HOLY ROSARY - ST. JOHN CHURCH CELEBRATES ITS HERITAGE
The Editor’s Notebook

To be Catholic is to be devoted to community

By David Garick, Editor

No man is an island, entire of itself. Every man is a piece of the continent, a part of the main.

Those words were written by English poet John Donne is 1624. The thoughts he expresses are not unique to his time. They strike at the very heart of what it means to be Catholic.

What does it mean to be a Catholic? For far too many people, the answer is pretty murky: “Well, I was born Catholic. I was baptized when I was a baby. I went to Catholic school. I get to Mass when I can,” they say. Those are all important things, but does that make you a Catholic Christian? Not really. St. Paul tells us that we are not called to live just for ourselves: “For you were called for freedom, brothers. But do not use this freedom as an opportunity for the flesh; rather, serve one another through love. For the whole law is fulfilled in one statement, namely, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’”

We know that each of us must accept Christ as his or her personal Savior. We have a very direct and special relationship to him. But Christ does not call us to worship in solitude. He calls us to community. In all his teaching, Jesus emphasized that to truly live his love is to share it with others in a community of the Church … the assembly of the baptized into one body.” That one body is Christ. For in Spirit we were all baptized into one body, though many, are one body, so also believers.

Paul tells us that “all parts of the body, though many, are one body, so also Christ. For in Spirit we were all baptized into one body.” That one body is the Church … the assembly of the baptized … the reality of Christ’s body in the world. That singular body is energized through the regular sharing of the true body and blood of Christ in the Eucharist and expressed through the gifts of the Holy Spirit emanating from every one of its members. It is not just what we call ourselves, but how we live every aspect of our lives.

The members of Christ’s body, the Church, are indeed diverse, and so are the gifts of the Spirit distributed to those members. To truly be Christian, we must acknowledge our unique gifts and abilities and use them for the building up of the Body of Christ. Those gifts can be expressed in many ways. It may be through ability to express the teachings of Christ through speech or writing or art in bringing people to the faith, or through the nurture and raising of children, or through actions of physical and spiritual healing for those who are suffering, or through reaching out to assist those who are in poverty, hunger, or loneliness. It may be through the gift of prayer that a person contributes to the overall strength of the Church. Or perhaps the person is called to serve the church as a priest, deacon, or religious sister or brother. All these gifts are important, and everyone who has received the Holy Spirit must use his or her gift to truly be part of the Body of Christ. We do not do any of these things on our own. We do them as part of a glorious community.

This week’s edition of Catholic Times provides a wonderful perspective of how the many and varied gifts of the Holy Spirit are manifested in the worship and service to mankind that takes place within the Community of Holy Rosary and St. John the Evangelist in the innercity of Columbus. These truly are Catholic Christians in word, in action, and in spirit.

Front Page photo:
The sanctuary of Columbus Holy Rosary-St. John Church, originally St. John the Evangelist Church. It was built in 1898 and 1899.

CT photo by Tim Puet

OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT
Clergy Assignment

Father Peter Asantebwana, from ministry in the Tuscarawas-Holmes-Coshocton Deanery and residence at St. Francis de Sales Church, Newcomerstown, to Parochial Vicar, St. Matthew Church, Gahanna, effective Aug. 9.

Father Steve Bell, CSP, from Associate Director, St. Thomas More Newman Center, The Ohio State University, Columbus, to service outside the diocese, effective July 1.

Father Cyrus M. Haddad, from Parochial Vicar, Perry County Consortium of Churches (St. Rose Church, New Lexington; St. Bernard Church, Corning; St. Patrick Church, Junction City; and Church of the Atonement, Crooksville), to Administrator, Perry County Consortium of Churches, effective July 11.

Father Daniel J. Swartz, from Parochial Vicar, St. Matthew Church, Gahanna, to Associate Administrator, Perry County Consortium of Churches (St. Rose Church, New Lexington; St. Bernard Church, Corning; St. Patrick Church, Junction City; and Church of the Atonement, Crooksville), effective Aug. 9.

Father Stuart Wilson-Smith, CSP, to Associate Director, St. Thomas More Newman Center, The Ohio State University, Columbus, effective July 1, upon nomination from Father Eric Andrews, CSP, Provincial of the Paulist Fathers.

Catholic Times is on summer schedule!

Things slow down during the summer, and that includes the Catholic Times. During June, July and August, we will only be publishing every other week. Look for the Catholic Times in your mailbox just prior to July 16 & 30; August 13 & 27.

We will return to our regular weekly publication schedule in September

Correction - An advertisement in the June 18 Catholic Times listed the price of a Sept. 1-10 pilgrimage to Fatima and Lourdes as $2,795. The actual price is $2,495. For more information, contact Garrett at (773) 790-3164 or Mark at (330) 432-0817.
Diocese introduces its new Internet home for Catholic information

The Diocese of Columbus and the Catholic Times have a brand new website – www.columbuscatholic.org!

The new site, hosted by eCatholic, one of the nation’s largest website providers for Catholic parishes and dioceses, will provide easy, one-stop access to a wealth of information and news about the Catholic Church in Columbus and around the world.

The new service went active last week. The front page provides important information about things going on in the diocese. Dropdown menus will connect you to diocesan offices, programs, and ministries. Here you also can access the diocesan directory, with contact information for all diocesan offices and ministries. The “parishes” section will give you contact information for all of our parishes, and a new mapping feature from Google Maps will show the location of each church and driving directions.

Also on the front page will be news briefs from the Catholic Times and the Catholic News Service. For more Catholic news, click the Catholic Times icon and go to the Catholic Times page, where you can read full-screen stories from the current edition of the Times. On the left side of the page is a commentary section with all the columns you enjoy in the Catholic Times.

You also will see an image of the front page of the current issue. From there, you can open the Times e-edition, which will bring you the entire print edition to read. In coming weeks, an archive feature will be added that will allow you to read all the Times issues that have been published during the last decade. The Catholic Times page also features the latest Catholic news from the Vatican and around the world from Catholic News Service.

Another important feature of the new website is the addition of a translator that will allow the reader to see all the web pages in any of a dozen languages commonly used in the Diocese of Columbus.

Because people will be accessing the site from many different types of computers, tablets, and mobile devices, the diocesan website is designed to automatically reformat the page to fit the screen on which it is being viewed.

Even though the site is up and running, it remains a work in progress. New features will be added in the weeks ahead, and the page will be constantly changing to reflect the ongoing vitality of Catholic life in the diocese.

So bookmark www.columbuscatholic.org in your computer, tablet, or smartphone. It is your new gateway to everything Catholic in central, southern, and eastern Ohio.

Dr. Robert A. Gervasi begins tenure as Ohio Dominican president

Dr. Robert A. Gervasi’s tenure as Ohio Dominican University’s 16th president began on Monday, June 26. University trustees announced on March 3 that Gervasi would be ODU’s next president. He succeeds Dr. Peter Cimbolic, who retired after seven years in the position.

Gervasi has spent the last nine years serving as president of Quincy (Illinois) University, a private Catholic Franciscan liberal arts university with approximately 1,300 undergraduate and graduate students.

During his tenure as president, Quincy experienced growth and improvement in many areas, including enrollment. In the fall of 2016, the university welcomed its largest class on record. In the past nine years, enrollment in its honors program has increased from 33 to 202 students. Quincy also became a more diverse campus under his leadership, with approximately 17 percent of the university’s student population made up of minority students.

Before joining Quincy, Gervasi served as president and chief executive officer of the Institute for Study Abroad in Indianapolis. There, he served more than 3,000 American students annually at 80 universities worldwide. Prior to that, he was dean of Kentucky campuses and external programs for McKendree University at its Louisville campus. In these positions, he had responsibility for all executive functions such as strategic planning, faculty development, marketing, fundraising, and recruitment.

Gervasi has taught at the University of Louisville, McKendree University, Chatfield College in St. Martin, Ohio, Miami University in Oxford, Ohio, Xavier University in Cincinnati, the Wharton School of Business at the University of Pennsylvania, and The Ohio State University. He also lectured as senior Fulbright scholar in classics at the University of Zimbabwe. In addition to his work in higher education, he has worked in public relations, marketing, and publishing for companies such as Bristol-Myers and Procter and Gamble.

He serves on many boards and in several community service and professional organizations, including on the executive committee of the Council of Independent Colleges; peer reviewer for the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools; board member for the Great River Economic Development Foundation; and as a member of the Rotary Club of Quincy. He previously was on the executive committee of the Associated Colleges of Illinois.

His wife, Jen, is a former executive in the home fashion industry and arts organizations.
ATTENDING MASS LED TO MY CONVERSION TO CATHOLICISM

By Christopher White
Catholic News Service

Blessed Cardinal John Henry Newman once wrote that “to be deep in history is to cease to be Protestant.” Cardinal Newman, a notable convert to the faith, was commenting on the essential role the Catholic Church has played throughout civilization — and his belief that to take history seriously, one has to wrestle with the truth claims of the church.

As a former Protestant, much of Cardinal Newman’s sentiments ring true to my experience. In some respects, my introduction to the Fathers of the Church first steered me in the direction of Catholicism. But almost a decade later, I also can attest to the fact that the seeds of conversion require more than a mere history lesson.

In the spring semester of my sophomore year of college, I found myself studying abroad in Paris. Frustrated by the divisions within Protestantism and exploring the history and tradition of the Catholic faith, I decided to spend my Sundays in Paris bouncing to different Catholic parishes.

It was a convenient way to feed my love of art and architecture, but it also served as an unexpected introduction to another kind of beauty — the liturgy.

Attending my first Mass at the age of 19 was a peculiar experience. The bells and smells were new to me, as were the collective prayers. But most striking were two other facets of the Mass: the centrality of the sacraments and the reverence in which the Mass was celebrated.

In Protestant churches, the peak of the service is the homily (or the sermon, as most Protestants refer to it). And yet be clear: Good preaching matters when it comes to spiritual nourishment. But as I soon discovered, the pinnacle of the Mass is the consecration and reception of holy Communion.

As the Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches, the Eucharist allows us to “unite ourselves with the heavenly liturgy and anticipate eternal life, when God will be all in all.” The discovery of ordinary things becoming extraordinary things forever shifted the way I thought about what it meant to attend a church.

Then there was the beauty of the reverence of the Mass. The rituals and rhythms of the liturgy served as a guide to enter into deeper communion with God. Outside, the streets were noisy and my life was unfocused. Inside, the liturgy channeled my focus on higher things.

For that reason, the preparatory document for the 2018 Synod of Bishops on “young people, faith, and vocational discernment” reminds us that “in an increasingly noisy society that offers a plethora of stimuli, one fundamental objective in the pastoral care of young people is to provide the young with opportunities to enjoy the value of silence and contemplation and to receive formation in understanding one’s experiences and to listen to one’s conscience.”

After that semester in Paris, it would be another three years before I finally entered into full communion with the church. The history books and theology all mattered and were certainly formative in my experience. But I’ll always remain most grateful for the discovery of the beauty of the Mass, where, in the company of saints and sinners alike, I could focus on what mattered most.

Join the conversation. Email: inlightoffaith@catholicnews.com
White is director of Catholic Voices USA.

St. Patrick “Into the Deep” talks continue

Christianity from a Bird’s-Eye View will be the subject of the next talk in the series titled “Into the Deep: Diving Into the Divine Mysteries of the Faith,” presented by the Dominican Friars of Columbus St. Patrick Church, 280 N. Grant Ave.

The talk will be from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Thursday, July 13, in Aquinas Hall. The talks, featuring Father Boniface Endorf, OP, will continue at the same time on the second Thursday of each month through December.

If you can’t attend the talks live, video recordings will be available on the parish website. The talks also will be featured on St. Gabriel Radio’s Faith Alive program weekdays at 4 p.m.

Child care will be provided by the parish’s American Heritage Girls, with adult supervision, if needed.

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church and School, Grove City, Ohio, seeks a qualified candidate for a full-time bookkeeper position.

The ideal candidate will embrace the parish’s mission to form and send intentional, missionary disciples of Jesus Christ, be of unquestionable integrity, have proficiency with Microsoft Office and various accounting software, be detail oriented, and possess an ability to organize, prioritize, and collaborate with parish staff.

Responsibilities include day-to-day accounts payable processing, maintaining general ledger and comprehensive record of financial activity, reconciling and interpreting account analyses, and producing financial statements and year-end reports.

A Bachelor’s or Master’s degree in accounting or a related field is preferred. The bookkeeper reports to the pastor and/or parish administrator.

Employment offer is contingent on the successful passing of the mandatory background screening and completion of the VIRTUS “Protecting God’s Children” training.

Qualified candidates should forward cover letter, resume, professional references, and salary requirements to:
David J. Frea/Parish Administrator, at dFrea@OurLadyOfPerpetualHelp.net

Diocese of Steubenville
Chief Financial Officer

Assist in performing all tasks necessary to achieve the Diocese’s mission and help execute staff succession and growth plans.
Train the Finance staff and other staff on raising awareness and knowledge of financial management matters.
Ensure adequate controls are installed and that substantiating documentation is approved and available such that all purchases may pass independent and governmental audits.
Provide an operating budget. Work with the Department Directors to ensure programmatic success through cost analysis support, and compliance with all contractual and programmatic requirements.
This includes:
1) interpreting legislative and programmatic rules and regulations to ensure compliance with all federal, state, local and contractual guidelines
2) ensuring that all government regulations and requirements are disseminated to appropriate personnel, and
3) monitoring compliance
For a complete job description visit:
http://www.diosteub.org/Job-Openings-
Hartley honors Father Ogurchock and Mary Ann Rees

Columbus Bishop Hartley High School celebrated the 60th anniversary of the school’s dedication at a Founder’s Day Mass with Bishop Frederick Campbell. After Mass, the bishop dedicated and blessed the Father James A. Ogurchock conference room in the school. The “Father O Room,” as it now is called, is dedicated in honor of Father Ogurchock’s service to the school, beginning in its early days when he was a teacher. Father Ogurchock continues to be part of the Hartley community by celebrating school Masses and being on the sidelines for many activities and sporting events. Another Founder’s Day event was the unveiling of a pennant dedicating the classroom space in the counseling office to Mary Ann Rees, a longtime teacher and school counselor who has retired. The room is now officially the Mary Ann Rees college and career classroom. The pennant in her honor joins pennants representing schools attended by Hartley graduates. Photos courtesy Bishop Hartley High School

Delaware St. Mary student receives scholarship

Delaware St. Mary School student Andrew Somodi was awarded the inaugural Ron Sabatino Family Scholarship by the Delaware County Foundation. The scholarship is available to any St. Mary School eighth-grader going to a Catholic high school. The scholarship recipient is awarded $5,000 per year toward tuition. Somodi will be attending Columbus St. Charles Preparatory School in the fall. Photo courtesy St. Mary School

Jeff McGowan Memorial 5K
Scioto Audubon Metro Park
Sunday, August 13, 8:30 a.m.
Contact Matt McGowan - runohio@ec.net

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PRAYER TO THE VIRGIN
Oh, most beautiful flower of Mt. Carmel, fruitful vine, splendor of Heaven, Blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in my necessity. Oh, Star of the Sea, help me and show me herein, you are my Mother. Oh, Holy Mary, Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth, I humbly beseech you from the bottom of my heart to succor me in my necessity. (Make request.) There are none who can withstand your power. Oh Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us, who have recourse to thee (repeat three times). Holy Mary, I place this prayer in your hands (repeat three times). Say this prayer three consecutive days and then you must publish. Thank you.

Former Watterson staff members help cancer patients

Two longtime Columbus Bishop Watterson High School staff members are helping raise awareness of a local nonprofit organization which assists cancer patients and their family members who come to Columbus from out of town for treatment. Marian Hutson, who retired from Watterson in 2016 after 39 years there, including 24 as principal, is co-hosting a garden-party fundraiser at 6 p.m. Saturday, July 15 at 376 Partridge Road in Powell for Hope Hollow, which was founded by Jane Jacquemin-Clark and her husband, Kevin. Jacquemin-Clark recently retired after a long career as a religion teacher and counselor at Watterson. Hope Hollow provides families of out-of-town cancer patients with complimentary lodging, either in a 4,600-square-foot home near The Ohio State University’s medical campus and Riverside Methodist Hospital, or in a hotel, and offers many other services to meet the families’ basic needs. For more information on the fundraiser, go to www.hopehollow.org.

Pray for the souls of the faithful departed
CELLPHONES REVISITED; PRIEST IN MORTAL SIN

QUESTION & ANSWER
by: FATHER KENNETH DOYLE
Catholic News Service

Q. Recently a reader complained about irreverent behavior in church prior to Mass, including cellphone use. As part of your response, you stated that cellphone use is always inappropriate. Judging behavior is also ugly behavior, at least as repugnant as irreverence.

I use my cellphone prior to Mass while seated in church. I read the day’s Scriptures along with meditations on those readings from several sources. (I particularly like the daily reflections from the University of Notre Dame and from the Jesuit community.) I will continue this practice despite anyone’s misplaced judgments. (City of origin withheld)

A. The letters above are indicative of those that arrive each week in response to this column. (Did you notice -- as I did -- a slight difference in tone between the two letters?) Such letters are valuable, serving to fill out my own answers and offering observations that cannot be included in a few short paragraphs.

The original question had complained about people talking and laughing on cellphones -- or texting -- before Mass (in fact, during exposition of the Blessed Sacrament). I did offer my own view that “the use of cellphones is never proper in church -- whether to speak or to text.”

I neglected to mention that there are some legitimate and laudable uses that involve neither speaking nor texting -- most notably, to reflect on the Scriptures or to read prayers in preparation for the Eucharist. So, a mea culpa from me and a thank-you to those who responded.

Q. Can priests baptize someone if they are in the state of mortal sin? My daughter was baptized by our parish priest in the 1980s. A few months later, he committed suicide. The reason given was that he was being accused of sexual abuse.

If that was true, was he allowed to baptize? And is my daughter legitimately baptized, or does she need a new baptism? (Manassas, Virginia)

A. The church has always taught that the validity of a sacrament does not depend on the state of soul of the human minister. (The technical theological language is that the sacraments act “ex opere operato” -- i.e., from the very fact of the action’s having been performed.) With every sacrament, Jesus Christ is the principal actor, even when the minister is unworthy.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church expresses it this way: “From the moment that a sacrament is celebrated in accordance with the intention of the church, the power of Christ and his Spirit act in and through it, independently of the personal holiness of the minister” (No. 1128).

That having been said, a priest of course must strive always to remain in the state of grace so that he may be a worthy representative of Christ, in whose person he acts in conferring a sacrament.

So, to answer your question: Your daughter was validly baptized and no “re-baptism” needs to take place. What you could do, though, is to offer a prayer or two for the priest who baptized her.

Had the priest been guilty of sexual abuse, it could be that he had confessed the sin and been forgiven long before he baptized your daughter. Still, though, he was deeply troubled -- as the suicide would indicate -- and could profit from your prayers.

(I should mention, too, that -- in contrast to the practice a generation or two back -- the church now celebrates a funeral Mass in church for someone who takes his own life; the thinking is that the person may well have been so disturbed as to mitigate somewhat his own moral responsibility.)

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

Franciscan University of Steubenville launches institute of catechetics

One of the biggest challenges facing the Catholic Church in the United States is how to bring a new evangelization to an increasingly secularized, fragmented culture.

Parish mergers, shrinking budgets, and a shortage of priests and catechists to instruct the laity compound the challenge.

Against this backdrop, Franciscan University of Steubenville announce the launching of the Franciscan University Institute of Catechetics.

“The institute’s overriding desire is to reach into parishes, families, and communities to support the strengthening of Catholic culture and the handing on of the treasure of faith in every possible place and situation,” said Dr. Petroc Willey, the institute’s director.

Through conferences, new catechetical resources, and especially online courses, the institute will seek “to serve all those who form others in the faith,” Willey said. This includes priests, parish catechists of all types, Catholic school teachers, and parents, the primary educators of their children.

The cornerstone of the institute’s work is an online library of one-hour workshops that eventually will total more than 650 videos.

The workshops will be available in a dozen certification tracks, including priestly catechetical renewal; ministry of parenting; catechist; parish catechetical leader; culture of life; Catholic schools; youth ministry; campus ministry; pastoral accompaniment; first proclamation; music ministry; and more.

The videos will be presented by faculty teaching in Franciscan University’s renowned catechetics program and will incorporate art, innovative media, music, and other creative elements that also communicate the faith.

All presentations are rooted in sacred Scripture and are loyal to the magisterium and guided by the Catholic Church’s most foundational documents on catechesis and evangelization.

The workshops, in 10- to 15-minute segments filmed in front of a live audience, will touch on almost every aspect of catechesis, ranging from catechetical theory and Christology to basic evangelization skills, public speaking, and vocational discernment.

Unique to existing online formation programs, the catechetical institute doesn’t replace diocesan services with distant experts. Rather, it will work with dioceses to establish local, on-the-ground mentoring programs connecting participants to veteran catechists living and working in their dioceses. These mentors will provide feedback and personal encouragement to participants.

“We do not want the lack of resources in any particular place ever to be an obstacle to these rich resources,” Willey said. For partner dioceses, a token yearly subscription paid by the parish or other parochial institution grants full access to the institute’s video library. Individuals also may take any workshop for enrichment for a nominal monthly fee.

Full details on the program are available at catechetics.com, the official website of the catechetical institute. The site also includes information on the institute’s annual St. John Bosco Conference in July and its Oct. 13-15 conference celebrating the 25th anniversary of the Catechism of the Catholic Church.
Columbus St. Andrew School principal Joel Wichtman presented scholarships to Columbus Bishop Watterson High School to Elena Latshaw (left) and Clare Mackin. Both students received $1,500 to apply to their tuition at Watterson for their prize-winning essays on the Beatitudes. Mackin also was selected to receive the $500 George LaNicca Community Service Award. Both awards are sponsored in part by the St. Andrew Church Women’s Club.

Photo courtesy St. Andrew School

Dominican Learning Center receives literacy grant

The Dominican Learning Center in Columbus has been awarded a $7,550 grant from the Dollar General Literacy Foundation to support adult literacy. The grant is part of more than $7.5 million in awards to nearly 900 schools, nonprofits, and organizations across the 44 states where there are Dollar General stores. Dollar General has more than 20 stores in the Columbus area.

“The Dollar General Literacy Foundation has given us a lasting gift,” said Sister Barbara Kane, OP, the center’s director. “This donation will allow us to implement Aztec Online Learning, a powerful online tool that will help our learners take advantage of quality instruction wherever they can access a phone, tablet, or computer.”

Sister Barbara tells the story of a learner who came to the DLC to try to improve his life, but was part of an ongoing legal investigation and could not leave his home to meet with a tutor. The center has helped him continue to study and learn by using the Aztec system and working with the center via phone.

“This program is useful for those who have trouble getting to us, of course, but I believe it will benefit all of our learners. We expect that it will enrich the educational experience and speed the learning curve for our basic education or GED prep learners,” Sister Barbara said.

The Dominican Learning Center, located in Columbus’ south side, offers personalized, one-on-one education for adults with a wide variety of educational needs. Learners can improve their math or literacy skills, work toward a GED, learn English to prepare for citizenship, and sharpen computer skills. Center staff members and 184 volunteer tutors meet with adult learners at libraries and other public locations convenient to the learner’s home or work.

The center was founded in 1994 by the Dominican Sisters of Peace and has more than 275 adult learners from 49 nations enrolled in its programs. One of its goals is to promote peace and nonviolence among immigrant communities in central Ohio.

Can I donate my body to science?

Some people may wish to “donate their body to science” after they die. Such a gift of self can be objectively good and praiseworthy, provided that their body would contribute to meaningful research or study and that it would not be used in a disrespectful or otherwise inappropriate manner.

A number of potentially laudable projects can benefit from a person’s decision to donate his or her body to science. A human cadaver can be useful for anatomical studies, helping train medical students to save lives later. It can be of assistance in carrying out basic biomedical research or in developing new medical instruments. It can be used as a forensic tool to help solve crimes through the study of advanced states of bodily decay. It can assist with the training of surgeons, and even can help with the development of various types of safety or protective gear, including helmets, automobile airbags, and bulletproof vests.

In 1956, Pope Pius XII noted that consenting to “damage to the integrity of the corpse, in the interest of those who are suffering, is no violation of the reverence due to the dead.” Pope St. John Paul II wrote in a 1995 encyclical that one way of nurturing a genuine culture of life “is the donation of organs, performed in an ethically acceptable manner, with a view to offering a chance of health and even of life itself to the sick who sometimes have no other hope” (“Evangelium Vitae” 86). The Catholic bishops of the United States have given similar guidance in their policy document titled “The Ethical and Religious Directives for Catholic Health Care Services”:

“Catholic health care institutions should encourage and provide the means whereby those who wish to do so may arrange for the donation of their organs and bodily tissue, for ethically legitimate purposes, so that they may be used for donation and research after death” (No. 63).

Although there are not any fundamental moral objections to donating our bodies to science, certain details of how the donation is carried out are important.

First, bodily remains should be interred properly in the earth at the conclusion of their use. The body should not be surrendered to researchers, then merely “left in limbo.” Often a university or research institution will oversee and pay for cremation of the body after the research is completed, so the family can be given the ashes. This may be specified in the agreement signed by the individual ahead of time. Assuring appropriate respect and reverence for the body thus would include arranging for burial in consecrated ground afterward.

A second consideration of importance for Catholics involves the offering of prayers, particularly the sacrifice of the Mass, on behalf of the deceased. Father Edward McNamara, a well-known writer and liturgy professor in Rome, offers some practical guidance in this regard: “Since it is usually impossible to have a funeral with the remains shortly after death, as this would render the body unsuitable for research purposes, a memorial Mass without the body can be celebrated so as to entrust the soul of the deceased to God and offer the family the opportunity of mourning together. When the remains are released to the family, another Mass may be offered.”

A third potential area of concern involves the possibility that certain cells or tissues derived from the human body may be used inappropriately in research. To consider one instance, it is possible to harvest sex cells or their progenitor cells from corpses a few hours following death. Some researchers might be tempted to use these cells, for example, to create human embryos in the laboratory for biomedical research. Although such practices are uncommon, an individual who believes that his or her cells are likely to be used in this unethical way by a research institution should not agree to donate his or her body after death.

Those contemplating the possibility of donating their bodies to science should weigh a fourth consideration as well: namely, whether others in their family are open to their body being utilized in this way. They should find out whether their spouse, children, or others close to them would have any objections or concerns. At the end of the day, there may be some family members who, in the words of one commentator, can’t quite get past the idea “that you will be dissected over a period of months in anatomy class, or cut up and divided among different programs (brain to an Alzheimer’s study, joints to orthopedic surgery training).” Careful vetting of the details ahead of time helps avoid resentment, pain, and surprises after a loved one passes on.

With these caveats and considerations in mind, donating a body to science can indeed allow someone to “give back” or “contribute to society” after death.

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

Through the generosity of Bishop Frederick Campbell, Father Michael Lumpe, cathedral rector, and the Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral staff, Circleville St. Joseph Church was able to have its Confirmation service in the cathedral on Thursday, May 25 for 26 young men and women. The Circleville church began an extensive renovation project on May 1 and currently has no pews, altar of sacrifice, organ pipes, and other church furnishings. Masses are being celebrated in the parish hall. The renovation is expected to be completed by Dec. 1. Father Ted Machnik, pastor of the Circleville church, is pictured at far right in the second row.

Photo courtesy St. Joseph Church
Turning to Our Lady of Covadonga with trust

The story of Our Lady of Covadonga started long ago, in 711, when Islam was on the rise in Asia Minor and North Africa. The Moors turned their attention to Spain, and because the Visigothic kingdom was weak, the troops landed easily in the area of present-day Gibraltar.

The Moors and the Visigoths were duking it out – one group defending its homeland, the other seeking to conquer and rule. The Visigoths lost the battle and King Rodrigo was killed. He obviously was a hero to his people, though, because legends immediately cropped up that, on the one hand, he had not died, but had become a hermit, and, on the other hand, that if he had not died, he appeared in another form to strengthen his people.

What was left of King Rodrigo’s Visigoth army panicked, separating to many different places. Don Pelayo, a relative of King Rodrigo, remained undaunted by the defeat. I picture him as a fierce man, forced to live in the mazelike caves in the hills and mountains of Asturia. He was certainly unhappy about it, but I have a picture of him as a hero, a tough guy who loved his country so fiercely he wasn’t going to give up and let the Moors have an easy victory.

When you’re in hiding with an army, there’s not a lot of room for discord. Shortly after arriving at the hiding place in the caves near Covadonga, Don Pelayo was going to discipline a member who had fled the group and been marked as disruptive. Just as Don Pelayo was going to take him prisoner, a hermit appeared before him and informed him that the cave before him should be honored as a sanctuary and that the fleeing offender should be granted asylum. The hermit told him, “If you pardon the culprit now, you will find haven one day at the same spot and thus remake the Empire.”

Was Don Pelayo startled by the hermit’s insistence and obvious holiness? Could he recognize the truth in the hermit’s prophecy? Was the dream of remaking the Empire more than he could ignore?

Don Pelayo would have been aware that the cave the hermit referred to had been considered a sanctuary of Mary for as long as anyone could remember, drawing hermits and others to venerate an image that was there. Whatever the reason, Don Pelayo pardoned the man, though I imagine there was a warning attached. It took seven years of hiding in the caves and hills for Don Pelayo’s rebels to prepare for their attack. In 718, the Moors had enough of the rumors of an army building in the hills, and they sent an entire army into Asturia with instructions to get rid of the hiding Visigoths once and for all. Even though Don Pelayo was a brave leader, I’m sure there was a little bit of sweat under his armpits when he heard an entire army was coming his way. He did the wisest thing he could: he went to the cave where he had met the hermit and prayed there.

The image of Don Pelayo’s band meeting the immense Arab army is the stuff Hollywood loves. I can hear deep music and smell the tension in the wind. More than one of Don Pelayo’s men must have offered up a desperate plea to heaven, and perhaps it was this desperation, this sense that they had nothing to lose, that gave them a glint in their eyes.

The Moors must have chuckled to themselves when they saw how much they outnumbered Don Pelayo’s group. Did they laugh? Did they jeer before they started shooting arrows? Were they certain of their victory? As the arrows blackened the sky and lances and darts were thrown, things looked bleak for the Visigoths. How would they survive this onslaught? Then, probably with a feeling of confusion, the attacking Moors realized their weapons weren’t reaching the band of soldiers in the hills. Everything was bouncing off the rocks. How could that be?

Don Pelayo’s party must have been felt a surge of hope, and it must have been just what they needed. I can just see them laughing and then attacking the Moors. The Moors were confused, unsure of what was happening, and, in that confusion, they fled, pursued by the small Visigoth army. As they headed for the safety of the Mount Auceva plains, a huge thunderstorm erupted, causing the Deva River to overflow its banks and a landslide to form, crushing the fleeing army.

Inteiror focus

One of the aspects of strength training that I really enjoy is executing a heavy barbell or kettlebell lift with careful, thoughtful, methodical precision. You are interiorly focused, especially if the weight you are lifting is near your maximum effort. You are not talking or laughing or thinking about what you have to do later that day. For that moment, you are laser-focused on the lift. You apply patient perseverance and trust your body to make a go at cracking the bar off the floor or heaving the weight overhead.

Thinking, feeling, and moving mindfully and with perfect technique can be challenging, especially if you haven’t developed an interior focus. New students often comment that the hardest part of lifting weights is the ability to think, feel, and concentrate without distraction.

It can be like that in our prayer life as well. We might not be used to sitting in silence, interiorly focused and waiting patiently for God to speak to us in our hearts. If we are able to quiet the mind and ease out distractions, speaking and listening to God can be a transformative time of prayer.

Yet for many of us, that silent interior focus can be elusive.


“Without the moorings of silence, life is a depressing movement, a puny little boat, ceaselessly tossed by the violence of the waves. Silence is the outer wall that we must build in order to protect an interior edifice,” he writes in the book.

This topic of silence and deeper interior focus is critical to a strong contemplative prayer life which will enable us to grow closer to Our Lord and illuminate God’s will for our lives.

You probably agree that spending time in silence is countercultural; more than ever, it can be challenging to find silence, even in our own homes. Cardinal Sarah refers to this as the dictatorship of noise.

Back to our lifting example: When we lift heavy weights, the muscle fibers in our bodies change and grow and, over time, we become physically stronger. We may not see the changes right away, but we know it’s happening as we progress to heavier weights.

Similarly, our time in prayerful silence transforms our hearts, even when we don’t immediately see changes or feel any different. We trust that God’s grace is at work in us and that over time, a strong interior prayer life will yield sweet fruit in our lives.

Lori Crock is a Plain City St. Joseph Church parishioner and can be found online at www.holyandhealthy catholic.com.
Above: Holy Rosary-St. John RCIA coordinator Rhonda Hamilton and volunteer coordinator Violet Jackson in front of a wall painting inside the building’s second floor. Below: Food pantry volunteers (from left) Don Randall, Sylvia Jackson, and volunteer coordinator Violet Jackson in front of a wall painting representing the heritage of the two parishes from which the two churches combined in 1979 into one parish.

RosaLSY-ST. JOHN TO HONOR ITS HISTORY AND COMMUNITY PRESENCE ON JULY 16

June 28, 2017

By:TOM KOPFER

Catholic Times/July 2, 2017

Members of Columbus Holy Rosary-St. John Parish will celebrate an anniversary tomorrow that was missed back in 1979. The two parishes combined in 1979 into one parish, bringing Msgr. (Frederick) Burkhart’s Poor of the Sick and Christmas Store for the poor of the parish. The two churches were combined in 1979 into one parish, bringing Msgr. (Frederick) Burkhart’s Poor of the Sick and Christmas Store for the poor of the parish.

Holy Rosary-St. John to Honor Its History and Community Presence on July 16

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Couples with 60 or more years of marriage

Christ the King, Columbus 55th
Christ the King, Columbus 50th
Christ the King, Columbus 60th
Christ the King, Columbus 50th
Church of the Blessed Sacrament, Newark 25th
Church of the Resurrection, New Albany 55th
Church of the Resurrection, New Albany 50th
Church of the Resurrection, New Albany 50th
Church of the Resurrection, New Albany 55th
Church of the Resurrection, New Albany 55th
Church of the Resurrection, New Albany 30th
Church of the Resurrection, New Albany 25th
Holy Family, Columbus 55th
Holy Spirit, Columbus 69th
Immaculate Conception, Kenton 40th
Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal, Columbus 55th
Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal, Columbus 45th
Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal, Columbus 60th
Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal, Columbus 35th
Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Buckeye Lake 45th
Our Lady of Peace, Columbus 30th
Our Lady of Peace, Columbus 35th
Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Grove City 45th
Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Grove City 50th
Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Grove City 68th
Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Grove City 45th
Our Lady of Victory, Columbus 45th
Our Lady of Victory, Columbus 30th
Retired from active diaconal ministry 60th
Retired from active diaconal ministry 50th
Retired from active diaconal ministry 50th
Retired from active diaconal ministry 35th
Sacred Heart, Coshocton 35th
Serving outside our diocese 40th
Seton Parish, Pickerington 35th
Seton Parish, Pickerington 40th
Seton Parish, Pickerington 30th
Seton Parish, Pickerington 30th
Seton Parish, Pickerington 35th
Seton Parish, Pickerington 35th
Seton Parish, Pickerington 35th
Seton Parish, Pickerington 45th
St. Agatha, Columbus 40th
St. Agatha, Columbus 55th

St. Andrew, Columbus 45th
St. Andrew, Columbus 60th
St. Ann, Dresden 25th
St. Anthony, Columbus 40th
St. Brendan, Hilliard 50th
St. Brendan, Hilliard 30th
St. Brendan, Hilliard 30th
St. Brendan, Hilliard 60th
St. Brideg of Kildaire, Dublin 40th
St. Brideg of Kildaire, Dublin 62nd
St. Cecilia, Columbus 45th
St. Cecilia, Columbus 45th
St. Elizabeth, Columbus 65th
St. Elizabeth, Columbus 60th
St. Francis of Assisi, Columbus 40th
St. James the Less, Columbus 45th
St. James the Less, Columbus 66th
St. Joan of Arc, Powell 50th
St. John Neumann, Sunbury 25th
St. John Neumann, Sunbury 25th
St. John XXIII, Canal Winchester 25th
St. John XXIII, Canal Winchester 25th
St. John XXIII, Canal Winchester 25th
St. John XXIII, Canal Winchester 72nd

Jubilee of Anniversaries

Congratulations & Blessings to All Married Couples Celebrating a Significant Anniversary in 2017!

“THE LOVE OF HUSBAND AND WIFE IS THE FORCE THAT WELDS SOCIETY TOGETHER.”

- St. John Chrysostom

CT photos by Ken Snow

Jubilee of Marriage Anniversaries 2017

Couples with 50 and 55 years of marriage
The Diaconate Community
Congratulates Deacons and their wives on their Jubilee Wedding Anniversaries

60 years
Dcn. Bart & Joan Supino - 02/02/57

50 years
Dcn. Donald & Patricia Robers - 01/14/67
Dcn. Thomas & Halina Barford - 03/31/67
Dcn. Albert & Linda Cain - 06/09/67

40 years
Dcn. Kenneth & Suzanne Drummer - 02/05/77
Dcn. James & Karen Gorski - 05/21/77
Dcn. Reed & Theda Hauser - 06/17/77

35 years
Dcn. Michael & Elizabeth Ross - 02/20/82
Dcn. Marion & Carol Smithberger - 09/11/82
Dcn. John & Kathleen Malone - 10/30/82

30 years
Dcn. Jim & Leah Kelly - 02/21/87
Dcn. Rob & Krista Joseph - 06/20/87

25 years
Dcn. Carl & Gloria Calcura - 03/07/92
Dcn. Todd & Mimi Tucky - 07/25/92
Dcn. David & Brenda Lozowski - 12/19/92

St. Matthew, Gahanna
40th
James & Karen Gorski
St. Matthew, Gahanna
50th
Andrew & Teresa Praciuk

St. Matthew, Gahanna
30th
John & Michelle Callahan
St. Matthew, Gahanna
50th
Wayne & Kathleen Stertzer

St. Matthew, Gahanna
30th
Dow Daniel & Jamie Marie Huggett
St. Matthew, Gahanna
40th
Thomas & Anne Marie Simon

St. Matthew, Gahanna
30th
John & Michelle Huprich
St. Matthew, Gahanna
35th
Theodore & Yvonne Deibel

St. Matthew, Gahanna
35th
Jim & Renee Dovskoy
St. Matthew, Gahanna
40th
James & Guadalupe Lejman

St. Matthew, Gahanna
50th
Richard & Lois Williams
St. Matthew, Gahanna
25th
Matthew & Andrea Arens

St. Matthew, Gahanna
50th
Thomas & Patricia Herr
St. Matthew, Gahanna
60th
James & Barbara Foley

St. Matthew, Gahanna
50th
Robert & Belinda Froning
St. Matthew, Gahanna
50th
John & Deanna King

St. Mary, Chesapeake
35th
Norman & Katie Boesch
St. Mary, Chesapeake
50th
Vic & Marlene Elekes

St. Mary, Delaware
60th
Jeffrey & Anna Higley
St. Mary, Delaware
40th
Paul Wallace & Emma O'Daniel

St. Mary, Delaware
40th
George & Sharon Adamson
St. Mary, Delaware
45th
Scott & Nancy Konkus

St. Mary, Delaware
45th
William & Janis Crohen
St. Mary, Delaware
35th
Paul & Marieth Gregor

St. Mary, Delaware
40th
Ben & Martha Feula
St. Mary, Delaware
50th
Gary & Linda Strapp

St. Mary, Delaware
50th
Brad & Doreen Dixon
St. Mary, Delaware
30th
Richard & Mary Ellen Sandford

St. Mary, Delaware
45th
James & Laurie Carlson
St. Mary, Delaware
55th
James & Linda Arens

St. Mary, Delaware
45th
Jerry & Kathy McDonough
St. Mary, Delaware
40th
Terrence & Mary Otting

St. Mary, Delaware
45th
Peter & Karen Jones
St. Mary, Delaware
50th
Anthony & Monica Cacchillo

St. Mary, Delaware
25th
Todd & Mimi Tucky
St. Mary, Delaware
30th
Brian & Connie Swigert

St. Mary, Lancaster
60th
Rick & Lynanne Shea
St. Mary, Lancaster
35th
David & Theresa Barrett

St. Mary, Lancaster
50th
John & Marcia Baughman
St. Mary, Lancaster
40th
Jeffery & Patricia Aleshire

St. Mary, Marion
40th
Noel & Maria Ebob
St. Mary, Marion
45th
Ronald & Mary Ann Koncal

St. Mary, Marion
45th
Steve & Doris Schwartz
St. Mary, Marion
62nd
Anthony & Elizabeth Petraca

St. Mary, Marion
40th
David & Cathy Ulh
St. Mary, Marion
60th
Jack & Eileen Wolock

St. Mary, Marion
40th
Joe & Kathy Tobin
St. Mary, Marion
25th
Joseph & Maria Suzzo

St. Mary, Marion
45th
Noel & Maria Ebob
St. Mary, Marion
45th
Louis Joseph & Nancy Gail Donini

St. Mary, Marion
60th
Jerome & Jacquelyn Ballenger
St. Mary, Marion
45th
Patrick & Teresa Paul

St. Mary, Marion
50th
Shaun & Jamie Straw
St. Mary, Marion
45th
Tom & Patty Scott

St. Mary, Marion
50th
James & Joanne Traveline
St. Mary, Marion
45th
Gary & Molly Sheldon

St. Mary, Portsmouth
30th
Larry & Loretta Essman
St. Mary, Portsmouth
30th
Michael & Carol Fry

St. Mary, Portsmouth
30th
George & Janet Welty
St. Mary, Portsmouth
30th
Art & Laura McCall

St. Matthew, Gahanna
25th
Mike & Sue McFadden
St. Matthew, Gahanna
35th
Dennis & Elizabeth Flynn

St. Matthew, Gahanna
63rd
Frank & Jerri McKimmins
St. Matthew, Gahanna
40th
Richard & Susan Danko

St. Matthew, Marion
35th
St. Paul the Apostle, Westerville
St. Paul the Apostle, Westerville
30th
Sebastian & Teresa Mauricio

St. Matthew, Marion
35th
St. Paul the Apostle, Westerville
St. Paul the Apostle, Westerville
35th
Tom & Sharon Gehrich

St. Matthew, Marion
30th
St. Paul the Apostle, Westerville
St. Paul the Apostle, Westerville
50th
Tom & Halina Barford

St. Matthew, Marion
30th
St. Paul the Apostle, Westerville
St. Paul the Apostle, Westerville
40th
Alan & Marie Dauer

St. Matthew, Marion
30th
St. Paul the Apostle, Westerville
St. Paul the Apostle, Westerville
63rd
James & Rita Marsinek

St. Matthew, Marion
30th
St. Paul the Apostle, Westerville
St. Paul the Apostle, Westerville
60th
George & Mary O'Connell

St. Matthew, Marion
30th
St. Paul the Apostle, Westerville
St. Paul the Apostle, Westerville
45th
Lou & Jackie Sledics

St. Matthew, Marion
30th
St. Paul the Apostle, Westerville
St. Paul the Apostle, Westerville
60th
Robert & Mary Ann Mudd

St. Matthew, Marion
30th
St. Paul the Apostle, Westerville
St. Paul the Apostle, Westerville
30th
Michael & Shellie Schultheis

St. Matthew, Marion
30th
St. Paul the Apostle, Westerville
St. Paul the Apostle, Westerville
40th
Frank & Dolly Zito

St. Matthew, Marion
30th
St. Peter, Chillicothe
St. Peter, Chillicothe
30th
Carl A. & Annette R. Svagerko

St. Matthew, Marion
30th
St. Peter, Chillicothe
St. Peter, Chillicothe
40th
Tom & Marilyn McCabe

St. Matthew, Marion
40th
St. Peter, Chillicothe
St. Peter, Chillicothe
45th
Fred & Mildred Gain

St. Matthew, Marion
45th
St. Peter, Columbus
St. Peter, Columbus
50th
Garry & Kathleen Rupp

Sts. Peter and Paul, Wellston
35th
25th
Roger & Barbara Wenger

St. Pius X, Reynoldsburg
25th
Timothy & Rebecca Feldman

St. Pius X, Reynoldsburg
45th
Roger & Ruth Ann Miller

St. Pius X, Reynoldsburg
40th
William & Jean Richards

St. Pius X, Reynoldsburg
50th
Bill & Joyce Black

St. Pius X, Reynoldsburg
30th
Dick & Susan Rickerl

St. Pius X, Reynoldsburg
40th
Randy & Rita Yost

St. Pius X, Reynoldsburg
30th
Jim & Leah Kelly

St. Pius X, Reynoldsburg
50th
Richard & June Kelly

St. Pius X, Reynoldsburg
50th
Charles & Maria Giametta

St. Pius X, Reynoldsburg
25th
Philip & Lorrie Crosswell

St. Pius X, Reynoldsburg
40th
Gordon & Ann Burke

St. Pius X, Reynoldsburg
30th
Jim & Leah Kelly

St. Pius X, Reynoldsburg
55th
Dominic & Polly Polcicar

St. Pius X, Reynoldsburg
50th
Tim & Trish Longstreth

St. Pius X, Reynoldsburg
45th
Robert J. & Agnes F. Loula

St. Pius X, Reynoldsburg
60th
James & Mary Anne Reinmann

St. Pius X, Reynoldsburg
35th
Marion & Carol Smithberger
Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Cycle A)

Loving Jesus takes precedence over everything else

Father Lawrence L. Hummer

July 2 -- 2 Kings 4:8-11,14-16a; Romans 6:3-4,8-11; Matthew 10:37-42

Elisha was the successor to Elijah, the first of the classical prophets. The “woman of influence” whom he meets in Shunem, located in the general region of southern Galilee, had no name, nor did her husband. It became a favorite stopping place for Elisha during his activity as a prophet to Israel. Offering hospitality to a stranger, especially one who was a “holo man,” was a blessing for them. So they arranged a place for him on the roof of their house (think mud-brick house with a flat roof), and furnished it with basic necessities.

It was an offer Elisha could not refuse, so he came there often when he was in the area. Eventually, Elisha learned that the woman and her husband were childless. As happens so frequently throughout the Old Testament, the woman was advanced in age, and being childless was considered a great shame. So Elisha, with his confidence in the Lord’s ability to act, promises the woman that she will have a baby (and a son at that!) in a year’s time. That is not where the story ends in 2 Kings, but readers will have to turn there to find out the ending. The Lectionary uses this as a companion to the Gospel to show the truth of a saying in Sunday’s Gospel that “whoever receives a prophet because he is a prophet will receive a prophet’s reward.”

That Gospel saying is one of a string of sayings in Matthew 10:24-33, Matthew 10:37-42, Matthew 9:9-13, and Matthew 10:37-42. Paul’s words to the Romans often are used at funerals. Though they probably go unheard by mourners in their grief, they remain instructive for us about how baptism is linked with the death of Christ. Paul says we were baptized into the death of Christ Jesus. But he doesn’t let it rest there. We also were buried with him “through baptism into his death,” so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might live in newness of life.” This is symbolized by going down into the water and coming up again.

The symbol is best preserved in those who physically go down into the water, only to rise up out of the water again. In most older Catholic churches, this rich symbolism is lost by the pouring of water over the head of an infant or an adult. It obviously is preserved in some Protestant traditions. If death no longer has power over Christ and we who have been baptized share this with Christ, then we, too, are dead to sin “and living for God in Christ Jesus.”

Having just emerged from the Easter celebrations, these should be very fresh and worthwhile reflections for all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus. “We are dead to sin and living for God in Christ Jesus” or should be! Father Lawrence Hummer, pastor of Chillicothe St. Mary Church, may be reached at hummerl@stmarychillicothe.com.

Cathedral Healing Mass and service to take place July 17

A Mass of healing and healing service will take place at 6:30 p.m. Monday, July 17 at Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral, 212 E. Broad St.

The healing service will follow the Mass and an opportunity for everyone present to speak individually with a priest and have him say prayers of healing for what they seek. The sacrament of Anointing of the Sick also will be available. All persons who seek Christ’s healing are invited. All caregivers, family members, and members of the medical community also are invited.

Parking is available at the rear of the cathedral, accessible off East Gay Street. There is a handicapped-accessible elevator in the courtyard (west side of the cathedral) on East Broad Street.

For more information, call the cathedral at (614) 224-1295.
It’s Howdy Doody Time!

Three or four times each month, Father X (as I’ll call him here) celebrates the noontime daily Mass I regularly attend. I’m grateful for his homilies, which are almost always thoughtful. Thus in a recent commentary on Jesus’s debate with the Sadducees over the resurrection of the dead, Father X gave a lucid and moving explanation of the “communion of saints” and how it functions in our Christian lives.

The problem is not Father X’s preaching. The problem is — if you’ll permit me an AmChurch neologism — Father X’s “presidential style.” And then, boys and girls, it’s Howdy Doody Time all over again.

In his liturgical formation, Father X evidently didn’t get the short memo that reads, “Do the red and say the black”: that is, follow the rubrics in the Roman Missal and don’t mess around with the liturgical texts. Or perhaps Father X imagines himself a better stylist than those who translated the third edition into English. But whatever the causality, Father X can’t seem to help himself — the temptation to jolly things up is an itch that has to be scratched.

Thus the Gospel is always announced by “A reading from the Good News as proclaimed by St. —.” At the consecration, the institution narrative is changed so that the Lord passes the bread and wine rather than gives it. “The Lord be with you” is frequently prefaced by a “My sisters and brothers …,” with an emphasis on the “with” that rings up — you guessed it — the Howdy Doody Show and its opening jingle.

But Father X doesn’t limit his rhetorical and stylistic assaults on the liturgy to Fifties’ TV re-runs. His invitation to “Lift up your HEARTS!” (the last word zoomed so that it’s almost shouted) calls to mind an ecstatic radio announcer informing his Bay Area listeners that Steph Curry has won the game again by draining a buzzer-beater from six feet behind the three-point line.

The Mass is the Mass, and we may thank God for the settled theological principle of ex opera operato, which assures us that God’s grace acts through earthen vessels, even priests who defy the rubrics and the properties. But Father X’s insistence on turning parts of the Mass into the children’s hour bespeaks several problems.

In the first instance, it suggests that the priest-celebrant is the master of the divine liturgy rather than its servant. In this case, that mastery too often turns Father X into a kind of ringmaster whose verbal antics, presumably intended to make the Mass more user-friendly, are a distraction from that toward which the Church’s worship aims, according to the teaching of the Second Vatican Council: “The liturgy daily builds up those who are in the Church, making of them a holy temple of the Lord, a dwelling-place for God in the Spirit, to the mature measure of the fullness of Christ” (Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy, 2). Howdy Doody and Christian maturity do not go together.

Secondly, the jollying-up-by-dumbing-down of the liturgy bespeaks a clericalism that doesn’t trust the lay faithful to “get it” without bells and whistles. I’m sorry, but that lack of trust is offensive. The “full, conscious, and active participation in liturgical celebrations … to which the Christian people, ‘a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a redeemed people’ (1 Peter 2.9, 4-5) have a right and obligation by reason of their baptism” (Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy, 14) is not advanced when those Christian people are treated as if they were dimwits, or five-year olds with short attention spans.

There has been considerable progress made in the reform of the liturgical reform, not least by the restoration of sacramal language to the Missal. As Cardinal Robert Sarah, prefect of the Vatican’s Congregation for Divine Worship, reminds us, recovering a sense of the liturgy’s kingdom-dimension, its anticipation of the Lord’s return in glory, is the next important step. Taking that step requires celebrating the liturgy as if it really were a foretaste of the Wedding Feast of the Lamb described in Revelation 19, not a knock-off of the Howdy Doody Show.

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

Saint Paul the Apostle Parish Director of Religious Education

Saint Paul the Apostle Parish, a 4,000 family Catholic community in Westerville, Ohio (Columbus) is in search of a Director of Religious Education (DRE).

The Director of Religious Education is responsible for the ministry of catechesis in the Parish School of Religious Education, oversees and offers policies and catechetical programs for children, and young adults. Specifically, this individual leads the day to day operations of an 800 plus student body PSR program ranging from pre-school through eighth grade with a staff of four coordinators and over 100 volunteer catechists. This individual is also a member of the parish liturgy committee and works closely with school administrators and pastoral associates.

The qualified individual will have an MA in Religious Education/Catholic Theology or equivalent, a minimum of 3 years’ parish religious education or similar experience; familiarity with principles and dimensions of; catechist formation, children’s ministry, young adult ministry, proven administrative skills including interpersonal relations, conflict resolution, management and supervision, budget preparation, and be a collaborative minister.

Compensation is open and commensurate with experience and education. Job offer is contingent on the successful passing of the mandatory background screening and completion of the VIRTUS “Protecting God’s Children” course. All benefits are according to Diocesan policy.

For more information, please contact; Deacon Dean Racine, Director of Parish Administration at 614.882.2109.

Résumés may be sent with a cover letter by e-mail to: dracine@stpacc.org

NEED A PARISH MISSION?

The Dominican Fathers are currently scheduling for Fall 2017, Advent, Lent & Spring 2018

Full range of topics/themes available

Contact Father Thomas Blau @ 614.208.1072/frthomasblauop@gmail.com
Or Mary Leathley mary@stpatrickcolumbus.org

TO LEARN MORE AND SCHEDULE YOUR PARISH MISSION TODAY!

Faithful ~ Affordable ~ Accessible
Pray for our dead

AMSLER, Helen “Dee” (Sauer), 75, June 11
Sacred Heart Church, Marysville

ANGELO, Frank, 87, June 17
Sacred Heart Church, New Philadelphia

BAHNSON, Anne M. (Mazzolini), 81, June 2
St. Mary Church, Lancaster

BARKOW, Carolyn A. (Farrell), 65, June 19
St. Elizabeth Seton Parish, Pickerington

BASS, Eileen E., 88, June 19
Sacred Heart Cemetery, Columbus

BENSON, David, 76, June 12
St. Edward Church, Westerville

BRECKLER, Wendelin M., 80, June 17
St. Patrick Church, Westerville

BURTON, William R., 60, June 10
Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Grove City

CAIN, Robert E., 80, June 15
St. Matthew Church, Columbus

CROMWELL, Alice (Dues), June 18
St. Matthew Church, Gahanna

DAVENA, Charles A., 97, June 13
St. Mary Church, Waverly

DAVIES, Maria T. (Saritsky), 51, June 17
St. Agatha Church, Columbus

DeMAGGIO, Deborah (McQuay), 59, May 1
St. Mary Church, Waverly

DITTMAR, Jeannine H. (Powell), 90, June 17
St. Thomas Aquinas Church, Zanesville

DORIA, Rosaline (Manzo), 96, June 17
St. Mary Church, Marion

FAGAN, Mary V. “Ginny” (Hooker), 94, June 15
St. Mark Church, Lancaster

FRONK, Daniel A., 81, June 18
St. Agatha Church, Columbus

GILCHRIST, Isabel A. (McCabe), 97, June 19
St. John the Baptist Church, Columbus

GIORGIONE, Janice R. (Frey), 69, June 8
Our Lady of Peace Church, Columbus

HAUSFELD, Norm, 88, June 11
St. Andrew Church, Columbus

HENSON, Scott A., 50, June 17
St. Paul Church, Westerville

HICKEY, Dennis J., 76, June 14
St. Matthew Church, Gahanna

HOLLEYOAK, Susie (Oberholzer), 97, June 12
Immaculate Conception Church, Dennison

HUELSKAMP, Donald A., 90, May 31
Sacred Hearts Church, Cardington

IACONIS, Emma M. “Maggie” (Kershaw), 93, June 21
St. Peter Church, Columbus

KRAMER, Richard D., 93, June 15
Holy Family Church, Columbus

LANG, Christina A., 33, June 21
St. Thomas Church, Columbus

LARSON, Joy E. (Glass), 70, June 21
St. Nicholas Church, Zanesville

LELONEK, Eleanor, 84, June 17
St. Mary Magdalene Church, Columbus

LOMBARDI, Edith L. (Antonellli), 90, June 11
St. Brigid of Kildare Church, Dublin

NAZIONALE, Joseph, 98, June 16
Immaculate Conception Church, Dennison

ORTMAN, David L., 60, June 13
St. Joan of Arc Church, Powell

PATTERSON, John E., 94, June 22
St. John the Baptist Church, Columbus

PLOTTS, Matthew, 60, June 15
St. Joseph Church, Dover

RAPHLE, Thomas A. “Bubba,” 60, June 9
Immaculate Conception Church, Columbus

ROWLEY, Patricia L. (Davis), 79, June 17
Blessed Sacrament Church, Newark

SCHWENDIMAN, Theresa (Tedesco), 64, June 13
St. Joseph Church, Dover

SMITH, Bernard J., 41, June 17
St. Mary Church, Marion

SPEZIALETTI, Louis L. Jr., 80, June 16
St. Mary Church, Columbus

STEVENS, Letta “Jayne” (Mowrey), 76, June 18
Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Grove City

THOMAS, Sarah (Smith), 76, June 19
Our Lady of Prompt Succor Church, Columbus

VANCE, Gertrude (Pike), 93, June 11
Blessed Sacrament Church, Newark

WHITTED, Robert E., 81, June 10
Immaculate Conception Church, Columbus

WHEELER, Susan, 66, May 5
St. Mary Church, Waverly

William Gleich

Funeral Mass for William Gleich, 88, who died Thursday, June 22, was held Monday, June 26, at Columbus Christ the King Church. Burial was at St. Joseph Cemetery, Columbus.

He was a graduate of Columbus Immaculate Conception School and Columbus Aquinas College High School and The Ohio State University’s business school, served in the Army during the Korean War, and was employed by Western Electric and the Foxfire Golf Club.

For more than 30 years, he was director of boys and girls athletics at Christ the King School. He also was president of the Central Ohio Baseball League, coached baseball at Ohio Dominican College, and was a mentor for Junior Achievement.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Jack and Irene (Woodward); and a sister, Mary (Ed) Salser. Survivors include his wife, Dolores; sons, Bill, Jim (Angie), and Gary; daughters, Patricia (Craig) Clemans, Jeanne (Dave) Gleich-Anthony, and Deborah (John) Gleich-Bope; six grandsons; and three great-grandchildren.

Newark center to host retreat for women

“Retreat and Refresh: A Day of Renewal for a Woman’s Soul” will be the theme of a retreat which will take place Sunday and Monday, July 16 and 17 at Sts. Peter and Paul Retreat Center, 2734 Seminary Road S.E., Newark. Participants may arrive on Sunday evening and stay overnight or come for the Monday program only.

Registration opens at 6 p.m. Sunday, and the retreat will begin at 6:30 with an evening of activities related to contemplative prayer. Overnight lodging will be available.

Breakfast will be at 8:30 a.m. Monday, followed by recital of the rosary at 9 and a short reflection. Columbus-based author and broadcaster Elizabeth Ficocelli will present talks at 9:30 and 10:45. She will speak about her conversion to Catholicism and discuss the life of St. Therese of Lisieux.

Lunch will be at noon. Two facilitators of the Walking With Purpose Scripture study program for women will be on hand for two afternoon breakout sessions with anyone interested in being a facilitator for the program. For those not interested in taking part in the sessions, retreat director Glenda Reynolds will present Dr. Edward Sri’s video A Walk With the Blessed Mother. The afternoon also will include a crafts program. It will conclude around 4 p.m.

The cost for those arriving on Sunday will be $95 with a private room or $75 with a semiprivate room. It will be $50 for the Monday events only. Breakfast and lunch are included in the price.

Anyone interested in attending is asked to contact Reynolds at (740) 974-7568 or g.reynolds15@yahoo.com. The registration deadline is Monday, July 3.
HAPPENINGS

CLASSIFIED

St. Luke Church/Danville
ST. LUCUS PARISH FESTIVAL
Corner of Market & Ramba St, Danville
Saturday, July 8, 5-9 pm (after 4 pm Mass)
Pit-Barbecued Chicken Dinners served 5-7 pm
Food Stand, Fancy goods, Bingo,
Cash Raffles, LiveAuction,
Entertainment, Games & Activities for all ages

JUNE

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

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

2, SUNDAY
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.

3, MONDAY
Order of Malta Center of Care Opens
9 a.m. to noon, St. John Center, Holy Rosary-St. John Church, 648 S. Ohio Ave., Columbus. Opening of Order of Malta Center of Care, which will provide basic medical care and health screenings.

4, TUESDAY
Rosary for Life at St. Joan of Arc
Following 6:15 p.m. Mass, St. Joan of Arc Church, 10700 Liberty Road, Powell. Recital of Rosary for Life, sponsored by church’s respect life committee.

5, WEDNESDAY
Marian Devotion at St. Elizabeth
7 p.m., St. Elizabeth Church, 6077 Sharon Woods Blvd., Columbus. Marian devotion with Scriptural rosary, followed by Mass and monthly novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help, with Father Ramon Owera, CRC.

6, THURSDAY
Order of Malta Center of Care Openings
9 a.m. to noon, St. John Center, Holy Rosary-St. John Church, 648 S. Ohio Ave., Columbus. Opening of Order of Malta Center of Care, which will provide basic medical care and health screenings.

Cenacle at Holy Name
6 p.m., Holy Name Church, 154 E. Patterson Ave., Columbus. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, with prayers in the Cenacle format of the Marian Movement of Priests.
Holy Hour at Holy Family
6 to 7 p.m., Holy Family Church, 584 W. Broad St., Columbus. Holy Hour of Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, followed by meeting of parish Holy Name and Junior Holy Name societies, with refreshments.

10, SUNDAY
Gospel Road Mission Camp in Licking County
Diocesan Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry sponsors Gospel Road Mission Camp, for youths in grades nine through 12 from throughout the diocese. Participants will be based at Sts. Peter and Paul Retreat Center, 2734 Seminary Road S.E., Newark, Reynoldsburg, work throughout Licking County during the day, and take part in recreational and spiritual activities in the evening.

JULY

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

7, FRIDAY
St. Cecilia Adoration of Blessed Sacrament
St. Cecilia Church, 434 Norton Road, Columbus. Begins after 8:15 a.m. Mass; continues to 5 p.m. Saturday.
Monthly Adoration of Blessed Sacrament
Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal Church, 5225 Refugee Road, Columbus. Begins after 9 a.m. Mass; continues through 6 p.m. Holy Hour.

10, MONDAY
Bethesda Post-Abortion Healing Ministry
6:30 p.m., support group meeting, 2744 Dover Road, Columbus (Christ the King convent, first building west of the church).

11, TUESDAY
Serra Club of North Columbus Meeting
7 p.m., Our Lady of Peace Church, 20 E. Dominion Blvd., Columbus. Bible study of Sunday Scripture readings.

All fund-raising events (festivals, bazaars, spaghetti dinners, fish fries, bake sales, pizza/sub sales, candy sales, etc.) will be placed in the “Fund-Raising Guide.” An entry into the Guide will be $18.50 for the first six lines, and $2.65 for each additional line. For more information, call David Garick at 614-224-5195.

‘Happenings’ submissions
Notices for items of Catholic interest must be received at least 12 days before expected publication date. We will print them as space permits.
Listings cannot be taken by phone.
Mail to Catholic Times Happenings, 197 E. Gay St., Columbus OH 43215
Fax to 614-241-2518
E-mail as text to tpue@columbuscatholic.org

Catholic Times 17
July 2, 2017

Q: What prompted you to write A Pope and a President?
A: I’ve been writing this book for years. I’ve written literally over a dozen books since I started the research for this one. I started filing FOIA (Freedom of Information Act) requests to declassify documents related to the Reagan-John Paul II relationship back in 2000.

I went through countless documents at the Reagan Library and in various archives, such as the Soviet Comintern and Central Committee archives. I read through numerous letters, transcripts, cables, editions of Pravda, Izvestia, and on and on. This is the longest book I’ve written because the story is so deep.

The vicious war on the Church by atheistic communism is so horrific and massive that I didn’t know where to stop exposing it.

I think readers will encounter the same struggle I had in writing this book: You can’t pull yourself away because of the characters involved and the battle of good versus evil involved.

To that end, a warning to readers: Just as you’ll be heartened by what you read, you’ll also be sickened. The heartening part is the great good done by John Paul II and Ronald Reagan. The sickening part is the colossal evil perpetrated by malicious atheistic communism. These two men waged battle against the beast. They carried the cross.

Q: Why do you see it as the “extraordinary untold story of the 20th century”?
A: The story of the 20th century was the battle against atheistic communism that began in Bolshevik Russia in October 1917 and was warned about by Our Lady in Fatima. That was an epic struggle running from 1917 until about 1989-91, far outlasting the shorter-term fight against Nazism, in which both Karol Wojtyla and Ronald Reagan also engaged. When that century-long conflict was finally won — peacefully — it was done so by Pope John Paul II and Ronald Reagan. They fought that monster their entire adult lives. The way they did so, including as partners, and everything that happened amid the long road in between is truly the extraordinary untold story of the 20th century.

Q: St. John Paul II would attribute his survival to the miraculous intervention of the Blessed Mother, Our Lady of Fatima. Was there any spiritual bond between him and Reagan?
A: Both men survived assassination attempts mere weeks apart in March and May 1981. When they finally came together in June 1982, they spoke of the “miraculous” fact that they both survived. Both understood that they should have bled to death on their respective routes to the hospital. They both believed — and said to one another — that God had spared them for a special purpose. The purpose was to work together to bring down atheistic Soviet communism and free people behind the Iron Curtain.

Q: Did you find Reagan having any interest in Fatima?
A: That’s one of the most intriguing things I found. That’s one of two aspects of this book that will most surprise Catholics.

The first, for the record, is that I confirmed that the Soviets did order the shooting of the Holy Father and (this is totally new) that Ronald Reagan and his top advisers — most notably, two devout Irish Catholics, Bill Casey and Bill Clark — all along suspected the Soviet role and would privately conclude that Moscow was involved. That conclusion was based on a super-secret CIA report that has never been made public.

My book doesn’t present the actual report, but it does disclose for the first time the existence of such a report investigation and of its confirmation of a Soviet hand. The conclusion was that Moscow, working not through the Soviet KGB, but through the Soviet GRU (military intelligence), ordered the attempted assassination: The Soviet communists, ladies and gentlemen, tried to murder a pope.

As for John Paul II, he always suspected a Soviet hand, especially in July 1981, upon reading the third secret of Fatima after recovering from his wounds — atop the fascinating reality that he was shot on the feast day of Our Lady of Fatima. When he read the third secret, which had predicted an attack on a future pope among the “errors” of Russian communism, it essentially affirmed for him that the Soviets were involved. Any doubts were wiped away when he opened the envelope. The second aspect of the book that will most surprise Catholics was Ronald Reagan’s intense interest in Fatima. No one knows about this. I was fascinated by it. I detail it at great length.

Q: Why did you learn about it?
A: I learned about it via a ton of research and interviews with people who worked directly with Reagan, including a person who briefed him on Fatima prior to his second one-on-one meeting with John Paul II in Rome in June 1987.

Q: When Reagan went to Portugal in 1985, did he bring out any connections to Fatima and to John Paul II?
A: He did. And I’m amazed that we Catholics don’t know about this. Of course, it got absolutely no publicity, so our ignorance is understandable.

Ronald Reagan gave a speech in Portugal in May 1985 where he openly mentioned Mary and the children of Fatima. He spoke of the “great religious shrine” at Fatima and said that when he met Pope John Paul II he “dared to suggest to him that, in the example of men like himself and in the prayers of simple people everywhere, simple people like the children of Fatima, there resides more power than in all the great armies and statesmen of the world.”

That’s just the start of what I mention in this book about Reagan and Fatima and the Blessed Mother.

Here’s another shocker for Catholics: Reagan was intrigued by the reported appearances of Mary in Medjugorje. I was taken aback when Ave Maria was sung at Reagan’s memorial service in the Washington Cathedral in June 2004. That was the last hymn I expected to hear at his funeral. Mrs. Reagan told me that Ronald Reagan himself had chosen Ave Maria to be sung at that funeral, years before Alzheimer’s had taken him.

Now, looking back in retrospect, I’m not surprised.

Q: Did you find any other fascinating Fatima connections to these events that you detail in the book?
A: Fatima is the thread throughout the book, from start to finish. I open with the shooting of John Paul II in St. Peter’s Square on May 13, 1981, the feast day of Our Lady of Fatima. That’s the prologue. Then, in Chapter 1, I bounce back to May 13, 1917, when Mary first appeared to Lucia, Jacinta, and Francisco. That starts the narrative. Thereafter, the book is a story, a chronological narrative, that winds through the rise of Bolshevism and the Soviet war on religion — as the Lady had predicted — and then the births and rise of Ronald Reagan and Karol Wojtyla.

Amid their rise, the narrative is interspersed with painful examples of communist persecution of the faithful, done to the likes of Cardinals Mindszenty and Stepinac, to popes Pius XII and John Paul II.

I even take into account the communist ideology behind the assassins of leading American Catholic politicians such as John Kennedy and Robert Kennedy. Throughout that sad saga, I incorporate the brilliant insights of the most influential American Catholic of the 20th century, Fulton Sheen. Sheen may be the most prominent figure in this book after Reagan, John Paul II, and the Blessed Mother.

What a prophet Sheen was. And he just happened to have been raised just down the road from Ronald Reagan. The book considers many intriguing Reagan-Sheen parallels. That’s yet another of so many rich Reagan-Catholic connections that will stun and please Catholics.
Don Pelayo’s victory was decisive, though the majority of Spain still was under Moorish control. He became the king of Asturia and saw to it that the remaining Visigoths joined with the Hispano-Roman tribes, shaping the beginning of historic Spain. The Virgin of Covadonga has been one of the landmark symbols of the Spanish nation, and the cave at Covadonga is revered as a holy sanctuary.

Our Lady of Covadonga took the efforts of the soldiers and multiplied them. There they stood on the cliffs and hills, with a mighty force before them. Are we so different? Before us lie the temptations of the world, the attacks of consumerism and greed, the constant questioning of our values and ethics. Yet Mary reminds us, as Our Lady of Covadonga, that though we seem to be outnumbered and overwhelmed without a shot at victory, that we aren’t alone.

“In countless ways, these women are reaching back and lifting up our future leaders. They inspire others by living WELD’s mission to develop and advance women’s leadership to strengthen the economic prosperity of the communities we serve,” said Barb Smoot, WELD president and CEO.

“It is the mission of Catholic Social Services to help poor and vulnerable seniors and families reach their potential. Everyone has potential, but not everyone has opportunity. This is especially true for women. I am honored to be recognized by an organization that is helping create those opportunities for women of all backgrounds, and I hope to continue to partner with them in that mission,” Lustig said.

Sabree Akinyele, CSS vice president of programs, said Lustig is “the embodiment of the mission of Catholic Social Services. She works tirelessly to improve the lives of our clients, and particularly women in our community. She is a servant leader, and she leads by example and operates from her faith. She has brought strength and direction to CSS, and, through her leadership, we have been able to empower those we serve, as well as the women of our organization.”

CSS president receives leadership award

Rachel Lustig, president and chief executive officer of Catholic Social Services, is one of 12 recipients of this year’s Women WELDing the Way award from Columbus-based Women for Economic and Leadership Development.

The 12 are high-impact leaders within their organizations, support the leadership development of other women, give time, talent, and resources to their community, and invest in the growth of women-owned businesses. They will be recognized at a reception in the Statehouse Atrium on Thursday, Nov. 2.

“Don Pelayo’s victory was decisive, though the majority of Spain still was under Moorish control. He became the king of Asturia and saw to it that the remaining Visigoths joined with the Hispano-Roman tribes, shaping the beginning of historic Spain. The Virgin of Covadonga has been one of the landmark symbols of the Spanish nation, and the cave at Covadonga is revered as a holy sanctuary.

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We don’t have to solve all of our problems — or the world’s problems, either — by ourselves. It’s easy to think a case is hopeless, whether it’s the cleanliness of our house or the salvation of our souls.

Before we give up, though, let’s turn to Mary, Our Lady of Covadonga. Let’s stand on the mountain and watch the arrows bounce off the rocks around us.

In Our Lady of Covadonga, I see hope for myself and hope for the world. In the rich history of the title, I enjoy an adventure that holds a lesson for me. Though the enemy is fierce, though the battle is long, though I am weary, I’m not alone.

Sarah Reinhard is the author of many books, including her latest, “The Catholic Mother’s Prayer Companion.” She’s online at SnoringScholar.com.
By Simon Caldwell
Catholic News Service

A group of American students has embarked on a mission to England in the hope of helping young Catholics grow more excited about their faith.

The six theology students from Franciscan University of Steubenville in Ohio (pictured) will spend two months in the Diocese of Shrewsbury at the invitation of Bishop Mark Davies.

The bishop has dedicated 2017 as a “Year for Mission” within the diocese. The students’ visit is part of the activities for the period.

Bishop Davies visited Steubenville in 2016. He said he was deeply impressed by the commitment to faith of the students there.

The students raised their own funds to pay for air travel across the Atlantic. “We are very happy to welcome this witness of young Catholics from the United States,” Bishop Davies said in a statement on June 5.

“At the Franciscan University at Steubenville, you see a springtime of Catholic faith and commitment among the young in the USA, which bears fruit in a desire for mission,” he said.

“I was very moved by the request of the students to help to serve the English mission in Shrewsbury Diocese.”

The bishop hopes the students will help English young people kindle a desire to make the faith a greater part of their daily lives.

The Steubenville students will visit parishes and schools, lead holy hours of intercessory prayer, and give personal testimonies to groups of young people.

The American group includes Joshua Cordes, 29, and his brother, Daniel, 22, both of Yucca Valley, California.

In an interview in Shrewsbury with Catholic News Service, Joshua Cordes said, “One of the things that Bishop Mark was keen on was personal encounter, one-on-one, listening to people and not just having doctrines thrown at them.

“The main goal is to get them excited about the resources here, the sacraments, the priests, the places they can go to have their questions answered,” he said.

“They have all the stuff they need already, but we are just trying to reintroduce that. We are not offering anything new. We are just showing them what they have,” Cordes added.

Rebecca McCue, 28, of St Paul, Minnesota, said she believed the church in the United States had much it could share with its English counterpart.

She said that many young American Catholics were enthusiastic about their faith and that when they were able to deepen their relationship with God, there was “growth in vocations,” including “holy marriages.”

“I could easily name five people I know who are in religious life or the priesthood,” McCue said.

The youngest person in the group is Susan Nussman, 21, of Cincinnati, who said she was eager to serve on the mission.

“This is an opportunity to be of service and an opportunity to love,” she said.

The group also includes Emmanuel Ambrose, 23, of New York City, who is making his first trip abroad, and Charis Willey, 25, who is from the Diocese of Shrewsbury but is studying in Steubenville.

They soon will be joined by a seventh member, Steven Diaz, 27, of New York City. The group will stay in the diocese until July 29.

Among their first activities was leading a holy hour for the success of the newly created Shrewsbury Youth Mission. The first gathering was on June 7.

Ambrose said he was anxious to share his faith with people in the diocese.

He said that if he can help a single young person grow in love for God, his visit to England will be worthwhile. “Just one is enough,” he said.

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