Already dedicated to him through Baptism, the person who surrenders himself to the God he loves above all else thereby consecrates himself more intimately to God’s service and to the good of the Church.

*Catechism of the Catholic Church, No. 931*
The Editor’s Notebook

Vocations bring us to Christ and Christ to the world

By David Garick, Editor

This week, Catholic Times explores the challenge of vocations. During this Easter season, it is easy to get wrapped up in the joy of the wonderful gift Christ gave us in the miracle of his resurrection. Salvation and eternal joy in heaven is indeed a wonderful gift from God. But we must not lose sight of the fact that he also gave us a mission. The message of his earthly life and his eternal victory over sin must be carried to the ends of the earth and repeated for all generations.

God called Elijah to be a prophet to the people. When Elijah thought all was lost, he sought God on the mountain. He faced violent wind, earthquakes, and roaring fire, but the Lord did not speak in these. He came to Elijah in a still, small voice that gave him direction and courage. Following the Lord’s direction, Elijah passed on his ministry by calling Elisha from his team of oxen in the fields to become prophet after him.

Jesus also began a call of vocations to those who became his disciples. Imagine Peter and Andrew and James and John minding their own business catching fish in the Sea of Galilee. Here comes this stranger with something special about him that reached deep into their hearts. He simply said, “Follow me,” and they did. During their days together, he prepared them for the task that lay ahead and he warned them of the dangers and rejections they would face for their devotion to him. But he also gave them the promise of the eternal reward their work would have, not just for them, but for all mankind.

Christ continues to approach us about the work he wants us to do. The message is the same: “Follow me.” It can be difficult to hear that still, small voice calling us to vocations in this world filled with so many distractions. But the call to vocations remains as vital today as it was in first-century Palestine.

In his message for the 54th annual World Day of Prayer for Vocations next Sunday, Pope Francis noted how those who are drawn by God’s voice and choose to follow Jesus “soon discover within themselves an irressible desire to bring the Good News to their brothers and sisters” through proclamation and charitable service.

As disciples, “we do not receive the gift of God’s love for our personal consolation, nor are we called to promote ourselves, or a business concern,” he said. “We are simply men and women touched and transformed by the joy of God’s love, who cannot keep this experience just to ourselves,” he said.

St. Luke wrote, “The Lord appointed seventy others, and sent them on ahead of him, two by two, into every town and place where he himself was about to come. And he said to them, ‘The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; pray therefore the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.’” Listen closely in your heart. The Lord has a job for you as well.

Statement of Bishop Campbell in Support of Senior Services Levy

I encourage Franklin County voters to support Issue 1, the Franklin County Senior Services levy, as you go to the polls on Tuesday, May 2. This levy provides ongoing support for seniors to remain safely in their homes through essential services including meals on wheels, transportation to medical appointments, emergency response buttons, homemaker services, home repair, personal care, adult day care, and a multitude of other programs.

Within our Catholic Charities system, both Catholic Social Services and St. Stephen’s Community House receive support from levy dollars for their senior programs.

Celebrating Our Lady of Fatima

A Mass celebrating the centennial of the apparitions of Our Lady of Fatima will take place at 10 a.m. Saturday, May 13 in Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral, 212 East Broad St. Father Michael Lumpe, rector of the cathedral, will celebrate the Mass and Msgr. Frank Lane will deliver the homily.

Before the Mass, the rosary will be prayed, beginning at 9:30 a.m. Pope Francis has granted a plenary indulgence for specific Fatima centennial celebrations.

This occasion would be one of three ways to receive the indulgence. For more information about the Mass, call the cathedral at (614) 224-1295, or visit www.saintjosephcathedral.org.

Pope Francis will declare the sainthood of Blessed Jacinta Marto and Blessed Francisco Marto, two of the shepherd children who saw Mary in Fatima, Portugal, during his visit to the site of the apparitions on May 13.

Pope Francis will preside over the canonization ceremony of the Fatima visionaries during his visit to Fatima.

The pilgrimage will mark the 100th anniversary of the Marian apparitions, which began May 13, 1917, when 9-year-old Francisco and 7-year-old Jacinta, along with their cousin Lucia dos Santos, reported seeing the Virgin Mary. The apparitions continued once a month until Oct. 13, 1917, and later were declared worthy of belief by the Catholic Church.

A year after the apparitions, both of the Marto children became ill during an influenza epidemic that plagued Europe. Francisco died on April 4, 1919, at the age of 10, while Jacinta succumbed to her illness on Feb. 20, 1920, at the age of 9.

In 1979, St. John Paul II allowed their cause to proceed. He declared them venerable in 1989 and beatified them in 2000.
Society needs priests ‘enamored’ with the Gospel, Pope Francis says

CNA/EWTN News

In his message for the 2017 World Day of Prayer for Vocations, Pope Francis focused on the need to be “missionary disciples” who first fall in love with God and are then propelled into action, zealously spreading the Good News they have heard.

“The People of God need to be guided by pastors whose lives are spent in service to the Gospel,” the pope said in his message.

He asked parish communities, associations, and prayer groups within the church not to get discouraged by an apparent lack of vocations, but to continue praying fervently “that the Lord will send workers to his harvest.”

“May he give us priests enamored of the Gospel, close to all their brothers and sisters, living signs of God’s merciful love,” he said.

Set to be celebrated on May 7, the 54th World Day of Prayer for Vocations will take place on the Fourth Sunday of Easter, with the theme “Led by the Spirit for Mission.”

The pope’s previous messages for the event have focused on the frequent summons he makes for the church to "go out" of itself to hear the Lord and on the importance of the ecclesial community as the place where God’s vocational call is born. This year, he emphasized the topic of mission.

The pope noted how those who are drawn by God’s voice and choose to follow Jesus “soon discover within themselves an irrepressible desire to bring the Good News to their brothers and sisters” through proclamation and charitable service.

As disciples, “we do not receive the gift of God’s love for our personal consolation, nor are we called to promote ourselves, or a business concern,” he said. “We are simply men and women, touched and transformed by the joy of God’s love, who cannot keep this experience just to ourselves.”

Commitment to the mission isn’t some sort of “decoration” added to the Christian life, but is, rather, “an essential element of faith itself,” he said, stressing that we must overcome our own feelings of inadequacy “and not yield to pessimism, which merely turns us into passive spectators of a dreary and monotonous life.”

The pope said we can come to a Christian understanding of mission by looking at three scenes from the Gospel: the launch of Jesus’ mission at the synagogue in Nazareth, the journey he makes with the disciples from Emmaus after his Resurrection, and the parable of the sower and the seed.

Turning to the first scene, he noted that to be a missionary disciple “means to share actively in the mission of Christ.”

Jesus in the synagogue of Nazareth said that he had been “anointed” by the Spirit to bring good news to the poor and that he had been “sent” to proclaim the release of captives and to heal the oppressed.

“This is also our mission,” the pope said. “To be anointed by the Spirit, and to go out to our brothers and sisters in order to proclaim the word and to be for them a means of salvation.”

Pointing to the disciples on the road to Emmaus, the pope stressed that we are never alone on our journey, but that Christ is at our side every step of the way.

Life’s questions and challenges can “make us feel bewildered, inadequate, and hopeless,” and the Christian mission at times appears to be “mere utopian illusion” beyond our reach, he said. However, if we contemplate Jesus on the road to Emmaus, we see a true “liturgy of the street.”

“We see that, at every step of the way, Jesus is at our side. The two disciples, overwhelmed by the scandal of the cross, return home on the path of defeat. Their hearts are broken,” the pope said, but he noted that instead of judging them, Jesus walks beside them.

“Instead of raising a wall, he opens a breach” and gradually transforms their discouragement into hope, he said, explaining that the same goes for a Christian, who never carries his or her burdens alone, but knows that even amid difficulty, Jesus is alongside.

Pope Francis said it’s important to look at the parable of the sower and the seed to understand from the Gospel itself what Christian proclamation should look like.

Even with the best intentions in mind, Christians can at times “indulge in a certain hunger for power, proselytism or intolerant fanaticism,” he said. However, the Gospel tells us to reject “the idolatry of power and success, undue concern for structures,” and an anxiety “that has more to do with the spirit of conquest than that of service.”

The seed of God’s Kingdom, “however tiny, unseen and at times insignificant, silently continues to grow, thanks to God’s tireless activity,” he said, adding that our first reason for confidence in God is that he surpasses our every expectation and “constantly surprises us by his generosity.”

The pope then pointed to the importance of maintaining a life of prayer, stressing that “there can be no promotion of vocations or Christian mission apart from constant contemplative prayer,” above all in Scripture by forming a personal relationship with Jesus Christ in the Eucharist.

“I wish heartily to encourage this kind of profound friendship with the Lord, above all for the sake of imploring from on high new vocations to the priesthood and the consecrated life,” he said, urging parishes and church institutions to continue praying for vocations.

Despite a general sense throughout the world that faith “is listless or reduced to mere ‘duties to discharge,’” young people want to discover “the perennial attraction of Jesus, to be challenged by his words and actions, and to cherish the ideal that he holds out a life that is fully human, happy to spend itself in love,” he said.

Pope Francis closed his message by entrusting young people to the intercession of Mary, who “had the courage to embrace this ideal.”

He asked that through her prayers, “we be granted that same openness of heart, that same readiness to respond, ‘Here I am’ to the Lord’s call, and that same joy in setting out, like her, to proclaim him to the whole world.”

Vocations is a theme Pope Francis is likely to delve into in a deeper way during the next two years, since it will form the heart of the discussion for the next Synod of Bishops.

Announced last Oct. 6, the theme for the next Ordinary Synod, which is to take place in October 2018, will be “Young People, the Faith, and the Discernment of Vocation.”
Representatives of the Columbus Recreation and Parks Department, the Friends of Freedom Society, Ohio Dominican University, and the Dominican Sisters of Peace gathered on Thursday, April 20 to dedicate a historical marker that commemorates the importance of Alum Creek and other central Ohio tributaries as routes used by escaped slaves along the Underground Railroad.

The marker is located at the Alum Creek Trail bridge on Ohio Dominican’s campus.

“Central Ohio’s waterways, such as Alum Creek, were a vital part of the Underground Railroad,” said Cathy Nelson, founder and president emeritus of the Friends of Freedom Society, a historical research organization whose main focus is the Underground Railroad.

“Historical markers such as this one are important reminders, for those who use the Alum Creek Trail for pleasure, that runaway slaves used it to make daring escapes to freedom.”

Dr. Peter Cimbolic, Ohio Dominican president, said the marker is a meaningful addition to the tree-lined trail that runs through ODU’s campus.

“The completion of the bridge and bike trail in 2015 was a welcome addition for us, bringing thousands of cyclists, runners, and walkers through our campus each year,” Cimbolic said. “Now our visitors will have the opportunity to learn about the historic impact of this beautiful waterway that helped lead so many escaped slaves to freedom.”

The Underground Railroad was the term used to describe a network of people who helped escaped slaves make their way to freedom in the northern states and Canada. The term gained currency in the 1830s as northern abolitionists became more vocal and southern suspicions of threats to their peculiar institution grew.

The network of routes extended through 14 northern states and Canada, beyond the reach of fugitive-slave hunters. Those who most actively assisted slaves to escape by way of the “railroad” were members of the free black community — including former slaves such as Harriet Tubman — as well as northern abolitionists, philanthropists, and church leaders such as Quaker Thomas Garrett.

Ohio Dominican University is a comprehensive, four-year, private, liberal arts and master’s degree institution, founded in 1911 in the Catholic and Dominican tradition by the Dominican Sisters of Peace. The university has approximately 2,550 students and offers undergraduate degrees in 40 majors and nine graduate degree programs. At ODU, students connect their passion with a purpose.

**Historical Marker Commemorates Importance of Alum Creek to Underground Railroad**

The Catholic Conference of Ohio is seeking a full-time Administrative Support Professional to assist in the operation of this interdiocesan agency that serves the Catholic dioceses in Ohio.

The position requires strong interpersonal and organizational skills, as well as skill in oral and written communication. It includes secretarial duties and support for financial operations (e.g., processing accounts payable and receivable and keeping basic financial records), maintaining databases, and managing the office on a routine basis. It requires knowledge of QuickBooks and Microsoft 365 (including Microsoft Word, Excel, and Outlook). The Administrative Support Professional is expected to work both independently and collaboratively, to support multiple members of the staff, and to assist in offering hospitality to the individuals and groups the Conference serves. She/he should have an understanding of the Catholic Church and its organization and a willingness to contribute to the mission of the Conference.

The Administrative Support Professional is responsible to the Executive Director.

The position is salaried. Benefits are available. Send resume and contact information for references to:

Carolyn Jurkowitz
Catholic Conference of Ohio
9 East Long St., Room 201 • Columbus, OH 43215
cjurkowitz@ohiocathconf.org
One New Diocesan Priest, Five New Deacons to Be Ordained in May

By Father Paul Noble  
Diocesan Vocations Director

This is an exciting time of the year for the Diocese of Columbus, because May is traditionally the month for seminarians who have completed their studies to be ordained as diocesan priests and for their colleagues who are about to enter their final year in the seminary to be ordained as deacons.

Deacon Daniel Olvera, who became a member of the diaconate last year, will be ordained as a priest at a Mass on Saturday, May 27, at 10 a.m. in Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral.

Deacon Olvera, 44, is about to graduate from Pope St. John XXIII National Seminary in Weston, Massachusetts, which specializes in preparing men age 30 and older for the priesthood.

Five men will be ordained by the bishop as deacons at 7 p.m. Friday, May 5 in Columbus St. Andrew Church. Four of them are third-year theology students at the Pontifical College Josephinum. They are Brett Garland, Thomas Herge, Todd (TJ) Lehigh, and Christopher Tuttle. Also to be ordained a deacon is Edward Shikina, who is studying at Pope John XXIII Seminary.

The diocese has a total of 32 seminarians, most of whom attend the Josephinum, which offers beginning students a four-year philosophy curriculum, leading to a bachelor’s degree, followed by four years of theology studies before ordination to the priesthood. For students who already have earned an undergraduate bachelor’s degree, but need additional preparation in philosophy and theology to meet the demands of more advanced theological studies, there is a two-year pre-theology program.

One other Josephinum student from the diocese is in third theology, three are in second theology, five are in first theology, one is in fourth college, three are in second pre-theology, three are in third college, one is in first pre-theology, five are in second college, and two are in first college.

In addition, we have one diocesan student in his second year of theology studies at Pope John XXIII Seminary.

Since I became diocesan vocations director in 2010, about 35 men from the diocese have been studying for the priesthood in any given year. This represents a slight increase from the previous few years.

I cannot say enough about the generous contribution of our priests who have recently retired or are of retirement age. During the past six years, we have ordained 16 priests, but have not kept up with the deaths and retirements of other priests. We still are consolidating and are very dependent on the seven (or more) pastors who could have retired, but have continued in service to their parishes. In addition, those priests who recently have retired continue to assist with Masses and confessions. The people of the diocese owe these men a tremendous debt of gratitude.

Yes, we are excited about our newly ordained and those about to be ordained. And in every dimension of the formation process, we are dependent on the movement of the Holy Spirit inspiring men to commit their lives in service of the Gospel and the People of God. Please pray for vocations.
Difference between priest and monsignor; Passion or Palm Sunday

QUESTION & ANSWER
by: FATHER KENNETH DOYLE
Catholic News Service

Q. Could you explain for me the difference (if any) between “priest” and “monsignor”? Under what circumstances is a priest given the title of “monsignor”? (Burke, Virginia)

A. “Monsignor” is a title bestowed on a priest who has distinguished himself by exceptional service to the church. It is a title granted by the pope -- typically, upon the recommendation of the priest’s diocesan bishop. It is a purely honorary title and has no effect on the priest’s duties or ministerial assignment.

Nearly 50 years ago, the Priests’ Senate in my own diocese passed a resolution asking that our bishop no longer name any priests as monsignors.

As I recall our discussion, we felt that it was a medieval and inappropriate title (it derives from the Italian words meaning “my Lord”) and that its bestowal could cause hard feelings -- not so much with priests who were passed over, but among parishioners whose own pastor had not been so honored.

So it was with some satisfaction that I noticed in January 2014 that Pope Francis had instructed the bishops of the world to no longer award diocesan priests the title of monsignor before they reach age 65.

No reasons were published for the pope’s decision, but he often has cautioned priests against careerism and personal ambition.

He seems to have long felt uncomfortable about ecclesiastical titles; when he was a bishop and later a cardinal in Argentina, Pope Francis always asked people to call him “Father.” And, notably, while he served as archbishop of Buenos Aires (1998-2013), not once did he petition the Holy See to have one of his priests named a monsignor.

Q. When I was growing up, we celebrated Passion Sunday and the statues in church were covered with purple cloths. (As I remember, that symbolized Jesus’ hiding himself from the view of those who would soon crucify him.) Then, a week later, it was Palm Sunday, and we received the blessed palms.

The following weekend, we celebrated Easter. But for several years now, our parish has marked Passion Sunday and Palm Sunday on the same day, one week before Easter -- and the statues are no longer covered.

So my question is this: When did these two Sundays become one, and why? (Indiana)

A. You are correct that until 1969, the church celebrated “Passion Sunday” two weeks before Easter. A passion narrative was read as the Gospel passage for that day, and the church began to turn its focus to the sufferings of Jesus.

Since 1969, when the Vatican published new liturgical norms and the three-year cycle of readings, this particular Sunday is now known as “the Fifth Sunday of Lent,” and the Gospel readings used in antiquity have been restored. (This year, the Gospel passage tells of Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead.)

The purpose of the change, as I understand it, was to be able to devote the first five weeks of Lent, as it was in the church’s early history, to the preparation of catechumens for entrance into the church at Easter.

One vestige of the former calendar remains: Beginning on the Fifth Sunday of Lent, the practice of covering crosses and images in the church is permitted. (Note that it is “permitted,” not mandated. Discretion is given to the local pastor.)

Images (statues of saints, for example) are uncovered after the start of the Easter Vigil. Crosses are unveiled on Good Friday, when the faithful are invited to venerate the cross. I have never heard the explanation you propose for veiling the cross -- namely, that Jesus is “hiding” from those who would crucify him. The reason most commonly offered is that the veils represent a sort of “fasting” from the sacred depiction of what ultimately led to the glory of our salvation.

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

CONCERTS IN A COUNTRY CHURCH

The third and final concert of the 2016-2017 season of the “Concerts in a Country Church” series at Westminster Choir College will take place this Sunday, April 30.

The concert, titled “Tones, Tunes and Teens,” will present the Hillsboro High School symphonic choir.

Series director Craig Jaynes, music director of St. Colman Church, said, “Our concerts normally feature professional musicians, and it may seem somewhat strange that we would be featuring a high school group for one of our programs. However, the symphonic choir from Hillsboro is anything but the usual school chorus.”

“I can recall being bowled over the first time I heard them. One might be tempted to think this was a one-time phenomenon resulting from a singular group of particularly talented kids, but it turns out not to be the case. David White is completing his 15th year as director of vocal music at Hillsboro High School, where he consistently has produced a program of unsurpassed high quality.

White is a graduate of Northern Kentucky University and a candidate for a master of arts degree in church music from Trinity Lutheran Seminary in Columbus. He also is music director and organist at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church in Crestview Hills, Kentucky.

“The choirs under his direction routinely produce superior ratings from adjudicated district and state level events. They also participate annually in at least one major choral work with an orchestra, their alumni, and the Hillsboro Community Chorus, the list of which would produce drools of envy from programs many times their size.”

“They have been invited to this series not only as a recognition of their outstanding efforts over the years and their subsequent contribution to the musical life of southern Ohio, but also because they present programs that will leave you in disbelief at the incredibly high level of quality singing produced. They will be coming to the series on the heels of participation at an internationally-renowned event at Westminster Choir College in Princeton, New Jersey.”

In addition to presenting its own repertoire, the choir will lead the audience in an Easter hymn festival. The festival was introduced last season and was rated high in popularity by those attending.

The program will include Easter hymns, some well-known and others not as familiar. The hymn verses will be interspersed by Jaynes’ organ interpretations of their tunes.

“There is simply nothing quite like the experience of singing with other music lovers, at the top of your voice, surrounded by other strong voices, with a great instrument for support, in an acoustic that creates a whole that is greater than the sum of its parts. It’s a real thrill,” Jaynes said.

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

More information may be obtained at www.stcolmanmusic.org or by calling (877) 232-2751.

Give thanks unto the Lord
Faith leads to freedom, not compromise, pope says

By Junno Arocho Esteves, CNS

Christian faith is belief in the concrete work of God and leads to concrete witness and action by believers, Pope Francis said.

The Christian creed details concrete events because “the Word was made flesh, it was not made an idea,” the pope said on Monday, April 24 during his morning Mass in the chapel of Domus Sanctae Marthae.

“The creed does not say ‘I believe I must do this, that I must do that’ or that ‘things are made for this reason.’ No! They are concrete things,” such as belief in God, who made heaven and earth, or belief in Jesus, who was born of Mary, was crucified, died and was buried, the pope noted.

The concreteness of faith “leads to frankness, to giving witness to the point of martyrdom. It is against compromises or the idealization of faith,” he said.

Pope Francis reflected on the day’s first reading from the Acts of the Apostles, which recalled Peter and John’s release after they were imprisoned by the Sanhedrin following the miraculous healing of a cripple.

Noting their courage in the face of persecution, the pope said that their defiance of the Sanhedrin’s order not to preach in the name of Jesus was an example of the concrete nature of faith, “which means speaking the truth openly without compromises.”

The pope added that the “rationalistic mentality” shown by the Sanhedrin did not end with them, and that even the church at times has fallen into the same way of thinking.

“The church itself, which condemned rationalism, the Enlightenment, many times fell into a theology of “you can do this and you can’t do that,” forgetting the freedom that comes from the Holy Spirit and gives believers the gift of frankness and of proclaiming that Jesus is Lord, the pope said.

Deacon John Crerand says being part of the diaconate gives him and his colleagues a unique opportunity to be of service to God in ways a priest cannot.

“As a deacon, you have your foot in two worlds — the church and the marketplace,” he said. “In the marketplace, people who know you’re a deacon will approach you about spiritual matters, when maybe they’re reluctant to talk to a priest because for some reason, they think it’s too scary. When I first became a deacon, I wanted to divorce the diaconate from my work, but I found I did more ministry in the marketplace than in the parish.”

Deacon Crerand has been part of the diocesan Tribunal since 2002 and currently serves as its moderator and a judge. “As moderator, I’m the businessman and am in charge of its day-to-day operation,” he said. “As a judge, I organize investigations into the validity of a marriage, essentially making a decision as to whether a marriage is valid or invalid in the eyes of the Church.”

All the other 10 judges are diocesan priests, and, like Deacon Crerand, have a degree in canon law. Deacons make up most of the Tribunal’s group of 20 advocates, who assist people applying for an annulment or dissolution of their marriage. Advocates conduct a personal interview with the petitioner and help prepare petitions to the Tribunal. Their role is similar to that of the attorney for the plaintiff in a civil case.

From 2002 until his appointment to his current position in 2013, Deacon Crerand was a defender of the bond, a role similar to that of the attorney for the defendant. “The defender of the bond looks at a marriage in terms of its validity,” he said. “It’s his role to see whether there are reasonable arguments that can show a marriage is invalid under Church law.”

Deacon Crerand, 68, grew up in Woodbridge, New Jersey, and received a bachelor of arts degree from St. Peter’s College in Jersey City. During his junior year in college, he studied at the Catholic Institute in Paris, where he met his wife, Mary Lavin-Crerand, who is from New York. They have been married for 45 years and have three children – Canice Denlinger, 43; Patrick, 39; and Mary Bridget, 33, who is engaged and is to be married in late September – and six grandchildren.

Deacon Crerand wanted to be an English teacher after graduating from college, but no teaching jobs were available, so he went to work for an insurance company to support his family.

“I still hoped to be a teacher,” he said. “A friend who was in our wedding party and knew I loved languages suggested that I think about teaching basic language skills to the Deaf. I took a course in sign language, fell in love with it, got a scholarship to New York University, and obtained a master of arts degree there.”

He came to Ohio in 1976 to teach Deaf students in the Dayton public schools, where he worked for eight years. He then spent three years as special education supervisor at the Hopewell Special Education Center in Hillsboro in southwest Ohio.

He moved to Columbus in 1987 to become principal and handle the program for Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing children at the Alexander Graham Bell School, which is part of the Columbus public school system. “I was in charge of educational services for students who are Deaf or Hard-of-Hearing from preschool through high school and also was supervisor for the school district’s overall speech and language services,” he said. Deacon Crerand worked for the Columbus schools for 19 years, retiring in 2006.
Students at Columbus Our Lady of Bethlehem School and Childcare prepared their hearts and minds for Christ’s selfless gift of love this Lenten season by providing Easter baskets for the Run the Race Club.

Students, families, and staff collected baskets, pails, Peeps, jelly beans, granola bars, plastic eggs, and bagged chocolate candy and assembled 150 Easter baskets for Run the Race members in grades kindergarten to 12. The club (see www.brianmuhafoundation.org) works with students on Columbus’ west side.

Our Lady of Bethlehem students also created crosses to include in the baskets and further spread God’s message of hope. In addition, the OLB community sponsored two Lenten lunches, which raised more than $150 for the club.

Easter baskets were finished and delivered to the Racers on Monday, April 10, just in time for Holy Week and the celebration of Easter.

Photo courtesy Our Lady of Bethlehem School

Bishop Watterson Signees

Seventeen Columbus Bishop Watterson High School students have announced their commitment to play college sports. They are (from left): first row, Regina Severance, soccer, Otterbein; Gabrielle Garrett, basketball, Baldwin Wallace; Giavanna Paradiso, basketball, St. Mary’s (Indiana); Priscilla Severance, soccer, Otterbein; second row, Katrina Wierzbicki, softball, Otterbein; Kiera Mulcahy, lacrosse, Otterbein; Torie Sullivan, lacrosse, Mercyhurst; Samantha Mikula, cross country/track and field, Cincinnati; Michelle Lehmann, track and field, Ball State; J’Niah Johnston-Reynolds, track and field, Case Western Reserve; third row, Dena Wenzinger, soccer, Walsh; Emily Ganz and Allison Luckscheiter, soccer, Otterbein; Will Davis, baseball, Ohio Northern; Adam Stotler, baseball, Otterbein; AJ Rigsby, lacrosse, Franklin and Marshall; and Erin Vonderwell, softball, Otterbein.

Photo courtesy Bishop Watterson High School

St. Andrew School Rice Bowl

Students from Columbus St. Andrew School and the St. Andrew Parish School of Religion raised more than $1,500 this year for Operation Rice Bowl. Coordinators for the effort were (from left): Vinni Paradiso, Sydney Johnson, Alex Picolo, and Brooklyn Brush.

Photo/St. Andrew School
Evangelization by hitchhiking: how to find an on ramp

The place infants nod off and teens open up also is where road-weary adults will probe their spirituality: in the car.

That’s the secret behind a new religious community, the Little Poor Friars and Poor Nuns of Jesus and Mary, who dress and live like St. Francis of Assisi: in poverty, entirely dependent on God’s providence. They were founded in 1999 by a 25-year-old Sicilian and approved by the Catholic Church in 2014.

They are a throwback order, offering something that feels like the original to young adults wary of cheap imitations. About 30 Catholics already have joined, fulfilling a bold mission: to be like the apostles and spread the Good News. So they stand at the edge of a highway in their khaki-colored habits – garb that resembles sackcloth – with Bibles on their backs and sandals on their feet – the women in veils, the men with their St. Francis hairstyles shaved into a crown – and stick out their thumbs.

Evangelization by hitchhiking.

Sister Effata was 24 when she set out hitchhiking for the first time as a Little Nun, intending to travel with two friars from Sicily to France, their community’s new home. She stepped outside and promptly asked, “OK, do we have to go to the right or the left?”

Surrendering to the unknown thrilled her. “I had that radical call in my heart,” she said. “I wanted to be all in.”

Born Mirijam, the young German chose the Hebrew name Effata as her religious name because it means “be open.”

She felt that to hitchhike as a Little Nun was to embrace the open road, to be born of the Spirit, like the wind: “You do not know where it comes from or where it goes” (John 3:8).

“It’s an experience of letting yourself be guided by the Holy Spirit,” Sister Effata said. “It’s amazing to have that freedom, to go in the direction of the highway, stand there and stick out your thumb and wait till someone stops and can give you a ride to the next town.”

One morning during her first hitchhike, Sister Effata had a premonition that she would meet someone who had attempted suicide. This was close to her heart: as a teen, she had plunged into anorexia and depression and attempted suicide before finding God.

Sure enough, the trio soon encountered a young woman who had tried to take her life the day before. Her name was Miriam.

“God works mysteriously,” Sister Effata said. “When we pay attention, we can catch those moments when we can really touch people’s hearts.”

Now 37 and working toward a master’s of theology from the Notre Dame Seminary in New Orleans, Sister Effata has spent thousands of days hitchhiking. “People will bring up their most profound struggles. When we enter their car and say, ‘Peace to this car and peace to all who enter it,’ sometimes people will respond, ‘I need some peace.’ It can happen quickly. They get emotional or share a struggle,” she said.

In turn, Sister Effata has learned to accept the invitation of strangers to join them for a warm meal and to sleep on the couch. “I have seen how God's providence works through people. God takes care of us all, like the birds of the sky,” she said.

“There is so much evil in the world, but when we hitchhike, we meet so much goodness. You have to dig for it. You have to make a sacrifice to reach it. It’s why we need to evangelize: to bring that good forth, to make it shine.”

Christina Capecchi is a freelance writer from Inver Grove Heights, Minnesota, and the editor of SisterStory.org.

Bishop Campbell speaks about the environment

“God’s Creation, Our Common Home” was the theme of recent talks by Bishop Frederick Campbell throughout the diocese. He offered his reflections about church teachings on care for God’s creation and on human and natural ecology. He also addressed the scourge of the opiate addiction crisis. The talks took place at Newark St. Francis de Sales Church, Columbus St. Peter Church, Columbus Bishop Ready High School, and Portsmouth Notre Dame High School. To hear a recording of one of the talks, visit St. Gabriel Catholic Radio’s website at www.stgabrielradio.com. The talks were sponsored by the Diocesan Pastoral Council and the Diocesan Office for Social Concerns.

Photo courtesy Office for Social Concerns
FATHER EUGENE LINOWSKI
Father Eugene Linowski, 87, a Cleveland native, was ordained on June 1, 1957, at St. Raymond Cathedral, and has served St. John the Baptist Church in Columbus, Ohio National Guard. He also served as the first resident pastor at Mount- on-the-Lake, St. Andrew Damascus, and the first rector of St. Mary Catherine in Van Noy, California, before coming to Columbus St. John Chrystostom Church, where he was pastor from 1987 to 1993 and still resides in Columbus in retirement. A 1960 Holy Mass honoree, the anniversary of his ordination will be celebrated Thursday, June 1 at 5 p.m. at the Columbus Holy Family Church.

FATHER VINCENT W. MCKERRAN. CSP.
Father Vincent W. McKerran, CSP, 86, was ordained at St. Paul’s Apostle Church in his hometown of New York City on May 11, 1957, by New York Auxiliary Bishop James A. Griffin. The member of the Missionary Society of St. Paul the Apostle has served at Good Shepherd Church in New York, St. Peter’s College in Baltimore, Paulist Foundations in Chicago, Grand Rapids, Michigan, Baltimore and New York, Mount Paul Novitiate in Oak Ridge, New Jersey, and the Paulist Center in Houston. He also spent a year during full-time retreat work and preaching in the Philippines and another year preaching parish missions in the Diocese of Reno, Nevada. Since 1990, he has been assigned to the Columbus St. Thomas More Newman Center at The Ohio State University. He will celebrate his anniversary Mass, followed by a reception, at 3:30 p.m. Thursday, May 21, at the Newman Center.

FATHER DONALD M. MAROON
Father Donald M. Maroon, 76, has served as pastor of Wellston Sts. Peter and Paul Church since 1999. He is a native of Lawrenceville, New Jersey in May 11, 1957, by New York Auxiliary Bishop James A. Griffin. He was born in Dearborn, Michigan, and has been pastor at Columbus Holy Family Church, St. Mary, Columbus St. Andrew, and Columbus St. Margaret of Cortona churches, co-pastor at Columbus Holy Family Church, associate pastor at Chillicothe St. John the Baptist, Mary Church, and St. C. O. residence at Dublin St. Brigid of Kildare Church. He was also vicar for a director at the Pontifical College Josephinum, taught at Chillicothe Bishop Flaxton High School and Columbus St. Charles Preparatory School, was chairman of the diocesan Priests Senate, was a member of the College of Consultants and the diocesan Tribunal, was director of the continuing education program for diocesan priests and theologian to Bishop James Griffin, was chaplain at Kenyon College, and served as a chaplain at the Ohio National Guard. He was elected to the diocesan College of Consultors and serves as a member of the diocesan Priests Senate and has assisted at Sts. Peter and Paul Retreat Center in Newark. Before his ordination, he was a teacher at the Pontifical College Josephinum and Columbus Bishop Watterson. He was ordained a priest by Bishop Lessard of the diocese.

FATHER RICHARD L. METZGER
Father Richard L. Metzger, 76, has served as pastor of Wellston Sts. Peter and Paul Church since 1999. He is a native of Lawrenceville, New Jersey in May 11, 1957, by New York Auxiliary Bishop James A. Griffin. He was born in Dearborn, Michigan, and has been pastor at Columbus Holy Family Church, St. Mary, Columbus St. Andrew, and Columbus St. Margaret of Cortona churches, co-pastor at Columbus Holy Family Church, associate pastor at Chillicothe St. John the Baptist, Mary Church, and St. C. O. residence at Dublin St. Brigid of Kildare Church. He was also vicar for a director at the Pontifical College Josephinum, taught at Chillicothe Bishop Flaxton High School and Columbus St. Charles Preparatory School, was chairman of the diocesan Priests Senate, was a member of the College of Consultants and the diocesan Tribunal, was director of the continuing education program for diocesan priests and theologian to Bishop James Griffin, was chaplain at Kenyon College, and served as a chaplain at the Ohio National Guard. He was elected to the diocesan College of Consultors and serves as a member of the diocesan Priests Senate and has assisted at Sts. Peter and Paul Retreat Center in Newark. Before his ordination, he was a teacher at the Pontifical College Josephinum and Columbus Bishop Watterson. He was ordained a priest by Bishop Lessard of the diocese.

FATHER MICHAEL J. REIS
Father Michael J. Reis, 75, has served as pastor of Wellston Sts. Peter and Paul Church since 1999. He is a native of Lawrenceville, New Jersey in May 11, 1957, by New York Auxiliary Bishop James A. Griffin. He was born in Dearborn, Michigan, and has been pastor at Columbus Holy Family Church, St. Mary, Columbus St. Andrew, and Columbus St. Margaret of Cortona churches, co-pastor at Columbus Holy Family Church, associate pastor at Chillicothe St. John the Baptist, Mary Church, and St. C. O. residence at Dublin St. Brigid of Kildare Church. He was also vicar for a director at the Pontifical College Josephinum, taught at Chillicothe Bishop Flaxton High School and Columbus St. Charles Preparatory School, was chairman of the diocesan Priests Senate, was a member of the College of Consultants and the diocesan Tribunal, was director of the continuing education program for diocesan priests and theologian to Bishop James Griffin, was chaplain at Kenyon College, and served as a chaplain at the Ohio National Guard. He was elected to the diocesan College of Consultors and serves as a member of the diocesan Priests Senate and has assisted at Sts. Peter and Paul Retreat Center in Newark. Before his ordination, he was a teacher at the Pontifical College Josephinum and Columbus Bishop Watterson. He was ordained a priest by Bishop Lessard of the diocese.

FATHER RODNEY M. DAMICO
Father Rodney M. Damico, 86, a Cleveland native, was ordained by Bishop James Griffin at Columbus St. John the Baptist Cathedral on June 6, 1962. He is a parish priest at Westerville St. Paul Church, where he also served earlier in his priestly career. He also has been associate parochial vicar at Marion St. Mary, Columbus St. Mary, Columbus St. Basil, and Columbus Corpus Christi churches, and assisted at Delaware St. Mary Church. He also has served as associate director and director of the diocesan lay ministry formation office and a member of the diocesan Priests Senate and has assisted at Sts. Peter and Paul Retreat Center in Newark. Before his ordination, he was a teacher at the Pontifical College Josephinum and Columbus Bishop Watterson. He was ordained a priest by Bishop Lessard of the diocese.

FATHER CHRISTOPHER SCHRECK
Mgr. Christopher Schreck, rector-president of the Pontifical College Josephinum, was ordained a priest of the Diocese of Savannah, Georgia, on July 9, 1977, in Savannah St. John the Baptist Cathedral by Bishop Raymond Lessard of the diocese.

EIGHT LOCAL PRIESTS REACHING SIGNIFICANT MILESTONES IN 2017
FIVE DIOCESAN PRIESTS, ONE BYZANTINE PRIEST, ONE PAULIST, JOSEPHINUM MARK ANNIVERSARIES

The Ohio State University. He was ordained on May 27, 1967, in Innsbruck, Austria, where he was studying theology at the College Diocesanum of Farnsbach Bishop Paulus. He has been pastor of Columbus St. Anthony, coming from St. Bernard, Murray City, St. Philip Neri, New Straitsville St. Augustine, and Zaneville St. Nicholas churches, the Church of the Ascension in Johnstown, and Groveport St. Mary Church, and associate pastor of Columbus St. Matthews and Newark St. Francis Sales churches. He also taught at Columbus St. Francis De Sales and Newark Catholic high school as a member of the Priscis’ Senate and vice for Perry County, and was a member of the College of Consultants. His anniversary Mass, followed by a reception, will be at 10 a.m. Sunday, May 28 at Reynoldsburg St. Paul Church, where he serves as a weekend assistant.

He was elevated to the rank of Monsignor, with the title prelate of honor, by Holy Mass on April 23, 1992. He retired from full-time ministry on July 14, 2009. He celebrated the 50th anniversary of his ordination at a Mass and reception at St. Margaret of Cortona Church in March.

Mr. Christopher Schreck, rector-president of the Pontifical College Josephinum, was ordained a priest of the Diocese of Savannah, Georgia, on July 9, 1977, in Savannah St. John the Baptist Cathedral by Bishop Raymond Lessard of the diocese.

He will celebrate his anniversary Mass in Heath St. Leonard Church on Sunday, June 11 at 9:30 a.m., followed by a reception.

He was parochial vicar of Savannah St. James Church, then began a career of priestly formation and seminary administration. He was associate professor, proctor, and academic dean at St. Valentine de Paul Regional Seminary in Brighton Beach, Florida, and was vice rector for academic affairs and.distinct professor of Sacred Scripture at St. Charles Borromeo Seminary in Philadelphia. He joined the Josephinum faculty in 2007 to teach Scripture and to serve as executive director of the Institute for the Formation and Ministry of the Permanent Deaconate. He was appointed to his current position in 2012.

His anniversary Mass and reception will be at 10:15 a.m. Sunday, April 30 at the Josephinum’s St. Turibius Chapel.

He was ordained a priest by Bishop Lessard of the diocese.

He was ordained a priest by Bishop Lessard of the diocese.

He was ordained a priest by Bishop Lessard of the diocese.

He was ordained a priest by Bishop Lessard of the diocese.

He was ordained a priest by Bishop Lessard of the diocese.

He was ordained a priest by Bishop Lessard of the diocese.

He was ordained a priest by Bishop Lessard of the diocese.

He was ordained a priest by Bishop Lessard of the diocese.
Two Serra Clubs in Columbus promote religious vocations

BY TIM PUET
Reporter, Catholic Times

For 82 years, members of the Serra Club in the United States and 45 other nations have worked to promote vocations to the religious life and to enhance their own spiritual lives.

Serra International, based in Chicago, has nearly 15,000 members in about 500 clubs worldwide. It is “the premier, singly focused lay organization within the church to foster and support religious vocations,” said Greg Schwietz, president of Serra’s national council for the United States.

Pope St. John Paul II described Serra’s mission in this way: “Serrans accept as their responsibility the promotion of vocations to the priesthood and religious life. They possess a deep appreciation of the ministerial priesthood as being essential to the church. Serrans have been generous in offering their support to those who hear the call to serve Christ in the priesthood” and other forms of the religious life.

The idea for the clubs began in Seattle in 1935 with four Catholic friends who met together over meals and discussed how their Christian values could be lived out in their professional lives. Soon, more friends began to join them, and they decided to add vocations as a focus of their discussions. They chose Blessed Junipero Serra, founder of the 21 Pacific Coast missions which formed the basis for California cities from San Francisco to San Diego, as their patron.

Serrans throughout the world will take part on Sunday, May 7, in the World Day of Prayer for Vocations, which since 1964 has been observed annually on “Good shepherd Sunday.” Its purpose is to publicly fulfill Jesus’ instruction to “pray the Lord of the harvest” and realize the need here for vocations to be promoted by laypeople,” she said.

“I’ve felt as though I’ve been a Serran all my life, even though I couldn’t officially be part of the organization for a long time. Seeing so many fine young Catholic young men express interest in the priesthood, and having the chance to encourage and pray for them as they discerned God was calling them, has been my greatest satisfaction in all my years of involvement with Serra,” West said.

The downtown Serra Club, “Adoration ended with Mass in the chapel with a few of the seminarians. It was very powerful for a young man to see the incredible devotion of the seminarians, priests, and Serra members. It no doubt helped shape the man I am today.”

The downtown club usually meets for lunch and a vocations-related talk on the second and fourth Fridays of each month in the Cavello Center at Columbus St. Charles Preparatory School. Its officers, besides Neutzling, include Virginia Hardy, vice president; Charles Kielkopf, secretary; Robert Horton, treasurer; Michael Kreber, communications vice president; Tom Murphy and Glenn Estapa, program vice presidents; Daniel Martin, membership vice president; and Marjo Angelo, vocations vice president.

The North Columbus Serra Club was chartered in 1999 as the 882nd in the organization. Bishop James Griffin had requested establishment of a Serra Club in northern Franklin County in response to that area’s rapid growth, which led to formation in the 1980s and 1990s of several parishes that now are among the largest in the diocese. The club’s founding president was Don Barcza.

The club meets once a month at noon for lunch and a speaking program, usually at the Josephinum’s Jessing Center. Its executive board includes Bill Messersly, president; Rose Mary Finneran, president-elect; Mary Ann Kent, secretary; and Frank Hartge, treasurer.

The club’s May meeting is an annual day of reflection at the Josephinum. It

See SERRA CLUB, Page 13
SERRA CLUB, continued from Page 12

is scheduled this year on Tuesday, May 2, with Msgr. Frank Lane as speaker, from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. The cost is $25 per person.

The downtown club has been a longtime sponsor of the all-night Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at Columbus Our Lady of Victory Church, which begins at 8 a.m. on the first Friday of every month and continues until Mass at 8 a.m. Saturday.

For the last 27 years, the club has been the host of an annual summer cookout for diocesan priests and seminarians at St. Charles. Every other year, the club gathers for dinner with the bishop in October and presents him with an honorarium.

The club also sponsors an annual awards program for altar servers from throughout the diocese at Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral on Mother’s Day. Each parish is invited to nominate two servers for the awards, which are presented by the bishop. The program is followed by a gathering in the cathedral undercroft.

Club members take part in an “Adopt a Seminarian” program. Each member is given the name of someone from the diocese who is studying for the priesthood and is asked to stay in touch with him. This can take the form of taking the seminarian to lunch or other events and otherwise being available to provide spiritual and possible financial support.

The North Columbus club has conducted annual Life Awareness Youth Luncheons at the Josephinum since 2000 for young men and women of the diocese aged 13 to 18.

“The project was developed, first, to introduce students to the general process of discerning God’s call for each individual and his or her life’s vocation, and second, to educate students about the specific process of discernment for those seeking the ordained priesthood or consecrated religious life, the education required before taking vows, and the joys, challenges, and realities of living one’s life in total dedication to the Lord and his church,” said club member Ellyn Dekker.

“There are separate luncheons for young men and young women. Invitations are sent to diocesan Catholic high schools and some parish schools’ eighth-graders. Home- and public-school students are invited through the Catholic Times, youth groups, and other appropriate networks. Lunch is provided for all students and teachers. A priest or sister speaks to the students on the topic of vocation, and a tour of the Josephinum is provided by seminarians and staff.”

The popularity of these events has grown since the first luncheon in 2000, which included 60 boys. For the last several years, more than 200 students have attended each of the two events.

North Columbus Serrans also sponsor an annual event for the religious sisters of the diocese at the Martin de Porres Center, located adjacent to the Motherhouse of the Dominican Sisters of Peace in Columbus. Dekker says it attracts more than 100 sisters each year and includes entertainment and door prizes. The club also sends cards to all priests of the diocese on the anniversary of their ordination to the priesthood.

Messerly said that since January, each club member has been asked to commit to one hour per month in front of the Blessed Sacrament to pray for priests and for an increase in religious vocations.

More information on both Columbus Serra clubs is available at their joint website, www.serracolumbus.org.

In addition to the two Serra clubs, the Knox-Licking Deanery has a similar organization known as the Knox-Licking Vocations Club. Its president, Dee Jones, said it was organized in the late 1990s, has 22 members, and meets on the second Tuesday of each month at noon for lunch and a talk at Heath St. Leonard Church.

She said its activities include sending birthday cards to seminarians and active and retired priests from the deanery; sending gift cards to deanery seminarians at Christmas; delivering snacks and fresh fruit to all seminarians at the Josephinum during exam weeks in December and May; celebrating Priesthood Sunday in October by having schoolchildren make and send cards to priests and encouraging parishes to make a poster; promoting that day and the World Day of Prayer for Vocations through bulletin announcements; donating to religious orders; and conducting a vocations fair at Newark St. Francis de Sales Church.
Third Sunday of Easter (Cycle A)

Jesus is recognized ‘in the breaking of bread’

Father Lawrence L. Hummer

Acts 2:14,22-33;
1 Peter 1: 17-21;

The Acts reading backs up from last week’s reading to relate parts of Peter’s first speech. In the entire speech, we hear frequent quotations from the Old Testament Scriptures in order to show how Jesus the Nazorean fulfilled them all. Sunday’s reading quotes three verses from Psalm 16:8-11 which are attributed to David, as all the Psalms once were thought to be. There also was a veiled reference to Psalm 132:11, concerning God’s swearing an oath to David that he always would have an heir on his throne.

Interpreting Acts and speeches like the one contained here is always going to be problematic. We are certain that Luke wrote Acts, as well as the Gospel attributed to him. We are fairly certain that both works were written in the 80s of the first century. What always will be a problem is understanding what, if anything, was spoken by Peter in these speeches. We know the theological thinking behind them was Luke’s. But whether any of the speeches, or parts of them, came from the historical Peter is impossible to tell.

With Acts being written in the 80s and Peter probably having been martyred in the early 60s, it remains impossible to say what would have come from Peter.

Stylistically, the first part of Acts, from chapters one to eight, is primarily about Peter, as chapters 10 through 12 will be. Acts 13 on is solely about Paul. In this early action, Peter is trying to convince residents of Jerusalem that Jesus the Nazorean was the fulfillment of the Old Testament, here citing Psalm 16:8-11. This speech follows the reception of the Holy Spirit as Luke relates it in Acts 2.

David never is called a prophet in the Old Testament, but people like David attain “bigger-than-life” status as time passes. In the Qumran documents, many of which were written during the New Testament period, David was regarded as a prophet. Luke must have reflected some contemporary belief circulating in the early church that David was a prophet. It is unlikely that he invented the idea on his own. If David “foresaw and spoke of the resurrection of the Christ,” we can only regard that as later Christian interpretation of writings from 1,000 years after the time of David.

Christian authors found in the Old Testament writings texts which they understood to be fulfilled by Jesus of Nazareth. Because David was thought to be the author of the book of Psalms, and Christians found many of the Psalms were understood as referring to Jesus, they naturally called David a prophet of the coming of Christ Jesus.

Biblical prophets were not so much seers of the future as they were students of their own times who could see where certain policies were leading the nation. That meant, as one learned teacher observed, that they were “forth-tellers,” not “fore-tellers.”

Turning to the Gospel, we note the unique post-resurrection account of the two disciples on the road to Emmaus. Jesus was with them on their seven-mile walk, pretending to be ignorant of the events that had just happened in Jerusalem. Jesus then proceeded to explain all that the prophets spoke, “beginning with Moses.” We are not told what passages referred to him, but we know that the disciples did not recognize him in his risen state until the breaking of bread with them.

Recognition came only after he used the same formula as used in Luke’s gospel at the Last Supper: “Their eyes were opened and they recognized him.” It remains for us to recognize him “in the breaking of bread.” It is here that we experience the risen Jesus.

Father Lawrence Hummer may be reached at hummerl@stmarychillicothe.com.
The importance of Jackie Robinson

In the history of the modern American civil rights movement, three iconic moments are typically cited.


August 28, 1963: Two hundred thousand Americans participate in the March on Washington and hear Martin Luther King Jr. proclaim his dream of a nation in which his children will be judged by the content of their character rather than the color of their skin; ten months later, Congress enacts the 1964 Civil Rights Act.

March 3, 1965: Civil rights marchers are assaulted by police tear gas and billy clubs on the Edmund Pettis Bridge in Selma, Alabama; five months later, President Lyndon Johnson signs into law the Voting Rights Act, vindicating the Selma marchers’ cause.

These were noble moments, worth remembering. I certainly cherish my memories of encounters with Bayard Rustin, who organized the March that made Dr. King a national eminence. Yet I also believe there was a fourth iconic moment in America’s journey from a land fouled by segregation to the most racially egalitarian nation on the planet. The man at the center of that fourth dramatic moment was an American legend whose accomplishments should rank as high as anyone’s in the pantheon of civil rights heroes.

On April 15, 1947, the Brooklyn Dodgers opened their National League season against the Boston Braves at Ebbets Field. The Dodger first baseman that day was Jackie Robinson, the first African-American to play in a major league game since the infamous “color line” was drawn in the 1880s. At UCLA from 1939 to 1941, Robinson was perhaps the nation’s greatest amateur athlete – a star in track and field, football, and basketball. After service as an Army officer in World War II, he was playing shortstop for the Kansas City Monarchs of the Negro American League when he was signed to a minor league contract by “The Mahatma,” Branch Rickey, a cigar-chomping Methodist and the Dodgers’ general manager. Rickey was determined to break the color line, and he deliberately chose Jack Roosevelt Robinson to do so.

And not because Jackie Robinson was a mild-mannered wallflower. But precisely because he was a warrior who, in the words of Leo Durocher, “didn’t just come to play, he come to shove the (expletive deleted) bat ... ” (I’ll leave the rest of the quote to your imagination). Robinson was to be a warrior with a difference, however: Rickey, an adept psychologist who believed in the essential fairness of the American people, wanted a man with the courage not to fight back against the racist slurs, beanballs, and spikings that were sure to come his way – except by giving an unforgettable performance on the field.

Which is what Jackie Robinson, the immortal Number 42, delivered. Grainy black-and-white videos today remind us of a truth the baseball world learned 70 years ago this month: there never has been anything more exciting in baseball, including the majestic home run and the overpowering no-hitter, than 42 stealing a base, especially home. Rather than hollering back at bigots during his rookie year, Robinson beat them with a slashing, attacking style of baseball that helped lift the Dodgers to the National League pennant and brought them within one game of a World Series victory over the lordly Yankees (who didn’t sign an African-American player until Elston Howard in 1955).

It was a performance for the ages. And it changed America.

In this entertainment-saturated 21st century, it may be hard to recall the grip baseball had on the national emotions and imagination in 1947. But as the late Columbia University cultural historian Jacques Barzun (an immigrant from France) used to say, whoever wants to understand the heart and mind of America had better understand baseball. On April 14, 1947, that nation-defining pastime still embodied the nation’s original sin. The next day, Jackie Robinson began to accelerate a change in America’s heart and mind. That change made possible Brown v. Board of Education, the Civil Rights Act, and the Voting Rights Act.

On the sapphire jubilee of his first game in the majors, America owes 42 an enormous round of applause and a prayer for the repose of a noble soul.

George Weigel is Distinguished Senior Fellow of the Ethics and Public Policy Center in Washington, D.C.
Affordable summer courses at ODU

College students in central Ohio will have a convenient and affordable option to keep their education on track this summer. Ohio Dominican University will offer more than 50 undergraduate courses at less than half the usual cost. Courses for traditional undergraduate students will be available for $350 per credit hour, which is significantly less than the current price of $720 per credit hour.

ODU’s summer undergraduate courses will cover a wide range of fields of study, including art, science, business, education, English, foreign language, history, and theology. The courses will be available in a variety of flexible formats, either online, at ODU’s campus at 1216 Sunbury Road in Columbus, or in a combination of both formats.

The sessions will range from two to eight weeks in length, with available start dates in May, June, and July.

To learn more about Ohio Dominican’s summer course offerings, visit ohioedominican.edu/Summer. If you have questions, contact ODU’s admissions office at (614) 251-4500 or admissions@ohiodominican.edu.

“After receiving a tremendous response last year, we decided to again offer summer courses at one of the lowest tuition rates in the region,” said Dr. Theresa Holleran, ODU vice president for academic affairs. “Summer is the perfect time for students to either catch up in course work or get a head start on the fall semester. One of the major advantages of ODU’s courses are that they are easily transferrable to other universities, which makes ODU’s summer courses attractive to all college students.”

Students who participate in summer courses at ODU and/or an internship in central Ohio are eligible to live on campus. Convenient on-campus housing is available for $100 per week (minimum four-week stay) to non-ODU students and $350 per month for ODU students. Affordable meal options are also available for residents.

Jason M. Martinsek

Funeral Mass for Jason M. Martinsek, 40, who died Tuesday, April 18, was held Monday, April 24, at Columbus St. Agatha Church. Burial was at St. Joseph Cemetery, Columbus.

He was born April 24, 1976, to Ralph and Patsy Martinsek.

He had been employed by the information technology department of the Diocese of Columbus since 2013.

“He will be missed a lot, not just for his programming skills, but mostly for his humor, his passion, and his compassion,” said Steve Nasdeo, diocesan information technology director.

“First and foremost, Jason was a loving father to his three children and would tell us how proud he was of their accomplishments. Jason was an extremely hard worker. He was usually the first person in the IT office in the morning. He told me he wanted to provide the departments with the best service he could.”

“He was a lot of fun to work with. He always had a smile and his laugh was infectious. He drove every project, wanting every one to be the best he did. He cared about his work and greatly enjoyed working on providing solutions that helped people.”

Survivors include his parents; sons, Alexander and Andrew; daughter, Annie; and brother, Joseph.

Mary Hauslbetz

Funeral Mass for Mary Hauslbetz, 85, who died Tuesday, April 11, was held Tuesday, April 18 at Columbus Christ the King Church. Burial was at St. Joseph Cemetery, Columbus.

She was born Dec. 4, 1931 in Columbus to the late Max and Cecilia (Feldmeier) Hauslbetz and was a graduate of Columbus Sacred Heart elementary and high schools.

She was employed for more than 50 years by the Columbus diocesan office of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith. After retirement, she was a longtime volunteer for the Catholic Record Society. She was a Christ the King parishioner for most of her life.

Survivors include a sister, Elizabeth Neal; one nephew, and two nieces.
Happenings

April

27, Thursday
Hesburgh Lecture on ’The Princess Culture’
6 p.m., Cristo Rey High School, 400 E. Town St., Columbus. Notre Dame Club of Columbus and Central Ohio’s annual Hesburgh lecture. Topic: “The Princess Culture,” with Dr. Susan Ohmer, associate professor of film, television, and theater at the University of Notre Dame.
614-766-5948

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.

28, Friday
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. “Christ in the City” program with Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, confessions, Taize chant, and night prayer, followed by refreshments at a local pub.
614-224-9522

28-29, Thursday-Saturday
Bishop Ready Recycling Drive
10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Thursday, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and 6 to 9 p.m. Thursday to 2 p.m. Saturday, Bishop Ready High School, 707 Salisbury Road, Columbus. Collection of electronic items for recycling, to benefit school boys basketball team. $10 fee per delivery and additional $10 for each computer or TV tube monitor.
614-276-5263, extension 231

Three Bags Full Consignment Sale
10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Thursday, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Friday, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday (selected items half-price Friday night and Saturday), Hartford Fairgrounds, 14028 Fairgrounds Road, Croton. Three Bags Full consignment sale of children’s items. Unsold and unclaimed items are donated to Catholic and pro-life charities.

29, Saturday
Sua Sponte Run at Ohio Dominican
8 a.m., Ohio Dominican University, 1216 Sunbury Road, Columbus. Five-mile run sponsored by ODU Sua Sponte student-veteran association to inspire veterans to advance their education following military service.

30, Sunday
Mgsr. Schreck’s 40th Anniversary Mass at Josephinum
7 p.m., St. Turibius Chapel, Pontifical College Josephinum, 7625 N. High St., Columbus. Mgsr. Christopher Schreck, college’s rector-president, celebrates Mass to mark the 45th anniversary of his ordination, followed by reception.
614-885-5585

Praise Mass at Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal
11 a.m., Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal Church, 5225 Refugee Road, Columbus. Praise Mass with upbeat contemporary music.
614-861-1242

St. Padre Pio Secular Franciscans
1 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.
614-653-1802

Concerts in a Country Church
3 p.m., St. Colman of Cloyne Church, 219 S. North St., Washington Court House. “Tones, Tunes, and Teens” with the Hillsboro High School symphonic choir, including an Easter hymn festival with audience participation. Part of parish’s “Concerts in a Country Church” series. Tickets $10 at door.

5-6, Tuesday
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

St. Dominic Gospel Choir Concert
5 p.m., St. Dominic Church, 451 N. 20th St., Columbus. Annual concert of parish Gospel choir, directed by Vernon Hairston.
614-252-5926

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

Chris Spielman Talk at St. John Neumann
7 p.m., St. John Neumann Church, 9633 E. State Route 37, Sunbury. Talk by WXZX-FM sports talk show host and former Ohio State and NFL star Chris Spielman on “Triumph Over Tragedy: Maintaining a Faith-Filled, Positive Outlook in the Midst of Challenges.”
740-965-1358

May

1, Monday
Aquinas Alumni Luncheon
11 a.m., St. Charles Preparatory School, 2010 E. Broad St., Columbus. Monthly Columbus Aquinas High School alumni luncheon.

Marian Prayer Group at Holy Spirit
7 p.m., Day chapel, Holy Spirit Church, 4383 E. Broad St., Columbus, Marian Movement of Priests Cenacle Mass for Catholic family life.
614-235-7435

2, Tuesday
Catholic War Veterans Monthly Meeting
7 p.m., Red Room, St. Peter Church, 6899 Smoky Row Road, Columbus. Catholic War Veterans Post 1936 meeting. For those who served three months, were honorably discharged, or are on active duty.
614-638-6767

Catholic War Veterans Regional Meeting
7 p.m., Room 1, St. Peter Church, 6899 Smoky Row Road, Columbus. Catholic War Veterans Post 1936 meeting. For those who served three months, were honorably discharged, or are on active duty.
614-221-7601

Abortion Recovery Network Group
7 p.m., Pregnancy Decision Health Center, 665 E. Dublin-Granville Road, Columbus. Abortion recovery network group meeting for anyone interested in recovering from abortion or who has been through a recovery program, and wants to stay connected.
614-721-2100

Recent Program for Young Adults
614-853-1400

3, Wednesday
Red Mass at Cathedral
5:30 p.m., St. Joseph Cathedral, 212 E. Broad St., Columbus. Annual Red Mass for those in professions dealing with law and justice, with Bishop Frederick Campbell as homilist and principal celebrant.
614-224-1295

Catholic Men’s Luncheon Club
12:15 p.m., St. Patrick Church, 280 N. Grant Ave., Columbus. Catholic Men’s Luncheon Club meeting. “Talk by papal missionary of mercy Father Thomas Blau, OP, St. Patrick’s parochial vicar, on “Real Men Pray the Rosary.”

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

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

Catholic Men’s Luncheon Club
12:15 p.m., St. Patrick Church, 280 N. Grant Ave., Columbus. Catholic Men’s Luncheon Club meeting. “Talk by papal missionary of mercy Father Thomas Blau, OP, St. Patrick’s parochial vicar, on “Real Men Pray the Rosary.”

St. John Chrysostom First Friday Sale
4 to 6 p.m., St. John Chrysostom Byzantine Catholic Church, 3585 Cleveland Ave., Columbus. First Friday sale of pies, stuffed cabbage, noodles, baked goods.

Transitional Deacon Ordination at St. Andrew
7 p.m., St. Andrew Church, 1899 McCray Road, Columbus. Mass of ordination of five seminarians as transitional deacons by Bishop Frederick Campbell, followed by reception.

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

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

By Jim Shiley

Sunbury St. John Neumann Church’s Good Samaritan Ministry (GSM) was founded in October 2015 to engage parishioners to share the blessings of their faith and to provide funds for outreach and discipleship programs which would serve the greatest number of individuals in the most effective way.

Last November, GSM received a letter from a woman in Chillicothe who asked for assistance for victims of flooding that occurred in West Virginia in June. The letter described the horrible living conditions that remained almost six months after the devastating flood - people still living in tents, not having heat and/or electricity, and many homes still needing drastic repairs. Father David Sizemore, St. John Neumann’s pastor, forwarded the letter to the GSM to see what, if any, assistance we could provide.

We decided to make contact with Father Rene Gerona, SVD, the priest at Risen Lord Church in Maysel, West Virginia, the only Catholic church in the area. After conversations with Father Rene and a trip to the area to survey the damage and discuss ways we could help, GSM decided to organize a mission trip. Our hope was that we could organize a team of 12 to 14 volunteers to assist in reconstruction of a few severely damaged homes.

Twenty-four parishioners responded to our request, and much work went into organizing and planning the trip. GSM approved funds to assist with the immediate needs of the community, including restocking the depleted food pantry (which supports 155 people), and provided money to help purchase of smoke alarms and fire extinguishers. Many people had resorted to wood-burning stoves to heat their homes, since gas service had not been restored after the flood.

From March 31 to April 9, St. John Neumann parishioners worked on 13 homes and completed several minor repairs to Risen Lord Church. Many of those we assisted were not parishioners of the church, and in fact most were not Catholic. Major repairs were done on the home of a Baptist minister. At times, we had as many as 15 parishioners on site replacing warped floors, rebuilding decks, adding doors, removing and replacing walls, or adding insulation, etc.

One volunteer brought his entire construction crew to Maysel. They were able to stabilize the foundation for an elderly woman whose home had moved off its foundation. At the request of Father Rene, the crew returned a few days later to provide assistance in construction of a new home for a gentleman whose original home had been destroyed by fire.

During our works of mercy, we met Janet, an elderly woman whose husband had a stroke after the flood and ultimately died in a nursing home because his home was not fit for him to occupy. Our team cleaned mud out of the basement, and because of the generous donation of materials, time, and labor of our parishioners, we were able to install flooring and make repairs so Janet’s grandson, Sean, would have a clean, safe place to live with her.

We also met a young mother with a one-year-old child whose deck, her only means of entrance into her home, was falling apart and unsafe. Our team was able to reconstruct the deck so the family would have a safe entrance to its home. We were able to assist a woman named Sonja and her husband with repairs to their mobile home, including installation of drywall and other repairs to make the home safer.

Our parishioners responded overwhelmingly to our request for donations for Risen Lord’s weekend backpack program, which sends food and snacks for the weekend home with 105 schoolchildren to ensure they have food when they are not in school. We helped put together the sacks of food and were able to stock the church with enough food to sustain the program for several weeks.

As a result of the outpouring of love from our parish, volunteers spent 1,016 hours completing work on the 13 homes and several small projects at Risen Lord Church. Father Rene will be visiting Sunbury on the weekend of June 9 to 11 to give his testimony of the support provided by the Good Samaritan Ministry and St. John Neumann Church.

We would like to thank all parishioners who donate to our outreach to the poor, and all the volunteers who participated in this mission trip and donated their time, money, hard work, food, and, most importantly, prayers, to the people of Maysel and Clay County, West Virginia.

Our volunteers took a part of the Maysel community home with us in our hearts, and we hope we have left a part of our St. John Neumann community in their hearts as well.

For more information on the Good Samaritan Ministry, visit http://www.saintjohnsunbury.org/ministries/outreach/good-samaritan-ministry.
Collection set for Mother’s Day to support national shrine’s dome project

By Catholic News Service

A special one-time national collection will be taken at U.S. parishes at Masses on the weekend of Mother’s Day, Sunday, May 14, to support the mosaic ornamentation of the Trinity Dome, the “crowning jewel” of the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception.

The mosaic will depict the Trinity, Mary, 13 saints associated with the United States or the national shrine, the four evangelists, and words from the Nicene Creed.

The finished dome also will mark completion of the shrine, according to the original architectural plans for the church, which is set to mark its centennial in 2020 – the 100th anniversary of the placement of its foundational stone.

The U.S. Catholic bishops approved the special collection in November 2015 during their annual fall general assembly. The last time a national collection was taken up for the shrine was in 1953.

Last October, during the blessing of the workspace where the new mosaic will be installed, Cardinal Donald W. Wuerl, archbishop of Washington, said the work of art “will be a wonder to behold.” It is expected to be completed by the end of this year.

Work on the mosaic is being done at the Travisanutto Giovanni mosaic company in Spilimbergo, Italy. It is being shipped to the national shrine in 30,000 sections weighing 24 tons and composed of more than 14 million pieces of glass.

Cardinal Wuerl, who is chairman of the shrine’s board of trustees, offered prayers during the blessing for the success of the project and the safety of the workers involved. He said the shrine puts into “image form” the message of the Gospel, and does so “in a way that everyone can bask in its beauty.”

He said the finished dome, with its emphasis on American saints, will remind people of the “face of who we are and the face of God.” He also said it will reflect “living images of God and living images of everything we are capable of being.”

In introductory remarks, Msgr. Walter Rossi, rector of the shrine, stressed the parallels between the mosaic design on the dome and the character of the shrine itself – often described as America’s Catholic church, representing a mosaic of Catholic parishioners from every corner of the world.

Cardinal Wuerl and Msgr. Rossi noted that the scaffolding itself, allowing the workers to complete the work on the dome, was an engineering feat. Work on the scaffolding began early in 2016.

Education Information Session at ODU

Ohio Dominican University will host an adult and continuing education information session from 6 to 7 p.m. Wednesday, May 3 in the Bishop James A. Griffin Student Center on ODU’s campus at 1215 Sunbury Road, Columbus.

To register for the information session, visit ohiodominican.edu/InfoSession.

During this free event, those attending will learn about ODU’s wide range of high-demand degrees and certificates available on campus and online. ODU offers programs in various fields, including business, insurance and risk management, and supply chain management.

For more information, contact adult@ohiodominican.edu or (614) 251-7400. Explore all of ODU’s degree and certificate offerings at ohiodominican.edu/adult.
Apostolic nuncio talks about the qualities that make a good priest

BY TIM PUET
Reporter, Catholic Times

The pope’s apostolic nuncio to the United States told students at the nation’s only Vatican-affiliated seminary that a priest’s “office hours” are unlimited.

“It’s important to say this to young seminarians: Don’t prepare yourselves to be administrative people, to say ‘I work from 8 to 6 and after that, it’s finished and I take my rest. ‘No, you are full-time,” Archbishop Christophe Pierre said during a question-and-answer session Sunday, April 23 at the Pontifical College Josephinum.

“Your enthusiasm is so important,” he continued. “This country needs the church announcing the beauty of the presence of God in Jesus Christ, the power of his resurrection, and the power of transformation found in the Gospel, in which whenever a person met Jesus, he became different.”

The remarks came after Archbishop Pierre delivered the college’s annual lecture honoring the late Cardinal Pio Laghi, who served from 1980-90 as the Vatican’s apostolic delegate to the United States and, after the title was changed, as nuncio, the equivalent of an ambassador.

In his position as the pope’s representative to the United States, Archbishop Pierre also is chancellor of the college, the only seminary outside Italy with pontifical status, an honor Pope Leo XIII granted to the institution in 1882.

The archbishop made frequent reference in his talk on “The Priests We Need Today” to a document on priestly formation titled The Gift of the Priestly Vocation, which the Vatican’s Congregation for the Clergy issued this past Dec. 8.

In its introduction, the document, formally known as a Ratio Fundamentalis, echoed a phrase made familiar by Pope Francis when it stated “Seminaries should form missionary disciples who are ‘in love’ with the Master, shepherds with the smell of the sheep, who live in their midst to bring the mercy of God to them. Hence, every priest should always feel that he is a disciple on a journey, constantly needing an integrated formation, understood as a continuous configuration to Christ.”

The archbishop referred to Pope Francis’ description of priests in formation as “uncut diamonds, to be formed both patiently and carefully, respecting the conscience of the individual, so that they may shine among the people of God.”

“Formation for the priesthood is best understood within the concept of the journey of discipleship,” said Archbishop Pierre, 71, a native of France who has been nuncio to the United States for a little more than a year after serving as nuncio to Mexico for nine years. He has been a member of the Vatican diplomatic corps for 40 years and previously was nuncio to Haiti and Uganda.

“Christ himself calls each person by name,” first through baptism, followed by the other sacraments of initiation, the archbishop said. “The journey begins with his family and parish. It is there … that his vocation is nurtured, culminating in entrance into the seminary. The gift of the vocation comes from God to the church and to the world. A vocation should never be conceived as something private, to be followed in an individualistic or self-referential manner.”

The model of formation proposed in the document “prepares the seminarian and priest to make a gift of himself to the church – to go out of himself, to not be self-referential, but to look to the essential needs of the flock,” Archbishop Pierre said. The document sees this formation as taking place in four stages: a preparatory phase, philosophical and theological studies, and immediate preparation for ordination.

He said six characteristics are particularly needed by the 21st-century priest – missionary spirit, humility, communion and unity, prayerfulness, discernment, and closeness to the flock.

He returned to the document’s phrase describing priests as “missionary disciples,” saying such a person is “one who follows the Lord, but who also goes out with joy,” who, in the words of Pope Francis’ apostolic exhortation Evangelii Gaudium, “obey(s) his call to go forth from our own comfort zone in order to reach all the peripheries in need of the light of the Gospel.”

Archbishop Pierre said priests who are formed in the virtue of humility “can recognize their weakness, yet also be humble enough to receive the gift of a priestly vocation. This is what the Holy Father calls (in his homily at the 2016 Holy Thursday Chrism Mass) a ‘healthy tension between a dignified shame and a shamed dignity.’”

“This call to be a disciple and this raising up to be a priest is a gift,” the archbishop continued. “The church needs priests today who are willing to receive this gift as men of communion.” He quoted from a talk earlier this month in which the pope told seminarians at the Pontifical Spanish College, “It is an ongoing challenge to overcome individualism, to live diversity as a gift, striving for unity of the presbyteriate, which is a sign of the presence of God in the life of a community.”

Archbishop Pierre said the church needs prayerful priests because “communion with the one who gave himself to us is what allows the priest to open himself to others. … If we are to share in his mission, then we must first come to know him in prayer.” He noted that Pope Francis has said “Prayer is the first step, because one must open oneself to the Lord to be able to open to others.”

The archbishop again turned to the papal talk to the Pontifical Spanish College to discuss the subject of discernment. The pope said this habit “allows (priests) … to value every motion and moment, even that which seems in opposition and contradictory, and to sift out what comes from the Spirit, a grace that we should ask for on our knees.”

Archbishop Pierre concluded his description of the qualities of a modern priest by returning to the description of the priest as a missionary disciple. “Having listened to God’s word, with a missionary heart and lifestyle, simple and humble, one can go forth to accompany the flock, to be with them and walk with them,” he said. “In the words of the Holy Father, ‘walking with our people, sometimes in front, sometimes in the middle, and sometimes behind: in front in order to guide the community, in the middle in order to encourage and support, and at the back in order to keep it united and so that no one lags too far behind.’”

Archbishop Pierre also was at the Josephinum for a rededication on April 24 of the college’s chapel of St. Turibius of Mogrovejo, the archbishop of Lima, Peru, from 1580-1606, who is patron of the Latin American episcopate and founder of the first seminary in the Americas.

He described St. Turibius as a model of missionary discipleship. “He knew the conditions of his diocese … because he went forth to evangelize,” he said. “He preferred missionary work to that of administration, even though he was a gifted administrator. He spent 17 of his 25 years as archbishop of Lima on the road, directly administering to his people.

“Although the figures vary, it is estimated that he baptized and/or confirmed nearly half a million people, including (Saints) Rose of Lima and Martin de Porres. He desired to create a community of holiness among his flock, and he would lead them by the example of his life.”

“Today, the church needs priests who are close not only to the people, but to the Lord. In the end, God had primacy in his (St. Turibius’) life. This is the church’s expectation for its clergy,” Archbishop Pierre said.

“Holiness of life is not something abstract. Turibius sought to build a community of holiness. His canonization, as well as the canonizations of Rose of Lima and Martin de Porres, are proof that holiness today is possible. The priests the church needs today must be men who witness to the holiness of God. The church today needs more priests like Turibius of Mogrovejo.”

(CT photo by Ken Snow)