The Editor’s Notebook

Life is the right that precedes all others

By David Garick, Editor

This week, Catholic Times again focuses on the premier issue of our times — in fact, the transcendent issue for all time: the right to life. This week marked another anniversary of the most shameful and insidious chapter in the history of the American nation, the decision by our government that abortion is a right, that the killing of unborn children is protected by the Constitution.

Forty-four years have passed since the U.S. Supreme Court issued its Roe v. Wade decision. More than 53 million children have died. Supporters of free access to abortion call this the right to choose. In any other instance, the systematic killing of 53 million people would be called genocide. We also face increasing threats to life in the form of doctor-assisted suicide and euthanasia.

The spirit of our times tells us that we must not bring our faith into the public square. The implication is that our peculiar beliefs should be kept to ourselves, locked away behind the closed doors of our homes and churches. We must not interfere with the right of every person to make up his or her own concept of right and wrong. But if we do that, we deny the very dignity that God created in a humanity made in his own image and endowed with the most basic of all rights — the right to life.

That is a right we are called to defend. We each bear a responsibility to act on this fundamental right. In a democracy, that means we carry out our duty in the marketplace of ideas. We advocate for laws to protect innocent life, we vote to elect lawmakers who will enact laws that protect life, we apply all legal means to pressure our government to respect and defend life. That has led to a host of laws that help to protect life in states around the nation. A new administration has taken its place in Washington, with a pledge to support laws protecting all human life and to appoint Supreme Court justices that will restore the right to life in the Constitution.

The abortion rate nationwide is down to its lowest level since the Supreme Court made abortion legal virtually on demand in 1973. It is at half of its early-1980s peak.

According to a study issued Jan. 17 by the Guttmacher Institute, the abortion rate for U.S. women ages 15-44 is 14.6 per 1,000 in 2014, the last year for which statistics are available. This represents a 14 percent decline from the 2011 numbers and less than half of the 1981 rate of 29.4 abortions per 1,000 women of childbearing age.

The percentage of pregnancies ending in abortion is down to 18.8 percent, a decline of nearly two-fifths below its 1983 peak of 30.3 percent. A statement by the Guttmacher Institute, which supports legal abortion, said the study “did not directly investigate reasons behind the declining abortion rate,” but suggested “the wave of abortion restrictions passed at the state level over the last five years” could have contributed at least in part to the decline. Laws are changing in favor of life. Even more importantly, hearts are changing. People are beginning to see abortion, euthanasia, assisted suicide, and other affronts to the dignity of life for what they are.

We have won some important battles. But the struggle continues. The forces of evil are very strong and will rise up again to challenge the sanctity of life. We must remain resolute. Our challenge is not just to defend the theology of our church, but rather to stand up for a principle that is universal: that all human life is sacred and must be protected.

Front Page photo:
Participants in the Jan. 23 pro-life rally at the Statehouse fill Greater Columbus Right to Life’s “Soles for Souls” display with about 200 pairs of baby shoes, representing the number of abortions per month in Columbus. CT photo by Ken Snow

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Pope asks Dominicans to lead people to certainty of Gospel

By Cindy Wooden
Catholic News Service

In an age that often seems to be a “carnival of worldly curiosity,” Christians are called to lead people to the solid ground of the Gospel as St. Dominic did, Pope Francis said.

“We are moving in a so-called ‘liquid society’ which is without fixed points, scattered, deprived of solid and stable reference points, a culture of the ephemeral, of the use-and-dispose,” the pope told members of the Dominican order.

At Rome’s Basilica of St. John Lateran, the pope celebrated Mass on Jan. 21 with the Order of Preachers, which was founded 800 years ago, and with women religious and lay people who trace their spirituality to St. Dominic.

In his homily, Pope Francis reflected on St. Paul’s second letter to Timothy and its description of proclaiming the Gospel at a time when people were “always seeking new teachers, myths, different doctrines and ideologies.”

He said the situation today is even more exaggerated because of “the seduction of subjective relativism.”

The response must be to attract people to the unchanging truth of faith in God and in the Gospel, he told the Dominicans.

When a Christian gives glory to God through his or her actions and words, Pope Francis said, people will notice and ask, “Why doesthat person act that way?”

The Gospel calls Christians to be salt of the earth and light for the world, he said. “Woe to a church that loses its flavor. Woe to a priest, a consecrated person, a congregation that loses its flavor.”

St. Dominic, he said, was “full of the light and salt of Christ” and preached the Gospel with “the word and his life,” helping many men and women to “not become lost in the carnival of worldly curiosity,” but to experience “the taste of sound doctrine, the taste of the Gospel, and become, in turn, light and salt, artisans of good works.”

Closing the celebrations of the Dominicans’ 800th anniversary, the Mass came at the end of a five-day Congress on Mission to examine the situations in which Dominicans are called to preach, to promote cooperation across the different Dominican branches, and to evaluate where the order’s missionary outreach needs strengthening.

Dominican Father Vivian Boland, vicar of the master of the order, told Catholic News Service on Jan. 17 that in almost any situation of difficulty or challenge, “there are Dominicans somewhere in the world trying to respond to those questions.”

He said Pope Francis is an example for members of the order in helping others not just through their words, but also with concrete action.

“I think that’s something that we’ve learned again from him during the past year” after Pope Francis addressed the order’s general chapter, Father Boland said. “He talked about how we need to source our words in relation to the cry of the body of Christ, the needs of people. Not just our words, but acts of tenderness.”

New Marist poll shows Americans strongly support abortion restrictions

By Kurt Jensen
Catholic News Service

A few days before the annual March for Life, a new national poll indicated that public attitudes, regardless of political affiliation, are shifting in favor of increased restrictions on abortion.

“When you ask Americans what they think of abortion ... you get very, very strong numbers in favor of restrictions,” said Andrew T. Walther, vice president of communications of the Knights of Columbus, during a Jan. 23 news conference live-streamed to reporters.

The Marist survey of 2,729 adults was conducted in December and sponsored by the Knights of Columbus. It contains breakdowns by political affiliations and ethnicity, but not religious beliefs, so there was no information on how many respondents were Catholics.

Fifty-two percent of the respondents indicated they would like “significant restrictions” on abortion. That included 91 percent of those who called themselves supporters of President Donald J. Trump and 55 percent of those who identified themselves as Hillary Clinton supporters. The poll further showed that 79 percent of both African-American and Latino respondents favored significant restrictions.

Further, 74 percent said they wanted the Supreme Court to rule on these restrictions, indicating support for overturning the court’s 1973 Roe v. Wade ruling, which legalized abortion virtually on demand.

Eighty-three percent said abortion should be allowed only to save the life of the mother, while 77 percent said it should not be permitted under any circumstance.

In line with Trump’s executive order reinstating what’s called the Mexico City policy, which bans tax dollars from funding groups that promote or perform abortions overseas, 83 percent opposed such use of tax money in other nations, and 62 percent opposed use of tax money for such purposes generally.

Half the respondents thought abortion “has a negative, long-term impact on a woman’s life,” while 19 percent were unsure.

Fifty-nine percent believe that abortion limits are either “important” or an “immediate priority,” and the same percentage agreed when asked if they thought abortion was “morally wrong.”

The same level of support was expressed for an abortion ban after 20 weeks of pregnancy, while 60 percent believed that medical professionals with moral objections to the procedure should not be legally required to provide abortion services.

The 44th annual March for Life, which draws thousands to Washington to commemorate the anniversary of the Supreme Court’s Roe decision, will take place Friday, Jan. 27.
Respect Life By Confronting a Culture of Violence


I made up the headlines, but this is not fake news. It’s really happening. I can vouch for it. Unfortunately, we don’t often see these headlines in the news. An old adage of editors is “If it bleeds, it leads.” Each day, and in real time, we are vividly reminded of the bleeding and hurting in our broken world.

But in the midst of threats of violence and terror, there are courageous people doing something about it. Thousands of people of all ages and backgrounds come together in solidarity to stand against abortion in local communities and at the national March for Life. During the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday, people of all colors march together in peace and unity, recognizing that we are one nation under God. Advocates walk the halls of the Ohio Statehouse addressing the scourge of human trafficking, while others testify against the use of the death penalty.

In his World Day of Peace message for 2017, “Nonviolence: a Style of Politics for Peace,” Pope Francis pledged the assistance of the Church in every effort to build peace through active and creative nonviolence. Active nonviolence as a way of life requires each of us “to acknowledge one another as sacred gifts endowed with immense dignity.” This means respecting life.

Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace, lived in a culture of violence and taught a radical positive approach: to love our enemies, turn the other cheek, and be an instrument of reconciliation. This way of respecting life by confronting violence is integral to the way we live out our faith. Make no mistake, Pope Francis’ message highlights the point that nonviolence is more powerful than violence. He notes people such as St. Mother Teresa, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., and Mahatma Gandhi. They did not surrender or withdraw from daunting challenges, but changed the world through active nonviolence.

It’s Personal. The human heart is the “true battlefield, where violence and peace meet,” as Pope Francis recalls of Jesus’ teaching. As Christians, we must condition our hearts toward peace by an ethic of nonviolence. Their style of politics as peacemakers made a difference.

Family First. It is fundamental to practice nonviolence in the family, the “indispensable crucible” where members should resolve frictions and conflicts by dialogue, respect, concern for the good of the other, mercy, and forgiveness. The Holy Father calls attention to a truth that what spills out of the family spills into society and the entire world. Let that be the joy of love.

Community-Minded. Pope Francis reminds us, especially political and religious leaders, that Jesus offers a “manual” for peacemaking in the form of the Beatitudes. The eight Beatitudes from the Sermon on the Mount offer a style for leaders of society, communities, and businesses to address the affairs of the community. Nonviolence as a style of politics for peace promotes integral human development and care for God’s creation.

Want to reverse the trend of “If it bleeds, it leads” to one of an “If you live the Beatitudes, you lead” way of life? Learn more about the Church’s message on how to respect life by confronting a culture of violence.

Jerry Freewalt is a program director for the diocesan Office for Social Concerns. For more information on the Jubilee Year of Mercy, visit www.usccb.org.

THE 45TH PRESIDENT’S INAUGURATION

Students at Columbus Immaculate Conception School and many other schools throughout the diocese watched history being made during their lunch break on Jan. 20 as they viewed live television coverage of Donald Trump being sworn into office as the 45th president of the United States.

Diocese of Columbus Child Protection Plan

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

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

To contact the diocesan Victim’s Assistance Coordinator, call: The Rev. Msgr. Stephan J. Moloney 614.224.2251 • helpisavailable@colsdioc.org
Locally based author and radio personality Elizabeth Ficocelli will present missions in two diocesan parishes during Lent. She will speak at Lancaster St. Mark Church, 324 Gay St., from Monday to Wednesday, March 6 to 8, and Reynoldsburg St. Pius X Church, 1051 S. Waggoner Road, at 7 p.m. Sunday to Tuesday, March 19 to 21.

Her topic will be “Discovering, Living, and Sharing Our Mission.” On the first night, she will speak on her personal conversion to Catholicism. This talk has been heard by thousands of people across the United States and Canada, inspiring them to reflect on how God has been working in their lives to prepare them for their own special mission.

On the second night, her topic will be the need to unburden ourselves through the Sacrament of Reconciliation from things that may be holding us back and holding us captive, therefore interfering with our ability to fully live our mission.

Her third talk will look at mission from the standpoint of the Church, scripture, saints, and the Mass. It will include practical suggestions on discerning mission, preparing ourselves for it, and what to do when facing adversity, suggesting simple, yet profound ways to bring Christ to the world right where we are in life.

Ficocelli, her husband of 30 years, Mark, and their four sons are St. Pius X parishioners. She has written 15 faith-themed books for adults and young people and many Catholic magazine articles. She also is the host of St. Gabriel Radio’s Answering the Call program and is a frequent guest host of national Catholic radio programs such as Catholic Connection with Teresa Tomeo and Kresta in the Afternoon.

Pope names Boston cardinal, others to Vatican congregations

By Carol Glatz
Catholic News Service

Pope Francis has selected Cardinal Sean P. O’Malley of Boston, president of the Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors, to be a member of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith.

The Vatican announced this and other papal appointments on Jan. 14.

The 72-year-old archbishop of Boston is one of the eight members of the Council of Cardinals who has been assisting Pope Francis with reform of the administration of the Roman Curia. He joins 26 other cardinal and bishop members and 28 consulting theologians in advising the doctrinal congregation.

The congregation deals with doctrinal questions and the application of Catholic moral teaching. But it also is charged with coordinating efforts to rid the church of sexual abuse and with monitoring or conducting cases against abusers.

While the congregation members offer their expertise on questions the office considers to be pressing, Cardinal O’Malley’s experience leading three U.S. dioceses confronting the abuse of minors by clergy will be important, Msgr. Robert W. Oliver, secretary of the Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors, told Catholic News Service.

Msgr. Oliver, who once was the chief prosecutor of sex abuse crimes when he was promoter of justice at the doctrinal congregation, worked on the abuse crisis in his home Archdiocese of Boston with Cardinal O’Malley.

The cardinal will bring “the experience of local bishops who have been there” in terms of handling abuse accusations and will help the congregation as it deals with new cases coming in from different parts of the world, Msgr. Oliver said.

The pope also appointed new consultants to the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Sacraments. The 17 new advisers include Donna Orsuto, a professor of spirituality at the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome who is from the United States, and Australian Father Robert McCulloch, who spent decades ministering in Pakistan before becoming procurator general of the Missionary Society of St. Columban in Rome.

The new consultants -- 10 priests or male religious, five laymen, and two laywomen -- include Jesuit artist-theologian Father Marko Rupnik, who is the director of Rome’s Centro Aletti, a community of scholars and artists committed to bridging Eastern and Western traditions through theological dialogue, research, reflection, and publication.

The pope also appointed as a consultant British Msgr. Bruce Harbert, who had been executive secretary of the International Commission on English in the Liturgy -- the body that seeks to develop unified English translations of the prayers used at Mass, for the celebration of the sacraments, and for other liturgies.

SoulCore Rosary Prayer and Exercise Class Offered at St. John Neumann in Sunbury

Sunbury St. John Neumann Church, 9633 E. State Route 37, is offering SoulCore, a rosary prayer and exercise experience which takes place each Wednesday at 9:30 a.m. in Room C of the parish faith and family center.

Participants are led in a meditation of the mysteries of the rosary while performing strength and stretching movements. The end result is a feeling of relaxation, strength, and renewal of body, mind, and soul. The class is led by Catholic Times columnist Lori Crock, a certified strength and conditioning coach who is also deeply versed in Catholic spiritual life.

People of all levels of fitness are welcome, and you don’t need to know the rosary to participate. Visit www.soulcore.com for more information or contact Christi McLean at christimclean@mac.com.
IS LYING ALWAYS SINFUL? NEW RULES FOR BAPTISM?

QUESTION & ANSWER
by: FATHER KENNETH DOYLE
Catholic News Service

Q. I am a caregiver for my elderly mother and also for another woman, who is 95. My goal in life, at this point, is to help my mother to be happy. (She was severely abused by my father, who later committed suicide.) Sometimes, I buy little gifts for my mother, and she always asks me how much something costs, since she doesn’t want me to spend a lot on her. Her mind is back in the days when things were much less expensive, so I resort to making up a price less smaller than the actual one. Is that wrong?

The other woman is selfish, mean, and miserable. I know that I can only work part-time for her or I would go out of my mind. (In fact, I have to take anti-anxiety meds when I am with her, or I couldn’t do it at all.) She often asks me to work extra hours, and I find myself making up stories to explain why I can’t do it. (I had to do this at Christmas time, or else she would have ruined my family’s holiday.) How badly am I sinning? (City of origin withheld)

A. Your question -- or the answer, at least -- is more complicated than it first may seem. Whether lying ever can be justified (and the matter of “white lies”) has engaged Christian moralists in discussion and lively debate since the time of St. Augustine more than 1,500 years ago.

The current Catechism of the Catholic Church would seem to take the more strict view -- that a lie never is justified.

Interestingly, the version of the Catechism published in 1994 said that “to lie is to speak or act against the truth in order to lead into error someone who has the right to know the truth” (No. 2483) -- which offered some “wiggle room” for assessing the questioner’s state of mind.

But in 1997, when the Catechism was revised and the official Latin text was published, the part about “the right to know” was dropped. The text now says simply, “to lie is to speak or act against the truth in order to lead someone into error.”

In situations such as those you describe, the conflict is between abstract moral reasoning (being able to trust in the word of another is essential to human discourse) and the valid intuition that feelings should not be hurt needlessly.

Even the Catechism itself hints at this struggle:

No. 2488 -- opting for silence or discreet language rather than an outright untruth -- says, “The right to the communication of the truth is not unconditional. Everyone must conform his life to the Gospel precept of fraternal love. This requires us in concrete situations to judge whether or not it is appropriate to reveal the truth to someone who asks for it.”

I would say that there is a way for you to honor both values. Rather than making up a false price, I would tell your mother that the gift you purchased for her was “reasonably priced, not expensive.”

But I would be even more direct with your 95-year-old friend: Rather than fabricating a false excuse, tell her that you can’t work the extra hours she wants because you have “other family responsibilities.” (One of those responsibilities is surely keeping yourself sane.)

Q. Have the rules changed on the sacrament of baptism? Recently, I attended a Catholic christening where neither the first nor middle name of the child being baptized was the name of a saint. The man who was the godfather practices no religion at all, and the godmother -- although baptized as a Catholic -- does not now practice her faith. Can you please explain? (Albany, New York)

A. The church’s current Code of Canon Law (which has been in effect since 1983) does not require that a child be baptized with the name of a saint. The only stipulation (Canon 855) is that the name chosen should not be “foreign to Christian sensibility.”

Before 1983, the church did require that the child be given a “Christian” name (e.g., “Faith” or “Christian”) or the name of a saint. If not, a saint’s name was added to the name chosen by the parents, and that second name was recorded in the parish baptismal registry as well. (In my own view, it is still preferable that parents choose a saint’s name, because as the child grows, that particular saint might serve as an inspiration and example.)

As to the religion of the godparents, a sponsor must be a practicing Catholic, 16 years of age or older, and already have received the sacraments of first Communion and Confirmation (Canon 874). Technically, only one sponsor is required (Canon 873); so if one godparent were a practicing Catholic, the other “godparent” at the ceremony could be a baptized non-Catholic, but that person would be listed in the registry as a “witness” rather than a sponsor.

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

By: Rick Jeric

Saving Moms and Babies

The Women’s Care Center provides knowledgable, empathetic, non-judgmental, comprehensive, skilled, sustained care and education in an environment of welcome, safety, and peace. Serving more than 250,000 women since its inception in 1984, its fundamental mission aligns perfectly with our values as Catholic Christians. Two centers opened and have been busily operating in Columbus since 2008. Since opening here, there has been a 30 percent decrease in the number of abortions performed in Franklin County. And, amazingly, one of every 11 babies born in Franklin County has a mother who has attended a Women’s Care Center program. As its board chair in Columbus, Bishop Frederick Campbell states, “Women’s Care Center loves and respects the woman facing a problem pregnancy and recognizes her humanity.” Board members Urban and Shelley Meyer say, “We are so excited to be part of the Women’s Care Center family and their mission to help moms and babies.”

Women’s Care Center has grown to become the nation’s largest pregnancy center, serving more pregnant women, and ultimately saving more babies from abortion, than any other pro-life organization in the nation. And in the Diocese of Columbus, more women are choosing life than ever before. The success of Women’s Care Center shows that locating beautiful, comforting centers near places that perform abortions, such as Planned Parenthood, and surrounding women with genuine love and concern before and after birth can touch the hearts of even the most abortion-minded women. Along with counseling, nurses offer ultrasounds so that women can see their tiny babies and hear the beating heart. Classes in parenting skills, literacy programs, mentoring, and a Crib Club send a powerful message to women considering abortion that they will be helped every step of the way as mothers. These programs also help ensure that we are bringing babies into healthy, more self-sufficient families. I am very happy to share the news that the number of babies saved with the help of the centers in Columbus and Franklin County just surpassed 10,000. Through prayers and generous donations, all of you have helped this vital mission grow and flourish. The result has been a huge decline in abortions. We are grateful for your love and support, which is helping love more women and save more babies than ever before. In Columbus in 2016, our two Women’s Care Centers welcomed more than 2,500 new moms, performed more than 2,000 life-saving ultrasounds, and had nearly 7,000 visits, including 30 to 40 women attending parenting classes each week. We are unique and special in our love and support of this mission of life. We are entrusted with a very special opportunity and hope that the results continue as positively as ever.

Becky was in her early 20s when she came to a Women’s Care Center seeking an abortion. However, after talking with a counselor and seeing her baby on the ultrasound screen, Becky chose life for her precious baby. In addition to learning to care for her newborn and learning to breastfeed, Becky also worked on financial goals with her counselor. She learned to budget, started saving money, and is now working and providing for her baby. So, how is Women’s Care Center different? Loving centers next to abortion clinics, full-time skilled counseling and ultrasounds, self-sufficiency education, incentive-based programs – not a handout, but a hand up – and 100 percent supported by private donations. We are truly blessed in the Diocese of Columbus. For more information, please visit: supportwomenscarecentercolumbus.org.

Annual Teacher of the Year Award

Columbus Lodge 2599 of the Sons of Italy will honor Maria Lucchin as the first recipient of its Teacher of the Year award. The presentation will take place on Saturday, Feb. 11 at the lodge’s Valentine’s celebration dance at Villa Milano, 1630 Schrock Road, Columbus, featuring Ray Massa’s EuroRhythms.

Lucchin taught foreign languages for 45 years at Columbus Bishop Watterson High School. In 1984, she instituted an Italian program, teaching the language and culture, in addition to the school’s French and Spanish programs. From 1981-93, she was chair of the foreign language department at Watterson.

She led the school’s study tour to Italy, France, Greece, Spain, and Switzerland from 1972-2013 and continues to be the exchange program coordinator between Watterson and a high school in Florence, Italy.

Sostene Codispoti, president of Lodge 2599, created the Teacher of the Year award to highlight exceptional teachers of Italian descent in central Ohio.

DCCW Coming Events

The Diocesan Council of Catholic Women is planning two important events in the coming months.

Its annual silent retreat will be at St. Therese’s Retreat Center, 5277 E. Broad St., Columbus, from Friday, March 31 to Sunday, April 2. Father Charles Shonk, OP, will be the speaker, and the theme will be “The Seven Deadly Sins vs. Life to the Full.”

A new recognition award, The Blessed Theresa of Calcutta Award for charity and spirituality, will be presented to deserving women of the diocese by Bishop Frederick Campbell on Sunday, Aug. 27. The location and time will be announced later. Nomination forms will be available in April.

To be put on the mailing list for all DCCW events or to learn more about the council, contact Mickey McCormick, DCCW president, at mccormick@columbuscatholic.org or (614) 783-5555.

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.
Josephinum seminarian from Myanmar ordained as deacon

Ling Khui Shing, a Pontifical College Josephinum seminarian from the Asian nation of Myanmar (formerly known as Burma), was ordained a deacon by Bishop Frederick Campbell on Saturday, Jan. 14 at Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral. His ordination as a deacon is the final preparatory step toward his ordination to the priesthood.

Shing said he does not know when this will take place, but anticipates that it will not be for at least six months. He is in his final year of theological studies at the Josephinum.

His vocation story follows:

“I was born in Ma Kui, a small country village. My family did not stay there for long. My father was a police officer and we had to move wherever he was assigned, so we traveled a lot.

“My father died when I was six, before I started going to school. I have a brother and a sister.

“I grew up and went to school, where I witnessed great human poverty and man’s yearning for God. I wanted to find the solution to poverty and thought that I could solve this as a leader. I believed that human poverty was somehow related to spiritual poverty. I wanted to solve this any way I could.

“I saw the person I wanted to be in our parish priest. He took care of the poor, the orphan, and all kinds of people under privilege. He is a man of prayer, a man of integrity, and people see the person of Christ in him. Watching him in my youth made us want to be a priest – a missionary priest, because I liked adventure. So I entered the seminary.

“I had five years of seminary formation in Myanmar. I finished my philosophy degree in 2012 at the age of 24. It was on the last day of my exams that my bishop called and asked me if I would go to the United States to study theology. I said ‘Yes!’

“I do not know why my bishop chose me to come to study in America. When the bishop called me, he said, ‘I want you to go to America to finish your studies. We have a lot of work to do here. Do you want to go?’ I think I will know what he wants me to do when I get back and become a priest. I am just preparing to get ready for anything that comes.

“Coming to America, it was very difficult to learn a new culture. I like the way we pray at the Josephinum and I really appreciate the opportunity to learn. My formators help me a lot, and most especially, I learn and grow through the support of my fellow seminarians.

“I did not hear the voice of God saying ‘I call you to be my priest,’ nor did I receive any miraculous revelation from God. I do not fully understand why I am called, instead of those who are more capable than me.

“However, it is not me, but God who calls me. His call is a gift that is so invaluable, so amazing and so great. I cannot say anything more than ‘Thank you, Lord.’”

When he is ordained, Deacon Shing will become one of more than 1,900 priests who have received training since 1888 at the Josephinum, which is the only papal seminary outside of Italy, but receives no financial support from Rome. Its ordained alumni serve the people of God in 48 states and more than 20 nations.

John Carroll University Talk

The Columbus chapter of the John Carroll University Alumni Association will sponsor a talk on “The Mission and Ministry of Pope Francis” with Dr. Paul Murphy, a history professor at the university and director of its Institute for Catholic Studies.

It will take place at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 7 in Dominican Hall at Columbus Bishop Watterson High School, 99 E. Cooke Road.

Light refreshments will be served.

There is no charge for the event, but those interested in attending are asked to RSVP by emailing columbus@jcu.edu or calling Eric Eickhoff at (216) 397-3061.

The Catholic Church in World Affairs

April 28-29, 2017

Franciscan University of Steubenville / Steubenville, Ohio

Explore the key role the Church plays in international politics, social justice, and security. Featuring talks by Austin Ruse, Paul Kengor, William Kirk Kilpatrick, and more!

Conference Topics Include:

• Conducting the War on Terror in light of Catholic teaching
• Understanding the legacies of social encyclicals
• Addressing the Church’s relationship with the U.N.
• How the Church helped topple the Soviet Union

For more information or to register, visit franciscan.edu/church-in-world-affairs/.

Natural Sciences Open House

Join us from 6 to 7:30 p.m., Feb. 23, Battelle Hall
Register now at ohiodominican.edu/NaturalScience

Central Ohio’s Catholic University • Founded by the Dominican Sisters of Peace.
Wearable fitness trackers measure heart rate, number of steps, sleep patterns, and the variety and intensity of exercise. They are popular, and the information can be useful in helping build new, healthy habits.

While these tools can make a difference in how much we exercise and in our approach to exercise, I like to take a break from technology when I’m exercising.

In fact, I thrive on fitness freedom, and maybe you do, too.

Moving, lifting, and stretching is a sensory experience for me and a much-needed break from the phone, computer, iPad, and television. I like the challenge of listening to my body and responding appropriately with varied movements and intensity.

I like freedom in my prayer life as well. There are plenty of books available about how to pray, methods to use to grow closer to God, and at certain points in our lives, those resources can be helpful, if not critical. But we know from Scripture and the wisdom of the saints that methods of prayer are secondary to simply giving time to the Lord in prayer and growing in a loving friendship with him.

Mental prayer in my opinion is nothing else than an intimate sharing between friends; it means taking time frequently to be alone with Him who we know loves us. The important thing is not to think much but to love much and so do that which best stirs you to love. Love is not great delight but desire to please God in everything. – St. Teresa of Avila.

How we feel called to pray can vary, and the freedom to pray any way we’d like, anytime and anywhere, is a beautiful gift that reminds me just how personally God works with us.

While I’m not a fan of fitness trackers, I think it would be interesting to track how many times a day we think about God, pray, read holy books, meditate on Scripture, pray the Rosary, offer an action or sacrifice to God, make a change in behavior due to prompting from the Holy Spirit, fast, or give alms.

We are called to pray unceasingly, and even our desire to pray pleases God, so it would be interesting to see just how much time we spend with God daily compared to the other activities in our lives. Unlike fitness tracking, this information could be life-changing.

Prayer is an act of love; words are not needed. Even if sickness distracts from thoughts, all that is needed is the will to love. – St. Teresa of Avila.

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

Children thrive at Saint Agatha School.
Learn how we’re different.

Please join us on Information Night
Monday, January 30, 2017
7:00 to 8:30 pm

Saint Agatha School
Grades K-8
Now Offering Full & Half-Day Kindergarten
Childcare
1880 Northam Road, Columbus, OH 43221
(614) 488-3322
www.saintagathaschool.org

Strengthen
BODY & SOUL

SOULCORE is a prayer experience that pairs strengthening, stretching and functional movement with the prayers of the Rosary.

Visit holyandhealthycatholic.com and soulcore.com for SoulCore class offerings in the Columbus Diocese.

Contact Lori Crock at 614.832.3216 or lori@movestrongkbs.com to schedule a class in your parish.

SoulCore offered: every Wednesdays 9:30 a.m. St. John Neumann, Sunbury and most Saturdays at 11 a.m. at MoveStrong Kettlebells in Dublin, and the 4th Friday at St. Joseph, Plain City, 10:15 a.m. at the Parish Activity Center.
The most memorable moment of this year’s pro-life rally at the Ohio Statehouse was an unplanned one. Linda Jones of Columbus was speaking about how she had found healing through a ministry of the Vineyard Church of Columbus after having an abortion at age 16 and keeping secret for 17 years. On her right was a container filled with about 500 pairs of baby shoes, representing the number of abortions performed each month at Columbus’ two abortion clinics.

Jones was speaking of the healing pow- er she felt upon reading St. Luke’s Gos- pel story of a woman who was healed of a hemorrhage by touching Jesus’ cloak. As she described that experience, a small child suddenly broke free of her father’s grasp, scurried to the container, picked up some shoes that had fallen out of it, held onto them for a few seconds, then tossed them back in.

Next, the girl climbed into a box where some of the shoes had been stored. She appeared thrilled that the container was just big enough to fit her. At this point, those in attendance were divided between listening to Jones’ story and de- lighting in the joy the child was having, as both afforded life in different ways.

No one knew it at the time, but the girl, Jayla, a two-and-a-half-year-old daughter, had just completed her first steps.

Beth Vanderkooi, executive direc- tor of Greater Columbus Right to Life (GCRTL), the day’s master of ceremonies, knew she couldn’t top that scene. She departed from her prepared clos- ing remarks to say, “That little girl was drawn to those baby shoes.

“It’s a funny thing,” she continued. “Children are naturally pro-life. I’ve never met a baby or an infant or a child who sees a pregnant woman and says, ‘Look, Mommy. It’s a constitutionally protected choice.’ And trust me, chil- dren can hear what we’re telling them, which means you have to be careful what you say, and when, and to whom, and when you get older... that we start to question ‘Is it a child or is it a choice?’

Earlier during the rally, representatives of several groups in attendance placed shoes in the container, which is intended to be part of a travelling memorial exhibit at GCRTL, is putting together in what it calls ‘Soles for Souls’ project. When completed, the memorial will consist of several similar containers filled with a total of 4,753 pairs of shoes. That figure represents the number of abortions per- formed last year at Franklin County’s two remaining abortion clinics.

The rally on Monday, Jan. 23, in the Statehouse atrium was GCRTL’s annual commemoration of the U.S. Supreme Court’s Roe v. Wade decision on Jan. 22, 1973, which legalized abortion through- out the nation. It took place one day later than usual because Jan. 22 was on a Sun- day this year.

Speakers at the event mixed themes of optimism and concern. While recogniz- ing that the number of abortions in the state has declined significantly in recent years and that the Ohio Legislature has passed several pro-life bills in the last few years, they noted that an estimated 60 million abortions have taken place in the United States since Roe v. Wade and that much work remains to be done.

Several members of the state House and Senate were on hand, as were representa- tives of the Ohio attorneys general, of the state’s bishops, and of governors’ offices. Among those dropping shoes into the box were state Senate President Lan- ry Otter, R-Medina, and Ohio Secretary of State Jon Husted.

“In the last six years, my colleagues and I have passed more significant legis- lation to defend unborn children and protect their right to life than at any time in the United States since Roe v. Wade and that much work remains to be done.

“Several members of the state House and Senate were on hand, as were representatives of the Ohio attorney general, the state’s bishops, and governors’ offices. Among those dropping shoes into the box were state Senate President Lanry Otter, R-Medina, and Ohio Secretary of State Jon Husted.”

“Linda Jones of Columbus was speaking about how she had found healing through a ministry of the Vineyard Church of Columbus after having an abortion at age 16 and keeping secret for 17 years. On her right was a container filled with about 500 pairs of baby shoes, representing the number of abortions performed each month at Columbus’ two abortion clinics.

The opening prayer for the rally was led by Father Nicholas Drost, parochial vicar of Columbus St. Mary, St. Ladis- las, and Corpus Christi churches. Leading the closing prayer was Pastor Mark Robenelle of the Foundation Church in the Williamsport-Mount Sterling area.

“The magnitude is hard to comprehend. The numbers boggle the mind and make it almost impossible to comprehend. In some ways, the sheer volume of an ab-ortion total grows too big to comprehend. It takes a long time, a commitment, to understand how many abortions the nation has experienced, how many people’s lives have been so disrupted.”

Top: Jesya Jones drops a shoe in the ‘Soles for Souls’ display, while her mother, Linda (note left), speaks at the Statehouse. Right: Linda-safe toward Jayla after finishing her talk.

“Soles for Souls” as a way of providing a concrete symbol for these numbers as they relate to Ohio.

The pro-life movement is leading the way to another life-saving victory. The opening prayer for the rally was led by Father Nicholas Drost, parochial vicar of Columbus St. Mary, St. Ladis- las, and Corpus Christi churches. Leading the closing prayer was Pastor Mark Robenelle of the Foundation Church in the Williamsport-Mount Sterling area.

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The pro-life movement is leading the way to another life-saving victory.
vocation for each one of us,” Bishop Campbell said. “And part of that vocation is not only to shape our minds according to the good that God has revealed, but to realize that part of our responsibility is to allow all those other aspects of God’s creative power to be able to flourish.

“That’s why the first of all human rights is the right to life, and one of the first responsibilities of any Christian is to give thanks to God for our lives and to pledge them in the defense of others, for if any human life is in danger, we are all in danger,” the bishop said.

“We protect and defend life on many levels. We begin with that personal sense of the gift of life given to us and the joy with which we live it, and to account each moment that God has given us on this earth as a precious gift. We can continue to proclaim the message in such a way that it changes hearts and minds, to speak the truth in the midst of a welter of misrepresentations.

“We work with those who have great difficulty, are confused, are facing difficult pregnancies, are facing infirmity and the end of their natural life, and we work to stand for them, to care for them in all this,” Bishop Campbell said.

“We remember that it is our responsibility to treat them day by day with commitment and compassion and give witness to the truth that every human life, from conception to natural death, is precious to God our Father and worthy of our concern, protection, and care.”

Ohio Dominican University is one of 350 colleges and universities across the United States that have been chosen as a White House Healthy Campus. The designation recognizes ODU for its efforts to enroll more students in health insurance plans established by the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act before open enrollment ends on Jan. 31.

To help encourage enrollment, ODU developed social media posts, produced and displayed posters on campus, sent emails to students, faculty, staff and alumni, and placed an information table promoting the open enrollment deadline outside its dining hall. Jamie Kemp, ODU’s director of health services, participated in conference calls with the White House and other universities about the initiative and how to effectively communicate the deadline to the campus community.

“I am extremely excited about this national designation, and proud that we helped promote a healthy campus to our students, faculty, and alumni during the Affordable Care Act open enrollment period,” Kemp said. “We’re committed to educating our campus community about all the health care resources that are available to them.”

The Columbus chapter of the Christ Child Society will sponsor a day of reflection on Monday, March 20 in the parish hall of Columbus St. Andrew Church, 1899 McCoy Road. The day will begin with Mass at 8:30 a.m. in the church, followed by a talk by the authors of Divine Mercy for Moms, Emily Wilson Jaminet and Michele Faehnle.

The cost is $35, and you can register by sending a check payable to the Christ Child Society of Columbus and mailing it with your name, address, phone number, and email address to CCS Day of Reflection, 1835 Hickory Hill Drive, Columbus OH 43228. Registration also is available online at ChristChildSociety.org. The deadline is Monday, March 6.
Students at Dennison Immaculate Conception School know the importance of community service projects. The pre-kindergarten and preschool classes do a service project each month as part of their religion class. The children have organized various projects, such as the annual Warming Tree, in which they team up with the Salvation Army and collect items to keep less-fortunate people warm during the winter. The children also made and mailed more than 200 cards and letters to veterans and to servicemen and women, thanking them for their service. Cards also were made and delivered to the local police department as part of law enforcement appreciation day. The entire student body collected toys for the local Share-A-Christmas event. The school also collected food for projects such as Thanksgiving food baskets, the local food pantry, and feeding families at Christmas. The children learn not only the importance of taking care of their community, but how easy it is to do it. Pictured are: (above) pre-kindergarten students holding some of the letters they mailed to servicemen and women; (right) students gathering canned food for the local pantry; (below left) students (from left) Reese Knight, Logan Rennicker, and Knox Fockler adding items to the Warming Tree; and (below right) pre-kindergarten, first-, and second-grade students delivering cards to Police Chief Todd Beeman for law enforcement appreciation day.

Photos courtesy Immaculate Conception School
Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Cycle A)

Living the Gospel charge would really change the world

Zephaniah 2:3;3:12-13; 1 Corinthians 1:26-31; Matthew 5:1-12a

Zephaniah was a prophet during the reign of Josiah, king of Judah between 640-609 BC. He was a contemporary of Jeremiah and shared similar ideas and language with him. Today’s reading contains three disconnected verses. It is a work that looks to the judgment the Lord is going to pronounce on Judah, where everything is going to be destroyed by the Lord because of Judah’s worship of Canaanite gods. The day of judgment was one to be feared.

The exhortation to “the humble of the earth” (anawim in Hebrew, who are said to have observed the law of the Lord) “to seek ... and humility” is done so that they might be “sheltered on the day of the Lord’s wrath.” The doubt in the expression “perhaps you may be sheltered on the day of the Lord’s anger” often is explained as meaning not that the Lord will refuse to acknowledge those who seek justice, but whether there will be any who actually heed this exhortation.

Judah and her enemies will be wiped out, but then the prophet looks to a remnant who will essentially put the pieces that are left back together. Chapter 3 especially directs the Lord’s wrath against Jerusalem, its judges, and its priests, but it also promises that this remnant, though “lowly and humbled,” will return to the Lord, speaking no more lies and enjoying peace with no one left to disturb them.

Turning to Matthew’s Gospel, we are presented with the Beatitudes, which are given on a mountain, recalling Moses going up the mountain at Sinai to receive the Commandments. They are the opening part of the first major dialogue between Jesus and the disciples, running from the beginning of Chapter 5 through the end of Chapter 7. The three chapters make up what is called the Sermon on the Mount. Jesus “sat down,” which was the normal position a teacher took when instructing students at the time, and began to teach them.

The disciples of Jesus receive the eight (or nine or 10) beatitudes. The reason I suggest nine or 10 is because Matthew uses the introduction “Blessed are ...” nine times. Once, he writes “Rejoice and be glad,” which would flow from being “blessed,” thereby suggesting 10 beatitudes. Matthew clearly intended it to contrast with what happened on Mount Sinai.

Noteworthy about the beatitudes is who the “Blessed” are: the poor in spirit, mourners, the meek, the hungry and thirsty for justice, the merciful, the clean of heart, peacemakers, the persecuted for the sake of justice. This contrasts sharply with those who are held up for praise and glory in the world at large. Peacemaker shirts don’t sell, but put a name on a jersey with a number and the price skyrockets. The “poor in spirit” (or in reality) are snubbed in favor of the mighty and the powerful and those who have piled up such obscene wealth. The “clean of heart” (or of body) give way to those who use the body for selfish pleasure, only to cast it aside at the appearance of the first wrinkle.

It is easy to understand why some say we live in a “post-Christian” age. If we did live out the Gospel charge, we would really change the world. Instead, migrants wander, wondering where they can find a home. The poor of the land increase each day.

Hear Paul: “God chose the foolish of the world to be made wise, the weak of the world to be strong, the lowly and despised of the world...to reduce to nothing those who are something, so that no human being might boast before God.”

Father Hummer, pastor of Chillicothe St. Mary, may be reached at hummerl@stmarychillicothe.com.
It recently was announced that the head of the Anglican Church, Justin Welby, the archbishop of Canterbury, would issue an apology for violence committed in England against Catholics during the Protestant Reformation, which began in Germany in October 1517 and spread to England in the 1530s. It was illegal to attend Mass in England and Ireland until the 1800s. As late as 1909, a Eucharistic procession planned for London was canceled at the last minute by government authorities because of concern over “too many Catholics assembled in one spot.”

Today, England’s Catholic population is thriving (at least when viewed through modern Western standards). Many non-Catholics attend the nation’s Catholic schools and receive aid from the Catholic Church’s social services. The Church’s comeback in England is largely attributed to its schools, which for the last 100 years have given Catholics a foundation on which to rebuild the Church’s stature after nearly being wiped out.

Eamon Duffy’s Stripping the Altars is a sobering historical look at how the Catholic Church flourished in England in the 1530s, before King Henry VIII decided to eradicate its influence following Pope Clement VII’s refusal to grant him a divorce. Sir Thomas More (now St. Thomas More), his chancellor, who was executed because of his refusal to go along with the king’s wishes, was one of many who felt the king’s wrath. Duffy’s extensive research examines old letters and wills in which Catholics petitioned authorities to create a faith-based exemption for them from the anti-Catholic laws by allowing them to have a burial Mass or to pray the rosary. The modern intellectual world would have you believe that none of this happened. Duffy’s work shows us something entirely different.

Some of you may be asking “What does this have to do with the world in 2017?” The answer is simple. If one man in the 1530s could undermine the Catholic Church for centuries, what could a hostile modern secular culture do to the Church, not just in the United States, but in the Western world? How do we stop such a thing from happening?

Our institutions must be strong and genuinely Catholic to withstand the assault. We all know that too many Catholic universities and colleges are a shadow of their former selves in terms of their Catholic identity. While they may have a stellar academic reputation, too many institutions sold out to the whims of the cultural elite years ago. Fortunately, our Catholic schools are in much better shape.

Though I had strong Catholic parental upbringing, I know if it weren’t for Marion St. Mary School and Marion Catholic High School, my faith would not be what it is today. I realize that school tuition seems high – believe me, I pay the local taxes and the tuition payments – but in other parts of the nation, it’s a lot higher. My wife and I are happy that, in addition to a stellar education, our children receive daily Catholic instruction in school. We need every bit of it to combat what our modern world throws at them.

Considering our society’s transient nature, it is nice to know that the Catholic high school they will attend has been there for a while. If they are like me, some of the students they will meet there probably will be among their closest friends for the rest of their lives.

How many times have you heard the Catholic Church and its beliefs mocked in the popular culture or at a demonstration in some major city? I am always amazed to see the vulgarity directed our way at these gatherings. Imagine what it would be like if some of the Church’s critics gained the type of power and control they desire. In contrast, police in Washington report that after every pro-life march there, which usually attracts a mostly Catholic gathering, there is hardly any trash to clean up and never any reports of vandalism.

Too often, we just go along to get along. We need to take our faith more seriously in word and deed. How can we do this? It might be something you want to pray over and belatedly add to your New Year’s resolutions.

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

Law Enforcement Day at Coshocton Sacred Heart

Coshocton Sacred Heart School observed Law Enforcement Appreciation Day by inviting Coshocton County Sheriff’s Sgt. Chip Udischas and Deputy Kevin Cichon, both fathers of students at the school, to be honored. They took a “thank you” banner from the students back to the department.

Photo courtesy Sacred Heart School
HARTLEY STYLE SHOW

The 26th annual Columbus Bishop Hartley High School style show will take place from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 25 at the Jefferson Country Club, 7271 Jefferson Meadows Drive, Blacklick.

The event is the only fundraiser of the year for the Hartley Parents Organization. It will include lunch and modeling of prom fashions by Hartley seniors and of spring wear by students’ mothers. There also will be a silent auction.

Tickets are $40 for adults and $15 for children. Online registration is available on the school web site: www.bishophartley.org. Questions may be directed to Marilyn at (614) 580-7381 or emailed to bishophartleystyleshow@gmail.com.

Father John T. Murphy, OP

Funeral Mass for Father John T. Murphy, OP, 89, who died Tuesday, Jan. 17, was held Tuesday, Jan. 24 at Columbus St. Patrick Church. Burial was at St. Joseph Cemetery, Somerset.

He was born Oct. 20, 1927, in Detroit to Thomas and Mary (Daly) Murphy, and attended grade school and high school in the Detroit area, then attended Providence (Rhode Island) College from 1945-47.

He entered the Dominican novitiate in August 1947 and made his first profession of vows on Aug. 5, 1948 and his solemn profession on the same day three years later. He studied philosophy at St. Joseph Priory in Somerset and theology at the Pontifical Faculty of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, and was ordained a priest on June 12, 1954 at St. Dominic Church in Washington.

In 62 years as a priest, he served at various times as associate pastor, high school teacher, assistant Third Order director, missionary, monastery chaplain, shrine director, itinerant preacher, pastor, local superior, guild director, and hospital chaplain in Ohio, Connecticut, New York, Mexico, Peru, Michigan, New Jersey, and Rhode Island.

In the Diocese of Columbus, he was assigned to St. Thomas Aquinas House in Columbus and taught at Columbus Aquinas High School from 1960-63, and was associate pastor at Zanesville St. Thomas Aquinas Church from 1987-88.

In October 2012, he was assigned to the Columbus St. Patrick Church rectory and moved to the Mohun Health Care Center in Columbus, where he lived until shortly before his death.
27-29, FRIDAY-SUNDAY
Men’s Retreat at Maria Stein
Maria Stein Spiritual Center, 2365 St. John’s Road, Maria
Stein. Men’s retreat sponsored by Hilliard St. Brendan
Church, led by Father Bill Garrott, OP. Theme: “The Gosp-
el Tool Box.” Cost $160, including meals and lodging.
614-946-8117

28, 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.

Talks on Revelation at St. John Neumann
Noon and 3 p.m., St. John Neumann Church, 9633 E. State
Route 37, Sunbury. Talks on the Book of Revelation with Dr.
Thomas Smith, author of the Great Adventure Bible
Study on Revelation.
740-965-1358

29, SUNDAY
St. Christopher Adult Religious Education
10 to 11:20 a.m., Library, Trinity Catholic School, 1440
Grandview Ave., Columbus. “Come Away and Pray,”
first of two consecutive hour-long sessions on Taize prayer
with Pete McClernen, former music minister at St. Chris-
topher and several other diocesan parishes.

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

Vietnamese New Year Celebration
Noon, St. Augustine & Gabriel Church, 3550 E. Hudson St.,
Columbus. Vietnamese New Year celebration, beginning
with Vietnamese-language Mass, followed by celebration
with food, games, and traditional dancing.
614-268-3123

Open House at St. Mary Magdalene
Noon to 2 p.m., St. Mary Magdalene School, 2940 Park-
side Road, Columbus. Open house for prospective stu-
dents and their parents, with information on school and
preschool, registration, tuition, and EduChoice scholarship
program.
614-279-9935

Open House at St. Brigid of Kildare
Noon to 2:30 p.m., St. Brigid of Kildare School, 7177 Avery
Road, Dublin. Open house, featuring preschool informa-
tion session at 12:30 and kindergarten information session
at 1:30.
614-718-5825

Open House at Our Lady of Peace School
12:30 to 1:30 p.m., Our Lady of Peace School, 20 E. Do-
mion Blvd., Columbus. Open house with building tours,
meetings with teachers, and information on school pro-
grams.
614-267-4535

Open House at Our Lady of Bethlehem
1 to 3 p.m., Our Lady of Bethlehem School and Childcare,
4567 Olentangy River Road, Columbus. Open house with
information on school’s programs for children six weeks
through kindergarten during the school year and pre-
school through sixth grade in the summer.
614-459-8285

Scout Day with the Bishop
3 p.m. Church of the Resurrection, 6300 E. Dublin-Gran-
ville Road, New Albany. Annual Scout Day with the Bish-
op program sponsored by diocesan Catholic Committee
on Scouting, with Bishop Frederick Campbell honoring
diocesan Scouts who have received religious awards.

Catholic Musical Series
3 p.m., St. Joseph Cathedral, 121 E. Broad St., Columbus.
Concert with Annie Laver, assistant professor of organ
performance at Syracuse University. Suggested admission
$10.
614-241-2526

Open House at Columbus St. Mary School
4 to 7 p.m., St. Mary School, 700 S. 3rd St., Columbus.
Open house for prospective students in preschool
through eighth grade and their parents.
614-444-8994

‘Raising Moral Kids in Today’s World’ at St. Pius X
5 to 6:30 p.m., St. Pius X Church, 1051 S. Waggoner Road,
Reynoldsburg. Program on “Raising Moral Kids in Today’s
World” with Pam Heil, founder of Empowered to Love
Ministries and former youth minister of Dublin St. Brigid
of Kildare Church.
614-866-2859

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

Asia’s Hope Dinner at Our Lady of Perpetual Help
6 p.m., Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, 3730 Broad-
day, Grove City. Fundraiser for Asia’s Hope program for
at-risk children in Cambodia, Thailand, and India. Talks by
Father Dan Millisor, pastor; Father James Colopy, parochi-
al vicar; John McCollum, Asia’s Hope executive director;
and parishioners involved with the program; plus Cambo-
dian dessert and dancing.
614-875-3322, extesion 326

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

30, MONDAY
Night of Marian Devotion at Church of Our Lady
6 p.m., Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal Church, 5225
Refugee Road, Columbus. Night of Marian devotion
sponsored by Columbus Catholic Renewal, beginning
with rosary, followed by praise and adoration at 6:30
with teams available for individual prayer. Mass at 7:30
celebrated by Father James Coleman, and fellowship.
614-500-8115

Open House at St. Agatha School
7 to 8:30 p.m., St. Agatha School, 1880 Northam Road,
Columbus. School open house, including information on
full- and half-day kindergarten and child care.
614-488-9000

30-31, MONDAY-TUESDAY
Eucharistic Adoration Mission at St. Leo
7 p.m., St. Leo Church, 221 Hanford St., Columbus. Eu-
charistic adoration mission with Fathers Sean Davidson
and Barry Braun of the Missionaries of the Most Holy
Eucharist.

31, TUESDAY
Padre Pio Prayer Group at St. John the Baptist
12:30 p.m., St. John the Baptist Church, 168 E. Lincoln Ave.,
Columbus. Padre Pio Prayer Group meeting, including
rosary, devotions, and 1 p.m. Mass.
614-294-5319

FEBRUARY

1, WEDNESDAY
Adult and Continuing Education Info Session at ODU
6 to 7 p.m., Bishop Griffin Center, Ohio Dominican Univer-
sity, 1216 Sunbury Road, Columbus. Information session
on university’s adult and continuing education programs.
614-251-4700

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Novena at St. Elizabeth
7 p.m., St. Elizabeth Church, 6077 Sharon Woods Blvd.,
Columbus. Mass and monthly novena to Our Lady of Per-
petual Help, with Father Ramon Owerca, CFIC.
614-891-0150

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

Holy Hour at Holy Family
6 to 7 p.m., Holy Family Church, 584 W. Broad St., Colum-
bus. Holy Hour of Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament,
followed by meeting of parish Holy Name and Junior Holy
Name societies, with refreshments.
614-221-4333

Mass, Candle Blessing, Procession at Sts. Patrick
6:30 p.m., St. Patrick Church, 280 N. Grant Ave., Colum-
bus. Mass for the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord,
followed by blessing of candles, candlelight proces-
sion through church, traditional Dominican chant, and
the Oblatio Candelarum, a special Dominican custom.
614-224-9522

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

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

Catholic Men’s Luncheon Club
12:15 p.m., St. Patrick Church, 280 N. Grant Ave., Colum-
bus. Catholic Men’s Luncheon Club meeting, with Bishop
Frederick Campbell presenting Catholic Man of the Year
award to Josef Banks of St. Dominic Church.

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

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

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

Mary’s Little Children Prayer Group
Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal Church, 5225 Refu-
gee Road, Columbus. 8:30 a.m. confessions, 9 a.m. Mass,
followed by Fatima prayers and Rosary (Shepherds of Christ
format); 10 a.m., meeting.
614-861-4888

Lay Missions of Charity Day of Prayer
9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Sacred Heart Church, 893 Hanlet St.,
Columbus. Monthly day of prayer for Columbus chapter
of Lay Missionaries of Charity.
614-372-5249

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

First Saturday Mass at Holy Family
9 a.m., Holy Family Church, 584 W. Broad St., Columbus.
First Saturday Mass for world peace and in reparation for
blasphemies against the Virgin Mary, as requested by Our
Lady of Fatima.
614-221-1800

Ohio Dominican Preview Day
9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Bishop Griffin Center, Ohio Domini-
can University, 1216 Sunbury Road, Columbus. Preview
day for prospective students, featuring campus tours,
talks with professors and current students, financial aid information, and a complimentary meal.
614-251-4500

Centering Prayer Group Meeting at Corpus Christi
10:30 a.m. to noon, Corpus Christi Center of Peace, 1111 E.
Stewart Ave., Columbus. Centering prayer group meeting,
beginning with silent prayer, followed by Contemplative Outreach DVD and discussion.
614-512-3731
BOOK REVIEW

Champions of the Rosary

By Mitch Finley
Catholic News Service


At 351 pages -- not including various appendices and reference sections in the back of the book -- “Champions of the Rosary” is easily the most exhaustive study of the devotional prayer known as the rosary that this reviewer has ever seen. The book is organized into three major sections: “History of the Rosary,” “Champions of the Rosary,” and “Praying the Rosary.” There is no doubt that anyone who reads this book will be ever after the best-informed on the rosary in his or her parish, if not his or her diocese.

The book’s subtitle refers to the rosary as “a spiritual weapon.” One may wonder if this doesn’t narrow the rosary overly much, even attributing a rather grim countenance to it.

The late Holy Cross Father Patrick Peyton was probably the 20th century’s most prominent champion of the rosary, his famous rosary slogan being “The family that prays together stays together.”

This slogan encourages the rosary not as a spiritual weapon, but as a source of family health, strength, and loving intimacy. Indeed, one might ask if the rosary, like any good form of prayer, isn’t primarily a means of nourishing loving intimacy with God and neighbor. Those who want a “spiritual weapon,” of course, are free to understand the rosary thus if they want to.

Part I, “History of the Rosary,” attributes the rosary’s origin to a commission given to St. Dominic by Mary and concludes that this is a historical event. Father Calloway bases his conclusion on an 1891 secondary source written by an English Third Order Dominican, Augusta Theodosia Drane, who quotes what she says are the actual words of Mary spoken to St. Dominic. Father Calloway quotes the words reported by Drane, but where Drane got her information is apparently unknown.

One can only conclude that Drane repeated legendary material and gave the impression that it was historical. It is highly likely, then, that the account of the commission to St. Dominic by Mary is legendary, rather than historical. This does nothing, of course, to reduce the credit due the countless members of St. Dominic’s Order of Preachers who promoted the rosary over the centuries.

Part II of this book narrates the stories of 26 “champions of the rosary,” ancient and modern. Beginning with St. Dominic (1170-1221), Father Calloway repeats his belief in the historical nature of the encounter between Mary and Dominic, relying more on hagiography than historical research.

He includes quotations from several popes who also accepted the historicity of this event and repeated it. Modern “champions of the rosary” discussed in this part of the book include Pope Pius XII, St. Pio of Pietrelcina, St. John XXIII, Father Peyton, Blessed Paul VI, Archbishop Fulton Sheen, St. John Paul II, and Pope Benedict XVI.

Part III, “Praying the Rosary,” offers practical instruction based on Father Calloway’s apparent liking for apocalyptic theology, the spiritual dangers presented to faithful believers by Satan, etc. In response to the question “Why pray the rosary?” he concludes with words from Blessed James Alberione (1884-1971): Praying the rosary “is the surest way to triumph over spiritual enemies, the most suitable way to progress in virtue and sanctity.”

Champions of the Rosary summarizes virtually everything ever written about the rosary and presents short biographies of virtually every “champion of the rosary” who ever lived. It provides a resource on the rosary not to be found anywhere else.

Finley is the author of more than 30 books on Catholic themes, including “The Rosary Handbook: A Guide for Newcomers, Old-Timers and Those in Between” (Word Among Us Press).

THEATER

Footloose

The Columbus Bishop Hartley High School drama department will present Footloose by Tom Snow at the Shedd Theater of the Columbus Performing Arts Center, 549 Franklin Ave., at 7:30 p.m. Thursday to Saturday, Feb. 16 to 18 and 2:30 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 19. Tickets are $10 and available at the door beginning one hour before each performance.

Footloose tells the story of Ren McCormack, a teenager from Chicago who is forced to move to the small farming town of Bomont after his father abandons the family. His “big city” ways put him at odds with many people in the town, especially the Rev. Shaw Moore, who has banned all dancing. Ren enlists the help of Moore’s daughter, Ariel, and his new friend, Willard, to let teenagers dance once again and move past a tragedy which affected the entire town.

The cast includes Abigail Allwein, John Paul Amland, Greta Bedell, Olivia Bobak, Sarah Buckingham, Marlee Franklin Calhoun, Shannon Carmon, Braeden Craig, Christian Craig, Katherine Croswell, Cassidy Davis, Josh Duffy-Cooper, Claire Eschmeyer, Maggie Hearns, Elizabeth Hudelson, Betsy Huggins, Kiera Jones, Kassie Kebe, Emma Mackessy, Sergio Mariscal, Josh Martin, Caitlin McCarthy, Cameron Mertz, Katie Price, Josiah Rawls, David Rees, Audrey Ryan, Amber Schaele, Joseph Sheridan, Ben Smallwood, Rachel Staley, Joseph Supino, Emily Valin, Sarah Valin, Abbi Vina, Nick Warrick, Madi Weldon, and Valerie Zaino.

Photo courtesy Bishop Hartley High School
Walk for Life West Coast draws tens of thousands ahead of Women’s March

By Valerie Schmalz
Catholic News Service

Despite the last-minute scheduling of a Women’s March less than two hours after the 13th annual Walk for Life West Coast, tens of thousands of pro-life supporters filled Civic Center Plaza and walked the 1.7 miles from City Hall to Justin Herman Plaza in San Francisco on Saturday, Jan. 21.

“There were so many people. It was crazy,” said walk co-chair Eva Muntean, who worked closely with police and had conversations with organizers of the Women’s March to ensure a smooth transition between the two events.

“The police were out in full force and did a great job throughout the day,” Muntean said. Despite days of rain, including heavy rain and wind in the morning, the rain held off until the walk’s conclusion. “I thought the weather and the Women’s March might have reduced turnout, but that was not the case,” she said.

About 50 protesters supporting legal abortion gathered on a sidewalk adjacent to where a group of pro-life demonstrators unaffiliated with the West Coast Walk had set up a Jumbotron with graphic images of aborted babies. A wall of balloons from walk organizers formed a barrier between the Jumbotron and some walk participants.

The city was one of several venues in the U.S. and several other nations where participants, mostly women, marched to promote women’s rights, immigration reform, equal pay, health care, and “reproductive rights.”

The Rev. Clenard Childress, has been addressing the San Francisco pro-life walk crowds since 2005. The pastor, who is founder of an organization known as Black Genocide, said he is hopeful for the future.

Looking out at a crowd holding signs that declared “We are the pro-life generation” and “Women deserve better than abortion,” the New Jersey Baptist pastor said, “Your light must shine now.”

“This is your time. This is your season,” Childress said.

Childress referred tacitly to Trump’s pledges to appoint pro-life Supreme Court justices, defund Planned Parenthood, and block foreign aid to organizations that provide abortion. “It is a season where God is moving on behalf of those who have labored for so long,” the pastor said. Childress urged prayers for Democratic and Republican leaders in Washington.

The Women’s March in San Francisco took the same route as the Walk for Life. It also drew tens of thousands of supporters, many carrying coat-hanger signs signaling support for abortion. In San Francisco, organizers said they welcomed pro-life supporters but the national Women’s March on Washington expelled a pro-life group. All the Women’s Marches were promoted and supported by Planned Parenthood, NARAL Pro-Choice America, and other groups that support legal abortion.

Speakers at the Walk for Life included a cross-section of pro-life advocates. Reggie Littlejohn, founder of Women’s Rights Without Frontiers, highlighted the abuse of women inherent in the forced abortion policy of China, where as many as 23 million abortions a year are performed. Littlejohn also introduced Anni and Ruli, two girls whom she and her husband are raising in the United States because of persecution in China caused by the activism of their father, Zhang Lin, who recently was released from prison.

Melissa Ohden, who survived a saline abortion, spoke of her journey and urged Christian love toward women who abort, those who promote abortion, and those in the abortion industry. Pam Tebow, mother of Heisman Trophy winner Tim Tebow, spoke of carrying her son to term, despite doctors’ advice she abort.

The West Coast Walk opened with an invocation by Bishop Steven J. Lopes, who heads the Personal Ordinariate of the Chair of St. Peter, based in Houston, and a message from the papal nuncio conveying Pope Francis’ support, which was read by San Francisco Archbishop Salvatore J. Cordileone.

Archbishop Cordileone presented the West Coast Walk’s St. Gianna Molla Award to Dr. George Delgado of Culture of Life Family Services in San Diego for his pioneering work on a procedure to reverse the abortion pill.
By Carol Glatz
Catholic News Service

In an effort to share its masterpieces with more people around the world, the Vatican Museums have established a YouTube channel and revamped their website to offer high-resolution images and mobile-friendly information.

The Musei Vaticani YouTube channel lists short visual “tours” of some of its collections, along with a handful of promotional videos highlighting specially tailored tours and services offered on-site, including signing guides for the deaf or hard-of-hearing.

Its website, museivaticani.va, has been completely revamped to be compatible with all platforms and devices in order to extend its reach to the remote corners of the earth, said Barbara Jatta, the museums’ new director, at a Vatican news conference on Jan. 23.

The site, offered in five languages, features a sleeker design, simpler texts, and faster navigation, she said. Links to pages also can be shared via Twitter, Facebook, or email.

The website provides information about booking visits and purchasing tickets to the museums, the Vatican Gardens, the Via Triumphalis necropolis under the Vatican hill, and the pontifical villas at Castel Gandolfo, south of Rome.

For now, the site showcases a little more than 3,000 high-resolution photographs of masterpieces in the museums’ collections. The “ideal” plan, Jatta said, is to complete within one year the addition of photographs of all 20,000 objects currently on public display and then begin working on adding images of all art objects in storage, for a total of more than 200,000 works of art.

The site also allows the public to consult and search an online catalogue of some of the museums’ paintings, sculptures, and other art objects. Jatta said that although the museums already had a registry of their entire inventory, migrating everything to the public-accessible database is still a work in progress.