in 2000 and was named its presi-

dent emeritus in 2011, when he retired to the Motherhouse. Since December 2013, he had lived in Garvey Manor, a Catholic nursing home in Hollidaysburg, Pennsylvania.

He was born in 1931 in Cedarhurst, Long Island, New York. Before discerning a call to the priesthood, he was a lawyer and served as staff judge advocate in the Air Force. He made his first profession of Franciscan vows in 1959 and was ordained a priest in 1964.

He was awarded five honorary degrees and received many honors during his lifetime, including the *Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice* medal from Pope John Paul II in 1990 in recognition of extraordinary service to the Catholic Church and the pope.

Sister Lillian Kapelewski, OP

Funeral Mass for Sister Lillian Kapelewski, OP, 90, who died Thursday, Jan. 5, was held in the Motherhouse of the Dominican Sisters of Peace. Burial was at St. Joseph Cemetery, Columbus.

She was born Leona Kapelewski in 1926 in Amsterdam, Ohio, to the late Anton and Mary (Wilks) Kapelewski and was a graduate of Amsterdam High School.

She entered the Dominican Sisters of St. Mary of the Springs (now the Dominican Sisters of Peace) in 1943 and made her profession of vows on Aug. 14, 1945.

Manne' Aronovsky

A funeral service for Manne' Aronovsky, 83, who died Saturday, Dec. 17, was held Monday, Dec. 19 at the Epstein Memorial Chapel in Columbus.

She was born April 8, 1933 in Antwerp, Belgium to Baruch and Hedwig Eckstein and arrived in New York City in 1946 after fleeing her homeland during World War II. She attended Brooklyn College and received a bachelor of arts degree from Ohio Dominican College and a master's degree from The Ohio State University.

She was librarian at Columbus Bishop Hartley High School for 21 years

In the Diocese of Columbus, she served in food service at St. Joseph Priory in Somerset (1945-58 and 1959-66), the St. Mary of the Springs Dominican community in Columbus (1958-59), and Mohun Hall, now the Mohun Health Care Center in Columbus (1966-67). After serving in food service in Connecticut and Cincinnati and doing community service work in Flushing, New York, she returned to Mohun Hall in 1977, serving there as a physical therapy aide until 1997 and as sacristan from 1997-2010, when she entered a ministry of prayer and presence.

and at Congregation Tifereth Israel for seven years. She taught Hebrew school in many states and in Europe, was the founding director of the Jewish Teacher Resource Center in Columbus, and spoke to many groups and schools about her experience escaping the Holocaust.

She was preceded in death by her parents, and a sister, Felicia Mendelson. Survivors include sons, James (Beverly) and Samuel (Kimberly); daughters, Linda Cox, Sara (Steve) Livingston, and Miriam (Arye) Berk; eight grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

H A P P E N I N G S

JANUARY

12, 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.

Theology on Tap Meeting with Bishop Campbell

7 p.m., St. Therese's Retreat Center, 5277 E. Broad St., Columbus. Theology on Tap discussion and social group for young Catholics, featuring Bishop Frederick Campbell speaking on interpersonal relationships. Light snacks available, with wine samples from Wyandotte Winery, and wine bottles available for purchase. \$5 cover charge. RSVP to cbustheologyontap@gmail.com or Columbus Theology on Tap Facebook page.

Catechism Uncorked in Delaware

7 p.m., Amato's Woodfired Pizza, 6 S. Sandusky St., Delaware. Catechism Uncorked social for 36- to 64-year-olds, sponsored by Delaware St. Mary Church adult faith formation program, featuring social time, question-answer session with speaker, and food for purchase. 740-513-3325

14, SATURDAY

Women's Retreat at St. John Neumann

8 a.m. to 8 p.m., St. John Neumann Church, 9633 E. State Route 37, Sunbury. Parish's 10th annual women's retreat, featuring talks by Michele Faehle and Emily Jaminet of St. Gabriel Radio's "Family Sanctuary" program and papal missionary of mercy Father Thomas Blau, OP, chaplain of Ohio Dominican University. Cost \$50, including three meals, wine, and dessert social from 8 to 9 p.m. 740-965-1358

Life and Mercy Mass in Plain City

9 a.m. Mass, St. Joseph Church, 140 West Ave., Plain City.

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

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

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

'Happenings' submissions

Notices for items of Catholic interest must be received at least 12 days before expected publication date. We will print them as space permits.

Items not received before this deadline may not be published.

Listings cannot be taken by phone. Mail to Catholic Times Happenings, 197 E. Gay St., Columbus OH 43215 Fax to 614-241-2518

E-mail as text to tpuet@columbuscatholic.org

Saturday Life and Mercy Mass, followed by rosary and confession.

15, SUNDAY

St. Christopher Adult Religious Education

10 to 11:20 a.m., Library, Trinity Catholic School, 1440 Grandview Ave., Columbus. Dr. Larry Masek, associate professor of philosophy at Ohio Dominican University, talks about euthanasia.

Blessing of St. Gerard Majella at Holy Family

After 11 a.m. Mass, Holy Family Church, 584 W. Broad St., Columbus. Blessing of St. Gerard Majella, patron of expectant mothers, for all women who are pregnant or wish to become pregnant. 614-221-1890

Angelic Warfare Confraternity at Columbus St. Patrick Following noon Mass, St. Patrick Church, 280 N. Grant Ave., Columbus. Monthly meeting of Angelic Warfare Confraternity, with talk on chastity-related issues followed by Holy Hour. 614-224-9522

St. Padre Pio Secular Franciscans

1:30 to 5 p.m., St. John the Baptist Church, 720 Hamlet St., Columbus. Fellowship and ongoing formation followed by adoration and prayer, Liturgy of the Hours, and initial formation with visitors. 614-282-4676

Taize Evening Prayer at Corpus Christi

4 to 5 p.m., Corpus Christi Center of Peace, 1111 E. Stewart Ave., Columbus. Evening Prayer in the style and spirit of the Taize monastic community, with song, silence, and reflection. 614-512-3731

Prayer Group Meeting at Christ the King

5 to 7 p.m., Christ the King Church, 2777 E. Livingston Ave., Columbus (enter at daily Mass entrance). Weekly parish prayer group meets for praise, worship, ministry, and teaching. 614-861-1242

Catholic Conversations Series

6 to 8 p.m., Sports on Tap, 4030 Main St., Hilliard. Monthly Catholic Conversations series for anyone 21 and older, sponsored by Columbus St. Margaret of Cortona and Hilliard St. Brendan churches. Speaker: Catholic authors Michele Faehle and Emily Jaminet on "Lessons from St. Faustina." RSVP to nancywhetstone@gmail.com or julien-aporano1@gmail.com.

Spanish Mass at Columbus St. Peter

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

16, MONDAY

Martin Luther King Day Event at Holy Rosary-St. John

Noon to 1:30 p.m., Holy Rosary-St. John Church, 660 S. Ohio Ave., Columbus. Parish's 31st annual Martin Luther King Day commemoration. Speaker: Father Steve Bell, CSP, of the Columbus St. Thomas More Newman Center. 614-224-5926

Mass of Healing and Healing Service at Cathedral

6:30 p.m., St. Joseph Cathedral, 212 E. Broad St., Columbus. Mass of Healing, followed by healing service including Exposition and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament and veneration of relic of the True Cross. Priests will be on hand for discussion and prayer and the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick will be available. 614-224-1295

'Catholicism: The Pivotal Players' at St. Pius X

7 p.m., St. Pius X Church, 1051 S. Waggoner Road, Reynoldsburg. Part 1 of Bishop Robert Barron's six-part "Catholicism: The Pivotal Players" series looks at St. Francis of Assisi. Cost for series is \$25 for individuals or couples and includes a study guide.

17, TUESDAY

Rosary for Life at St. Joan of Arc

Following 6:15 p.m. Mass, St. Joan of Arc Church, 10700

Liberty Road, Powell. Recital of Rosary for Life, sponsored by church's respect life committee.

18, WEDNESDAY

Abortion Recovery Network Group

9:30 to 10:30 a.m., Westerville Area Resource Ministry, 150 Heatherdown Drive, Westerville. Abortion recovery network group meeting for anyone interested in recovering from abortion or who has been through a recovery program and wants to stay connected. 614-721-2100

Young Professionals Group at St. Vincent Family Center

6 p.m., St. Vincent Family Center, 1490 E. Main St., Columbus. The Catholic Foundation's Catholic Young Professionals Group tours center and hears about its mission and purpose, then gathers at the Rusty Bucket, 2158 E. Main St., for networking and drinks. 614-443-8893

19, THURSDAY

Open House at Our Lady of Perpetual Help School

6 to 8 p.m., Our Lady of Perpetual Help School, 3752 Broadway, Grove City. Open house for parents of prospective students. Parents of prospective kindergarten students will have exclusive access to kindergarten teachers from 7 to 7:30. 614-875-6779

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.

Abortion Recovery Network Group

7 to 8 p.m., Gateway Center, 2670 N. Columbus St., Lancaster. Abortion recovery network group meeting for anyone interested in recovering from abortion or who has been through a recovery program and wants to stay connected. 614-721-2100

Frassati Society Meeting at Columbus St. Patrick

7 p.m., Aquinas Hall, St. Patrick Church, 280 N. Grant Ave., Columbus. Meeting of parish's Frassati Society for young adults. Talk by Father Jerome Zeiler, OP, on "What Is Marian Consecration?" followed by questions and answers. 614-224-9522

20-21, FRIDAY-SATURDAY

Newark Catholic Presents 'Beauty and the Beast'

7:30 p.m., Midland Theater, 36 N. Park Place, Newark. Newark Catholic High School presents "Beauty and the Beast." Tickets \$15. 740-344-3594

21, 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.

Dominican Learning Center Tutor Training Workshop

9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Dominican Learning Center, 1111 E. Stewart Ave., Columbus. Training workshop for volunteer tutors needed to teach adults seeking basic education skills, GED readiness, or English as a Second Language. 614-444-7330

Ohio Dominican Veterans Appreciation Day

Ohio Dominican University, 1216 Sunbury Road, Columbus. Veterans Appreciation Day, beginning with Catholic War Veterans Post 1936 meeting at 10:30 a.m. in Bishop Griffin Center, followed by national security briefing with Rear Adm. Deborah Loewer at 11:30 and recognition and free admission for veterans at ODU women's basketball game at 1 p.m. and men's game at 3 in Alumni Hall. 614-251-4458

21-22, SATURDAY-SUNDAY

Eucharistic Miracles Exhibit at St. Matthew

2 to 7 p.m. Saturday, 7:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. Sunday, St. Mat-

thew Church, 807 Havens Corners Road, Gahanna. Traveling exhibit displaying 140 panels related to Vatican-approved Eucharistic miracles worldwide. 614-471-0212

22, SUNDAY

St. Christopher Adult Religious Education

10 to 11:20 a.m., Library, Trinity Catholic School, 1440 Grandview Ave., Columbus. "Mercy and Hope in the Age of Mass Incarceration" with Wendy Tarr of the St. Vincent de Paul Society's Restored Citizens and Communities for Change project and restored citizen David Gray.

St. Catherine of Bologna Secular Franciscans

2 to 4:30 p.m., St. Francis of Assisi Church, 386 Buttles Ave., Columbus. Meet in church for prayer, followed by general meeting, ongoing formation, and fellowship. Visitors welcome. 614-895-7792

Prayer Group Meeting at Christ the King

5 to 7 p.m., Christ the King Church, 2777 E. Livingston Ave., Columbus (enter at daily Mass entrance). Weekly parish prayer group meets for praise, worship, ministry, and teaching. 614-861-1242

Spanish Mass at Columbus St. Peter

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

23, MONDAY

Respect Life Mass and Rally for Life

10:30 a.m., St. Joseph Cathedral, 212 E. Broad St., Columbus. Bishop Frederick Campbell celebrates Mass in observance of the day of penance for violations to the dignity of the human person committed through abortion, and of prayer for full restoration of the legal guarantee of the right to life, followed at noon by the annual Rally for Life in the Statehouse atrium, sponsored by Greater Columbus Right to Life, to express support for pro-life activities on the anniversary of the Roe v. Wade decision.

Bethesda Post-Abortion Healing Ministry

6:30 p.m., support group meeting, 2744 Dover Road, Columbus (Christ the King convent, first building west of the church). 614-718-0277, 614-309-2651, 614-309-0157

Our Lady of Peace Men's Bible Study

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

25, WEDNESDAY

'Families of Prayer, Communities of Care' at St. Matthew

7 to 8:30 p.m., St. Matthew Church, 807 Havens Corners Road, Gahanna. Talk on "Families of Prayer, Communities of Care" by Sister Janet Schaeffler, OP, faith formation consultant and former adult faith formation director of the Archdiocese of Detroit. Sponsored by diocesan Office of Religious Education and Catechesis. 614-221-4633

26, THURSDAY

Day of Reflection for Religious Educators

8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., St. Joan of Arc Church, 10700 Liberty Road, Powell. Day of reflection with Sister Janet Schaeffler, OP, sponsored by Diocesan Association of Religious Educators. 614-221-4633

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.

Frassati Society Meeting at Columbus St. Patrick

7 p.m., St. Patrick Church, 280 N. Grant Ave., Columbus. Meeting of parish's Frassati Society for young adults. "Christ in the City" program with Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, confessions, Taize chant, and night prayer, followed by refreshments at Claddagh Irish Pub. 614-224-9522

Newark think tank gives people a much-needed voice in overcoming poverty

By Dennis Sadowski/Catholic News Service

For Tonya and Chuck Cooper of Newark, family isn't just those who share their last name.

When it comes to helping people in need, the couple often sets an extra plate at the dinner table for someone without food, offers a night's rest to someone without a bed, or readily provides a lift to the doctor's office for a neighbor whose car broke down.

"We share a community. We share a town," Chuck told Catholic News Service in late December.

Life became more of a struggle though for the Coopers as 2017 dawned.

In the fall, Chuck, 59, lost his job at a mail marketing company down the road in Hebron, which paid \$9.59 an hour, because he needed surgery on both knees and received no guarantee he could return once fully recovered. He had one surgery in November and is doing well. A second surgery is set for early this year.

During his three years on the job, Chuck had no health insurance. His share of the cost through the company was too expensive, he said. So Medicaid is footing the bill.

Tonya, 57, is unable to work because of a disability. The family's only income is her monthly Supplemental Security Income stipend. The couple also receives a limited benefit under the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), formerly known as food stamps.



Without Chuck's income, the Coopers have fallen two months behind on the rent. They live in a \$495-a-month two-bedroom, first-floor apartment in a duplex they share with their daughter Samantha, 27, and her seven-month-old son, Benjamin. Another daughter lives upstairs in a separate unit.

"Are we impoverished? From my standpoint, no. But are we under the bar or the (poverty) line? Yes we are, and we're sinking farther under it as we go," Chuck says.

Situations like that facing the Coopers have become more common in places such as Newark, a formerly bustling city of 48,000 people located 35 miles east of Columbus that once earned the nickname "Little Chicago." Since the 1980s, Newark, like similar communities, has seen well-paying jobs leave town. In 2015, the city's poverty rate stood at 23.2 percent, according to U.S. Census Bureau statistics.

In response, a group of concerned citizens set in motion an effort to give struggling people a voice in changing how government and nonprofit agencies respond to their needs. They envision a venue to share stories -- and expertise -- about how difficult it is for many families to live day-in and day-out, deciding whether it's best to pay the rent, keep the heat on, visit a doctor, or feed the kids.

What emerged was the Newark Think Tank on Poverty, a nonsectarian project funded in part by the U.S. bishops' Catholic Campaign for Human Development through the Society of St. Vincent de Paul in the Diocese of Columbus. It brings about 40 people together monthly to discuss workable ideas on how to shape the community's response to people in need.

The Coopers are founding members of the think tank. Tonya holds a seat on its leadership team.

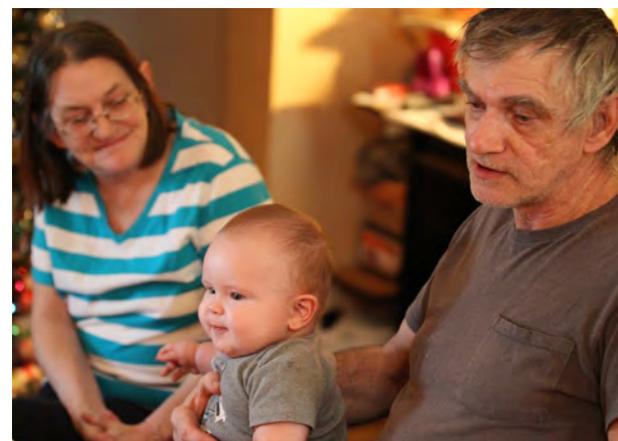
"The think tank is important to me because over the years, there's been times when we've had to reach out for assistance to other people just to make it," she said. "So this is my way of giving back. I can listen to these people and say, 'I understand where you're coming from.'"

Lesha Farias helped establish the think tank. A former president of the St. Vincent de Paul Conference at Newark St. Francis de Sales Church and of the society's Columbus district council, Farias describes the think tank's low-income participants as "poverty experts."

More than half of the leadership team are people who are experiencing poverty and appreciate having

Bill Hammond and his wife, Gennoah, are seen in their home in Newark on Dec. 20. Hammond, a past president of the Diocese of Columbus' Society of St. Vincent de Paul district council, helped reshape the organization to build relationships with poor people. His work was a forerunner to the Newark Think Tank on Poverty, which brings citizens together to discuss workable ideas on how to shape the response to people in need.

CNS photos/Dennis Sadowski



Tonya and Chuck Cooper hold their seven-month-old grandson, Benjamin, on Dec. 20 in their home in Newark. The Coopers are leaders in the Newark Think Tank on Poverty, which brings people together to discuss workable ideas on how to shape the community's response to people in need.

an opportunity to be heard, especially because they rarely have been heard before, Farias said.

Another aspect of the think tank involves ensuring that people who are facing challenges from being in poverty -- car repossession, eviction, lack of food -- will not be forgotten or abandoned, that they will be connected with the services they need.

"We are in relationship with them," Farias said.

The think tank also promotes the importance of having its members represented on committees and boards of local government and social service agencies. To the think tank's credit, its members serve on the Licking County Jobs and Family Services Planning Board, an Adult Court Services committee, and the board of the Pat and Herb Murphy St. Vincent de Paul Center. Four Newark-area parishes established the center in response to the vision of accompanying people in need as expressed by Frederic Ozanam, founder of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul.

After its first meetings, think tank participants settled on three issues to address: discrimination against people convicted of felonies who are attempting to rebuild their lives but have difficulty finding work; the lack of jobs that pay a living wage; and inadequate mental health and addiction recovery services.

Convincing Newark City Council to pass an ordinance that removes a question about felony convictions from city employment applications gave the think tank an early victory. Think tank leader Eric Lee applauds the move.

Lee is 60, has spent a third of his life in prison, and knows the challenges of trying to find gainful employment. He told CNS that people returning to Newark after time in prison struggle to find a job because employers often are fearful of hiring someone convicted of a serious crime.

See **THINK TANK**, Page 19

THINK TANK, continued from Page 18

Since his release, Lee has graduated from college and is working on a master's degree in management. He works side-by-side with people released from prison to help them re-enter the community and leave behind the habits that got them into trouble in the first place.

"The biggest success (of the think tank) is the relationships we form and the relationships we build in different areas of life," Lee said. "Just making a difference in individuals' lives is something I'm starting to take on and be uplifted by."

The think tank can trace its roots to the work of the St. Vincent de Paul Society in town more than two decades ago. Bill Hammond, a St. Francis de Sales parishioner, became involved in the society in the early 1990s and helped guide it from an organization that simply raised funds for charitable works to one that advocated for needy people.

Downplaying his role, Hammond, 84, told CNS he simply followed the directives that Ozanam established in founding the Vincentians in 1833. Among the precepts was that Vincentians were to visit families in need, rather than simply provide charity and move on with life.

Under Hammond's leadership, the society's presence grew in Newark and the home visits became integral to its ministry. Hammond then became president of the society's diocesan council.

For six years, he embraced the same philosophy.

"When I started reading and studying the manual and history, they emphasized that we didn't become a Vincentian really to give the poor money. It was first of all about us getting the opportunity to grow spiritually by serving and living out our faith," Hammond said.

"When we go on a home visit, it's a personal connection, not a monetary," he continued. "The money is not as important as a connection spiritually with the people we are going to visit."

Hammond's efforts made the think tank possible, said Allen Schwartz, a retired community organizer who offers his insight from years of grassroots experience to its leadership team.

"Bill's insistence on the visits can't be minimized as social justice work, because people who don't do social justice work objectify the needy," Schwartz explained. "They just write the check (and say) 'Don't bother me.' It's the visits that hold back that process of objectification and created the situation where we could then take it to the next step of the think tank.

"We not only need to stop objectifying these people who are in need, but we need to act on their behalf," he said.

The think tank has one staff person. Wendy Tarr is director and lead organizer of the Vincentian Ohio Action Network, which the diocesan society

established. She spends part of her time in Newark identifying people who are ready to lend their voices to changing public policy.

Her understanding of the Vincentian vision runs through her work as she addresses the need for society to broach the gulf that keeps poor people outside of society's mainstream.

"In order for our democracy to work and for our agencies and organizations to be meeting real needs in the community, there has to be participation and leadership from people who are not in the middle class, but from people who are in the working class and poor," Tarr explained.

The think tank helps people understand how power is structured in U.S. society and how the problems poor people in particular face are connected to ineffective social policies, she said.

"People (in need) have voice and answers to problems. They have solutions and insight that are really needed in order to create a working system and create new ways in society to address poverty," Tarr explained.

The Coopers said that having a voice in decisions affecting their lives is what they seek. Chuck Cooper said he hopes the think tank can help bridge the dis-



Eric Lee (left) stands outside the St. Vincent Haven in Newark with Chris Wills. Both are involved with the Newark Think Tank on Poverty. CNS photo/Dennis Sadowski

tance between "the haves and the have-nots" in Newark.

"If you're, unfortunately, in that thin line that differentiates the two, you can get lost real quick. I know. We've been there. We're still there. We make too much for (public) assistance, but we don't make enough to feel comfortable. It becomes a limbo," he said.

"Will they get better? I sure hope so. I'd love to live long enough to see a little bit of comfort. To be able to maybe go to bed some night and not worry about the next day. It's been a long time, and I don't remember what it was like."

March for Life Bus Trip

Danville St. Luke Church still has space available on its bus trip to the March for Life in Washington later this month.

The bus will leave the church on the early morning of Thursday, Jan. 26 and arrive in Washington in time for an evening Mass at the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. The march is the following day. The bus will leave on the morning of Saturday, Jan. 28. Participants will be able to tour Washington during their free time.

Those taking part in the trip will stay Thursday and Friday nights at the Hampton Inn in Alexandria, Virginia, across the Potomac River from Washington. A free breakfast will be available on Friday and Saturday mornings. The cost is \$280 per person for rooms where two persons will stay or \$240 per person for three- or four-person room groups.

For more information, contact St. Luke Church at (740) 599-6362 or Bobbie Thomas at (740) 427-4044 or (740) 398-9710.

"Beauty and the Beast" at Newark Catholic

The Newark Catholic High School drama department will present *Beauty and the Beast* on Friday and Saturday, Jan. 20 and 21 at the Midland Theater, 36 N. Park Place, Newark.

Beauty and the Beast is a traditional fairy tale first written and published in 1740. Dennis Moore, drama and music teacher at Newark Catholic,

said it seemed fitting to produce this musical for several reasons, "It's been 10 years since we've done a Disney musical, it is a fun, popular musical with a happy ending, and most importantly, it is the musical that showcases our student's talents the best for this year," he said.

Tickets are \$15 at the door.



ADVENT SERVICE PROJECT

Members of the Columbus Third Order Carmelites visited residents of The Villas of St. Therese as part of the lay Carmelite community's Advent service project.

Relocation will allow Our Lady of Guadalupe Center to triple in size

BY TIM PUET

Reporter, Catholic Times

The Our Lady of Guadalupe Center on Columbus' west side is moving and growing.

A \$175,000 grant from The Columbus Foundation and the Osteopathic Heritage Foundation will allow the center to relocate into a space nearly three times the size of its current location, said center director Ramona Reyes. The move won't be a long one. The new center will be at 441 Industry Drive, just a short walk from its current location at 409 Industry Drive. Reyes said the transition will take place this spring after the necessary permits are completed.

"Our current space is about 1,200 square feet, the size of a three-car garage. The new building is 3,500 square feet," she said. "As the space expands, so will its programming and partnerships. Right now, we're mostly a food pantry. We offer other services, such as English and nutrition classes, health screenings, translation assistance, job mentoring, and legal consultations (not services).

"We've had offers from several organizations involved in things like counseling, men's and women's roundtables, yoga, cooking classes, and Doctors Without Borders who would like to utilize our space, but had to turn them down because there wasn't enough room. Now we can consider those offers and provide the type of services our families need or ask for."

The center, operated by Catholic Social Services, was founded primarily to serve the Latino community on the west side. It was started in 1999 by the mother of center coordinator Alma Santos as a way of giving others the same help she and her family received years earlier in southern California after they had become homeless. It moved to its current location in 2006.

"With the little money that she was making, my mother would buy food for others," Santos said. "She saw how desperately the newly arriving Hispanic families needed food, and she started a food pantry out of the back of her minivan. She was giving back, just as she one day said she would. She would encourage and push everyone, hoping for a better life for them, just as she did for me when I was in school.



Sanjuanita Torres (left) and Sheyla Castillo visit the Our Lady of Guadalupe Center in Columbus.
CT file photo by Jack Kustron

"Eighteen years later, that is still what we are doing – providing nourishment for the body and soul. We have always been a place of food and encouragement – a welcome center, but now we are providing more to help people change their lives."

Santos' mother recently moved to Columbus to be with her after spending several years in Mexico continuing the work she began in Columbus. "What we've been able to do here makes both of us realize how blessed we have been," Santos said. "We know what it's like to be in a long line waiting for food. Now that we're on the other side, it's humbling to think we've done so much."

The Catholic Social Services website describes the center as "a trampoline for Hispanic families." As Reyes explained, "People come here for food, but the other things we offer provide a platform to lift them to new opportunities, in the same way a trampoline lifts people off the ground to heights they never could have reached on their own."

Reyes, who also is on the board of the Columbus City Schools, said that in 2015, the center served 625 families, 98 percent of whom are Latino, with 40 percent having a yearly income of \$5,000 or less. The families received 87,000 meals and nearly 500 other services. Reyes said the neighborhood surrounding the center has an overall poverty rate of 43 percent and a child poverty rate of 49 percent.

Rachel Lustig, president and chief executive officer of Catholic Social Services, said the move will allow the center's budget to grow from \$125,000 to \$175,000, enabling it to expand its job-related activities and perhaps provide space for a business incubator.

She said that in addition to the \$125,000 grant, the center recently received a \$21,000 grant from The Catholic Foundation to help cover program costs.

"As we grow, we believe that only half the beneficiaries of the Guadalupe center will be the Hispanic community," Lustig said. "The broader community has much to learn."

She described a recent tour of the center she gave to a potential donor. "On this day, the current center was particularly chaotic. People were coming for food in the back, there was an English class in the front room, and volunteers were watching the students' children everywhere else," she said.

"In the middle of the chaos was Erica, taking the English class. Her youngest was fussy and wanted Mom, so she took the baby on her lap and proceeded to engage in the class. I couldn't believe her concentration, but I recognized her desire to crack the language code. I understood how being a part of the conversation was more important than looking silly. And I wanted to be a part of her success."

She said the time she spent with a volunteer corps in Chile, reinforced

by experiences such as the one she described, made her realize "the spirit of belonging at the heart of family life and hospitality" that is at the heart of Latino culture.

"These values permeate the Our Lady of Guadalupe Center," she said. "These are values that I want to be surrounded by and better at."

"It can be unexpected that you would see these values of hospitality and family coming from a place where people turn to have their basic needs met. It would seem that when you are working to have your needs met, that you may not be as generous with others, but that doesn't seem to be the case," Lustig said. "It is Our Lady of Guadalupe who reminds us that the virtues that we seek to learn often come from the most unexpected places."

The food pantry is open from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Wednesdays and Thursdays. The center itself is open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. Reyes anticipates the pantry hours will be expanded once the new center has been open for a while. For more information, go to www.colscss.org/our-lady-of-guadalupe-center.

Scholarships Available

The Catholic War Veterans has a scholarship foundation that awards four \$1,000 scholarship grants to eligible high school seniors.

Any high school senior is eligible if his or her parent or grandparent is a member of the Catholic War Veterans or if he or she is a child or grandchild of a deceased Catholic veteran.

For more information, send an email to Mary Ann Janning at majanning@gmail.com or call (614) 558-1293. The deadline to receive applications is Sunday, April 30.

Open House

Columbus St. Mary Magdalene School, 2940 Parkside Road, will host an open house for new students in preschool through eighth grade from noon to 2 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 29.

Information will be available regarding the school and preschool, the registration process, tuition, and the Ed-Choice scholarship program.

For more information, call Mary Ann Graham at (614) 279-9935.