COLUMBUS CONFERENCE BRINGS 3,500 WOMEN TOGETHER FOR MESSAGES OF FAITH
Blessings can be found in the midst of darkness

Our country is going through some tough times. Seventeen students were senselessly killed and others were injured in a school shooting last week in Florida. Closer to home, two devoted police officers were tragically gunned down in Westerville, a quiet suburb where violence like that just doesn’t happen. A memorial service was held for Officers Anthony Morelli and Eric Joering last Friday at Westerville St. Paul Church. Many more innocent victims are murdered on U.S. streets every day in inexplicable acts of violence.

Political rancor prevails in Washington and around the country. No matter who’s in office, there always seems to be tension and contentiousness. Turn on the TV news channels and it seems like all you hear is nonstop arguing. It gets old pretty quickly. Will it ever stop?

Abortion continues to be the law of the land. Several weeks ago, the U.S. Senate failed to pass the Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act, which would have outlawed most abortions after 20 weeks. Fourteen professed Catholic senators voted against the bill, despite the fact that babies born as early as 22 weeks’ gestation are now able to survive. America remains one of only seven nations that permits these gruesome late-term abortions, and two of those are North Korea and China.

Cardinal Timothy Dolan of New York, who chairs the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Committee on Pro-life Activities, called the decision “appalling.” He added that the Senate’s rejection of this common-sense legislation “is radically out of step with most Americans” and went on to say that “the Senate must rethink its extreme stance on late-term abortions. I call upon the public to tell the Senate that this vote is absolutely unacceptable.”

Some families are struggling. The opioid epidemic has reached crisis proportions in Ohio and throughout the nation. There are so many temptations nowadays for young people and adults in our culture. Thinking about all of those things could leave us depressed, but we cannot despair. There are so many encouraging signs that should give us hope.

This past weekend, the annual Catholic Women’s Conference took place in Columbus. Thousands of women came together to be uplifted in their faith through confession, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, the celebration of the Mass, and the testimony of dynamic speakers.

On Sunday, hundreds of people on their way to becoming Catholic participated in the Rite of Election at Westerville St. Paul Church. A few of them shared their journeys in this week’s Catholic Times (see Page 3). Nothing is more encouraging than hearing how someone is called to communion with Christ through His one, holy, catholic, and apostolic church.

There is a litany of things to pray for during the season of Lent. An end to violence. Peace in the world. Protection of all human life from conception until natural death. Healing in families. Conversations of hearts and of sinners. Aid to the poor and those in need. Suffering children. Those who feel alone and abandoned. Those who have lost their faith in God and have no hope. The sick and suffering. All who have died. For the faithfulness of priests, religious, and church leaders in their vocations.

Always remember in the darkest hours that God is there for everyone. His love and mercy know no bounds. The world might be going crazy around us, but God is in charge.

As we reflect in our prayers during Lent on Christ’s life, death, and resurrection, we should be comforted in knowing that He will triumph over all the difficulties and sin that weigh us down.

Correction
A story in the Feb. 11 Catholic Times gave an incorrect day of the week for a talk by Dr. Thomas Farr, president of the Religious Freedom Institute, at the Pontifical College Josephinum. The correct date is Thursday, March 8.
In preparation for ordination to the priesthood, nine seminarians in their fourth and final year of graduate theological study at the Pontifical College Josephinum made a profession of faith and took an oath of fidelity in the presence of Msgr. Christopher Schreck, Josephinum rector-president, and the seminary community during Evening Prayer on Thursday, Feb. 8. Four of the nine are to be ordained to the priesthood for the Diocese of Columbus on Saturday, May 26. They pledged to remain faithful to Church teachings and to be faithful teachers of the Gospel. Third-year theology students made similar promises a few weeks earlier. Pictured are (from left), Deacons Christopher Tuttle (Columbus), Jesus Oliveros Martinez (Joliet, Illinois), John Nahrgang (Phoenix), Todd Lehigh (Columbus), Luke LaFleur (Alexandria, Louisiana), Jonathan Howell (Birmingham, Alabama), and Thomas Herge (Columbus, partially hidden), Msgr. Schreck, and Deacons Brett Garland (Columbus), and Richard Childress (Nashville, Tennessee).

JOSEPHINUM SEMINARIANS MAKE PROFESSIONS OF FAITH
Faith in Action  
By Jerry Freewalt

Do you need a Lenten retreat?

Do you need a retreat? I certainly do. On several days of the year, my colleagues at work say, “Jerry is out of the office again today. He’s on a retreat.” Actually, I’m the one leading the retreat. I enjoy my work, but it takes a lot of energy to organize and lead Church programs involving lots of people.

For my spiritual well-being, I too must go on a retreat. I need to carve out a special time to get away from the typical busyness of life to pray, reflect, and renew my relationship with God, family, and neighbors. Even Jesus took time to get away to pray, reflect, and renew. He went on retreats.

Maybe you don’t have time during Lent to take a weekend off to go on a retreat. Well, here’s the next best thing: mini-retreats. Here are some suggestions.

CRS Rice Bowl – Use all of what CRS Rice Bowl has to offer. Catholic Relief Services, the U.S. Catholic Church’s humanitarian aid organization which helps the poor and vulnerable overseas, offers the CRS Rice Bowl during Lent. It’s more than just a small bowl-shaped box to put your loose change in every day. It’s a transformational retreat in a box.

In the box is a CRS Rice Bowl Lenten family kit and calendar. It’s also downloadable. It includes daily prayers, reflections, and actions. Online videos will take you to another country to witness the hands of Christ at work. Include a simple meal on your retreat, using a CRS Rice Bowl recipe. Download the CRS Rice Bowl app on your phone for additional daily prayers and reflections. Participate in the diocesan CRS Rice Bowl Lenten Challenge: Family and Schools. For more information, go to www.catholic.org/catholic-relief-services.

40 Days for Life – This peaceful prayer vigil takes place at abortion centers throughout America during Lent. Participants are asked to volunteer for one-hour shifts and sign a statement of peace. It calls for prayer and fasting, constant vigil, and community outreach. To plan your mini-retreat with 40 Days for Life, visit www.40daysforlife.com/columbus.

March is Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month – Create a mini-retreat out of the many online resources available on the National Catholic Partnership on Disability website, www.ncpd.org. Pray the prayer for inclusion of persons with disabilities. Watch an archived webinar for tips on how to make your parish more accessible and inclusive for parishioners of all abilities.

Go take a hike – I mean this in good way. Take a walk in a park or spend quality time outside. Give thanks and praise to God, our creator. As part of your mini-retreat, use the Creation Care Guide at www.catholic.org/care-for-creation for suggested activities to be a good steward of God’s creation.

Share the Journey – They say Lent is a journey. You can share the journey with migrants and refugees through the new global campaign launched by Pope Francis. Watch videos about the plight of migrants and make use of the many prayers, reflections, and activities available at www.sharejourney.org.

Good Friday Walking Stations of the Cross – Plan a three-hour retreat on Good Friday, March 30. Join hundreds of youth and adults as they follow the Way of the Cross to locations throughout downtown Columbus. Pray, recognize Jesus’ suffering and crucifixion, and reflect on current issues of social concern. The walk begins at 8 a.m. at St. Joseph Cathedral.

There are many more Lenten mini-retreat possibilities, but you get the idea. I know you could use a good retreat. Take a moment to schedule one today.

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

Keith Smith receives Hartley’s Geist Award

Keith Smith is this year’s recipient of Columbus Bishop Hartley High School’s Mary Geist Service Award.

He and his wife, Michelle, have sent four children to the school: Madeleine (a 2012 graduate); Alexandra (2013); Michael (2017); and Audrey (currently a junior).

The award is given annually to individuals who have been of exemplary service to the school and its extended community.

Geist was extremely active in service to her church and the school, coming to Hartley as a volunteer in the early 1970s after her retirement and serving until her death in 2003. She was the first recipient of the award in 2000.

Smith has donated hundreds of hours of labor maintaining the school’s softball and baseball fields and has provided equipment to assist in field maintenance.

When the school established its athletic hall of fame in 2014, he handled all landscaping needs for the hall’s dedication at Jack Ryan Field.

Photo: Keith Smith (fourth from right) is pictured with (from left) his daughters Madeleine and Audrey; his wife, Michelle; and Columbus Bishop Hartley High School principal Michael Winters.

Photo courtesy Bishop Hartley High School

Author speaks to Downtown Serra Club

Members of the Downtown Columbus Serra Club, which supports priests and religious vocations, had their annual Valentine’s Day luncheon at Columbus St. Charles Preparatory School, featuring guest speaker Emily Jaminet, co-author of Divine Mercy for Moms. She spoke about her most recent book, The Friendship Project, co-written with her frequent collaborator, Michele Faehnle. Pictured are Jaminet (left) and club member Virginia Hardy.

Jaminet opened her talk with a prayer and a litany of saints asking for their intercession. She talked about the value of friendship and its aspects of utility, pleasure, virtue, and spirituality.

She said that friendships usually are established by things people have in common and that true friendship is a shared relationship, emphasizing that it is important to value and nurture friendships. The talk concluded with a reminder that Christ and the saints are always present for our prayers and our requests to discern and establish friendships that lead us to God and the plans He has for our lives.

The club’s next meeting will be at noon Friday, Feb. 23, at St. Charles, 2010 E. Broad St., with youth evangelist Dan DeMatte as guest speaker. For more information, call (614) 486-4293.
Diocese observes Black History Month

February is Black History Month, and the diocesan Office of Black Catholic Ministries encourages members of all parishes in the Diocese of Columbus to join the nation’s more than three million African American Catholics in learning more about the contributions of black Catholics to the growth and expansion of the church.

Though hardship and discrimination, Catholics of African descent have been good and faithful servants to Christ and his church throughout the nation’s history. Four of these inspirational Catholics -- Father Augustus Tolton, Servant of God; Mother Mary Elizabeth Lange, Servant of God; Venerable Henrietta De Lille; and Venerable Pierre Toussaint -- are under consideration for sainthood.

Events last August in Charlottesville, Virginia, in which one person was killed while protesting a white supremacist march and two state troopers monitoring the march died when their helicopter crashed, have strengthened the Catholic Church’s efforts to combat racism. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops has established a new ad hoc committee against racism and selected an Ohioan, Bishop George Murry of Youngstown, to be its chair.

“Recent events have exposed the extent to which the sin of racism continues to afflict our nation,” said the USCCB’s president, Cardinal Daniel DiNardo of Galveston-Houston, in announcing formation of the committee a few days after the Charlottesville events.

“The establishment of this new ad hoc committee will be wholly dedicated to engaging the church and our society to work together in unity to challenge the sin of racism, to listen to persons who are suffering under this sin, and to come together in the love of Christ to know one another as brothers and sisters.”

The committee also will “welcome and support” implementation of the U.S. bishops’ new pastoral letter on racism, expected to be released later this year. In 1979, the bishops issued a pastoral on racism titled Brothers and Sisters to Us, in which they addressed many themes. The overall message, then as today, was “racism is a sin.”

“Unfortunately, it’s not only Charlottesville,” Bishop Murry said. “There have been other instances of discrimination and lack of caring, of outright hate for people who are African American or other people of color, immigrants, newcomers. What the bishops are saying is we need to look at this in a concerted, organized way because this is having a negative effect on the life of our country.”

The Columbus-based Dominican Sisters of Peace and other congregations of Dominican sisters in the United States also have spoken out against the violence in Charlottesville, emphasizing the commitment to peace that is part of their name. They issued the following statement in August:

“We, the Dominican Sisters Conference, representing approximately 6,000 Catholic Sisters and their associates across the United States, join our voice with the many across the United States who denounce the acts of white supremacist terrorism in Charlottesville, Virginia, on August 12, 2017.

“As Christians and as Americans we are deeply grieved, outraged and troubled by the President’s most recent actions which clearly demonstrate that he is leading the country down a path of increasing hatred and violence. We need to call this violence for what it is and acknowledge that different forms of white supremacy have led to a perpetuation of inequality economically, socially, politically, in education, in health care, and legally under the law for African Americans since 1619. Hate groups such as the KKK have no place in American society.

“Under the banner of free speech, hate speech is nothing more than hate and is not American. It is against everything we value as Americans, whether Catholic, Christian, Jewish, Muslim, Buddhist, or atheist. We call on President Trump to reconsider his recent statements that have contributed to division and violent confrontation.

“We call upon the members of Congress to exercise their constitutional authority to demand that the President reverse course immediately and stand against every expression of hatred, bigotry, and violence. As women of faith, we add our voice to those calling for an end to racist violence in our country and pray that all embrace the reality that each of us is created in the image of God.

“We cannot remain silent for silence is consent. As Dominicans, we hearken to the words of our Dominican Saint Catherine of Siena, ‘Preach the truth as if you had a million voices. It is silence that kills the world!’

“We commit ourselves to promote nonviolence.”

Along with four other congregations, the Dominican Sisters of Peace have opened up their archives to historian Shannen Dee Williams, who is writing a book about black sisters in the United States.

Sister Anne Lythgoe, OP, told Global Sisters Report that her congregation

See HISTORY, Page 6
Scattering ashes; Feeling close to God

When I die, I would like to be cremated and have my ashes scattered in a place of peace and beauty that I have already chosen. However, when I have asked a couple of priests, they say that I can be cremated but that my ashes must be in an urn and either buried or interred in an above-ground mausoleum.

The reason they have given is that my body/ashes must be together at the end of the world. So does that mean that people who have died in explosions and have had their bodies completely incinerated cannot be reunited with Christ? (Even if embalmed, our bodies will still rot away; will bodies actually be in heaven, or only our spirits/souls?) (Minneapolis)

It is true, as you learned, that in the view of the Catholic Church, cremains should be buried or interred in a sacred, church-approved place. But the reason is not so much, as you suggest, that “the ashes must be together at the end of the world.”

Instead, it results from the church’s belief that the human body is an essential part of a person’s identity and that cremains should therefore be treated with the same respect as a human corpse.

Additionally, the church prefers that the cremains be accessible to the public so that the Christian community can come and remember the dead in prayer.

And so, in 2016 when the Vatican issued guidelines for cremation, it clarified that the cremains should not be scattered, divided up, placed in lockets or kept at home.

And, yes, it is an essential Catholic doctrine (see *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, No. 1017) that in heaven our bodies will be reunited with our souls -- although transformed into a glorified state, freed from any suffering or pain. Exactly how that will happen we do not know, although I feel confident that God can figure it out -- even for those whose bodies have been “completely incinerated” at death.

I am 80 years old and would like to feel like a real and responsible Catholic again, but here is my problem. In the Bible, it says that we should love God with all our hearts and minds. I believe in God and know that he is there, but I just do not experience that “loving,” “feel good” emotion.

I have a huge guilt complex about this, because it suggests that I just take God for granted. I can talk and pray to God, but it seems so one-sided. When I was a boy, I used to stop in church for a visit and just sit and marvel that I was in God’s house. But now I leave Mass feeling empty, except for knowing that I have met my Sunday obligation.

Over the years, I have spoken with four different Catholic priests to discuss this, and it was a complete waste of time. All I came away with was that I needed to have blind faith. I do have faith, but that does not remove my guilt for not properly loving God. (Terre Haute, Indiana)

A. Relax! The fact that you do not feel God’s closeness does not mean that you don’t love him. I refer you to a book called *Mother Teresa: Come Be My Light*, the record of Mother Teresa’s correspondence with her spiritual director.

Mother Teresa, who devoted her life to caring for the poor in the streets of Kolkata, was canonized a saint in 2016. Yet this book reveals that she endured many years of an intense spiritual dryness, feeling abandoned by God. It is a story told by many saints.

“My own soul remains in deep darkness and desolation,” noted an anguished Mother Teresa. Nevertheless, she said, “I don’t complain -- let him do with me whatever he wants.”

I’m sure that you appreciate that the Lord has given you the gift of life, along with many blessings over your 80 years. Your presence at Mass -- the great act of Christian thanksgiving -- demonstrates that gratitude.

I will pray that God will grant you the gift of inner peace, as well as a sense of his nearness. But meanwhile, don’t worry about how you feel; it’s much more important how you think and act.

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

Parent awareness program

Columbus St. Andrew Church, 1899 McCoy Road, Columbus, will host a parent awareness program titled “Hidden in Plain Sight” at 7 p.m. Thursday, March 1, in Nugent Hall.

This parents-only program, sponsored by the Tuscarawas Anti-Drug Coalition, includes interactive exhibits, information on community resources, and hints or ideas on behaviors that may indicate a young person is becoming involved in risky behavior. Topics covered include underage drinking, tobacco, marijuana, “spice,” prescription drugs, inhalants, technology, and self-harm.

For more information, contact St. Andrew School principal Joel Wichtman at (614) 451-1626.

Appalachian project fundraiser

A fundraiser for the annual Appalachian outreach project conducted each summer by St. Catherine, Christ the King, and other parishes on Columbus’ east side will take place from 3:30 to 5 p.m. Sunday, March 4 in the undercroft of St. Catherine Church, 500 S. Gould Road.

The program has assisted residents of southern Ohio for 25 years with home repairs and new construction they are unable to complete because of economic or physical hardships.

There will be a raffle, and old-fashioned apple crisp and ice cream will be served. RSVP is appreciated to appalachianproject94@gmail.com or Anne Jupinko at (614) 499-2860.

HISTORY, continued from Page 5

was willing to examine any instances of racism that Williams might find in it history.

Earlier this month, the Martin de Porres Center, operated by the Dominican Sisters of Peace, presented a Black History Month program, “The Sound of My People,” with the Through His Eyes arts ministry of the Columbus First Church of God.

The Sound of My People offered viewers a glimpse into the history of African Americans from Africa to modern-day America, told through music, drama, dance, and song. The production examined how faith in God and worship through music impacted the growth of the African American culture.

For the current school year, the diocesan Office of Black Catholic Ministries is providing financial assistance for the 2017-18 school year to several students at diocesan elementary and high schools.

Tuition awards have been presented to one student selected by the administration at each of the following Columbus elementary schools: All Saints Academy, Holy Spirit, St. Anthony, and St. Mary in German Village.

Also receiving tuition awards were Columbus high school students Lauren Akainyah and Ruth Tesfay, St. Francis DeSales; Arc Chimu Igwebuikwe, St. Charles Preparatory; and Atemnam Makers, Bishop Ready.

In addition, Columbus Cristo Rey High School was presented with $500 to purchase uniforms for four students. Two students from St. Mary in German Village who attend Catholic high schools were presented with $100 uniform awards.

Part of the Black Catholic Ministries office mission is to support Catholic school education within the diocesan African American community. It provides financial awards to Catholic elementary schools with a diverse population and offers individual financial assistance to African American students who attend Columbus-area Catholic high schools.
Church’s Lenten observance dedicated to shooting victims, their families

By Tom Tracy
Catholic News Service

A parish community less than two miles away and directly impacted by the Feb. 14 school shooting at a Broward County, Florida, high school is finding new purpose in Lent this year, according to the parish administrator.

“We decided to hold Stations of the Cross on Fridays during Lent as is our tradition, but this (past) Friday we decided to celebrate those stations in memory and in solidarity with those who died and all their families, and those at school who experienced this violence on Wednesday,” said Polish-born Father Ireneusz Ekiert, who became administrator of Mary Help of Christians Parish in Parkland, Florida, in December.

At least one member of the suburban parish northwest of Fort Lauderdale -- 14-year-old freshman Gina Montalto, who had attended Mary Help of Christians Elementary School -- was among the deceased. Her funeral was on Feb. 20.

“We have a couple of families with kids who were wounded and one that has died,” the priest told the Florida Catholic, newspaper of the Archdiocese of Miami.

“This was a perfect opportunity to bring all those who died and their families, those who suffered, all those who experienced that violence, to bring them into prayer in the Stations today.”

Troubled 19-year-old Nikolas Cruz has been charged with 17 counts of first-degree premeditated murder after stalking the halls of Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School with an AR-15 rifle on Valentine’s Day. Fourteen more faculty members and students were injured in the tragedy. Cruz reportedly had been expelled from the school for disciplinary reasons.

Father Ekiert said several young people from the parish who attend the high school “were also traumatized by the whole experience. We talked with them on Wednesday and again yesterday and they are scared. They don’t know what to do with it.”

About 75 parishioners were on hand for the Stations of the Cross, including members of the parish youth group, public high school students, and students from the parish school. The parish conducted another prayer vigil the night before and invited parishioners and others to pray the rosary at noon, 2, 4, and 6 p.m. the day after the shooting.

Father Ekiert said he never imagined being plunged into a horrific tragedy of this scope, especially in an otherwise quiet residential area that has become home to many South American transplants.

“Unfortunately, this event is very painful, very heartbreaking,” he said, “but people are coming together to pray. They were here on Ash Wednesday services in good numbers, and yesterday, we prayed the rosary every two hours for the victims and students.”

He added that the community was to pray again on Feb. 18 “for those who lost their lives or were affected by this violence.”

Local Catholic Charities counselors and others also were on hand to speak to student survivors.

“The kids in school and their parents were traumatized because students were locked in school for three and four hours and so yesterday and today, we were trying to reach out to (parish and parochial school) families,” Father Ekiert said. “Thursday was difficult for everybody, but (our families) know that we are here for them and they know the school is a safe place.”

“By participating in the suffering and pain of Christ, we are able to better understand our suffering and the sense that we are not alone in our suffering, that God understands our suffering and that God is there with us in our suffering,” the priest said.

Cruz allegedly went on the shooting rampage on the afternoon of Feb. 14, shortly before school was to let out for the day. He was apprehended about an hour after shots were reported at the school. Although he has confessed to the shooting, details about his motive are still being pieced together.

Among the dead were the high school’s athletic director, Chris Hixon, a parishioner at Nativity Church in Hollywood, Florida; and another 14-year-old, Cara Loughran, who took part in the youth group at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church in nearby Coral Springs.

Photo: An outdoor Stations of the Cross service at Mary Help of Christians Church in Parkland, Florida, was dedicated to victims of the mass shooting at a nearby high school. CNS/Tom Tracy

Watterson athletes heading for college

Eight Columbus Bishop Watterson High School seniors recently announced their intent to play college sports. They are (from left): first row, Joshua Brobst, baseball, Lake Erie College; Lainey Billing, basketball, Lake Erie; Lilly Binion-Ferrell, women’s wrestling, Campbellsville; Holden Jones, football, Walsh; second row, Kyle Simmonds, football, St. Francis (Pennsylvania); Bryant Pratt, soccer, Indiana; Kevin Laming, football, Ashland; and Gilberto Quintero, soccer, Findlay.

Photo courtesy Bishop Watterson High School

St. Patrick mission to focus on parish patron

Father Stephen Dominic Hayes, OP, will be conducting the annual Lenten parish mission for Columbus St. Patrick Church, 280 N. Grant Ave., at 7 p.m. Monday to Wednesday, March 12 to 14. It will focus on the parish’s patron, St. Patrick, the apostle of Ireland.

Lent is a time for renewing our pilgrimage into the mystery of God’s life and ours; to find holiness, meaning, and renewed purpose in a life lived within the embrace of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. It is a time for conversion, and the story of St. Patrick demonstrates the reality of true conversion.

Patrick was baptized when he was an infant, but as a teenager, he was an indifferent and even a bad Christian, by his own admission. He eventually was imprisoned, and his years as a captive enabled him to emerge from the spiritual darkness of the pagan people who had enslaved him.

Using St. Patrick as an example of conversion, Father Hayes will present a plan for deepening our participation in the grace of the sacraments as we make our pilgrimage with Jesus through the spiritual desert of Lent.

Catholic War Veterans have scholarship funds available

The Catholic War Veterans have a scholarship foundation that awards four $1,000 scholarship grants to eligible high school seniors. Any high school senior is eligible if his or her parent or grandparent is a member of the Catholic War Veterans or if he or she is a child or grandchild of a deceased Catholic veteran.

For more information, send an email to Mary Ann Janning at majanning@gmail.com or call (614) 558-1293.

The deadline to receive applications is Monday, April 30.
VIETNAMESE TET MASS 2018

The annual Vietnamese lunar new year, Tet, was celebrated during Mass for the First Sunday of Lent on Feb. 18 at Columbus Ss. Augustine & Gabriel Church. Father Joseph Bay, the parish’s pastor, was assisted by Deacon Joseph Nguyen.

Girls from the parish performed a traditional Vietnamese dance, and elders wore costumes representing health, happiness, and prosperity, and distributed candy to children and adults. CT photos by Ken Snow

CATHOLIC CEMETERIES

SPRING CLEAN-UP!

Cemetery field workers will be removing winter-time and artificial decorations from graves and mausoleums at all Catholic cemeteries beginning March 1, 2018.

We request that families wishing to retain any personal keepsakes, to please remove them by March 1.

Due to the number of decorations involved, the cemetery staff can not be responsible for collecting or storing personal items. Thank you for your cooperation.

St. Joseph
614-491-2751

Resurrection
614-888-1805

Mt. Calvary
614-491-2751

Holy Cross
740-927-4442
I've been blessed with good health, through nature and nurture, but I recently experienced a medical emergency that I never could have imagined.

While driving to Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament recently, my vision blurred. I was able to turn my car around and safely drive home, and my husband, Al, drove me to the Riverside Hospital emergency room.

I felt pretty good, sitting up and talking normally, but my heart rate kept falling dangerously low. After five hours of testing in the ER, my body proved to be healthy, but they found what appeared to be a failure in the electrical system of my heart.

That was quite a surprise to someone who was not ill, exercises daily, and teaches others to exercise. I’m considered relatively young to be a cardiac patient (in my 50s), I didn’t have much medical history to speak of, and this was my first time in the ER, so this was truly a humbling experience.

There I was with concerned nurses, doctors, and family members hovering all around me. When they attached paddle pads as a precaution, I knew I had to take this seriously.

So I prayed. I can honestly say that for the first time in my life, I prayed as Jesus calls us to pray … without ceasing. I prayed to the Holy Trinity and my guardian angel and asked for the intercession of Our Lady and the saints, especially two of my favorites, St. Padre Pio and St. Therese of Lisieux.

I also felt an urgent need to pray for my family and friends, every hospital worker and patient, and the holy souls in purgatory … who are closer to heaven than we are.

Much like an athlete who trains for a physical event, I felt this was it – time to run the race, to lean on God, my faith, and my loving family and friends for strength and to give every ounce of my will to prayer. Years of receiving the Sacraments, praying, and serving – all the things we do as active Catholics – must mean something in the drama of our daily lives … and, for me, this was it.

So, on the first night in the hospital, I had a long conversation with God. I told him that if this is my time, I’ll go, but I didn’t feel ready. I still need to grow in holiness (as he knows), and there are some milestones I’d like to be here to share with my husband, children, extended family, and friends. But your will will be done, Lord!. Give me courage. Give my family strength. I received the Anointing of the Sick; it was time to “put on the armor of God” (Ephesians 6:11).

It’s always about both prayer and action. The doctors educated me about putting in a pacemaker to regulate my heart rate. It seemed like a reasonable solution. I had to be obedient and prayerful and let the doctors and nurses do what they are trained to do. Praise God for the gifts he bestows on us so we can serve others! I was keenly aware of my great need for others, and I continued to pray for them.

The day after I returned home from the hospital, I read this beautiful reflection from Pope Benedict XVI that sums up our need for others in illness: “It is nonetheless true that illness is typically a human condition in which we feel strongly that we are not self-sufficient, but need others. In this regard we might say, paradoxically, that illness can be a salutary moment in which to experience the attention of others and to pay attention to others!”

My condition of dependence led to a beautiful crack in my faulty heart to feel a new and urgent need for God and for others. I tried to stay in the present moment. I believe this helped me stay upbeat and hopeful and freed me from the evil ones’ snares of worry, fear, and ‘what ifs.’

I received a pacemaker, and my heart is operating at full speed. I feel amazing and I’m amazingly grateful for my faith and family and basically everything in this life. No exercise for a while, but I’ll return to it slowly, honoring my body and continuing to be grateful to God and to the people he has placed in my life.

God is teaching me through this experience. He is the great physician, and his ways are not our ways. I remain in awe of his glorious love for us, and I pray that my heart remains open to whatever He has in store for me next.

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

Men’s luncheon club meeting

Bill Hinger of Worthington St. Michael Church will speak on Eucharistic Adoration at the next Catholic Men’s Luncheon Club meeting on Friday, March 2. Hinger was instrumental in starting Adoration chapels that are open 24 hours a day, seven days a week, except during the Sacred Triduum, at his parish and Columbus Immaculate Conception Church.

The program at Columbus St. Patrick Church, 280 N. Grant Ave., will begin at 11:45 a.m. with Mass, followed by lunch and Hinger’s talk until about 1 p.m. No reservations are necessary. A $10 donation is requested to cover the lunch and meeting. AM820 St. Gabriel Catholic Radio is this month’s luncheon sponsor.

For information on the Catholic Men’s Luncheon Club, visit www.catholicmensministry.com/cmlc or contact club president George Harvey at george.harvey@tvssohio.com.
By Tim Puet

“Be Brave” was the dominant message of the four principal speakers at the 2018 Columbus Catholic Women’s Conference. Lisa Hendy discussed the Virgin Mary’s bravery in saying “Yes” to God and the call of each of us to say “our own unique and beautiful ‘Yes’.”

Father Ignatius Mazanowski, FSH, told of the bravery of members of his family in dealing with the near-death and amazing recovery of his 19-month-old niece.

Derya Little talked about her courageous journey of leaving the Islamic faith in which she was born and embracing Catholicism. And Obi-Anna “Ugo” Ekpeka spoke of the bravery of proclaiming what Pope Francis’ message of the four principal speakers urge audience to be brave
Ekeocha said that unlike North America, Africa is a strongly pro-life continent, with 50 of 54 nations having pro-life restrictions. However, there have been efforts in some of those nations to legalize abortion, most recently in Malawi, where pro-life activism has kept such a proposal from becoming law. She said a clause allowing abortion was slipped into an anti-violence law in a Nigerian state a few years ago, but the public outcry against it was so forceful that the provision was repealed.

"God is calling us to be brave hearts," she said. "Ask God to make you brave so you can do the work he wants you to do. I never thought he would make me speak at the United Nations or the Vatican, but I asked God and he responded. Ask him and he will show you how to play your role and to carry the Gospel of Life where no one else can. Woe to us if we do not preach and defend the Gospel of Life."

The conference began with a Mass celebrated by Bishop Frederick Campbell and concluded with a Holy Hour led by Father Mazanowski. Sister Nadine Buchanan, OP, gave a brief presentation on the efforts of the Dominican Sisters of Peace to fight human trafficking. The women of the Ohio Dominican University chorus (pictured) sang at the Mass, with His Own, a group of three women, providing accompaniment for the Holy Hour. More than 50 priests administered the Sacrament of Reconciliation to about 2,000 women, with 10 priests staying beyond the 90-minute period set aside for confessions.

Next year’s conference will be on Saturday, Feb. 16 at the same site. Confirmed speakers are Father Christopher Hartley and Colleen Mitchell, who will speak about their missionary work in the Dominican Republic and Costa Rica respectively.
By Doug Bean
Catholic Times Editor

One year ago, Val Ely participated in the Rite of Election as a candidate. On Sunday, Feb. 18, she returned to Westerville St. Paul Church as part of the event again, this time as a sponsor.

In the months since Ely embraced her newfound Catholic faith, she has shared her joy with good friend Renee McPherson. And at the Easter Vigil, McPherson will be brought into full communion with the Catholic Church at Grove City Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church (Read more about McPherson and the Rite of Election on pages 19 and 20).

Ely’s journey is like that of many people who come to know the fullness of the Catholic faith. And yet each pathway is somewhat unique.

Here is her story:

“I was raised in an evangelical family. I had a very charismatic upbringing, first in a Pentecostal church and then an Assemblies of God church, followed by a Vineyard church in Columbus for nearly nine years. My attraction to the Catholic Church began out of a curiosity of sorts, during a very emotionally and physically tumultuous time of our life. My marriage of 13 years was rocky at best due to intense stress coming at us from all directions, my kids with special needs that our three children were dealing with, as well as grieving my father; in addition to that, my husband’s grandfather was a former Church of Christ minister; in addition to that, my husband’s grandfather was a former Church of Christ minister as well. So their family, along with my foundation of faith, caused me to have little to no desire to ask my mom about her conversion and why she might choose to make such a drastic change. Those strong fears were probably the most effective of the stumbling blocks in the church.

“I also learned of what Adoration was and thought ‘I want to go sit with Jesus. I should go try that!’ So I began a weekly time of visiting Eucharistic adoration, which eventually led to visiting many Mass services because I was hungry for more of the peace I was experiencing in Adoration.

“I used to think I had known all that was knowable about Christianity, or at least all that was relevant to my life. In reality, I had no clue about Church history, the Church fathers, or even a clear and succinct understanding of the Sacred Scriptures, Sacred Tradition, and the Magisterium of the Church. But what I decided to do was to answer Jesus’ pulse in my heart, His beckoning that I ‘come and see’ what the Catholic Church had to offer me and my family.

“The biggest stumbling block of entering the Catholic Church for me was fear. Fear of the unknown. Fear of not knowing if it was true. But also fear of what it might require of me and/or what people might think of me if I came to believe that it actually was truth. I knew it would mean a completely different life for us, and that was very, very scary. You see, prior to all of this, the only person I knew who had become Catholic on either my side of the family or my husband’s side of the family was my mother. Unfortunately, at that time, I was an adult and my husband and I were already married. We were actually married by his dad, who was a Church of Christ minister; in addition to that, my husband’s grandfather was a former Church of Christ minister as well. So their family, along with my foundation of faith, caused me to have little to no desire to ask my mom about her conversion and why she might choose to make such a drastic change. Those strong fears were probably the most effective of the stumbling blocks in the church.

―However, knowing and having experienced just how bad life could get while trying to remain in my own strength and ability to succeed, or even to survive, based on my own efforts, were just not enough. It was too scary on my own. I did believe that I would know truth or that I could recognize it if I heard it. I knew the Holy Spirit’s foremost efforts with us are to lead us to truth. So I boldly decided to commit in my heart to be led down this path that He was pulling me toward because I knew I could trust Him to not lead me into error. I decided that I should be humble in acknowledging that I actually don’t know much about the Catholic Church and that if it was true, I wouldn’t know, because I had never cared enough to ask before. I wanted my questions to be asked of the people who knew what Catholics believe and who are living it, after all, because you wouldn’t go to a magician to ask how to become a doctor, or to a parrot to find out how to become a mother. You get it.

“I kept my journey silent for three months because I didn’t want anyone or any segment of my echo chamber to affect this decision. I wanted to give it a decent, open-ended chance in the ‘high unlikely’ case it was truth. I decided that I should take everything and put it on the table for consideration. Basically, I was willing to enter into dialogue about anything that I might believe contributed to my worldly, religious, and transcendent truth meter, to make sure that I hadn’t assumed core beliefs that were unfounded and unproven. What I found in the Catholic Church, shockingly, lined up with every core truth I had ever believed and been taught, and then some! It blows my narrow, formerly held belief in God and His plan of salvation completely out of the water!

“I don’t feel intellectually equipped to even describe what this change has been able to do for my family, for my marriage, or in my parenting. Here’s a clue into how we have changed: My non-Catholic sister jokes with me by calling me a ‘2,000 percent Catholic, and you need to calm it down a little.’ But she offers that title because we have embraced every part of our new faith to the degree that we can, in only
Second Sunday of Lent (Cycle B)

Two accounts that leave plenty of questions

Genesis 22:1-2,9a,10-13,15-18; Romans 8:31b-34; Mark 9:2-10

Jews refer to the first reading as the Akedah (meaning “the binding” of Isaac). From Sunday’s reading, we have no idea that Isaac was bound, because the narrative is so chopped up in the Lectionary.

This passage has been called “one of the gems of biblical narrative” (Jewish Study Bible), which makes it all the more unfortunate to so edit this story in the Lectionary. The whole frightful account is found in Genesis 22:1-19. The Lectionary chooses to focus on Abraham’s obedience to God’s command. The intention to offer Isaac up as a holocaust (meaning the total destruction of him by fire) is stated at the outset.

Isaac (“your beloved son, whom you love” in the Septuagint) was to be the holocaust. Note how the author has presented Isaac: “your son, your only one, whom you love.” Each item (“his son, his only one, whom he loves”) adds information to the horror of what it about to happen.

It is useless to ask why Abraham did not object or raise any questions. The text never says. The text brings us to the point where Abraham is about to slay Isaac, but the Lord’s messenger stops him. At that point, we don’t know whether to laugh in relief or cry at what might have happened, a thought too awful to think about.

The entire narrative raises many more questions than it ever answers, questions which rabbis have asked for centuries. Those questions include: Why was Abraham put to the test again, after leaving his home and trusting the Lord to bring him to the land of Canaan? Why would Abraham knowingly set out to sacrifice his only, beloved son? Was this meant to be a condemnation of human sacrifice, which was known in the ancient Near East?

What lingers is the one question we fear to ask: Could God, who is all good, ever ask of us our own life? The answer lies buried deeply in the faith of both Jews and Christians, who have, at times, had to suffer even to the point of death. The Christian looks to Christ, who said “Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will preserve it for eternal life” (John 12:25).

People protest, “Why can God demand a life, yet we are forbidden to take life?” Treading on divine turf is beyond our grasp. Some questions, like why innocent children die in a school in Florida, have no good answers. Evil is something we all know and recognize. Extreme evil is part of the mystery of living life. Job sought to answer the question of why the innocent one suffers. In the end, Job had to leave it to the unknown and unknowable mystery of God. Silence before the Lord is the only answer Job can find to his original question of why the innocent suffer. Time has produced no better answer.

The Gospel is always of the Transfiguration on the Second Sunday of Lent. The account leaves plenty of questions on the table that remain beyond our reach after all these centuries. Where was this “high mountain” supposed to be? How did the three disciples recognize Moses and Elijah? What did it mean that Jesus was “transfigured” before them?

In Mark, this event follows Peter’s confession of Jesus as the Messiah and Jesus’ first prediction of the passion, death, and resurrection. More importantly, Jesus had said to all the disciples, “Whoever is ashamed of me and of my words in this faithless and sinful generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of when he comes in his Father’s glory with the holy angels. … Amen I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death until they see that the kingdom of God has come in power.” Together with the voice from heaven saying “This is my beloved son. Listen to him,” this event demonstrates “the coming of the kingdom in power.”

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

Walking with Purpose founder coming to Sunbury

Lisa Brenninkmeyer, founder and author of the Walking with Purpose women’s Bible study series, is coming to Sunbury St. John Neumann Church, 9633 E. State Route 37, on Wednesday, March 14 for talks at 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. Both talks will take place in the church and will be followed by a light reception in the parish family and family center.

The subject for the talks will be “Fearless and Free: Experiencing Healing and Wholeness in Christ.” Participants will learn how to gain a firm foundation to stand on, no matter the circumstances, knowing you are grounded in truth while wrapped in the embrace of the God who loves you completely and without end.

Tickets are $15 per person and must be purchased in advance. Visit www.saintjohnsunbury.org for more information and to access the registration site, or call the parish office at (740) 965-1358.

The Weekday Bible Readings

MONDAY
Daniel 9:4b-10
Psalm 79:8-9,11-13
Luke 6:36-38

TUESDAY
Isaiah 1:10-16,20
Psalm 50:8-9,16bc-17,21,23
Matthew 23:1-12

WEDNESDAY
Jeremiah 18:18-20
Psalm 31:5-6,14-16
Matthew 20:17-28

THURSDAY
Jeremiah 17:5-10
Psalm 1:1-4,6
Luke 16:19-31

FRIDAY
Genesis 37:3-4,12-13a,17b-28
Psalm 105:16-21
Matthew 21:33-43,45-46

SATURDAY
Micah 7:14-15,18-20
Psalm 103:1-4,9-12

DIOCESAN WEEKLY RADIO AND TELEVISION MASS SCHEDULE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 25, 2018

SUNDAY MASS
10:30 a.m. Mass from Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral on St. Gabriel Radio (AM 820), Columbus, and at www.stgabrielradio.com. Mass with the Passionist Fathers at 7:30 a.m. on WWHO-TV (the CW), Channel 53, Columbus. and 10:30 a.m. on WHIZ-TV, Channel 18, Zanesville. Check local cable system for cable channel listing.

Mass from Our Lady of the Angels Monastery, Birmingham, Alabama, at 8 a.m. on EWTN (Spectrum Channel 385, Insight Channel 382, or WOW Channel 378). (Encores at noon, 7 p.m., and midnight).

Mass from the Archdiocese of Milwaukee at 6:30 a.m. on ION TV (AT&T U-verse Channel 385, Dish Network Channel 250, or DirecTV Channel 305).

Mass from Massillon St. Mary Church at 10:30 a.m. on WILR radio (AM 1060, FM 94.5 and 89.3), Canton, heard in Tuscarawas, Holmes, and Coshocton counties.

DAILY MASS
8 a.m., Our Lady of the Angels Monastery in Birmingham, Alabama. (Encores at noon, 7 p.m. and midnight).

See EWTN above; and on I-Lifetv (Channel 113 in Ada, Logan, Millersburg, Murray City and Washington C.H.; Channel 125 in Marion, Newark, Newcomerstown and New Philadelphia; and Channel 207 in Zanesville); 8 p.m., St. Gabriel Radio (AM 820), Columbus, and at www.stgabrielradio.com.

We pray Week II, Seasonal Proper of the Liturgy of the Hours
Conscience and grace: A Lenten meditation

The scriptures of Lent in the Church’s daily liturgy invite two related reflections. The weeks immediately preceding Easter call us to walk to Jerusalem in imitation of Christ, so that at Easter, we too might be blessed with baptismal water and sent into the world on mission. The preceding weeks, those immediately following Ash Wednesday, propose a serious examination of conscience: What is there in me that’s broken? What’s impeding my being the missionary disciple I was baptized to be?

This Lent, that examination of conscience might well include some serious thinking about what “conscience” means.

That often-contentious subject has returned to the center of the world Catholic conversation, thanks to the forthcoming 50th anniversary of Humanae Vitae, Blessed Paul VI’s prophetic encyclical on the morally appropriate means of family planning, and the ongoing discussion generated by Pope Francis’ apostolic exhortation on marriage, Amoris Laetitia. In that conversation, voices have been heard urging a view of conscience that is curious, even dangerous: under certain circumstances, conscience may permit or even require that a person choose acts that the Church has consistently taught are intrinsically wrong – such as using artificial means of contraception, or receiving Holy Communion while living the married life in a way not cohering with the teaching of the Church – fractures the bonds between God, the Church’s teaching authority, and conscience in perilous ways.

Those propounding this idea of “conscience” urge us to recognize three things: that the spiritual and moral life is a journey; that when the Church teaches that some things are just wrong and no combination of intentions and consequences can make them right, the Church is proposing an “ideal” to which the most “generous” response may not always be possible; and that confessors and spiritual directors should be compassionate and discerning guides along the often rocky pathways of the moral life.

No reasonable person will contest the last claim.

I’m grateful that I’ve been the beneficiary of such thoughtful guidance, and more than once. But the other two claims seem problematic, to put it gently.

If, for example, “conscience” can command me to use artificial means of contraception because of my life circumstances, why couldn’t conscience permit, or even require, that I continue to defraud customers if my business is in debt and my family would suffer from its failure, even as I work my way into a better, more honest financial situation? Why couldn’t “conscience” permit me, on my journey toward the “ideal,” to continue to indulge in extracurricular sex while my spouse and I work out the kinks in our marriage? Inside the idea that “conscience” can permit or even require us to do something long understood to be wrong, period, where’s the circuit-breaker that would stop a couple from “discerning” that an abortion is the best resolution of the difficulties involved in carrying this unborn child to term, although under future circumstances, they would embrace the “ideal” and welcome a child into their family?

The further claim being made here – that God can ask me, through my conscience, to do things that do not cohere with the teaching of the Church – fractures the bonds between God, the Church’s teaching authority, and conscience in perilous ways.

Christ promised to maintain his Church in the truth (John 8.32; John 16.3). Has that promise been broken? The Council of Trent taught that it’s always possible, with the help of God’s grace, to obey the commandments – that God wills our transformation and helps us along the way to holiness. Has that teaching been rescinded? Replaced by a “paradigm shift” into the radical subjectivism that’s emptied most of liberal Protestantism of spiritual and moral ballast? Vatican II taught that within my conscience is “a law inscribed by God?” Is God now telling me that I can violate the truth he has written into my heart?

To suggest that the Church teaches “ideals” that are impossible to live undervalues the power of grace and empties the moral life of the drama built into it by God himself. Lent does not call us to confess that we’ve failed to live up to an unachievable “ideal.” Lent does not call us to be self-exculpatory like the Pharisee in Luke 18.10-14, who went away unjustified. Lent calls us to embrace the humility of the Gospel publican and confess that we have sinned, knowing that God’s mercy can heal what is broken in us if we cooperate with his grace.

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

‘Peter Pan Jr.’

Dublin St. Brigid of Kildare School will present a one-hour musical production of Peter Pan Jr. at 7 p.m. Thursday and Friday, March 15 and 16 in the school gym. Free will donations will be accepted to help support the school’s performing arts program.

Based on the play by J.M. Barrie and the 1953 Disney film, Peter Pan Jr. is the story of a boy who wouldn’t grow up and a girl who has to.

After finding his shadow in the Darling family nursery, Peter teaches Wendy, Michael, and John how to fly and sweeps them off to Neverland, where they meet Lost Boys, mermaids, Indians, and pirates. If the children are to return home, Peter must defeat Capt. Hook with the help of Tinker Bell and her fairy friends.
Pray for our dead

Doris J. Reichert
Funeral Mass for Doris J. Reichert, 86, who died Thursday, Feb. 15, was celebrated Monday, Feb. 19 at Worthington St. Michael Church. Burial will take place at a later date.
She was born on Nov. 30, 1931 in Cleveland and John and Mary Takacs. She was a Worthington resident for 57 years and worked at St. Michael School for 35 years.
She was preceded in death by her parents and an infant daughter. Survivors include her husband, Richard; sons, Rich (Jenny) and Dan; daughter, Laura (Ray) Sanders; two grandsons; and two great-grandsons.

Barbara Vermillion
Funeral Mass for Barbara Vermillion, 91, who died Wednesday, Feb. 14, was celebrated Saturday, Feb. 17 in the chapel of Resurrection Cemetery, Lewis Center.
She was born on Nov. 1, 1926, in Newark to James and Rachel (Bailey) Fullin.
She was a social studies teacher at Columbus Bishop Hartley High School following a career as a social worker, primarily serving adolescents.
She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Earl; and brother, James. She is survived by nieces and nephews.

Lorna Lisk
Funeral Mass for Lorna Lisk, 80, who died Sunday, Feb. 11, was held Saturday, Feb. 17 at Columbus St. Peter Church. Burial was at Norwich Township/Wesley Chapel Cemetery, Hilliard.
She was born on Nov. 8, 1937 in the Philippines to Luciano and Eufrosina Millan.
She received a bachelor’s degree in chemical engineering from the University of the Philippines and a master’s degree from Adamson University in Manila and completed studies in marketing and business management at Columbia University.
She was a chemical engineer for the National Reaparations Commission in the Philippines before coming to the United States, where she was employed at the University of Chicago Hospitals and at Michael Reese Hospital in Chicago and as a project engineer in Point Pleasant, West Virginia.
She was honored by the Diocesan Council of Catholic Women in 2002 as its Catholic woman of the year for her activities with the Catholic charismatic renewal movement. She traveled to many nations to work with leaders of the movement, encourage their efforts, and take part in prayer services. She also was a lector, extraordinary minister of the Eucharist, and prayer chain leader at Columbus St. Peter Church.
She was preceded in death by her parents; first husband, Nestor Narcelles; brother, Luciano; and sister, Zita. Survivors include her husband, Thomas Lisk; sons, Nestor (Dana) Narcelles, Marvin (Tricia) Narcelles, and Andrew (Carrie) Narcelles; stepson, Todd (Kelsey) Lisk; stepdaughter, Erin Lisk Jones; brother, Dolf (Ida); sister, Vivian (Serafin) Talisayon; 12 grandchildren; and one step-grandchild.

CLASSIFIED

St. Christopher Church
LENTEN PASTA DINNER
1420 Grandview Ave./Trinity School Cafeteria
Fridays - 2/16 - 3/23 5 - 7 PM
$8/Adults, $5/Kids, $30/Family
Meatless pasta sauce provided by local area restaurants
February 23 - Z Cucina Ristorante
St. Christopher Church
March 2 - LaScala
St. Mary Magdalene
Books, Games, Puzzles, DVD Sale
Sunday, March 4 - 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
K of C will have Egg, Sausage and Pancake Breakfast until 12:30 p.m.
473 S. Roys Ave., Columbus

St. Timothy’s Parish
1088 Thomas Lane, Columbus, 43220
ANNUAL SPAGHETTI DINNER
Sunday, March 4 - NOON - 7 PM
Adults $9; Seniors $7; Child 12 and under $5
All you can eat pasta • Homemade meatballs
CARRYOUT AVAILABLE
St. Mary Magdalen
5750 N. High St., Worthington
Fish Dinner: Regular $9.00, Small $7.00
Macaroni-Cheese Dinner: $7.00
Sides: (Clam Chowder, Mac/Cheese) - $2.00,
Breakfast until 12:30 p.m.
Soft Drinks
Dine In, Drive Thru & Carryout
www.bestfishfry.com

St. Ladislas Parish
277 Beek Avenue
ANNUAL SPAGHETTI DINNER
Sunday, March 11, 2018 12-5PM
PASTA, HOME MADE MEATBALLS & SAUCE, SALAD, BREAD, HOMEMADE DESSERTS & BEVERAGE
ADULTS: $9 CHILD/SENIORS: $6
CARRYOUTS AVAILABLE.
RAFFLE.
22, THURSDAY-SUNDAY
St. Charles Presents ‘The Odyssey’
7:30 p.m., Thursday-Saturday; 2 p.m., Sunday. St. Charles Preparatory School, 2010 E. Broad St., Columbus. School drama department presents Mary Zimmerman’s adaptation of ‘The Odyssey.’ $10 adults, $5 students.

23, FRIDAY
Downtown Serra Club Luncheon at St. Charles
6 p.m., St. Charles Preparatory School, 2010 E. Broad St., Columbus. Downtown Serra Club luncheon speaker: Youth evangelist Dan DeMattei.

24, SATURDAY

25, SUNDAY
Exposition at Our Lady of Mount Carmel
9:15 to 10:15 a.m., Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church, 5331 Walnut Road S.E., Buckeye Lake. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament each Sunday during Lent.

26, MONDAY
Adoration and Reconciliation at New Philadelphia
5 p.m., Sacred Heart Church, 139 3rd St. N.E., New Philadelphia. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, with reconciliation available, and Evening Prayer at 6:30.

Ohio Dominican MBA Information Session
6 p.m., Room 274, Bishop Griffin Center, Ohio Dominican University, 1276 Sunbury Road, Information session on university’s master of business administration program.

Evening Prayer at St. John Neumann
6:30 p.m., St. John Neumann Church, 963 E. State Route 374, Sunbury. Evening Prayer led by Deacon Carl Calcar. Bethesda Post-Abortion Healing Ministry
6:30 p.m., support group meeting, 2744 Dover Road, Columbus (Christ the King convent, first building west of the church).

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

Adoration, Confession, Bible Study at Dover
5 to 7 p.m., St. Joseph Church, 613 N. Tuscarawas Ave., Dover. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and confessions, followed by Mass at 6 and “A Biblical Walk through the Mass” at 7 in family life center.

Soup Supper at St. Edward
6 p.m., St. Edward Church, 785 Newark-Granville Road, Granville. Soup supper, followed by Stations.

Soup Supper at St. Brigid of Kildare
6 p.m., Immac Room, Hendricks Hall, St. Brigid of Kildare Church, 1779 Avery Road, Dublin. Soup supper hosted by parish music ministry, followed by Stations.

Diocesan Honor Choir Concert
6:30 p.m., St. Elizabeth Seton Parish, 600 Hill Road N., Pickerington. 11th annual Diocesan Honor Choir concert, with singers representing 13 elementary schools and Ohio Dominican University. Free-will offering for Holy Family Soup Kitchen will be taken.

Soup Supper at St. Elizabeth
6:30 p.m., St. Elizabeth Church, 6077 Sharon Woods Blvd., Columbus. Soup supper hosted by Knights of Columbus Council 11193. Rosary for Life at St. Joan of Arc
Following 6:15 p.m. Mass, St. Joan of Arc Church, 10700 Liberty Road, Powell. Recital of Rosary for Life, sponsored by church’s respect life committee.

27-MARCH, TUESDAY-SURDAY
Parish Mission at St. James the Less
7 to 9 p.m., St. James the Less Church, 1652 Oakland Park Ave., Columbus. Parish mission led by Sister Mary Louis Passen, OP, and Sister Shirley Bodich, OP. Theme: “God’s Presence Within the Human Family.”

Parish Mission at Marian St. Mary
7 p.m., St. Mary Church, 251 N. Main St., Marion. Parish mission with theme “Lost and Found: How to Deal with Difficulty in Life,” led by Father Joshua Wagner, pastor, Columbus St. Dominic and Holy Rosary-St. John churchs. Holy Hour and confessions from 5 to 6 and Mass at 6:30 Tuesday and soup supper at 6 Thursday.

28, WEDNESDAY
Center for Dominican Studies Lecture Series
Noon to 12:30 p.m., St. Catherine of Siena Room, Erskine Hall, Ohio Dominican University, 1275 Sunbury Road, Columbus. Center for Dominican Studies lecture with Sister Carol Ann Spencer, OP, speaking on “Lent: A Time to Focus Discipleship.” Second of four parts. 614-251-4722
By Tim Puet


This year is the 150th anniversary of the founding of the Diocese of Columbus, and Donald Schlegel marks the occasion appropriately with this book about the first bishop of the diocese.

There is no one better than Schlegel to write the story, for he has written extensively about diocesan history for more than 40 years. Since 1985, he has been the editor of the monthly bulletin of the diocesan Catholic Record Society.

His most notable work, An Illustrated History of the Diocese of Columbus, written in 2001, is the definitive volume on the story of the diocese and is consulted nearly every week by the Catholic Times for information about past events and their impact on the diocese today.

Extensive research is a hallmark of Schlegel's work, and that is the case with this book, the first full-length biography of Bishop Rosecrans. The bishop's story covers 142 of its 218 pages, there are 18 pages of source listings and footnotes, and the rest of the book includes several of Bishop Rosecrans' sermons and a number of editorials he wrote for the diocese's first weekly newspaper, The Catholic Columbian.

The last of these, written in 1876, is an example of the bishop's self-deprecating humor, as he agrees with a comment from The Cincinnati Enquirer that "Bishop Rosecrans ... has a fool to write the editorials for his organ."

Bishop Rosecrans was a remarkable man. He was a pastor, an educator, a journalist, and a bishop. What he did in any one of those fields would have been enough to merit a book in their own right. But perhaps the most remarkable of all his achievements was that he was able to accomplish so much in the short span of 51 years.

Bishop Rosecrans was auxiliary bishop in Cincinnati when he received the call to come to Columbus. He arrived with no fanfare, getting off a train in early 1867 and walking alone from the railroad station to St. Patrick Church with a tattered carpetbag in his hand.

He didn't like the city at first, but quickly came to love Columbus, so much so that he asked for and received permission from the Vatican to skip the First Vatican Council in 1869 and 1870 because he was too busy getting his new diocese established and overseeing his crowning achievement, the building of St. Joseph Cathedral.

That magnificent edifice in the heart of downtown was a 12-year project. Plans for its construction began being made shortly after the diocese was formed in 1866. Work got underway in 1868, the first Masses there were celebrated on Christmas Day of 1872, and the consecration ceremony was on Oct. 20, 1878.

It's well-known that Bishop Rosecrans died the day after the dedication and is buried in the cathedral undercroft, and it can fairly be said that the effort of getting it completed cost him his life.

He suffered hemorrhages on many occasions when he became excited. Those hemorrhages became especially acute in the last two years of his life, with four attacks coming on the evening of the dedication and ultimately killing him.

On his death, the Catholician said, "He aspired to no distinction as a prelate, but delighted in the simplicity of a humble priest."

After the war, William served as U.S. ambassador to Mexico, became a large landowner in California, was elected to Congress from that state, and ended his public career with eight years as register of the U.S. Treasury.

William plays a significant role in the bishop's story because the older brother's conversion to Catholicism in 1845 led to the younger brother following in William's footsteps. William also served as what may be termed a consulting architect on construction of the cathedral.

Devotion To Truth: The Life of Rt. Rev. Sylvester H. Rosecrans, D.D., First Bishop of Columbus

 DeVOTION TO TRUTH

THE LIFE OF RT. REV. SYLVESTER H. ROSECRANS, D.D.,
FIRST BISHOP OF COLUMBUS

Donald M. Schlegel

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If you're interested in history in general and the early history of the Catholic Church in Ohio in particular, you'll be entertained and enlightened by this book. It is available online at www.amazon.com and www.barnesandnoble.com.
After months of preparation, 465 catechumens and candidates have moved one step closer to being received into the Catholic Church at Easter.

Bishop Frederick Campbell presided over the annual diocesan Rite of Election at Westerville St. Paul Church on Sunday, Feb. 18. A total of 200 catechumens and 265 candidates, along with godparents or sponsors from parishes in the Diocese of Columbus, declared their intention to enter into full communion with the Catholic Church.

Here are a few of their stories:

Jeff Hutchinson, who is in the RCIA program at Columbus St. Patrick Church, had been a Presbyterian for all of his adult life. He’s an ordained elder who led an active church life at Worthington Presbyterian and in the Scioto Presbytery and the General Assembly, the national level of Presbytery USA.

But he said he began feeling a sense of unfulfillment when dealing with the terminal illnesses of his parents before they died. He also had a difficult year working out of town.

“In any case, I am a very conservative and traditional individual,” he said. “My faith was never compromised, as I have a wonderful relationship with God and have had continual prayer and conversation with Jesus. That has never waivered. Due to my strong commitment to the Biblical text and my deep-rooted understanding and faith, it is extremely important that the church faithfully follow God’s word.

“It was at the time that the Presbytery elected to adopt the secular concept of performing marriages for the LGBT community. I sat through the process in which the Presbytery voted to allow and embrace this. Ultimately, this was passed. I could not bring myself to support the Presbytery once this was endorsed.”

Hutchinson’s journey to the Catholic Church began last year, when a friend invited him to attend the Columbus Catholic Men’s Conference.

“At the invitation of the first speaker for all participants, I participated in confession,” he said. “I spoke at length with Father Juan. Based on that conversation and conversations with my sponsor, I elected to attend RCIA. It has been a rewarding and fulfilling experience.”

“This path is totally ordained by God,” he said. “I feel privileged and blessed by all involved in this walk. I have the comfort of knowing that the Catholic Church will stay firmly rooted in the Bible and the path Jesus would want us to walk.”

Chris Wells, who, with his wife, Cassie, will be received into the Catholic Church at Washington Court House St. Colman of Cloyne Church, said he had been in and out of Protestant churches throughout his life.

“It was a routine that felt incomplete, to say the least,” he said. “I have always known that Catholics worshiped differently than I, but I didn’t know how. I was simply told at a young age that Catholics do things differently, and it was something I simply accepted without question. I had no idea what separated the Protestant faith from the Catholic faith.”

He finally decided to take his curiosity to the next level and research the Catholic faith. He purchased Catholicism for Dummies, which answered basic questions. His study evolved into an examination of the Protestant Reformation and Martin Luther. Catholic radio played a significant role in his conversion.

“I also happened to be the mailman who delivered mail to our local Catholic church,” he said. “Tina (Garland), the church secretary, was always more than willing to answer any questions I had regarding the faith. When I finally came to the conclusion that the Catholic Church is the church that was founded by Jesus Christ when he walked on this earth, I knew I wanted to become Catholic.”

The next step was to tell his wife. “She was anxious,” he said. “She had very little experience at all in any church and knew that being Catholic was a big deal. I convinced her to come and give RCIA a try with me. She was nervous at first, but now I think she enjoys it as much as I do. Everyone at my local church has been so accommodating to me and my family. The priests, the church staff, and all of the lay people have welcomed us with open arms.

“My wife and I are both excited to become members of the church and to become closer to God through the sacraments. We couldn’t be happier with the decision we’ve both made and look forward to a future in Christ.”

Sandy Wilson, who is also part of the RCIA program at St. Colman, was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis in 1999. She later went through a difficult relapse, could not see out of one eye, and had so much trouble walking that she was in a wheelchair for a short period.

“My dear friend Bridget, who is Catholic, knew some members of the church were going to the Vatican and were taking prayer requests with them,” Wilson said. “She asked me if I would mind if she sent a prayer request for me. I definitely was open to help, and so she did. Soon after, I was offered a new treatment for my MS.”

After two years on this treatment, her condition improved dramatically.

“Some may attribute my improvement just to the treatment, but I attribute it to Bridget’s prayer, in addition to my treatment,” Wilson said. “Through my times of hardship, Bridget was there to take me to breakfast gatherings, girls’ day out events, and basically anything she could squeeze in with her busy schedule. Bridget epitomizes what all Christians should be. She is what I hope to become. She is why I am choosing to become Catholic.”

Larry Copeland’s long winding road of faith led him to the RCIA program at Chillicothe St. Peter Church.

He was baptized at 17 at a Methodist church in Lima, but never became a member. He then became involved with the Jehovah’s Witnesses for 20 years before leaving. After that, he attended several masses at Lancaster St. Mary Church, “but my faith was so damaged that I trusted no religion and I was overcoming the

Amie Vandy writes her name in the book of the Elect while her sponsor, Solomon Owusu of Columbus St. Matthias Church, places his hand on her shoulder. (CT photos by Ken Snow)

From there, he investigated neopaganism, but said he could not forsake the Scriptures or God. Copeland was bothered by “people elevating themselves to God’s position” and disassociated himself within three years.

“It was hedonism under a religious disguise,” Copeland said. “This led me to an examination of early Christianity, and I began looking at the various faiths through that prism.”

Encouraged by a minister to explore other churches, Copeland visited St. Peter’s website. He found a video from EWTN’s The Journey Home.

“Afterward, I pondered the words of (historian) Pliny the Younger, who wrote: ‘They asserted, however, that the sum and substance of their fault or error had been that they were accustomed to meet on a fixed day before dawn and sing responsively a hymn to Christ as to a god, and to bind themselves by oath, not to some crime, but not to commit fraud, theft, or adultery, not falsify their trust, nor to refuse to return a trust when called upon to do so. When this was over, it was their custom to depart and to assemble again to partake of food.’

“The question ‘What faith still to this day does that?’ came to mind, and the answer was the Catholic Church. So I thrust myself headlong into research.’

A lover of history and archaeology, Copeland was propelled into Catholicism through “the historicity of the faith … its liturgy. The Church reflects

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one year’s time, we look more like devout cradle Catholics than like newbie converts. But the reason we have fallen headlong into the offerings of what it means and what it looks like to be Catholic is because we WANTED to! I am convinced that our transformation exists as proof of the power of the grace of the sacraments. We went from being burnout, nondenominational Christians who struggled to even make it to church every week to being faithful to attend Sunday Mass every week, some weekday masses, confession every two to four weeks, and weekly Eucharistic Adoration. We have volunteered to help with teaching Alpha, playing music for worship in LifeTeen, and have joined the core team, as well as staying after some Masses for prayer and for rosaries, and also have enrolled our kids in Catholic school. All of this I say not to boast of our efforts, because we couldn’t have done it without grace, but also, we wouldn’t even have wanted to do it if it weren’t for the grace we are receiving from so many of these instruments of grace that we call the sacraments and/or sacramentals.

“We have been able to see great value not only in raising our kids here, but also in being actively present in receiving all that is offered to us in this precious treasure trove of faith that we call the Catholic Church! We don’t participate in all that we do because we have to, or even out of some spiritual obligation to be the best servant(s) of all. If we were under the heavy burden of obligation to the law or felt bound by rules that make us feel like ‘we have to do this or God will be mad and send us to hell,’ we would never be capable to accomplish even a portion of what we have be able to do in our parish. We feel excited and even honored that we now get to explain to people that we don’t follow the precepts of the Church out of fear or out of obligation. We follow the precepts of the Church out of a deep and consoling love for one who created us, for one who died for us, and for one who leads us every day back to the graces which sustain us for this life and will lead us lovingly into the next.

“We have learned so much. When you make a huge lifestyle change such as this one, you can’t help but lose some friends and sometimes even become alienated from friends or family members. We have experienced loss as a result of our choices to enter the Catholic Church, to follow Christ into a deeper and more full relationship with Him. The amazing part is that in Matthew 19:29, Jesus says, ‘And everyone who has left houses, or brothers, or sisters, or father or mother, or wife or children, or fields for my sake, will receive a hundred times as much and will inherit eternal life!’ So I know that no matter what following Jesus looks like in this life, no matter who is willing to join me, or who is just not able to have the ears to hear and the eyes to see truth just yet, I will never back down from inviting those who I love to join me in following Jesus on a journey into his Church. He will always honor us when we go out of our way to honor Him. This journey has been inexplicable. I am already blessed beyond measure to be receiving the gift of sponsoring my best friend (Renee) into the Catholic Church.

“I am not where I would love to be as a follower of Jesus. I say that because I know that every day, I could do more to proclaim Christ’s love for His people. So often, we become consumed with our personal lives and assume that Christ will reach His people through the clergy. What I’ve come to learn as a Catholic is that most of the time, the Holy Spirit uses the laity to draw others in, to spark interest or start a conversation about His Church. It is YOU who Christ speaks through to get others into the building, then His clergy can teach us, but it’s always a joint effort to see growth in Christ’s family. We should never underestimate our role in growing the Kingdom for Christ.”