VETERANS DAY: HONORING THOSE WHO SERVED GOD AND COUNTRY
Editor's reflections by Doug Bean

**Veterans Day remembrance: Diocesan priest served in two wars**

Millions of Catholics have faithfully served their country in times of war and peace. This Sunday on Veterans Day, the nation honors all military men and women for their dedication and sacrifice.

Let’s also not forget the priests and religious who have answered the call to provide spiritual assistance in the various branches of the armed forces. Their contributions often go unnoticed.

This week’s *Catholic Times* shines a light on the Catholic War Veterans organization and in particular Father Louis Iasiello, a priest who was the Navy chief of chaplains and now is in residence as a professor of humanities and director of faith formation at the Pontifical College Josephinum.

Through the years, a number of priests from the Diocese of Columbus have felt compelled to take up the cross and become chaplains. One of those was the late Father Clement Faistl.

Father Faistl represents all that’s good about the priesthood. His story is one that everyone needs to hear, especially during this painful period in the history of the Catholic Church in America.

The diocesan priest’s humility belied the hero that he was. His piety and reverence were inspiring. He was particularly devoted to the Blessed Virgin Mary and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, in addition to frequently celebrating Mass and hearing confessions in his retirement years.

Father Faistl was a veteran of World War II and the Korean War. During his 28 months of service in the Second World War, he was with a glider regiment and a member of the 101st Airborne Division that participated in the Normandy invasion. He was also with those who fought at Bastogne in the Battle of the Bulge in December 1944 and January 1945.

For his gallantry in action, he received two bronze stars and was elevated to the rank of captain.

After World War II, Father Faistl returned to the States after his discharge. He became pastor at Millersburg St. Peter and Glenmont Sts. Peter and Paul churches and was the first pastor at New Boston St. Monica Church.

In 1950, Father Faistl returned to active duty and was assigned to the 82nd Airborne Division with a parachute team. He described jumping out of a plane:

“...I was scared the first time I went out that door. Everyone is. Your reaction is not too good,” he said. “When you see that chute open, you take a big breath. After the first couple of jumps, though, you relax and begin to enjoy the trip down.”

In the *Catholic Times* archives are several original letters he wrote from Europe and Korea, as well as newspaper accounts of his military exploits.

Excerpts from these historical artifacts are worthy of publication in this Veterans Day commemorative edition to show the great sacrifice of holy priests to bring aid and comfort to soldiers in times of war. Some of the letters are in Father Faistl’s own handwriting and others are typed.

**Here’s a portion of a letter titled “Tis Bethlehem We Seek,” written from the Netherlands in 1944:**

“As Christmas 1944 approaches, perhaps no one has fonder memories or happier expectations of the feast of Christ’s nativity than soldiers in battle-torn countries. Christmas has always been ascribed to children or to the child-like in spirit. No less must it be called a soldier’s holy day. ... O prince of peace, we stand at attention for your commands. Teach us to convert and save us. And let there be ‘Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men of good will.’”

**Here’s another, this one from the Imjin River in Korea in August 1952:**

“I hope this finds each of you as safe and well as I am. I am now at the Korean front and it will sound as strange to you as it did to me that a tremendous amount of shooting goes on every day just a short distance from here but still I sit here in a tent behind a line of hills on both sides of the Imjin River and with electric at night write this letter. I am truly amazed at the incongruity of the present conflict. It is very different from the European war from 1943 to 1945. I have already come upon many fine men, my newfound friends. One such is Jerry Smith from Detroit, who is with me every day as Jeep driver and altar boy and general assistant.

“Yesterday, the great feast of the Assumption, Jerry and I really worked the faithful Jeep over these rough, hilly roads which were either constructed or widened to meet the demand of Army war vehicles. We began at the 15th regimental headquarters, confession, Mass and short thought on the Assumption at 8:30 then off into the hills to the west end of the sector on the front held by the First Battalion for the second Mass at 1100 hours.

“When we arrived in ’B Co.’ area after spreading the word at Mass along the way, I set up the folding table which is a little short for a big guy like me to offer Holy Mass upon and a little too narrow to open the Missal without interfering with the Chalice cover. While I was doing this, Jerry took the Jeep up the road to pick up a load of rifle men who got off the line long enough for Holy Mass. I set up the altar along a gravel road with the near noon-day sun beating down. I knew I was in for another heavy sweat. Our artillery was whistling its death march overhead for this site of Mass was 300 yards from the ridge of the semi-circle of hills on the top of which the rifle men and the machine gun men stand watch day and night to hit anything that moves out in front of their positions where the Chinese communist forces are likewise dug in deeply. ... A good percentage of the men received Holy Communion at the 11:00 Mass. No fast from food or drink is required here. “When Mass is over all disburse quickly including Jerry and I ... off we go to noon chow at the battalion headquarters. For the third Mass at 1600 hours (4 p.m.) we must make the big circuit around the now fa-
Serving country, aiding soldiers second nature for Medal of Honor winner

Catholic News Service

When describing life-altering decisions and brave moments of selflessness, former Army Staff Sgt. and Medal of Honor recipient Ronald Shurer speaks succinctly and matter-of-factly, as if his actions were the most natural thing in the world.

Why did he enlist after 9/11? It didn’t seem right not to, he replied.

Why did he become a medic? To take care of the troops.

What was going through his mind during a mission gone wrong in Afghanistan? His first and only prayer was that his wife and infant son, Cameron, would be OK if he died. And for the next several hours, he focused on one thing at a time while caring for the soldiers being shot all around him. Service is second nature for him.

Shurer was born on the anniversary of the attacks on Pearl Harbor – Dec. 7, 1978. His parents met in the Air Force, and his father continued to serve as Shurer was growing up. After graduating from Washington State University, he applied to join the Marines, but was rejected due to an old injury.

“Boy, that was a bad mistake. But they made up for it, right?” President Donald Trump noted during an Oct. 1 White House ceremony at which Shurer was awarded the Medal of Honor for actions he took while serving in 2008 in Afghanistan.

Shurer was studying economics in graduate school when terrorists hijacked four planes and killed thousands of Americans on 9/11. The attack on American soil, reminiscent of the Pearl Harbor assault he learned about as a child, inspired Shurer on American soil, reminiscent of the Pearl Harbor assault he learned about as a child, inspired Shurer to reapply to the military. He was accepted into the Army in 2002. He later became a Green Beret.

“It felt like I got hit in the head with a baseball bat,” he said. He was so covered in other people’s blood he wasn’t sure if he was hurt. But his friend Dillon said he was all right and he continued providing lifesaving medical care. When he returned to base, he discovered a bullet had grazed his arm.

Many of the men were so injured they couldn’t walk down the mountain. So Shurer and others wrapped nylon tubing under the arms of the wounded and lowered them down a cliff.

About a month later, Shurer returned to the States. Today, he is a Secret Service special agent. “It seemed like a good way to continue to serve. I like the mission,” he said.

Shurer said his Catholic faith plays an important role in his life and in his family’s life, especially since he was diagnosed with lung cancer last March. He’s undergoing chemotherapy but is able to work on the operations side of guarding the president.

Being chosen as a Medal of Honor recipient came as a shock. At the White House ceremony, Trump put the blue ribbon and golden star around his neck in front of his family and members of the armed services. As he stood to applause, he looked stoically around the room, then gave a quick smile and wink to his two sons in the front row.
Faith in Action

Thanksgiving: Are you serious?

Most of you know this Catholic prayer: “Bless us, O Lord, and these Thy gifts, which we are about to receive from Thy bounty. Through Christ our Lord, Amen.” This is the traditional prayer before meals. It is our humble request for God’s blessings and an expression of gratitude for the many gifts God has entrusted to us. It’s the kind of prayer you may expect to hear before a meal on Thanksgiving Day – a day dedicated to giving thanks to God for our many gifts.

But I must ask, considering recent events, “Are we serious? Are we truly thankful for the many gifts God has given us? Do we even recognize God’s gifts?” When I read today’s news headlines, I’m not so confident we do.

I was thinking about including a detailed listing of God’s gifts in my column just as a reminder. But to be brief, I will focus on only a couple of categories of God’s gifts: our fellow human beings and the rest of creation.

At the very beginning, we learn in the book of Genesis about what God entrusted to us. God gifted us with a bounty of natural resources to sustain us with the responsibility of “cultivating and keeping the earth” (Gn 2:15). We also learn about the value of human life and our responsibility toward each other through God’s dialogue with Cain. God questions him, “Where is your brother Abel?” Cain responds, “I do not know. Am I my brother’s keeper?” (Gn 4:9) It is safe to say that was the wrong answer.

Let’s examine recent events in light of our approach to God’s gifts in the form of our fellow human beings. For one, I am thankful election day is finally behind us. Brought to you ad nauseam by vitriolic campaign rhetoric and ads, humanity once again has debased itself and unsown the fabric of civility and the virtue of citizenship for short-term political gain.

Let the Church cry out for what we have learned about the horrific treatment and sin perpetrated by certain members of the Church’s clergy and leadership regarding acts of sexual abuse of minors and the cover-up which followed. I feel so much for the victims, their families, and the many good and virtuous clergy members who are spreading the Gospel, but now are looked at with the glare of distrust.

We sadly learned about shootings at sacred places of worship and schools. We continue to see the tragedy of abortion, human trafficking, separated immigrant families, racial violence, drug overdoses, low life expectancy in poor neighborhoods, cyberbullying, loneliness and suicide. A bill was introduced in the Ohio Legislature to legalize assisted suicide. Are we really thankful for God’s gifts?

Today’s headlines also remind us of our poor job performance in “cultivating and keeping the earth.” Toxic algae blooms caused by runoff of nutrients from lawns and farmland are poisoning the lakes of Ohio, threatening aquatic life and the people who drink the water. The United States refused a request from the Vatican to join 195 nations in adopting goals of the Paris Agreement to reduce carbon emissions to limit the increase in global average temperature. Policy plans are in the works to continue to roll back environmental protections.

But this week’s column is not about doom and gloom. It’s about Thanksgiving! In our thanksgiving as people of the Good News, we must not be complacent, disinterested and indifferent to what is going on around us. There is hope, for in these tragedies are opportunities and possibilities for us to bring light to the world to overcome the darkness. I am truly thankful to all those in the Church who are grateful for God’s bountiful gifts, cultivate them with care, and keep them for the common good. We must pray for and gratefully receive the gifts of the Holy Spirit to do this work.

Are you serious about giving thanks this Thanksgiving? I hope so. Put your faith into action. Pray and act like you mean it.

Jerry Freewalt is director of the diocesan Office for Social Concerns.

Record Society to meet on Dec. 16

The Catholic Record Society’s next quarterly meeting will take place at 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 16 at St. Therese’s Retreat Center, 5277 E. Broad St., Columbus.

The center’s director, Mary E. Murphy, assisted by Sister Elaine Ballmann, SNDdeN, will discuss the center’s history in a talk titled “Stories of Bishop Hartley’s Gem on East Broad Street.” The talk will be followed by a short business meeting.

Murphy has been associated with the center for nearly 40 years. She attended Columbus Holy Rosary School, Columbus Bishop Hartley High School and Ohio Dominican University. Before coming to St. Therese’s, she was employed in publishing for 12 years. She also worked at the former Cathedral Book Shop while serving as retreat center director.

Columbus Catholic Renewal prayer meeting

Bryan O’Donnell of Encounter Ministries will be the speaker at a citywide Adoration and prayer meeting sponsored by Columbus Catholic Renewal on Saturday, Nov. 17 at Columbus Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal Church, 5225 Refugee Road.

The program will begin with Mass at 9 a.m., celebrated by Father Dean Mathewson, with a potluck breakfast to follow. After breakfast, O’Donnell will share his testimony and speak on how the Lord is healing today.

Healing and prayer teams will be available during Adoration, and the Sacrament of Reconciliation will be offered. Music will be provided by the Living Stones. Child care is available upon request. For more information, visit cercolumbus.org or call (614) 886-8266.

ST. JUDE NOVENA

May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be adored, glorified, loved and preserved throughout the world, now and forever. Sacred Heart of Jesus, pray for us; St. Jude, worker of miracles, pray for us; St. Jude, helper of the hopeless, pray for us. Say this prayer 9 times a day, for 9 days, and your prayer will be answered. It has never been known to fail. Publication must be promised. Thank you Jesus and St. Jude. J.D.M.

PRAYER TO THE VIRGIN

(Never known to fail)

Oh, most beautiful flower of Mt. Carmel, fruitful vine, splendor of heaven, blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in necessity. Oh, star of the sea, help me and show me herein, you are my Heaven and Earth. I humbly beseech you from the bottom of my heart to secure me in this necessity. There are none who can withstand your powers. Oh, show me herein you are my Mother. Oh, Mary conceived without sin, pray for us, who have recourse to thee. (Repeat three times) Oh, Holy Mary, I place this cause in your hand. (Repeat three times) Holy Spirit, you who solve all problems, light all roads that I can obtain my goals. You gave me the divine gift to forgive and forget all evil against me, and in all instances in my life, you are with me. I want in this short prayer to thank you for all things as you confirm once again that I never want to be separated from you in eternal glory. Thank you for your mercy toward me and mine. The person must say this prayer three consecutive days, after three days, the request will be granted. This prayer must be published after the favor has been granted. RCR
By Doreen Ajiambo
Catholic News Service

MERU, Kenya – As dawn breaks in this eastern Kenyan town, Father Francis Riwa and his team head to the streets to find and rescue vulnerable children.

On an average day, they take three children to St. Rita Catholic Church, where his congregation has donated food, blankets, clothing and other items.

At the same time, another team goes to the rural villages to support and encourage young, poor nomadic girls, encouraging them to go to schools rather than marry. Those girls often enroll in one of the several schools Father Riwa has founded in the region.

Father Riwa, 62, has helped street children, orphans and poor nomadic children in the desert region of Kenya. He has founded several Catholic churches and schools in predominantly Muslim northern Kenya, where it has been always rare to find a place of Christian worship.

The bearded priest was born in northern Tanzania and later came to Kenya, where he attended high school and went to St. Thomas Aquinas Seminary in Nairobi. Two decades ago, he began his mission with seven street children. Today, more than 2,000 orphaned children live in Meru’s Children’s Village, which he founded. Thousands more have left and now attend universities or work throughout the East African nation.

“I feel very happy when I see these children succeed in education and get jobs,” he said. “Many don’t know their parents and families. They now belong to the church. They usually come during school holidays to help the church and other children who are in the same situation they were years back.”

Many of those whom Father Riwa saved from the streets and early marriages have celebrated his work across eastern Africa.

Lilian Naburu, 15, a Samburu girl from Lomirok village, said she would not have gone to school had it not been for Father Riwa. She said the priest rescued her from an early marriage that her parents had organized secretly with a 60-year-old man. Lilian said the priest returned 10 cows as the dowry that her former husband had paid her parents to ask her hand in marriage.

She said she would like to be a nun after she completes her education.

“It’s something that I can’t still believe that I’m here today,” said Lilian, who is now in 10th grade. “I know my dreams will now come true. I want to become a nun and teacher so that I can also change lives of vulnerable children. I want to go to my community and fight for the rights of girls to education.”

Frankline Mungira, a student at Mount Kenya University in Meru, said Father Riwa and other priests in the diocese are like his parents. Mungira was rescued from the streets of Meru 20 years ago when he was 6. He does not know his parents or any of his family members. He attended one of the schools founded by Father Riwa, and he said he wants to be a teacher so he can go back and work with the priest.

“It’s like a miracle,” said Mungira. “I will be dead by now had it not been for Father Riwa. ... I thank God for everything. I have a desire to help street children when I finish my education. It’s the mission God wants us to do.”

The Catholic Church in Kenya, which is estimated to have 7.5 million members, or a third of the nation’s population, has been urging priests and the laity to devote themselves to helping the poor and suffering, as Jesus did during his ministry.

“Father Riwa is doing a great job of assisting the poor,” said Bishop Philip Anyolo of Homa Bay, chairman of the Kenya Conference of Catholic Bishops. “He is helping the poor and being on the side of poor people. He is doing what the Catholic Church teaches and even what Jesus Christ taught about.”

He urged priests to help Father Riwa in his mission to save vulnerable children in streets, homes and early marriages.

“It’s something we should do because the work of charity and social teachings exists in church. I want to encourage priests and our members to help the poor and save lives where they can, because that’s what the Bible teaches us,” the bishop said.

Father Riwa is now focusing on children with HIV and those suffering from AIDS. Many have been abandoned by parents who have the disease. Partnering with Friends of Kenyan Orphans, an organization that provides a community of support for abused, orphaned and abandoned girls in Kenya, he has rescued hundreds of children since last year.

“I want to continue saving lives of vulnerable children because that makes me happy,” he said. “I’m not going to give up on this mission, and I urge others to join me to make a difference in people’s lives.”

Pope on All Saints’ Day: Live for heaven, not the world

Catholic News Agency

VATICAN CITY - If Christians wants to reach heaven, they should ask themselves if they are living for the pleasures of the world, or if they are striving after holiness with all their strength, Pope Francis said on the Feast of All Saints.

“Let us ask ourselves what side we are on: that of heaven or that of the earth? Do we live for the Lord or for ourselves, for eternal happiness or for some fulfillment now?” the pope said.

“Let us ask ourselves: do we really want holiness? Or do we content ourselves with being Christians without disgrace and without praise, who believe in God and esteem others but without going too far? In short, either holiness or nothing!” he said.

The pope said it is good for Catholics to let themselves be encouraged by the saints, who did not live their lives by “half measures.”

In heaven, they “cheer” for those on earth when they see them “choose God, humility, meekness, mercy, purity,” he said. The saints “understand us, they love us, they want our true good is, they help us and they wait for us. They are happy, and they want us to be happy with them in paradise.”

He noted that among the saints are those who may not be known to us, or who are not on the Church’s liturgical calendar, but are nevertheless with God in heaven. They are all one’s brothers and sisters – making the feast of All Saints “a family party,” he said.

Pope Francis said that in the Mass, when the Sanctus or Holy, Holy, Holy is recited or sung, “it is a hymn that the Bible says comes from heaven.”

When singing the Sanctus at Mass, Catholics “not only think of the saints, but we do what they do (in heaven): at that moment, in the Mass, we are united with them more than ever.”
Where do ‘single Catholics’ fit?; Donations to Doctors Without Borders

**QUESTION & ANSWER**

Father Kenneth Doyle
Catholic News Service

Where do single people “rank” within the Catholic Church? Many times we are asked to pray for those who are married or who have followed a calling to the religious life – but how many times has anyone in any parish been asked to pray for those who are single?

Are we singles shut out; are we to be ignored until we follow one of the other life paths? What if the single person truly believes that his or her calling is to be single?

Who is asked to pray for the single person who steps up whenever someone else’s children need care, for the single person who is expected to care for ailing or aging family members because he or she “has no other obligations?” (Zionsville, Indiana)

A I couldn’t agree more with your eloquent plea. I feel strongly that some are called to the single state as a true vocation – a deliberate choice made to give them more time to serve both God and other people. Traditionally the church has identified three vocations – holy orders, marriage, and consecrated life – but lately I find increasing references to the notion of the “single vocation.”

The website of the Diocese of Green Bay, Wisconsin, for example, says this: “Life as a single person can be a vocation from God. ... Single women and men usually have more freedom than those in other vocations. ... The vocation to the single life is a gift to the church!”

And the Archdiocese of Melbourne, Australia explains that “they may be a carpenter, office worker, scientist, dentist, train driver, who has a fulfilling personal relationship with Jesus which they feel able to live out more fully if they are not tied to other relationships.”

Like you, I believe that those who have responded to this noble calling deserve regular mention in the public prayers of the church.

How far must one go in pro-life issues to be a good Catholic? May one support a charitable organization if one of its services is to do abortions? I have long supported Doctors Without Borders for its lifesaving work throughout the world.

But in a recent magazine article, they admit supplying women victims of rape with abortifacients and “safe termination of pregnancy.” I would appreciate your advice. (Middletown, New Jersey)

Doctors Without Borders – also known by its French name as Médecins Sans Frontieres – has, since its founding in 1971, brought lifesaving care to many sick and wounded people caught in war, epidemics and other disasters. Sadly, though, I do not believe faithful Catholics should donate to this organization.

On its own website, Médecins Sans Frontieres concedes that since 2004, it has been offering abortions on request at some of its field sites and that its responsibility is to “respect the reason the woman or young girl gives for wanting to have an abortion.”

As to whether Catholics may assist Médecins Sans Frontieres financially, one might read Guidelines on Giving to Charitable Organizations, published by the National Catholic Bioethics Center.

Asked whether a Catholic may donate to an organization that supports research that destroys human embryos to procure stem cells, the center said, “The answer is no. By donating to a research institute or drug manufacturer that funds research that destroys human beings, one would be cooperating immorally in the act of destroying young human life. Cooperating in an intrinsic evil is itself an intrinsic evil and should be avoided in all circumstances.”

Some might argue, I suppose, that Catholic donors to Médecins Sans Frontieres could specify that their own contributions be used only for medical care and not for abortions; but that, I feel, is an artificial distinction, since it would simply free up other donations to be used for immoral purposes.

**PRIEST, continued from Page 2**

Mous Imjin River: As two bridges are out we must pass by regiment to go from 1st to 3rd Battalion so we stop off for an hour. It’s hot. I lay down. Then off again. ..... “Finally after crossing the Imjin River we get to the 3rd Battalion headquarters recreation tent, set up altar, hear confessions and wait for the men to arrive. When two 2 1/2-ton trucks pull up at the side of the tent, I think they are loaded with men for Mass. Wrong. They are loaded with beer for the Battalion ration. Mass is a little late starting. Some of the company could not get transportation to send men to Mass from the front lines. Transportation is breaking down and needed for other things. Mass over, we grab a bite quickly and Jerry and I must get to the fourth Mass in the rear of regimental reserve area where the 2nd Battalion is located. Mass there at 1830 hours or 6:30 p.m. ... We pass the word around the company as soon as we arrive and quickly set up the altar at that little incline overlooking the Battalion headquarters area.

“Those clouds overhead look ready to pour out their water. I despair. Jerry, the weather prophet says ‘No.’ Mass starts about 7 p.m., always waiting for more men to come, and in comes the rain. ... The Mass is over, it is soon dark and we stayed right there at the Battalion to see my first picture since joining the division. Yessir. We could not be very romantic about sitting out under the stars for they were dripping rain but nobody notices rain: sit down on a helmet or a water can and enjoy the show. It was perfect.

“... drove over slick roads to the tent – Home Sweet Home – at regiment. And after a few prayers, very few, I entered into the blessed regions of deep sleep with artillery pumping off in the distance. The telephone rings, I knock over the receiver trying to find it on the wrong side of the bed. ‘Hello. Yes. I’ll be there in about half an hour. Is that good enough? O.K.’ So into my clothes. It is 2 am and the next morning. The rain has stopped. Off we go into the dark up to the First Battalion aid station. The ... have hit some of the C Co. men at the base of old battered ‘Kelly.’ ... I anointed the most seriously wounded, an Italian boy who might lose his leg. As no more wounds were expected the doctor suggested everybody go to bed. I liked that and back to the Jeep and finally to bed.

“This afternoon Jerry and I went to the 1st Battalion trenches and hunkered on the main line of resistance, the front line known as the James-town line. Boy – this is war, and war is everything Sherman said about it. I never dreamed this line existed across the Korean Peninsula – a country halfway around the world from the U.S.A. We need plenty of prayers, plenty of rosaries. Everyone at home should send a rosary to the soldiers and civilians in Korea every day. I fear this war will not be easy or short. God knows.”

From a Nov. 8, 1944 letter “Somewhere in the Netherlands”:

“With artillery shells falling near at this moment, I don’t know how many will be able to leave line positions to come (to Mass). ... “I was talking of the daily Mass I offer. Every day Mass is offered in a different place to enable the scattered troops as many opportunities as possible to assist at the Holy Sacrifice. All the Catholic chaplains of our airborne infantry follow the same plan, so you see the Precious Blood of Our Lord is being poured out in the Great Divine Sacrifice among those who suffered their blood to be shed in this great human sacrifice of war.

“And, generally, the men appreciate the value of the Mass in their
When one offered a series of times. In every obedience, hasn’t necessity been a worthy moth-
er of invention, hasn’t every kind of attendance. ... I’ve course, about Mass are no exception, of
last opportunity Communion at their were at Mass and received Holy attendance. ... I’ve course, about Mass are no exception, of
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THE EVERYDAY CATHOLIC

By Rick Jeric

100 Year Armistice

This Sunday marks 100 years since the armistice was signed on Nov. 11, 1918 to end World War I. Now a federal holiday, it was called Armistice Day, until Congress changed it to Veterans Day in 1954. President Eisenhower signed the proclamation. World War I was the “Great War,” a “war to end all wars.” The League of Nations was formed, and peace was assured. Twenty-one years later, World War II began. We know all too well how wars continue to rage all over the world. Instant, live global news coverage makes us almost numb to violence in other nations. And while not war, wars, some of the bloodiest and nastiest wars continue as civil wars, ethnic wars and terrorism. Blood is blood and war is war. As a human race, we have not learned much from the history of the past 100 years. As Americans, we remain so very proud of our veterans. They sacrificed life, limb and mind so that we may enjoy life in the greatest, most bountiful and most generous country in the world. There never can be any reason or excuse to not take the greatest care of our veterans, whatever they need, period. God bless our veterans and all our current men and women defending us around the world. God bless us all this Veterans Day.

Wouldn’t it be nice to see some real peace for the next 100 years? How about an armistice that means something? I have some suggestions for terms. The U.S. military protects us and our allies around the world. While we always must operate from a position of unmatched strength, let’s be the protective emissary of the world, promoting human rights and eradicating hunger and starvation. Either get out of the United Nations completely or just let it go away. It’s a black hole for our taxes and does very little to help the most vulnerable. Food and humanitarian aid consistently are lost or sold. It’s a corrupt organization that has seen its day. Please put a permanent block on President Trump’s Twitter account. And please, someone find a way to get him a filter for his words, and an initial pause for thought before reacting. Congress, both House and Senate, please shut up and do something for a change. An actual budget would be a nice place to start. And all Catholic members of Congress, please start acting like it. Supreme Court justices, just do the right thing. All state lawmakers, leaders, and judges, please see all of the above. And everyone involved at so many levels, can we please create a reasonable immigration situation? Whatever it might cost to build and maintain a wall, and whatever we do now that is not working, I have to believe those funds can be used to pass laws, create reforms and fund those mandates. We can send men to the moon, we can hold yesterday’s supercomputer in the palm of a hand. We can do this. Law enforcement officers and those in challenging economic situations and neighborhoods, you can work together. There can be peace and even prosperity. Like most all of these issues, the answer starts with love, faith and family, followed by education and employment. Let’s slow down the widening gap between rich and poor. Everyone in a position to do something about it, please make mental health a top priority. It’s horrible to see how this has deteriorated. This nation should not stand idly by and watch its people be destroyed by treatable mental health issues. CNN and Fox News, please shut up and start reporting like real journalists. You need to explain to us why random gunmen, mail bombers and synagogue murderers are mentally ill, not some sort of political radical. Pope Francis, cardinals and bishops, please get your heads out of the sand. Our Church is broken and its members are in pain. We love our faith, we love you, and we forgive those who need it most. But fix it, right now. Do what needs to be done, be thorough and complete, and let’s move forward a stronger Catholic Church. Finally, each of us must cherish life at all levels, from conception to natural death, period. An armistice for the next 100 years.

Capt. Clement Faistl

OPEN POSITION

Job Vacancy for a Pre-K to 6th Grade Principal exists at St. Peter Catholic School Transfiguration of the Lord Parish, Upper Sandusky, OH. Candidates may inquire by calling the rectory at (419) 294-1268.

*Applicants should submit a letter of interest no later than December 15 and 3 letters of reference.

*Early applications will be viewed favorably by the Search Committee.
St. Bernadette harvest celebration

Lancaster St. Bernadette School had its annual fall harvest celebration on Friday, Oct. 26. The evening began with a blessing by Father Ty Tomson, pastor of St. Bernadette Church, and included a chili cookoff, hot dogs and desserts. Students and parents enjoyed scarecrow races, dancing and games.

Photo courtesy St. Bernadette School

Trinity Girl Scouts host 24 troops

Fifth-grade girls from Columbus Trinity Elementary School who are members of Girl Scout Troop 222 hosted a Founders Day festival for the Northwest Service Unit, which consists of 24 troops. More than 100 girls attended the event at Columbus St. Margaret of Cortona Church. The troop organized stations that included slime making, backpack buddies, scavenger hunt, flag folding, book donation, fire safety, and songs. The girls collected more than 50 books for underprivileged children that were donated to the Columbus Metropolitan Library’s Hilltop branch. Hosting the festival earned the girls a service badge.

Photo courtesy Trinity Elementary School

St. Anthony has new dismissal plan

Columbus St. Anthony School principal Chris Iaconis and her staff put a new dismissal plan in place for the 2018-2019 school year. The plan requires parents to line up in their cars in front of the building, with students brought directly to cars. Iaconis helps the students into the cars daily, with assistance from the entire school staff. She is pictured (at far right) at dismissal time with parent Larry Riley and students Leia and Chacelyn Riley.

Photo courtesy St. Anthony School

Bishop Ready planning open house

Columbus Bishop Ready High School, 707 Salisbury Road, will have its annual open house for prospective students in grades five to eight, potential transfer students, and their parents or guardians at 1 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 18.

Those attending will learn about the school’s academic programs, co-curricular clubs and other organizations, campus ministry programs, and athletics. A general session will be followed by tours and department presentations featuring school administrators, faculty, staff and students.

For more information, call the school at (614) 276-5263.
Father Thomas Keating

I’m not sure when I began reading books by Thomas Merton. Probably late high school or early college. I’m also not sure how I discovered them. Though I naturally was drawn to contemplative prayer, the word was unfamiliar to me until Merton’s writings provided it. “Contemplative” was not something you heard about sitting in the pews on Sundays, or even in Catholic schools. Not usually. Reflecting on that later, I never understood why. Christianity has a long, rich contemplative tradition.

Some of my friends from those early days, searching as college students do and longing for an alternative to rote prayers and rituals that, for them, had become an endless habit, explored meditation found in Eastern traditions. They hungered for a deeper relationship with God.

Contemplative prayer is a way to sink deeply into that relationship. Not reserved for “special” people or for a few “advanced” souls, as sometimes thought, it is simply resting in silence with the loving God who dwells within each of us.

I was lucky to find not only Thomas Merton, but also a small community that introduced me to classics in Christian literature, such as the works of Teresa of Avila and John of the Cross, and provided a vocabulary to talk about contemplative prayer. What a gift it was to finally have others with whom to pray and share the journey.

Later, I found the Desert Fathers and Mothers, The Cloud of Unknowing (written by an anonymous 14th century English monk), John Cassian, Julian of Norwich, and other mystical writers. I had begun to practice Lectio Divina and realized that my longtime journaling was part of my contemplative prayer journey (something I love to share at retreats and workshops). Time spent with Benedictine monks and sisters broadened and deepened my prayer experience.

The hunger for contemplative prayer remains as deep as ever.

What prompted me to reflect on this was the passing on Oct. 25 of Father Thomas Keating at age 95. He is likely the most well-known Trappist monk since Merton. Keating is recognized for his development and promotion of the centering prayer method, along with others, including Fathers M. Basil Pennington and William Meninger, also Trappist monks.

This prayer practice began in the 1970s at St. Joseph’s Abbey in Spencer Massachusetts, where Keating was abbot for 20 years. It was prompted by conversations with young Christians who, like my college friends, were seeking a prayer path that was meditative and transformative. They stopped by the abbey to ask directions to a Buddhist meditation center that had been opened nearby in what once had been a Catholic retreat house. When Keating asked the young searchers why they didn’t look for a path in the Christian tradition, their answer was the same as my friends’ might have been: “There’s a Christian path?”

Keating talked to the monks at the abbey about developing a method of meditation — based on Scripture and Christian tradition — that would be accessible to anyone, those beyond the monastery walls as well as inside them. The result is what is now known as Centering Prayer.

There are many resources available if you are interested in learning more about it. Here are a few: Open Mind, Open Heart by Keating; Finding Grace at the Center by Keating, Pennington and Thomas E. Clark, SJ; or Centering Prayer and Inner Awakening by Episcopal priest Cynthia Bourgeault. The Contemplative Outreach, an organization Keating founded in 1984, has a website full of information and resources. Some parishes have Centering Prayer groups that meet weekly.

Centering Prayer is not the only way to practice and nurture one’s contemplative life. As Keating wrote in a selection found on the Contemplative Outreach website, addressing different approaches to meditative prayer: “In Buddhism there are a wide variety of methods (perhaps techniques would be a better designation). Why shouldn’t Christians have a few?”

There are more than a few! If you find yourself drawn to contemplation, Centering Prayer is one method to consider.

Thank you, Father Keating.
By Tim Puet, Catholic Times Reporter

The commanders of Columbus’ two Catholic War Veterans posts say their military service to the nation brought them a deeper appreciation of their faith and a desire to be of greater service to the church.

Ted Mosure, commander of CWV Post 1936, never had a chance to attend a religious service while he was in Vietnam as a Navy SEAL because he was stationed in areas so remote that they had no chaplain from any denomination. “But whatever I had accrued in the faith by that time was enough to hold me through a pair of six-month deployments” that lasted through parts of 1969, 1970 and 1971, he said.

“When I first went over there, I slept in on Sundays,” she said. “But I felt like I was missing something. I realized that what I was missing was the Body and Blood of Christ in the Eucharist. On base, we did have Catholic services, but they were in a one-size-fits-all room that served as a chapel.

“While in combat, I saw some pretty awful stuff, but that’s part of the scenario you deal with. You do what is necessary to survive, and that can include taking another’s life. You take the part of you that was an altar boy, a paper boy, a good kid, and put that in a box in your mental closet, but you never forget it. My mom and the priests and teachers I had in Catholic parishes and schools in Columbus gave me the grounding I needed to get through those difficult times,” Mosure said.

Mary Ann Janning, commander of CWV Post 1963, served in the Air Force from 1978-82 as a mechanic working on jet engines for the F-4 fighter-bomber on a base at Spangdahlem in what then was West Germany.

“When I first went over there, I slept in on Sundays,” she said. “But I felt like I was missing something. I realized that what I was missing was the Body and Blood of Christ in the Eucharist. On base, we did have Catholic services, but they were in a one-size-fits-all room that served as a chapel.

“Being away from a regular church environment for the first time brought me to a greater appreciation of my faith was a big part of who I was supposed to be. I came to understand how we are all called to serve God. That’s something I’ve tried to act on ever since, whether in the service or with the CWV.”

This weekend, the nation pays tribute to veterans through its annual celebration of Veterans Day on Nov. 11. Because that date is on a Sunday this year, the legal holiday for the event will be the following day, when government offices and banks will be closed.

Many Veterans Day activities are taking place earlier, including Columbus’ Veterans Day Parade on Friday, Nov. 9. In addition, the National Veterans Memorial and Museum, the nation’s first museum focusing mainly on telling the stories of veterans of all American wars rather than on specific wars or military hardware, opened in Columbus on Oct. 27. It’s located across the Scioto River from downtown.
he said. He resumed attending Mass after returning to the United States in February 1971. On completing his service later that year, he returned to Columbus, where he worked with several companies in the grocery industry.

In Vietnam, he served on a mobile base known as Seafloat, which consisted of a group of barges on the Song Cua Lon River in Ca Mau province on that nation’s southern tip. He looked at that area using Google Earth on his computer a few years ago. “One area I remember in particular that used to be a mangrove swamp now is used for aquafarming, and shrimp are being raised there. If you didn’t know, you could never imagine that a war was fought there. I am happy that something good seems to have come from the trials the Vietnamese people endured there,” he said.

After the war, he became involved with the Vietnam Veterans of America, serving as president of its Columbus chapter in the 1980s, and with other veterans groups. He joined CWV Post 1936 in 2003 and has been its commander since 2009. He also is a founding member of the Ohio Military Hall of Fame, formed in 2000, which honors Ohio veterans who have received a medal for valor.

Mosure is president of the board of directors of the hall, which has an annual induction ceremony at the Statehouse. As a board member, he reviews applications for potential hall inductees and helps decide who will be honored each year. “I have no medals for valor, so I can be more of an impartial voice in making the decision,” he said.

He and his wife, Linda, have a son, a daughter, six grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Janning, like Mosure, entered the military straight out of high school, coming from Niagara Falls, New York. She said her four years of service have made a significant impact on everything she has done since then. “You grow up really fast once you’re in the military,” she said. “You’re torn down in basic training, then you’re built back up. It makes you a stronger person. The maturity which occurred during my time in the service has carried me through the rest of my life. It’s something I haven’t let go of, nor do I want to. I’m proud of serving my country, and it was a significant part of my life.”

Janning said that after recognizing in the Air Force how important her faith was to her, she became involved in the Parish School of Religion on her German base. She continued that activity when she returned to the United States and lived for a few years in Tucson, Arizona.

“I believed the Lord had given me blessings others didn’t have, and I wanted to share those gifts,” she said. “In the service, I didn’t have much money, but I had time to volunteer.”

She has lived in Columbus since coming to The Ohio State University in 1994 for pharmacy studies. She now works for the Franklin County Public Health Department as emergency preparedness coordinator. She has a son who is a Columbus firefighter, a daughter living in Florida, and eight grandchildren.

Janning joined CWV Post 1963, which is based at Columbus St. Patrick Church, after reading about it in a bulletin from Grove City Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church. “It’s a wonderful opportunity to fulfill my call to service,” she said. “People have helped me throughout my life, and now I get to help them, in particular the veterans. We share our faith and the special bond we have through military service.”

Post 1963 meets on the third Sunday of every month at St. Patrick Church. Post 1936 no longer has formal meetings, but gathers with Post 1963 to attend Mass as a group at various Columbus-area Catholic churches, usually about every other month.

The two posts, with the help of parish-affiliated troops from the Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, and American Heritage Girls, decorate veterans’ graves every Memorial Day at St. Joseph Cemetery in Columbus.

The posts also support the annual Stand Down Columbus, which provides services to homeless veterans; pay periodic visits to the Veterans Administration hospital in Chillicothe; support the Fisher House Foundation, which operates homes where families can stay at no cost while a loved one is receiving treatment at a VA hospital; and work with Sua Sponte, Ohio Do-
part in the Memorial Day wreath-laying ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery and was on the podium with President Obama. Being able to take part in that event, with such a solemn atmosphere, is unforgettable.”

Crawford served in the Women’s Army Corps from 1966-68 in Fort Gordon, Georgia. She worked in the communications center for the colonel who was in charge of all communications from the post, and rose to the rank of platoon sergeant.

She also met her husband, George, while working there. They married after his return from Vietnam, eventually settled in central Ohio, and have seven children ages 13 to 28.

One son is a lieutenant colonel in the National Guard and is stationed at Beightler Armory in Columbus; another son is a captain in the Navy at the Kings Bay submarine base in Georgia.

George Crawford spends two days a week at the Chalmers Wylie VA Center in Columbus as a volunteer driver, taking patients from there to other VA facilities in Chillicothe, Cincinnati and Cleveland.

Crawford has been administrative assistant at the Pontifical College Josephinum for 20 years after being employed for several years at Westerville St. Paul Church, which her family attends.

She said she applied for the position at the Josephinum because she is bilingual and the college has a Hispanic formation program for its English-speaking seminarians.

The Josephinum has a CWV unit, Post 1884, which does not meet regularly, but in the past has conducted a Christmas letter-writing campaign for troops on active duty and hopes to do so again this year.

A seminarian at the Josephinum from the Diocese of Columbus, Deacon Chris Yakkel, is planning to become a military chaplain after being ordained to the diocesan priesthood in May 2019.

He was ordained to the diaconate this past May and is in his final year of theology studies at the college. As part of his final-year training, he assists with activities at Columbus St. Catharine Church.

He grew up in a military family, living at various times in North Carolina (where he was born), New Mexico, Illinois, Oklahoma, England and Hawaii while his father served in the Air Force for 28 years. His father and mother are now retired and live in Xenia.

Deacon Yakkel attended college at Miami University in Oxford, then was a lay minister with Minnesota-based NET Ministries, where he discerned whether he was being called to the priesthood.

“I had been considering a job in the health care field, but while in college, I began thinking about becoming a priest,” he said.

“I even went on a ‘live-in’ weekend at a seminary, but didn’t feel ready to enter the priesthood at that point. I did feel a call to serve, so I joined NET Ministries. During my two years there, I felt called to take the next step.

“The call to enter the priesthood and the call to enter the chaplaincy came almost simultaneously. That’s not surprising, because most of the priests I knew while growing up were chaplains, so it was natural for me to think of the chaplaincy.

“During the discernment process, I had been praying to St. John of Capistrano,” the patron of military chaplains, Deacon Yakkel said.

St. John, though he was a priest, led part of a Christian army in its successful defense of Belgrade, Serbia, against a Turkish invasion in 1456.

“There was one moment in my discernment where I felt an extra boost, a tangible sense of St. John’s intercession. From that moment, I felt a sense of peace in my decisions to become a priest and a chaplain, which came only through spending a significant amount of time in front of the Blessed Sacrament.”

After his ordination to the priesthood, Deacon Yakkel will spend at least three years serving in the Diocese of Columbus before going on active duty as a chaplain in the Air Force.

Father Daniel Swartz, parochial vicar for the Perry County Consortium of Parishes, who was ordained a priest of the diocese in 2016, is on a similar path. It is anticipated that he will be appointed a Naval chaplain as soon as next year.

Deacon Yakkel was commissioned a second lieutenant in the Air Force Reserve three years ago and spent this past summer stationed at Misawa Air Force Base in Japan, where he delivered homilies and served at Mass, assisted the base chaplain, learned administrative duties that are part of a chaplain’s role, and helped deal with the spiritual needs of airmen and their families.

“There have been some big changes in Air Force training in the last few years,” he said. “It’s now based on a concept known as comprehensive airman fitness, which offers much more of a holistic approach toward taking care of individual airmen than the previous model, which was more regimented.

“It focuses on four dimensions of wellness – mental, physical, social and spiritual. This recognizes, for instance, that an airman’s injury may be physical, but there are a lot of hidden wounds you can’t see.

“It places a greater emphasis on spirituality, recognizing that this may not mean the same thing for every airman, but for a lot, it involves religious faith.

“It makes sense that taking care of your faith life leads to becoming a stronger, more resilient airman, and resiliency is the key concept in all of these changes.”

Deacon Yakkel said he’s pleased that despite his youth, people respect what he has to say.

“The vast majority of people I’ve encountered, especially those in the Catholic community, really seem to value my opinion,” he said. “From cadets to individuals who have been serving for 15 or 20 years, they don’t hesitate to ask me difficult questions and appreciate my responses.”
Father Louis Iasiello, OFM, has a distinction that can be matched by no other living priest – he may be addressed as either “Father” or “Admiral.”

“People who realize this sometimes ask what they should call me,” said Father Iasiello, a Pontifical College Josephinum faculty member who was chief of chaplains of the U.S. Navy from 2003 to 2006 – a position giving him the rank of rear admiral. “I respond with the answer one of my predecessors, Cardinal John O’Connor, gave – ‘Admiral is a temporary rank, but priest is a permanent rank. Call me Father.’” O’Connor, archbishop of New York from 1984 to 2000, was chief of Naval chaplains from 1975 to 1979.

Father Iasiello, 68, a member of the Order of Friars Minor, commonly known as the Franciscans, has been at the Josephinum since 2010. Columbus is his most recent stop in a career that, in the tradition of the Navy, has taken him around the world – to Korea, the Persian Gulf, Panama, Cuba and Haiti – and throughout the United States. He serves at the seminary as director of pastoral and apostolic formation and teaches history classes to students of the Josephinum’s liberal arts college and to fourth-year theology students who already are deacons and in their last year of study for the priesthood.

As formation director, he oversees all parish service assignments in the Diocese of Columbus for students at the Josephinum, the only papal seminary outside Italy. He also is the unofficial mentor for the fourth-year theology students who already are deacons and in their last year of study for the priesthood.

His work from 2008 to 2010 as co-chair of a Defense Department task force on sexual harassment in the military brought him to the attention of the Josephinum’s former rector-president, Father James Wehner, and its former dean of men, Msgr. Michael Osborn. “They were aware of my work with the task force and asked if I might be interested in becoming part of the seminary faculty,” Father Iasiello said.

“That was somewhat of a surprise, being that I’m a Franciscan friar, and not a diocesan priest, and I’m not a theologian. Father Wehner and Msgr. Osborn said they had talked to my Provincial about this and it was acceptable to him. I came here for a visit and I began thinking this wouldn’t be a bad place to continue my service.”

Father Iasiello grew up on Staten Island in New York City with two younger sisters. His father, a disabled veteran who served in the Philippines in World War II, was employed by the U.S. Postal Service for more than 35 years, starting as a driver and ultimately being in charge of a fleet of vehicles. His mother worked at Mount Loretto, a former Catholic orphanage and farm on Staten Island that now is a New York state recreation area.

“I grew up in a very Catholic environment, attending St. Peter’s Church on Staten Island and graduating from its high school,” he said. “The church is ‘the mother church of Staten Island’ and celebrates its 160th anniversary next year. The school recently marked its 100th anniversary and I went back for both that celebration and my 50th-anniversary high school reunion.

“I went to St. Bonaventure University in upstate New York, which is run by the Franciscan friars, and that’s where I first came in contact with them. When I was a junior or senior in college, I was part of a group that went on a discernment weekend with a young friar, and that’s when I began considering the priesthood. I did a year of graduate studies at Niagara University after college and gradually decided to give the Franciscans a shot. I entered the order in 1973 and have been a Franciscan ever since – 45 years now,” he said.

Father Iasiello made his first Franciscan vows in 1974 and his final vows three years later, then served as a deacon in Brazil for nearly a year. Earlier this year, he celebrated the 40th anniversary of his ordination as a priest. He was ordained by Bishop Robert Garner of the Archdiocese of Newark, New Jersey, at St. John the Baptist Church in Hillsdale, New Jersey on May 13, 1978.

He spent his first two years in the priesthood at Holy Cross Church in the New York City borough of the Bronx, serving a large Hispanic community. That was followed by three years teaching at Bishop Timon High School in Buffalo, New York, where he served as head of the modern languages department.

“About two years after I began teaching, I had a talk with my Provincial. He said, ‘We’ve had military chaplains in the Franciscans since World War I and the last chaplain is getting ready to retire. Would you consider becoming a chaplain?’” Father Iasiello said. “I accepted, spent a year in the Naval Reserve, then was on active duty from 1983 to 2006.”

During that time, he served at the Naval Air Station in Memphis, Tennessee; with the Coast Guard in Alaska; on the aircraft carrier USS Ranger, with deployments to Korea and the Persian Gulf; and with the Second Marine Division, with deployments to the Mediterranean, and to Panama for Operation Just Cause (1990-91). Other assignments were with the Naval War College in Newport, Rhode Island; the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland; a joint task force in Cuba and Haiti; the Armed Forces Staff College; the U.S. Atlantic Fleet; and the Navy Chaplains School, which he directed from 1998 to 2000.

The background picture on his cell phone shows the Ranger. “That was a remarkable assignment,” he said. “You’re on a carrier with more than 5,000 people, there are 12 or 13 other ships that are part of its strike group, and you’re the only Catholic priest for all these people.

“Your initial duty is to provide sacramental care for the Catholics on board, but you recognize the further responsibility of providing for everyone’s spiritual needs. For instance, I would help Jewish lay leaders prepare bread and wine for the weekly Shabbat (Sabbath) observance and offer whatever support I could for them and other faith groups.

“That’s the kind of thing you’re not likely to see often as a parish priest,” Father Iasiello said. “In the military, your duty is to watch out for the needs of everyone. They’re all your parishioners. I’ve been in combat a number of times, and in those situations, just your presence is incredibly important.”

Perhaps the best-known military chaplain today is a fictional character – Father Mulcahy of the movie and television series MASH. “It’s interesting how that character developed on the show over time,” Father Iasiello said. “His presence didn’t seem to be appreciated when the show first started, but in time, he became an integral part of the lives of the surgeons and nurses. His role was not a medical one, but he was a healer, just as much as they were.

“At some point, all the principal characters recognized how he impacted their lives and kept them sane in difficult conditions. He matured over the length of the show and provided a positive example of what a chaplain does.”

Naval chaplains also serve the Marine Corps and the Coast Guard. Father Iasiello said one of his most memorable periods of duty came with the Coast Guard in Alaska in 1985 and 1986. “I remember vividly traveling all over Alaska by plane to visit LORAN (long-range navigation) stations, which provided directions in the days before today’s GPS tracking. Those places were extremely isolated, and the staff there was always grateful to see a chaplain,” he said.

“Two or three days before that assignment was supposed to end, a flight crew was called to perform a medical evacua-
32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle B

By Kevin Perrotta
Catholic News Service

You’re asking me? I’m just an observer. I don’t do extreme sports, or extreme trust in God, either. I look at these women, feel the danger and am amazed.

They must have discovered something, experienced something. Otherwise why would doing what was so humane and generous look so good to them?

“I never met this man before. He’s a foreigner. Who knows if his God can multiply flour and oil? But he asked me for food, and I will share my last meal with him.”

“I’m broke, but what do I do with my last dollar is my business. And what I really want to do with it is give it to God. So there it goes into the collection box.”

These women do it, decisively, without looking back. The kite goes up, the wind grabs it, the board leaps forward across the water.

How did they do it?

As they looked at their situations, God must have been in their hearts, and they said, “Yes, absolutely,” to him. I bet they experienced something greater than mere exhilaration.

Reflection Question:

When have you done something a little like what these women did? Does reflecting on this help you see something in your life now in a new light?

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Perrotta is the editor and an author of the “Six Weeks With the Bible” series, teaches part time at Siena Heights University and leads Holy Land pilgrimages. He lives in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

Cathedral Healing Mass and service on Nov. 19

A Mass of healing and healing service will take place at 6:30 p.m. Monday, Nov. 19 at Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral, 212 E. Broad St.

The healing service will follow the Mass and include Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, veneration of a relic of the True Cross of Christ, and a chance 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. The service will close with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

All persons who seek Christ’s healing are invited, especially those who suffer with physical illness and infirmities, in addition to those in seek emotional and spiritual healing. All caregivers, family members, and members of the medical community also are invited.

Parking is available at the rear of the cathedral off East Gay Street. There is a handicapped-accessible elevator on the west side of the cathedral. Healing Masses take place on the third Monday of every other month. The next Healing Mass will be on Jan. 21, 2019.

For more information, call the cathedral at (614) 224-1295.

\[\text{Living ‘I Do’ – Weekly Marriage Tips}\]

Does your “Yes” mean “Yes” and your “No” mean “No”? It is easy to commit in the moment, but not follow through. In your marriage, this can erode trust, which is the foundation for effective communication. Ask yourself what the root of this problem could be, then ask your spouse for help in thinking through and keeping your commitments.

Diocese of Columbus Marriage and Family Life Office
After a month out of the country, working in Rome at Synod 2018 and helping mark the 40th anniversary of John Paul II’s election at events in Brussels and Warsaw, I came home to find Catholic anger over the latest phase of the abuse crisis unabated and intensified in some quarters. That this crisis is not acknowledged for what it is by the highest authorities in Rome is a subject for another reflection at another time. The question today is: What are the roots of today’s Catholic anger and disgust?

Part of the answer to that, surely, is exhaustion. Why must we go through this again? Wasn’t the Long Lent of 2002 enough? Weren’t things fixed then?

Those whose anger is stoked by these understandable questions might have a look at a recent and thought-provoking (https://www.commonwalmagazine.org/print/40277). Woodward understands that ripping the cover off the serial sexual predations of the former archbishop of Washington, Theodore McCarrick, triggered a gag reflex among the Washington, Theodore McCarrick,等问题。木守羽杜理解三这捏 tearing the good news in an otherwise disheartening report – namely, that since the U.S. bishops established stringent new procedures for handling allegations of sexual abuse in 2003, only two priests from the seven dioceses studied have been accused."

The “narrative” of an ongoing, widespread and unaddressed rape culture in the Catholic Church in the United States is false. There are still abusive Catholic clergy in America; they must be rooted out and dismissed from the ministry. There are still bishops who don’t get it and they, too, must go. But as one state attorney general after another finds political hay to be made by investigating the Catholic past, it is essential that Catholics understand that a lot of the awfulness that is going to keep coming out – both in terms of abusive clergy and malfeasant bishops – was in the past. Effective anger today will focus on the present. And it will not be limited to local situations, but will include the obtuseness (and worse) of officials in Rome.

Digging deeper, one hits another question: Why were so many Catholics, who don’t believe much else they read in the papers or see on TV, so ready to believe the misrepresentations of the Pennsylvania grand jury report? Part of the answer, I suspect, has to do with pent-up Catholic anger with clerical narcissism.

A priest or bishop who messes with the Missal and rewrites it to his taste as he celebrates Mass is a narcissist. The priest or bishop who rambles on aimlessly during a daily Mass homily, abusing the time of his people, is a narcissist. A bishop who behaves as if he were hereditary nobility, but absent the gentlemanly noblesse oblige that characterizes the truly noble man, is a narcissist. And Catholics are fed up with clerical narcissism. The angers of the present have been stoked by that narcissism for decades; the deadly combination of McCarrick and Josh Shapiro blew the boiler’s lid off. Anyone who doesn’t recognize this is not going to be much help in fixing what’s broken.

At the same time, it must be remembered that most priests and bishops in the United States are not narcissists: rather, they’re men with a deep sense of vocation who know they’re earthen vessels through whom flows unmerited but superabundant divine grace. Those men deserve our support, affection, and gratitude as they, like the rest of us, deal with the fall-out of this season of humiliation and purification.

As for the narcissists, they need help – and disciplining.
Pray for Our Dead

ABBOTT, Patrick T., 55, Nov. 1
St. Aloysius Church, Columbus

ALLERTON, Patricia (Byrne), 93, Oct. 29
St. Timothy Church, Columbus

ALMASHY, John, 84, Oct. 24
St. Bernard Church, Corning

ALMASHY, John, 84, Oct. 24
St. Bernard Church, Corning

BASILETTI, Clarence, 92, Oct. 30
St. Bernard Church, Corning

BENSON, Jacob N. “Jack,” 24, Oct. 30
St. Joseph Church, Dover

BENNS, Mary E. (Straub), 67, Oct. 24
St. Matthew Church, Gahanna

BOES, Donald L., 62, Oct. 28
St. Matthew Church, Gahanna

CULSICK, Dean E., 93, Oct. 15
St. Mary Church, Marion

FALLON, Mary J. (Wollenberg), 84, Oct. 31
St. Brendan Church, Hilliard

HIGDON, Gerald I., 39, Oct. 29
St. Patrick Church, Columbus

ISOM, Joyce A. (Sibbersen), 74, Oct. 19
St. Mary Church, Marion

KORPIESKI, Leo, 90, Oct. 29
St. Matthews Church, Columbus

KOPAC, John F., 85, Oct. 21
St. Mary Church, Marion

LUX, Harriet H. (Harmer), 94, Oct. 28
St. Elizabeth Church, Columbus

MICOTTO, Marjorie (Trapp), 93, Oct. 29
Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, Grove City

MYER, Sally J. (DiBacco), 77, Oct. 11
St. Rose Church, New Lexington

NAWROCKI, Daniel F., 84, Nov. 1
St. Pius X Church, Reynoldsburg

PALOMBARO, Carol G. (Neureuther), 69, Nov. 3
St. Patrick Church, Columbus

PAUL, John G., 68, Dec. 30
St. Mark Church, Westerville

PATTERSON, John J., 77, Oct. 29
Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Columbus

PATTON, James J., 73, Oct. 29
Our Mother of Sorrows Chapel, Columbus

QUINT, Louis J., 94, Oct. 31
Our Mother of Sorrows Chapel, Columbus

ROW, Larry, 81, Sept. 5
St. Mary Church, Marion

SUSEY, Dr. Michele S., 50, Oct. 30
St. Joseph Church, Dover

WILSON, Geraldine M. (Huszinko), 86, Oct. 20
St. Mary Church, Marion

WOERNER (McSweeney), Nancy J. (Hetterscheidt), 84, Nov. 2
St. Timothy Church, Columbus

Margaret E. Mooney

Funeral Mass for Margaret E. Mooney, 88, who died Tuesday, Oct. 30, was celebrated Monday, Nov. 5 at Columbus Our Lady of Victory Church.

She was born Margaret Schrock on Dec. 15, 1929, attended Columbus St. Mary of the Springs Academy, and graduated with an education degree from Ohio Dominican College.

She was a teacher at Our Lady of Victory School and then at Columbus St. Timothy School, from where she retired after 26 years of service, including 10 as principal.

She was a member of the Grandview Civic Association, OWLS, Lifelong Learning Institute and the BREAD (Building Responsibility, Equality and Dignity) organization.

She lived for the last 13 years of her life at the Westminster-Thurber Community in Columbus.

She was preceded in death by husbands, Herman Eichner and Patrick Mooney; and a son, Michael Eichner. Survivors include a son, Phillip (Christine) Niedzielski-Eichner; daughters, Christine (David) Berger, Lucy (Jeff) Raines and Molly Eichner; three grandsons; seven granddaughters; one great-grandson; and four great-granddaughters.

Robert Lothamer

Funeral Mass for Robert Lothamer, 87, who died Saturday, Nov. 3, was celebrated Thursday, Nov. 8 at Columbus St. Anthony Church. Burial was at Northlawn Memorial Gardens, Westerville.

He was born on Sept. 19, 1931 to Norman and Ruth (Brady) Lothamer, was a graduate of Columbus Aquinas High School, and was a paratrooper in the Army during the Korean War.

He was maintenance supervisor for Columbus St. Catherine Church, School and Convent for 18 years and was a concrete finisher for Del Col and Guzzo for 27 years. He also was an officer of the Inner Circle Bass Club, played semiprofessional football in the 1950s, an active bowler who was part of a championship doubles team at HP Lanes this summer, and was an usher at St. Anthony Church.

He was preceded in death by his parents; wife, Janet (Bauer); and son, Steven. Survivors include sons, Michael (Lin) and Daniel; daughters, Cherryl (George) Tankovich, Becky (Steve) Olson and Amy (David) DiGeronimo; two grandsons; five granddaughters; and three great-grandchildren.

Man issued trespassing warning after disrupting EWTN Mass

Catholic News Agency

EWTN Global Catholic Network has called for prayers for a man who caused a disturbance during the network’s televised Mass on Nov. 4.

“We ask that our EWTN family keep this individual in their prayers,” said EWTN Chairman and CEO Michael Warsaw in a Nov. 4 statement.

The man reportedly caused a disturbance and attempted to approach the altar during the 7 a.m. live televised Mass on EWTN.

EWTN security personnel promptly removed the man from the chapel. Local police detained the man and issued him a warning for trespassing.

No one was injured in the incident and the Mass continued without issue, Warsaw said.

EWTN Global Catholic Network was launched in 1981 by Mother Angelica of the Poor Clares of Perpetual Adoration. The largest religious media network in the world, it reaches more than 275 million television households in more than 145 nations and territories.

In addition to 11 television channels in multiple languages, EWTN platforms include radio services through shortwave and satellite radio, SIRIUS/XM, iHeart Radio and more than 500 AM and FM affiliates. EWTN publishes the National Catholic Register, operates a religious goods catalog, and in 2015 formed EWTN Publishing in a joint venture with Sophia Institute Press. Catholic News Agency is also part of the EWTN family.
Heart Congress, with talks by Emily Jaminet, David Karam and Father Stash Dailey. Mass celebrated by Father Dailey at 8 a.m. Confessions heard and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament throughout the day. $10 individuals, $20 families. Register at www.sacredheartcolumbus.org.

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

Bishop Watterson Presents ‘12 Angry Women’
7 p.m., Bishop Watterson High School, 99 E. Cooke Road, Columbus. School presents the drama ‘12 Angry Women.’ Tickets $10 adults, $5 students. 614-268-8871

11, SUNDAY
St. Christopher Adult Religious Education

Our Lady of Peace School Open House
12:30 to 3 p.m., Our Lady of Peace School, 40 E. Dominon Blvd., Columbus. Open house for parents of prospective students. 614-267-4535

A Lay Fraternities of St. Dominic Meeting
1:30 p.m., St. Patrick Church, 280 N. Grant Ave., Columbus. Meeting of St. Catherine of Siena chapter, Lay Fraternities of St. Dominic.

Father Lutz’s 40th Anniversary
2 p.m., Sacred Heart Church, 893 Hamlet St., Columbus. Solemn High Latin Mass celebrated by Father Kevin Lutz, pastor of St. Mary Church, Mother of God Church, on the 40th anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood, followed by reception from 4 to 5:45 p.m. at the Jubilee Museum, 57 S. Grubb St. Receptions also after Masses at 4 p.m. Saturday and 9 and 11:30 a.m. Sunday at St. Mary Church, 604 S. 3rd St., Columbus.

Art Exhibit Opens at Ohio Dominican
2 to 4:30 p.m., Wehrle Gallery, Ohio Dominican University, 1216 Sunbury Road, Columbus. Opening reception for “Delfs to Jaipur,” an exhibit of works by printmaker Nicholas Hill. Exhibit continues through Jan. 21, 2013. 614-251-4453

Prayer Group Meeting at Christ the King
5 to 7 p.m., Christ the King Church, 2777 E. Livingston Ave., Columbus (enter at daily Mass entrance). Weekly parish prayer group meets for praise, worship, ministry, and teaching. 614-886-8286

Spanish Mass at Columbus St. Peter
7 p.m., St. Peter Church, 6899 Smoky Row Road, Columbus. Mass in Spanish. 706-781-4054

12, 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 church). 614-718-0227, 614-309-2651, 614-309-9157

Our Lady of Peace Men’s Bible Study
7 p.m., Our Lady of Peace Church, 20 E. Dominon Blvd., Columbus. Bible study of Sunday’s readings.

12-13, MONDAY-TUESDAY
Doug Brummel Presentation at St. Paul
6:47 p.m. to 5 p.m., St. Paul Church, 513 N. State St., Westerville. Celebration of faith and family with Catholic humorist Doug Brummel and his “cast of characters.” 614-882-2109

13, TUESDAY
Catholic Society Meeting
6 p.m., Panera restaurant, 4519 N. High St., Columbus. Monthly meeting of the Catholic Society, an association of Catholic alcoholics. Preceded by 5:30 p.m. Mass at Our Lady of Peace Church, across street from meeting site.

Holy Hour at Columbus St. Francis of Assisi
7 p.m. to 5 p.m., St. Francis of Assisi Church, 368 Bottles Ave., Columbus. Holy Hour following 6 p.m. Mass. 614-299-5781

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

Encourage Ministry Monthly Meeting
6:30 p.m., Encourage, an approved diocesan ministry for families and friends of persons who experience same-sex attraction. Encourage respects the dignity of every person, promotes the truth of God’s plan for each of us, and focuses on sharing our testimony with others. Call for site. 614-296-7404

14, WEDNESDAY
Ohio Dominican St. Albert the Great Lecture
11 a.m., Matesich Theater, Erskine Hall, Ohio Dominican University, 1216 Sunbury Road, Columbus. Dr. Claudio Turro, Dow professor at Ohio State University, delivers ODU’s annual St. Albert the Great lecture. Topic: “New Strategies for Targeting Cancer: Shining Light on Transition Metal Complexes.” 614-251-4453

Turning Leaves and Tea Leaves
2 to 3:30 p.m., Frassati Society Center, 2330 Airport Drive, Columbus. Turning Leaves and Tea Leaves book club with Dominican Sisters Mariam Anzenberger and Colleen Gallagher. 614-416-1910

15, THURSDAY
Men’s Bible Study and Breakfast
7:30 a.m. to 9 a.m., St. Peter Church, 6899 Smoky Row Road, Columbus. Free breakfast and Bible study. 614-686-8266

Catholicism Series
6:45 p.m., Our Lady of Peace Church, 5750 N. High St., Columbus. “The Church is the Christ the King convent, first building west of church.” 614-718-0227

Holy Hour at Grace Catholic Church
6 p.m., Holy Grace Church, 154 E. Patterson Ave., Columbus. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, with prayers in the Cenacle format of the Marian Movement of Priests and Eucharistic Holy Hour at Sacred Heart
7 p.m., Sacred Heart Church, 893 Hamlet St., Columbus. Eucharistic Holy Hour with the intent of deepened holiness and an increase in the virtue of fortitude for the Holy Father, bishops, and priests, concluding with Benediction, social period and refreshments. 614-372-5249

Holy Hour at Holy Family
7 p.m., Holy Family Church, 584 W. Broad St., Columbus. Holy Hour of Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, followed by meeting of parish Holy Name and Junior Holy Name societies, with refreshments. 614-221-4323

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

614-721-2100

15-16, THURSDAY-SUNDAY
St. Charles Presents ‘Mullen’s Alley’
8 p.m. Thursday-Saturday, 3 p.m. Sunday, St. Charles Preparatory School, 5100 E. Broad St., Columbus. School presents the central Ohio premiere of the drama “Mullen’s Alley.” Tickets $10 adults, $5 students. 614-252-6714

16, FRIDAY
Catholic Foundation Estate Planning Seminar
8 a.m. to noon, Fawcett Center for Tomorrow, The Ohio State University, 2400 Olentangy River Road, Columbus. Inaugural John L. Sauter Seminar sponsored by The Catholic Foundation, featuring four talks related to various aspects of estate planning. Cost $50 (for sustaining members of Foundation’s professional advisers group). 614-443-8893

Catholic Singles on Fire for Christ
6 p.m., Chapel, Church of the Resurrection, 6300 E. Dublin-Granville Road, New Albany. Monthly meeting of Catholic Singles on Fire for Christ, for anyone older than 35 who is single in the eyes of the Catholic Church and seeks to grow in faith, bring hope to others and share the love of Christ. Begins with prayer and adoration, followed by dinner at a restaurant. 614-855-1400

17, SATURDAY
Catholic Adoration and Prayer Meeting
9 a.m. to noon, Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal Church, 5225 Refugee Road, Columbus. Catholic Adoration and prayer meeting sponsored by Columbus Catholic Renewal Begins with Mass celebrated by Father Dean Mathewson, followed by potluck breakfast and testimony by Bryan O’Donnell of Encounter Ministries. Healing and prayer teams and Sacrament of Reconciliation available during Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. Worship music by the Living Stones. Child care available on request. 614-886-8266

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.

Centering Prayer Group Meeting
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

17-18, SATURDAY-SUNDAY
40 Hours Devotion to Holy Redeemer
Midnight Saturday to 4 p.m. Sunday, Holy Redeemer Church, 1325 Galila St., Portsmouth. 40 Hours of Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. Includes rosary, Divine Mercy chaplet, and sacred music. Concludes with Benediction and Solemn Vespers, followed by meal in parish activity center. Sponsored by Scioto County chapter, Eucharistic Apostles of Divine Mercy. 740-354-4551

18, SUNDAY
St. Christopher Adult Religious Education
10 to 11:20 a.m., Library, Trinity Catholic School, 1440 Grandview Ave., Columbus. Old Testament study with Scripture scholar Frassati Society Mass
10:30 a.m., St. Michael Church, 5750 N. High St., Worthington. Columbus. Frassati Society for young adults attends Mass, followed by brunch at Over the Counter, 5596 N. High St. 614-224-9522

Blessing of St. Gerard Majella at Holy Family
After 11 a.m. Mass, Holy Family Church, 584 W. Broad St., Columbus. Blessing of St. Gerard Majella, patron of expectant mothers. Women who are pregnant or wish to become pregnant.
IASIELLO, continued from P. 13

tion for a young girl who had a subdural hematoma. The plane never got there. It crashed into a mountainside. All six people on board died that night.

“At the request of the commanding officer, I stayed for a couple of months to help the six families deal with their grief. It’s a sad duty, but it’s part of what a chaplain does – not just a military chaplain, but those who serve as chaplains in prisons, hospitals and other places – in bringing spiritual comfort to people of all faith traditions.”

Father Iasiello has written a number of articles and academic papers on the subject of Just War theory, which examines the ethical criteria under which a war can be considered morally justifiable. Just behavior in war is the subject of his doctoral thesis.

“One day while serving in the Mediterranean, I got a call saying ‘We want you to be a student at the Naval War College,’” he said. “My response was ‘Why go there? I’m a Franciscan. We believe in peaceful solutions.’”

“The response I got back was ‘You were chosen. That’s why we call these decisions orders. And we do have a reason for wanting you to come. We want a chaplain who’s had ethical training to be at the college and become an asset for our line officers. We want to help them when they have moral and ethical dilemmas. You need to be at the college and learn what they will face, so you can advise them and advise us.”

Father Iasiello graduated from the college with a degree in national security and strategic studies. He would return there as an admiral and lecture the young officers in attendance.

“I’ve found that we need more people who understand ethics and warfare,” he said. “JAGS (Navy lawyers, members of the Navy’s Judge Advocate General’s Corps) can advise commanders as to what is legal; chaplains can advise them as to what is right.

“In the current struggle against global extremism, the most common question I get as a Just War theorist is ‘Why should we follow the rules of war when the enemy ignores or exploits them?’ I remind them, ‘It’s what American warriors do and it is what the American people expect them to do.’”

Father Iasiello was appointed deputy chief of Naval chaplains in 2000 for a three-year term, which was followed by his three years as chief of chaplains in what is a traditional progression. “It’s not a position you aspire to,” he said. “When you’re selected, you’re shocked because you know a hundred others could do as well as you, if not better.”

Father Iasiello was the first Chaplain Corps flag officer to serve as deputy chief of chaplains and chaplain of the Marine Corps. He was selected by a board of seven admirals.

He was the 23rd person and the fifth Catholic priest to serve as chief of Naval chaplains since the position was created in 1917. He facilitated ministry for more than one million persons, including active duty and reserve personnel in the Navy, Marines, Coast Guard, and U.S. Maritime Administration and their families. He led more than 870 active-duty and 1,100 reserve chaplains, including priests, ministers, imams and rabbis from more than 200 denominations and all major faith groups, plus 1,500 enlisted religious program specialists.

The current chief of chaplains, the 27th person to hold the position, is Rear Adm. Brent Scott, an evangelical Protestant minister.

On retiring from active duty in 2006, Father Iasiello became president of the Washington Theological Union, a graduate school of theology for male religious studying for the priesthood that expanded its role to serve religious communities of women, as well as deacons, Catholic laypersons and members of other faith traditions.

“I had been a student there in the 1970s, when the school had about 100 candidates for the priesthood,” he said. “When I took over, we had less than 35 full-time religious attending, and I knew the numbers were not likely to increase.” He left the school in 2008. It stopped accepting new students in 2011 and suspended operations in 2015.

From there, the secretary of defense appointed him as co-chair of a federal task force of 60 members, which was established to examine the issue of sexual assault in the military services. After completing its work and testifying about its findings before Congress, he accepted an appointment to the Josephinum.

“Coming here has allowed me to be generative as a priest, to give something back to the young men I’m helping prepare for the priesthood,” Father Iasiello said. “It’s not often a priest gets this type of a chance to give back. I’m grateful for the opportunity to continue to serve the Church in this way.”

New York friar’s new album says life is a pilgrimage made ‘poco a poco’

Catholic News Agency

Musical inspiration can come from unexpected places – like a Franciscan friar’s struggle to learn Spanish.

The inspiration for the title and theme of Poco a Poco, a new CD from the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal, came from a friar living in Honduras, who worked at a hospital that serves the poorest of the poor.

Although he was having a hard time learning Spanish, the friar wanted to encourage people as they waited for medical attention – some of whom had walked for miles to receive care – so he memorized a simple but encouraging phrase in Spanish: Somos peregrinos camino al Señor; poco a poco, vamos al llegar, which translates to: “We are pilgrims walking to the Lord; little by little, we will arrive.”

“It was just this little way of like encouraging people ... little by little, step by step, I can get through another day,” said another Franciscan, Father Mark-Mary, CFR, who heard the friar’s phrase for the first time when he also was living and working in Honduras.

“But it ends with this hope of vamos a llegar: we’re going to make it, our hope is in Christ and we do not hope in vain,” he told CNA.

Father Mark-Mary shared the phrase and story with friend and fellow friar Brother Isaiah, CFR, who found that it resonated with him so personally that he chose Poco a Poco for the title of his first full-length musical album.

“All the time I heard it, I just lit up because there was something about it that just grabbed my heart,” Brother Isaiah said in a video about the CD for Ascension Press.

“Little by little, there’s something about that that my heart just says ‘OK, yeah, I can handle that.’ ... It’s become a chorus for me when facing life’s difficulties,” he said. “It’s become a rallying phrase for whatever the moment calls for.”

The biblical theme of life as a pilgrimage journeying to the Lord, and with the Lord, is something that permeates the whole CD, Brother Isaiah said in email comments to CNA.

“The Book of Exodus recounts how God led Israel ‘little by little’ through the desert in their pilgrimage to the Promised Land and so He does with us,” he said.

”‘Poco a poco,’ God guides us along our journey, encouraging the heart to set out each day to a land it knows not, by paths it has not known, and the promised accompaniment of an ever-present and unwearied Love, capable of carrying us beyond the familiar lands of our habits and capacities to frontiers of growth, transformation, and ever-deepening peace as we come to behold the God of love, in the face of Christ Jesus, whose peace (and love for us) ‘passes all understanding,’” he said.

The theme of life as pilgrimage also fits perfectly with the charism of the friars, as stated on their recently-received pontifical decree from Rome: “In imitation of St. Francis of Assisi, the friars seek to follow in the footsteps of Jesus, as a prophetic witness that life is a pilgrimage to the Father, of faith, hope and love of God and neighbor, made possible by the Holy Spirit.”

So far, the album has been received very well, Father Mark-Mary said. It was at one point the fourth best-selling Christian album according to Amazon, and the No. 23 best-selling album for all music on Amazon.

The album Poco a Poco is available on iTunes and Amazon, and CDs and merchandise also may be ordered through Ascension Press.
Hartley advances to regional semifinals in football playoffs

By Doug Bean, Catholic Times Editor

All done but one from the Diocese of Columbus in the state high school football playoffs.

Top-seeded Columbus Bishop Hartley was the lone survivor in the first round last weekend after rolling to a 51-14 victory over eighth-seeded Athens in Division III, Region 11.

Lancaster Fisher Catholic and Tuscarawas Central Catholic weren’t as fortunate. Both were eliminated in the opening round in Division VII.

Fisher Catholic’s season ended with a 36-0 loss to Glouster Trimble last Saturday night in Region 27. The Irish finished with a 6-4 record after their first playoff appearance since 2006.

Eighth-seeded Tuscarawas Central Catholic’s improbable playoff appearance concluded with a 42-13 loss to top-seeded Cuyahoga Heights on Saturday night in Region 25. The Saints (5-6) were among a state-record 11 teams to qualify for the postseason with a 5-5 record. Only one of those, Warren John F. Kennedy, won its opening game.

Hartley (9-2) advanced to face neighborhood rival and annual scrimmage partner Eastmoor Academy (9-1) at 7 p.m. Friday in a regional semifinal at Hamilton Township High School.

Fourth-seeded Eastmoor trailed at halftime in its opening playoff game before blowing past fifth-seeded Hillsboro 34-14 last Friday.

Hartley had no problem with Athens. Jalan January, the team’s top runner back, was slowed by an ankle injury and rushed for 40 yards and a touchdown, but the Hawks received contributions from a host of players.

Quarterback Miles Fleming rushed for 98 yards and passed for 142 yards, Kiron Anderson rushed for 92 yards on 10 carries, Philip Cole had three receptions for 129 yards and a touchdown and three rushes for 38 yards and a TD. Mason Sawyer ran for two touchdowns and Angelo Evans added a rushing score.

“Eastmoor is really good. They have tremendous talent and are really well coached,” Hartley coach Brad Burchfield said. “It will be a big challenge for us.

“This will be a rare emotional playoff game with them being so close to us, knowing each other so well. A ton of pride on the line.”

‘Mullen’s Alley’ premieres at St. Charles

Columbus St. Charles Preparatory School, 2010 E. Broad St., will present the central Ohio premiere of the drama Mullen’s Alley at 8 p.m. Thursday to Saturday, Nov. 15 to 17 and 3 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 18.

Cast members include Cameron Tiefenthaler, Andy Kraus, Noah Kuhr, Jack Margiotta, Avantae Gonzalez, Anna Turek, Nathan Schirtzinger, Donald Search, George Ferris, Jane Carney and Alex Smith.

Mullen’s Alley, by Timothy Mason, premiered on Aug. 26, 2005, produced by the Young Conservatory at the American Conservatory Theater in San Francisco. It is based on the photographs of Jacob Riis, who in the 1880s took a camera into the tenements of New York’s Lower East Side, showing the world “How the Other Half Lives” in his famous book of the same.

The play looks at the world of Mullen’s Alley and the lives of a handful of children who are ferociously determined to grow and live in spite of the many obstacles in their way. With wit, anger and ingenuity, these immigrant children carve out lives for themselves as they interact uneasily with the intrusion of Riis and his omnipresent camera.

Adult tickets are $10 and student tickets are $5. Reservations may be placed by calling the school office at (614) 252-6714 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday to Friday.

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