THE CALL TO SERVE AS PRIESTS:
JUBILEE OF ANNIVERSARIES
Bishop Frederick Campbell celebrated Mass at Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral on Sunday, April 22, to mark the occasion of the 150th year anniversary of the Diocese of Columbus. His homily follows:

My dear brothers and sisters in the risen Lord Jesus,

At this mid-point of our celebration of the Easter season, the Church continues to immerse us in the mystery of the risen Lord and in the mystery of his body, the Church, founded to make present Jesus Christ through all time and space until his coming in glory until the end of all ages.

Abundantly drawing from the Gospel of John and the Acts of the Apostles, the Church brings us ever closer to the person of Christ, and to the manner in which those who bear the name of Christ are to continue to proclaim him to the world.

Jesus’ declaration, “I am the good shepherd,” ties together these two themes of the mystery of Christ and the life of the Church.

In obedience to his heavenly Father, Jesus lays down his life for the sheep who will come to know the Shepherd intimately and learn to recognize his voice.

In learning the sound of that voice, the members of Christ’s body will imitate the Lord, and through their fidelity to his voice, proclaim his life-giving message to all who long for that message of love, truth, forgiveness and hope.

As St. Peter boldly proclaimed before the Sanhedrin, “There is no salvation through anyone else, nor is there any other name under heaven given to the human race by which we are to be saved.”

Therefore, what lies before all the members of the Church are three fundamental responsibilities: to know Christ ever more perfectly, to conform our lives to his ever more completely, and to proclaim him ever more clearly.

St. John writes in his first letter, “Beloved, we are God’s children now. What we shall be has not yet been revealed. We know that, when it is revealed, we shall be like him for we shall see him as he is.”

The scripture readings appointed to be read in this mass provide an excellent context in which to consider the commemoration of the anniversary of the creation of the Diocese of Columbus in 1868. How much has occurred in our Church and nation during those 150 years. Founded three years after the conclusion of the tragic and bloody Civil War, the new diocese faced not only the task of establishing a diocesan structure, but also of living in a society that was attempting reconstruction after the divisiveness and destruction of war.

The first Bishop of Columbus, Sylvester Rosecrans, had been one of a few Catholic bishops — actually, I believe, one of only two — publicly to condemn slavery before the Civil War. His brother, who helped to design this cathedral, was a Union general in the War. And, by the way, both of the Rosecrans brothers were converts to the Catholic faith. Bishop Rosecrans was also a friend of the famous Jean-Baptiste Lamy, the first Bishop of Santa Fe and founder of several parishes here in this diocese.

The extraordinary expansion of the United States after the war, both in terms of population growth and economic expansion, added new challenges — especially since Ohio began to play a significant role in the nation’s politics.

And then there was the growing influx of new immigrants to our country — a great portion of whom were Catholic. The successful absorption of these new citizens was, by and large, the work of the Catholic Church.

The railroad baron, James J. Hill, although not himself a Catholic but married to one, in the 1890s offered to build a seminary for the training of priests in St. Paul, Minnesota, telling the then Archbishop Ireland that “The nation needs priests because they seem to be the only ones who can organize the newcomers to our shores.”

Absorbing new immigrants is still the work of the Church here in the Diocese of Columbus.

There were also the challenges of two world wars, the growth of the anti-Catholic Ku Klux Klan here in Ohio, the Great Depression, the Second Vatican Council, the social and political disruption of the late 1960s and 70s, and the dawn of a new millennium.

But we must remember that we are a part of a larger and deeper tradition, stretching back some 2,000 years, to which we today in the Diocese of Columbus have been inserted, and to which we are heirs.

After all, 150 years represents only 7 percent of the lifespan of the Church. Although, to those who live through 150 years, it is quite significant.

On such an occasion as this anniversary, it is good to reach back into that history and to remember, for example, the work of the Dominican Father Fenwick who traveled through the

See HOMILY, Page 20
Bishop Campbell’s funeral homily for Monsignor George Schlegel

My dear brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ,

I begin by offering prayers and sympathy to the family of Monsignor George and to his many friends. I think we were all surprised by the suddenness of which the event of his death overtook us.

And as I was thinking of what I might say in the way of a homily, I was both comforted and challenged by the readings that Monsignor Schlegel chose for his funeral. I look at that passage from the Gospel of John, that famous verse in which Our Lord, who has gathered his disciples for that Last Supper before Jesus was to suffer and die, and the first message he gives is, “Do not let your hearts be troubled.” Remarkable coming from an individual who was facing a very cruel death, giving advice that your hearts not be troubled. For you will be taken care of. … And be comforted by the fact that the way, the truth and the life for those who walk after me and walk in that way will begin to learn the truth of what I am here to do and what I am here to say. And in that truth we find life.

I found it very edifying the way in which I learned that Monsignor Schlegel faced his own death. Even in its suddenness, in that short distance between the discovery of what was happening and his being taken from us, there was an equanimity, no little peace, and a profound trust. And this sense of Our Lord’s presence, Our Lord’s leadership, of Our Lord’s preparation for us, was a great comfort and strength and direction for Monsignor Schlegel, who undoubtedly preached that very message frequently from this pulpit and from others as well.

We ask where then where did he find that equanimity, that sense, that peacefulness, and it arises from that virtue of which we do not speak as often as we should, but the virtue of hope. That virtue that I am certain Monsignor Schlegel preached about, and also profoundly experienced, that hope that in fact, in spite of all things, the victory of Jesus Christ will be revealed in all of its fullness and power. So we rest in that hope and blessed assurance.

And that powerful message from the letter to the Romans about that hope is kind of truncated because the beginning of it has been left off of the passage that is recommended for funeral Masses. But it begins by saying not only that, but we boast of our afflictions knowing that affliction produces endurance, and endurance hope, and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

Now I’ve often wondered if that hope also assured not only Monsignor Schlegel of that kind of equanimity of peace along with death but throughout the whole of his ministry. I have seen him disturbed, but never overwhelmed. And I always learned to know that when I saw that strange smile on his face it was going to be the prelude to a very important mark or correction, especially if you got the date wrong.

When I first met Monsignor Schlegel, about two months after I arrived as bishop here in Columbus, when I was traveling up to Tuscarawas County for a confirmation at Sacred Heart in New Philadelphia. He had everything, of course, well prepared. The students were well prepared and all. But when I had the opportunity to meet with him, I got a short course in the history of the Diocese of Columbus up to the point of my installation. And then after the confirmation he had gathered the other priests in the county to a luncheon. And that was the gathering of one of the most remarkable quintets of priests I’ve met from such different backgrounds, and all eating lunch and smiling at each other. That encouraged me as bishop.

We all know that Monsignor Schlegel had an extraordinary and prodigious memory for all sorts of things -- numbers, dates, facts, faces, and he was perfectly prepared to share all of this with you. So I was very careful to always speak in approximations. But what very deeply struck me as I got to know Monsignor Schlegel was his profound and wide generosity, especially in sharing his priestly ministry. I wonder how many of the priests gathered here were honored to have him help you. … It must be a majority. I’m not going to ask for a show of hands. But that desire always to be of help in that priestly ministry, the willingness not only to help out in a particular occasion, particularly at confessions, but even to assure others that he would be there. And I think that generosity grows from the very deep sense of his knowledge of what he was ordained for, and he was ordained for the good of the people and their sanctification. And I think he wanted to make certain to the extent that he could that the sacraments were available, that the word would be preached, and the people could be assured of the very fact that his priestly existence that Jesus Christ was there.

I know he loved to be among the people. I also know that on occasion that he could get a little disturbed about particular things. He had not only a quick wit but a quick tongue. … But I think also that passage from the Book of Job, for in fact Job in the midst of his suffering and confusion, surrounded by people who were trying to explain to him what that meant, he said, listen, I pray that this could be revealed, that it would be engraved in stone, and the heart of it is that I know I am vindicated and that I shall see him in my flesh.

Actually, the word celebrant, or our word celebration, comes from the Latin word meaning let it be written large. And what is written large in the celebration, especially at a funeral, is Jesus Christ is risen. And those who die with Christ will rise with him. And it is in that spirit that we gather to celebrate a funeral not as a panegyric for the one who has died but a final summing up, for that is a privilege that is given only to God in His love and mercy and great power. … (but) to unfold the life of a faithful person who has dived into the depth and life of Jesus Christ. And in the case of a faithful priest to bring the body of that priest near the altar which he celebrated the holy Eucharist, which is the very celebration of the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, which is the gift of the body and blood that is the food for immortality. And we pray God … in his power and his love and his future, that we are here to offer and both receive consolation, and perhaps to win a deeper sense of the hope that sustained Monsignor George, and in doing this we honor God, we affirm our faith, we assist the one who has died with our prayers, and we await with patience and hope that day when we will all be reunited, when our Lord Jesus Christ, in the fullness of his power, appears among us and welcomes us all into his heavenly kingdom.

Eternal rest grant unto George, O Lord, And let perpetual light shine on him. May his soul and all the souls Of the faithful departed Rest in peace. Amen.
Faith in Action

Heart Cath(olic)!

By Erin Cordle

Pope Francis said that in order to understand Jesus, we cannot have closed hearts. In a morning homily on January 15, 2016, he urged us to reflect on “How is my faith in Jesus Christ?” (Personal note: this was the focus of my Lenten journey this year.) In order to understand Jesus, the pope underscored that we cannot have a “closed heart,” but need a generous, forward-looking heart.

It’s so easy to become discouraged and disheartened with the state of the world today. I believe that’s why I appreciate Lent so much. Lent asks us to take time to evaluate our relationships with ourselves, with God, and with our family, friends, neighbors, and coworkers. Lent is an opportunity to allow God to restore us – to help us see the resurrection that can come to our own lives through a closer relationship with Christ. Lent provides many opportunities to strengthen our treks through our Lenten deserts toward resurrection through prayer, introspection, and community faith-affirming events. If you are lucky, as I was this Lent, you find inspiration and generous hearts along your journey especially from the unbridled joy and grace demonstrated by our youth – our hope for the future.

The students at Immaculate Conception Elementary School collected new and gently used books as a Lenten project. The books were intended for kids who may not have access to books. I received the call from principal Colleen Kent asking where the books could be donated. God does work in mysterious ways as I had just had discussions with some Centerburg residents who support the Jacque Cordle Children’s Fund about a newly opened library section at their pantry. They needed books! IC had books! A match made in heaven!

I offered to transport the books to Centerburg. The time and date were arranged and I arrived at IC with an empty car ready to go. Those amazing IC students swarmed my car like worker bees and were able to stuff books in places I didn’t even know I had. Amazingly, they ran out of room – only about two-thirds of the books fit. A second trip was needed.

The response in Centerburg was over the top. As the first boxes and bags were unloaded, I heard: “Oh, my! Here is a book on trains. We had a request for a book on trains.” And, “Look at these mystery books, some kids have asked for these, too!”

Let me tell you about this community-lead and community supported pantry. Students in the Centerburg School District (including homeschooled students) who qualify for the free or reduced meals programs receive food during school breaks. The students and each member of the household receive three meals and a healthy snack for each day the school is on break. Last December, the pantry distributed 18,528 meals/snacks for the Christmas break. The pantry has a library to engage the children in enriching activities as adults load their parents’ cars with the food, plus they get to keep the books!

Father Patrick Toner has taken the first step to help ensure the preservation of beloved St. Aloysius Church with the establishment of an endowment fund that eventually would cover operational and maintenance costs.

Father Toner, who came out of retirement in October to serve as priest moderator at St. Aloysius, told The Catholic Foundation, “We need to have a legacy fund to take care of this parish.”

He grew up in the parish, known as the “The Beacon on the Hill” on the city’s west side.

“Of the first things that struck me on coming here to the Hilltop was the great awareness people have of the history of the parish and the neighborhood,” Father Toner told the Catholic Times in January. “We will be reaching out to the alumni of the parish to bring them back as part of a circle of connectedness. This church building is a great gift, and we hope this campaign will allow it to continue to thrive and live up to its slogan as ‘The Beacon on the Hill.’”

The 92-year-old parish hosted a well-attended open house after the noon Mass on Sunday, April 15. Later in the afternoon, The Catholic Foundation gave a presentation on the new Beacon of Hope Legacy Fund for St. Aloysius Church.

The goal is to raise $1.5 million for the preservation of the church property, building, and stained glass windows. The first $20,000 donation came from Father Toner, who presented a check to The Catholic Foundation at the gathering.

Once the fundraising goal is met, a five percent endowment distribution every year would cover the costs to maintain the parish church.

The Catholic Foundation encourages interested persons to look at what is being done in the parish and consider providing financial support. Visit www.catholic-foundation.org/AloysiusBeaconofHope to learn more.

St. Aloysius Church launches endowment campaign

Father Patrick Toner (right) presents a $20,000 check to David Clark of The Catholic Foundation to launch the Beacon of Hope Legacy Fund for Columbus St. Aloysius Church.

Erin Cordle is associate director of the diocesan Office for Social Concerns.

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Be wise – ask God for wisdom!

Leandro M. Tapay
Diocesan Missions Director

One night, God appeared to Solomon. God told Solomon to ask for whatever he wanted and God would grant him whatever he asked for (Chronicles1:17). If God would appear to you and tell you that He would grant you anything you asked for, what would you ask of God? Would you ask God for a lot of money and then call your lawyer to handle your estate? Or would you ask for good health and long life? What would you ask of God?

Solomon did not ask for wealth. He did not ask for good health and long life. No, he asked for nothing of that sort. How long did Solomon ponder before telling God what he wanted? We do not know.

But we know what Solomon asked for. He asked for wisdom. Why wisdom? Why did he not ask for something really big, like winning a super lotto? But wisdom? That’s sounds silly or childish. Wisdom sounds boring or abstract or insignificant. Or is it?

Wisdom. It has to do with an understanding heart. Wisdom enables one to see things accurately, to see things as they actually are, to distinguish what is real from what is fake. Wisdom enables one to discern what is good from what is bad, to assess what is important and what is trivial.

Our culture overvalues wealth. One is successful if one makes a six-figure income, or if one lives in an upper class neighborhood, or if one wears designer clothes or drives a new and expensive car. Also our culture overvalues athleticism, prestige, titles and positions, among other things.

At the same time our culture undervalues character, honor, integrity, and above all, faith. That’s not wise. That’s foolish.

Solomon was wise. He asked for the right thing. Wisdom enables one to understand that the treasure buried in the field or the pearl of great price is worth giving up everything for (Matt. 13:44-46).

The treasure or the pearl is God. Wisdom helps one to grow in the knowledge of God – not merely the knowledge about God, but a personal, intimate, and faithful friendship with God. Friendship with God is of more importance than all else in life.

Unfortunately, we do not believe it. If we believed it, we would not put God on our schedules, but arrange our schedules around God. We would not put God after work or sports.

If we believe that our relationship with God is of the highest importance, we would set aside significant time for prayer and meditation; we would make time to speak and listen to God by reading His word.

We need wisdom. Wisdom enables us to see that we need God; that in our hearts, there is an infinite longing for love and that the only One Who can satisfy that longing is God, the Infinite Lover; that there is an infinite hole our hearts that only God can fill; and that there is no one more important than God.

Why? Because there is no one who has done what God has done for us: no one who has suffered and died for us as Jesus did on the cross; no one who has ever destroyed the power of death for us as Jesus did in His resurrection; no one who has ever promised us everlasting life; and no one who has given us grace and strength every moment of our life on earth.

ODU reduces cost for undergraduate summer courses

Ohio Dominican University, 1216 Sunbury Road in Columbus, will offer more than 40 undergraduate courses at nearly half the usual cost this summer.

Courses for traditional undergraduate students will be available for $350 per credit hour (includes Technology Fee), which is less than the current price of $720 per credit hour.

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

Summer sessions range from two to eight weeks with available start dates in May, June and July. “By taking courses during the summer, students can either catch up on coursework or get a head start on the fall semester,” said Teresa Holleran, ODU vice president for academic affairs. “Our reduced summer course rates benefit both current Ohio Dominican students, as well as students from other colleges because most courses are easily transferable.”

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

To learn more about Ohio Dominican’s summer course offerings, visit ohiodominican.edu/Summer, or contact ODU’s Office of Admission at 614-251-4500 or admissions@ohiodominican.edu with any questions.
Pope Francis and hell; Divorced, remarried sponsor for confirmation?

Q: Did Pope Francis just say that there is no hell? (Chesapeake, Virginia)

A: No. Pope Francis did not say that there is no hell. That misinformation comes from a March 2018 article in the Italian newspaper La Repubblica. The article -- written by that newspaper’s co-founder and former editor, Eugenio Scalfari -- claimed that the pope had told Scalfari in a recent conversation that “the souls of those who are unrepentant, and thus cannot be forgiven, disappear” and that “hell does not exist; the disappearance of sinful souls exists.”

In a statement in response, the Vatican (in notably low-key fashion, apparently so as not to offend Scalfari, with whom the pope has had frequent conversations) said that Scalfari’s piece was “a product of his own reconstruction” and that “no quotes of the aforementioned article should therefore be considered as a faithful transcription of the Holy Father’s words.” Scalfari, a 93-year-old avowed atheist, has admitted that he does not take notes or use a tape recorder when doing interviews with the pope.

In fact, Pope Francis has spoken on a number of occasions of hell as a real and final destination for serious sinners who do not repent. In 2014, for example -- speaking to families of those victimized by the Mafia -- the pontiff pleaded with members of the Mafia to turn their lives around. “Convert,” said Pope Francis, “there is still time for not ending up in hell. It is what is waiting for you if you continue on this path.”

The Catechism of the Catholic Church says, “The teaching of the church affirms the existence of hell and its eternity. Immediately after death the souls of those who die in a state of mortal sin descend into hell, where they suffer the punishments of hell, ‘eternal fire.’ The chief punishment of hell is eternal separation from God, in whom alone man can possess the life and happiness for which he was created and for which he longs” (No. 1035).

Q: I am a divorced and remarried Catholic and have been asked by my grandmother to be her sponsor for confirmation. Forty years ago, I was divorced and remarried. At that time, I was told by my pastor that I could not receive Communion, and so I have not done so for all these years. I still, though, go to Mass every Sunday, believe in Jesus as my Lord and God, and try to live a good Catholic life. But does this mean that I cannot be her sponsor? (Baltimore)

A: A sponsor must be a practicing Catholic eligible to participate fully in the sacramental life of the church, including holy Communion.

The church’s Code of Canon Law expresses it this way: “To be permitted to take on the function of sponsor a person must … be a Catholic who has been confirmed and has already received the most holy sacrament of the Eucharist and who leads a life of faith in keeping with the function to be taken on” (Canon 874). That prescription is commonly taken to require full sacramental eligibility. The reason is that a sponsor serves as a role model in the faith for the person being baptized or confirmed and so, logically, must be able to share completely in the church’s sacramental life.

And so, sadly, at this time you would not be able to be a confirmation sponsor for your grand niece. I certainly compliment you, though, on remaining faithful to Mass attendance over all this time. That is exactly as it should be; you are still a member of the Catholic Church and you no doubt benefit spiritually from your regular presence at Mass.

(You would also, by the way, be able to receive the anointing of the sick when seriously ill and to have a Catholic funeral.) But have you ever thought about talking to a priest about your particular situation? It may be that an annulment of your first marriage is possible, so that you could return to reception of the Eucharist (and be able to be a sponsor).

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

Reynoldsburg St. Pius X builds for the future

Reynoldsburg St. Pius X Church and School, which is celebrating their 60th anniversary in 2018, is in the midst of a capital campaign, Continuing to Renew All Things in Christ, the first major initiative of its kind in nearly 30 years to expand, renovate and add buildings to the parish.

A portion of the funds was used to renovate and expand the existing Hohman Hall, home of latchkey and youth ministry programs. Work has been completed and the building was reopened in January.

The campaign has also provided funds for construction of a 3,900-square-foot building for storage, a new commercial kitchen, several meeting rooms, and a bride’s room. A new social and family center will provide a 9,100-square-foot facility for parish weddings or other approved functions. A business office addition will add 1,300 square feet to the parish’s existing administrative office.

The projects are slated for completion by May 2019.

Holy Land pilgrimage meeting at Columbus St. Patrick

A meeting to discuss a fall pilgrimage to the Holy Land will be held after the noon Mass on Sunday, May 20 at Columbus St. Patrick Church, 280 N. Grant Ave.

The 11-day trip, from October 8 to October 18, will be led by Father Stephen-Dominic Hayes, O.P., and includes stops all of the major sites in the life of Christ.

Pilgrims will walk in the footsteps of Jesus at various Biblical sites, including Caesarea, Mount Carmel; Cana of Galilee; the cave and Basilica of the Annunciation; Church of the Holy Family, house of Mary and Joseph; Mount Tabor; Capernaum; Mount of the Beatitudes; Church of the Nativity; Church of the Transfiguration; Church of the Annunciation; Church of the Holy Sepulchre; Bethany; Dead Sea; Masada; and the Upper Room, where Jesus celebrated the Last Supper.

Daily Mass will be offered at the various holy sites.

Cost of the trip from Columbus is $3,630 per person. The price includes round-trip airfare, hotel, and breakfast and dinner daily.

For more information, contact Judy Lorms at 614-404-6454 or email judylorms@gmail.com
Earth Day, Creation Day

Last Sunday is Earth Day. When I was a kid, many schools and some people would go out and plant a tree, which was great. Some would focus on picking up trash, cleaning empty lots, or simply making their yards and neighborhoods neater and cleaner. This was very nice, also. We were inspired by environmentalists like Euell Gibbons, Smokey Bear, the Native American with a tear on his cheek, and Woodsy Owl telling us, “Give a hoot, don’t pollute”. Very motivational and educational. In the April 8 edition of The Catholic Times, Jerry Freewalt gave us a wonderful idea for planting a tree to help celebrate the sesquicentennial of the Diocese of Columbus. Very well done and inspirational. Earth Day remains an important reminder for us each year to take good care of God’s gift of creation. It may have lost some of its luster over the years with the onslaught of global warming, but environmental issues and attentive respect for what God has entrusted to us will always be an important responsibility for us all. Unfortunately, polarizing politics are the tarnish.

Maybe a better term is Creation Day. We take great care and show the utmost respect for God’s creation. And yes, that means people first. Even though created last, the breath of God and our souls make us unique in the whole of creation. Nothing but human beings – man and woman alike – were created in the image and likeness of God. On the first day of creation, God said, “Let there be light”, and there was light. Light became the foundation for the creation of all other forms of life, just as Christ our light is the foundation for eternal life. On the second day, God arranged the water and the land. The sky was established, and the rivers and lakes complimented the oceans. The third day took the next step for plants and trees. All the beauty and wonder of the same world in which we thrive today was established in those first three days. On a very practical level, where would we be without light, water, land, and vegetation? There would be no life. We can be good stewards of all these. Light can be enjoyed and harnessed by creating an atmosphere conducive to the sun, the moon, and manufactured light. Water and land should be a no-brainer. Who would want to live on dirty water and polluted land? The food we eat is a product of these. They are taken for granted sometimes, and still a luxury for far too many fellow human beings around the world. On the fourth day, the aforementioned sun, moon, and stars were created. Planets and galaxies were established. The vast infinity of the universe is just incomprehensible. Next, the inhabitants of the water were created. Also, all the birds of the air were created. Flightless birds like the dodo, emu, and ostrich had to wait another day, I guess. On the sixth day, every form of animal life was created by God, and they filled the earth. Of course, God saw that everything was very good (I could do without the big ugly spiders). Everything was put in place and set in motion for the love of God’s existence, human life. Then God said, “Let us make mankind in our own image and likeness, and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, the cattle, over all the wild animals and every creature of the earth”. Man and woman came from the earth, but the life that flowed into their bodies came from the breath of God. We are tenants and stewards of what was created prior to our very existence. We have intelligence, the ability to think and reason, a basic goodness, the gift of love, and a free will. God created all for our welfare and happiness. God’s top concern is the security and happiness of each and every one of us. On earth day, let us reflect upon creation day.

Encouragement a key factor in priesthood discernment, study that includes Columbus seminarian finds

Catholic News Agency

A strong majority of the 430 men who are about to be ordained to the Catholic priesthood in the United States come from families where both parents were Catholic, and had several friends encouraging them in their vocation.

The findings were from the annual survey of new ordinands by CARA, the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate out of Georgetown University. Of the 430 men to be ordained to the priesthood, 334 responded to the survey, including 252 ordinands to the diocesan priesthood and 78 ordinands to the religious priesthood.

Also included in the report were the ordinands’ answers to the prompt - “People might be surprised to know ... ”

Brett Garland of the Diocese of Columbus said he “preached at my twin brother’s wedding just two months after I was ordained a deacon, and I will be the celebrant of my older brother’s wedding this summer, just a month after I am ordained a priest. By living out their particular vocations, both of my brothers have encouraged me in my own vocation.”

Edgar Elamparo, of the Diocese of San Jose, responded with a story about going off to seminary.

“Before my family sent me off to the seminary, I saw my uncle in front of our house with tears in his eyes. I said, ‘Why are you crying?’ He replied, ‘When you were young, I asked you what you would want to become when you grow up? and you said, I want to become a priest, and now here you are on your way to your dream.’”

While this year’s priesthood ordination class is slightly smaller than last year’s class of 590, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) said the report provides “reasons for hope and areas for growth.”

“It is essential that we continue to make the conscious effort to encourage young men to be open to hearing God’s call in their life and assist them in the discernment process.”

Youth Minister Position

St. Andrew Parish

St. Andrew Parish is seeking a full time Youth Minister to direct a comprehensive youth ministry program for members of the parish in grades 6-12.

This program’s goals are to empower the young people of the parish to live as disciples, draw members into greater participation in the life, mission, and work of the parish and greater Church, and foster the spiritual growth of the members of the youth ministry program. This is accomplished through planning, implementing and evaluating long and short term goals; recruiting and developing Core Group Leaders and networking with other parishes within the Diocese.

The person in this position is familiar with the eight components of youth ministry as outlined by the United States Council of Catholic Bishops in “Renewing the Vision” and utilizes each of these components to build a comprehensive program.

Candidates must be a practicing Catholic with a degree in Catholic theology or related field. Compensation is commensurate with candidate’s education and experience. Job offer is contingent on the successful passing of the mandatory background screening and completion of the VIRTUS “Protecting God’s Children” course.

Send cover letter, resume, and references by Monday, May 7th, 2018 to Monsignor Stephen Moloney

smoloney@columbuscatholic.org
Columbus St. Anthony School third grader Leia Riley (left) was named principal for a day after winning a school-wide contest during spirit week. Other prizes included donuts, jeans pass, lunch line leader for a week, and pizza with the pastor and Principal Chris Iaconis.

Photo courtesy of St. Anthony School

Incoming pro-life chair to keynote National Catholic Prayer Breakfast

Catholic News Agency

The keynote speaker at the 2018 National Catholic Prayer Breakfast will be Archbishop Joseph Naumann of Kansas City, incoming chairman of the US bishops’ pro-life committee.

The breakfast will be held May 24 in Washington, DC.

Naumann became the 11th bishop of the Archdiocese of Kansas City on January 15, 2005. He was appointed coadjutor archbishop of Kansas City in 2004.

Last November, he was elected chairman of the USCCB Committee on Pro-Life Activities, and will begin a three-year term in that position in November 2018. He is a member of the USCCB Administrative Committee, the USCCB Committee on Pro-Life Activities, the USCCB Religious Liberty Committee, the USCCB Communications Committee, and the bishops’ Subcommittee for the Promotion and Defense of Marriage.

The archbishop has drawn attention for bold statements on cultural issues. Naumann has spearheaded efforts to restrict abortion in Kansas, and is well-known for challenging Catholic politicians espousing pro-choice positions.

Last year, he cut ties with the Girl Scouts, saying that the organization was “no longer a compatible partner in helping us form young women with the virtues and values of the Gospel.” Parishes were instead encouraged to start troops of American Heritage Girls, an alternative scouting organization.

The National Catholic Prayer Breakfast began in 2004, “in response to St. John Paul II’s call for a new evangelization.” The event is officially nonpartisan and people of all faiths are invited to attend. Past keynote speakers include Cardinal Robert Sarah and Texas Gov. Greg Abbott.

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A PERFECT GIFT FOR MOTHER'S DAY!
I went to church that Sunday morning not because I wanted but rather because I had already put on my church clothes. My Sunday routine is to rise early, dress in one of my nicest outfits, and head out the door for Mass. But as soon as I had finished dressing I got a phone call from the security company at my workplace informing me that an alarm had gone off. Since I was on vacation, I had to call a co-worker so he could deal with it. Twenty minutes passed before the problem was resolved. The alarm distraction had interrupted my Sunday routine and I now found myself debating about going to Mass. After all, I was on vacation and now I might be late. But duty rather than desire won out and I thought to myself, “I am already dressed for church, I may as well just go.”

The large parish church in the beachside community was packed but I found a seat next to a man who had his leg stretched out and the kneeler in the up position. I didn’t attempt to lower it while I said a quick prayer on arrival but instead just sat on the edge of the padded pew seat. The man was quite tall and older, maybe in his 80s. His leg seemed cramped even holding it out at an angle, his hand resting on his outstretched knee in a somewhat protective mode. Only with difficulty did he rise for the gospel and again at the creed. And so at the offertory when everyone knelted, I again sat on the edge of the seat. I sensed that he looked quickly over at me before allowing the kneeler to remain up. We had a tacit agreement. I would sit; he would keep his leg extended.

I find it hard to enter into the Mass, into any prayer, when I feel captive to the situation, when I am going through the motions for instance because I have already put on my church clothes and have nowhere else to go. I half-listened to the familiar Scriptures, registered no spark at the priest’s homily, followed the line up to receive the Eucharist, and resisted the urge to walk out early holding on to hope of a meaningful final hymn. I walked to my car with a sense of accomplished duty.

It wasn’t until the short drive back to the vacation condo that the blessing of that Sunday Mass poured into my consciousness. It was the sudden discerning that we are connected in our humanity, the realization that the struggles of our neighbor can be visible, invisible or barely visible, but the struggles are real and they are ubiquitous. It was the understanding that once I put myself and my desires aside I had unknowingly opened myself up to receive – to receive the grace which allowed me to see my neighbor through the eyes of Christ, the Christ who had invited me that morning to join Him. It was never about putting on my Sunday church clothes. Rather it was about putting on the garment of Christ -- a garment I did not choose to put on that morning, but one that nonetheless gently fell onto my shoulders as I sat on the edge of my seat.

Nancy Grilli is a parishioner at Reynoldsburg St Pius X Church.
Father Saulius Paul Laurinaitis, 96, a native of Lithuania, was ordained as a priest of the Diocese of Kaufm, Lithuania, on Dec. 18, 1948, in Biren, Austria by Bishop Johann Graf. He became a refugee from his homeland after the Soviets occupied it in 1944 and completed his theological studies in Germany, Italy, and Austria. He arrived in the United States in 1951, when he began his service in the Diocese of Columbus and became an American citizen in 1959, and was incardinated as a Columbus diocesan priest in 1986. He was pastor of Bexley Blessed sacrament and Bremen St. Mary churches, associate pastor at Kenton Immaculate Conception, Corpus Christi Columbus, Columbus St. Andrew, Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral, and Columbus St. Croix, administrator at the Johnstown Diocese of the Ascension and Utica Church of the Nativity, and in residence at St. Therese’s Retreat in Columbus.

In addition, he served at Columbus St. Vincent de Paul, a school, was a member of the diocesan Priests Senate, was active in the canonical process, and was bishop’s liaison to the Catholic Charismatic Renewal, and was a chaplain at Doctors Hospital West and Columbus St. Agatha Church and Sisters of Providence in Providence, Rhode Island.

He retired in 1987, lived Hilliard St. Brendan Church for many years, and is now a resident of the assisted living section of the Villas at St. Therese in Columbus.

Father Joseph J. Stephefithey, OP

A native of Austria, was ordained at St. Therese’s Retreat in Columbus on April 15, 1930 in Vienna and ordained on July 15, 1955 at St. Dominic Church in the United States. He entered the Dominican Novitiate at St. Stephen’s Priory in Dorm, Massachusetts and made his first vows at St. Stephen’s Priory, and his solemn profession at the Cross Church in Monmouth, New Jersey. Part of his studies took place at St. Joseph Priory in Somerville, Ohio.

He was at St. Dominic Priory in Youngstown, Ohio, after ordination before being assigned to the Dominican Missionaries in Pakistan for 20 years. He served as associate pastor at Zaneville St. Nicholas, Columbus St. Leo, and Columbus Holy Spirit High School, and as a teacher at Columbus St. Joseph, Columbus St. Peter and Paul, Columbus Holy Spirit High School, and also a teacher at Cincinnati Elder High School and Mount St. Mary’s Seminary of the West in Norwood.

Father Hasey was a church historian, a retired seminary professor and former archivist for the Archdiocese of Cincinnati. He has published several books, including Archbishop Purcell of Cincinnati, as well as articles on the history of the Catholic Church in Ohio.

He retired from full-time ministry on July 1, 1998.

He will celebrate the anniversary of his ordination and 20 years at St. Agatha at the 11 a.m. Mass on Sunday, June 30, at St. Agatha with a reception to follow.

Father James O’Gorchock, OP

Father James A. O’Gorchock, OP, is a native of Akron, Ohio, and was ordained on March 31, 1957, by Bishop Clarence Ogurchock at St. Joseph Cathedral in Columbus.

He spent 27 years as chaplain at Mount Carmel East Hospital in Columbus and retired in 2008. He was also associate pastor at Zaneville St. Nicholas, Columbus St. Leo, and Columbus Holy Spirit High School.

He entered the Trappist order in Germany, Italy, and Austria. He arrived in the United States in 1951, when he began his service in the Diocese of Columbus and became an American citizen in 1959, and was incardinated as a Columbus diocesan priest in 1986. He was pastor of Bexley Blessed sacrament and Bremen St. Mary churches, associate pastor at Kenton Immaculate Conception, Corpus Christi Columbus, Columbus St. Andrew, Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral, and Columbus St. Croix, administrator at the Johnstown Diocese of the Ascension and Utica Church of the Nativity, and in residence at St. Therese’s Retreat in Columbus.

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Father Kevin Lutz, 67, a Columbus native, was ordained by Bishop Edward Herrmann on November 11, 1978 at Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral.

He is the pastor at Columbus St. Mary Church in German Village, where he is leading restoration efforts after the historic church was damaged by a lightning strike in 2016.

His assignments have included associate pastor at Columbus St. Agatha Church, Marion St. Mary Church, Lancaster St. Mary Church, Reynoldsburg St. Pius X Church, and Columbus Christ the King Church. He was briefly the administrator pro temp at New Philadelphia Sacred Heart Church. He was pastor at Plain City St. Joseph Church and Milford Center Sacred Heart Church, Columbus Holy Family Church, and Columbus Corpus Christi and St. Ladislas Church.

He also was a teacher at Columbus Bishop Hartley and Bishop Watterson high schools, and chaplain for the Knights of Columbus Council 1065 in New Lexington.

Father Lutz, who has always had an interest in preserving Church history, is the founder and director of the Jubilee Museum and the Catholic Cultural Center at the former Columbus Holy Family School, which also houses the Holy Family Soup Kitchen. He was the first American appointed as a consultant to the Pontifical Commission for the Cultural Heritage of the Catholic Church.

Rear Admiral Father Louis Iasiello, OFM, 67, was ordained on May 13, 1978 by Bishop Robert Francis Garner of the Archdiocese of Newark, New Jersey at St. John the Baptist Church in Hillsdale, New Jersey. He was received into the Order of Friars Minor in 1973. He initially served at a parish in the Bronx and was head of a high school languages department in Buffalo, New York before he was commissioned as a Navy chaplain.

Military assignments included the Naval Air Station in Memphis, Tennessee; U.S. Coast Guard in Alaska; USS Ranger with deployments to Korea and the Persian Gulf; and the Second Marine Division. Other assignments were the Naval War College Command; U.S. Naval Academy faculty; Joint Task Force in Cuba and Haiti; Armed Forced Staff College; Assistant Fleet Chaplain, U.S. Atlanta Fleet; U.S. Atlantic Command; Director of Operational Ministry for the Atlantic Fleet and director of the Navy Chaplains School. In 2003, the U.S. Senate confirmed his appointment as Chief of Navy Chaplains, the leader for almost 2,500 chaplains and enlisted personnel serving the Navy, Marines and Coast Guard. In addition, he was on the Presbyteral Council of the Archdiocese for the Military Services.

After retiring from military duty, he became president of the Washington Theological Union. He is currently a professor at the Pontifical College Josephinum in Worthington.

Father Clarence Williams, C.P.P.S., 68, was born in Tuscaloosa, Alabama, raised in Cleveland, and ordained on October 28, 1978 in Cleveland by Bishop James Hickey. A member of the order of the Missionaries of the Precious Blood, he was assistant pastor and pastor of St. Anthony Church in Detroit, where he celebrated a televised Mass and produced television shows, including one that won a Christopher Award for Religious Broadcasting. He was later pastor of the clustered parishes of Holy Innocents-St. Barnabas Parish in Roseville and East Point, Michigan.

He also was director of Black Catholic Ministries for the Archdiocese of Detroit. He was the director of formation for the Missionaries of the Precious Blood and served on the provincial council of the Missionaries for 12 years. He was named the director of racial equality and diversity for Catholic Charities USA in Alexandria, Virginia and established the national office of the Institute for Recovery from Racisms at the Paulist North American Center in Washington, D.C. He has served as vice president on the board of the National Black Catholic Clergy Caucus.

Fr. Williams is pastor of Columbus St. James the Less Church in Columbus. He is leaving the diocese on July 1 for an assignment in the Diocese of Cleveland.

An anniversary Mass and reception will be celebrated at 3 p.m. Sunday, May 20 at St. James the Less.

Father Antonio J. Carvalho, 50, a native of Brazil, was ordained in Tivoli, Italy, in 1993 by Bishop Pietro Garlato.

Currently, he is the Parochial Administrator at Columbus Holy Name Church and Santa Cruz Parish and in charge of the Brazilian Catholic Community at Columbus St. Matthias Church.

After his ordination, he was the parochial vicar at the Cathedral of St. Lawrence in Tivoli from 1993 to 2000, then he was sent by his bishop to the United States in 2000 to work with the Brazilian immigrants and Portuguese-speaking people in Massachusetts, where he stayed until 2005.

In 2006, he was sent by his bishop to Ohio to pursue a degree in the International Mariological Research Institute (IMRI) in Dayton and to accompany on weekends the Brazilian Catholic Community at St. Matthias in Columbus. He was also assigned temporarily as Parochial Administrator at Christ the King Church and later at Sacred Heart Church and St. John the Baptist Church.

For the anniversary of his ordination, he plans to offer a Mass in thanksgiving for the gift of the priesthood with the communities where he is currently assigned, Holy Name, Santa Cruz and St. Matthias, on the Sunday before June 5, which is the Solemnity of Corpus Christi.
They were going to get married. Now he’s a priest and she’s a sister

Catholic News Agency

Before discovering their vocations, Fr. Javier Olivera and Sister Marie de la Sagesse were engaged and planning their wedding. God had other plans.

Speaking to ACI Prensa, CNA’s Spanish-language sister agency, Fr. Olivera said that they both grew up in Catholic families and that “our parents knew each other when they were young.” They saw each other frequently when they were children.

“I had really left the practice of religion. When I was 19, I came back from a backpacking trip to Peru and I met her. I asked her if she believed in virginity until marriage, because for me this was kind of an invention by the Church. She laid out the principles so well about purity, from faith and reason, that it impacted me. I met a woman who knew how to defend what she believed and who was at the same time very intelligent,” Olivera commented.

Soon after that conversation, they began dating. At that time, both of them were studying law. He was at the National University at Buenos Aires and she was at the National University at La Plata.

Fr. Olivera said that “it was like any other courtship, but we tried to take advantage of cultural life through music, literature and philosophy. We read books together, we’d go out for coffee. We had a group of friends with whom we attended conferences of Argentine Catholic authors.”

“I started to practice the faith, to pray, to go to Mass on Sundays. All in large part thanks to her, to God mainly, but to her as an instrument,” said the priest. He added that they also prayed the rosary together.

For her part, Sister Marie de la Sagesse, whose baptismal name is Trinidad Maria Guiomar, told ACI Prensa that what she most appreciated about her then-boyfriend was “his sincere search for the truth without fearing the consequences.”

The couple got engaged when they were 21 and decided to get married after college, 2 1/2 years away.

The discovery of a vocation

One day, Trinidad Maria’s older brother broke the news that he would be entering the seminary, and she remembered, “we were reeling from it because we weren’t expecting that.”

“I had a car and with my fiancée we decided to take him to the seminary, which was in San Rafael, Mendoza Province,” she said. They both decided to stay in the area a few days so Javier could visit some friends who were in the seminary, and Trinidad Maria could visit some friends in the convent.

“When we got back, we talked about how crazy all that was, that her brother had left everything, the possibility of having a family, an important career. We began to ask ourselves, ‘What would happen if God called us to the religious life?’ The first thing we said was ‘no’ and that was crazy because we were having a really beautiful engagement and we were already buying things to get married,” Fr. Olivera recounted.

Weeks went by “there was this constant thought in my soul about what would happen if God called me, if I had to leave everything, why not be a priest? How to know if the best way to get to heaven for me is the priestly life or the married life? Where can I do the most good?”

After so many doubts he decided to tell his fiancée about his vocational concerns, who confessed to him that she “was thinking the same thing” after her brother entered the seminary.

However, neither one of them made a decision. “Since we still had two years before finishing law school, that was a great excuse to not yet enter the seminary or the convent,” Fr. Olivera said.

They had “a very prudent monk” as a spiritual adviser, who told them: “Look, that is an issue between each one of you and God. No one can interfere with souls.”

For her part, Sister Marie de la Sagesse told ACI Prensa that “it was a long period of discernment, at least two years, until God clearly showed me the consecrated life, and I could not doubt that he was asking of me this total surrender.”

After finishing their studies, both embraced their vocations. In 2008, when they were 31, he was ordained a priest in the Diocese of San Rafael, and she made her final vows in the congregation of the Sisters of the Merciful Jesus.

Fr. Olivera is currently a university professor and has a blog called “Que no te la cuenten” (Find out for yourself). He has written a book on vocational doubts entitled “¿Alguna vez pensaste? El llamado de Cristo” (Have you ever thought about it? The Call of Christ).

Sister Marie de la Sagesse lives in southern France and has an apostolate in St. Laurent Parish in the Diocese of Fréjus-Toulon.

Regarding their story, she said that “I consider it a special grace that both of us were called almost at the same time. So kind and thoughtful of Divine Providence, who doesn’t miss a detail. And what I really appreciate is that we’re still friends and not just us, but our families too.”

This story was originally published by ACI Prensa, CNA’s Spanish-language sister agency. It has been translated and adapted by CNA.
Fifth Sunday of Easter Cycle B

The fundamental call to action

By Kevin Perrotta, Catholic News Service

Acts 9:26-31
1 John 3:18-24  Gospel: John 15:1-8

Our bundle of Scripture texts today communicates various calls to action.

“Let us love not in word or speech but in deed and truth,” St. John counsels in the second reading. We should keep God’s commandments and “do what pleases him,” that is, “love one another just as he commanded us” (1 Jn 3:18-24).

Bear fruit, Jesus tells us, and warns that the Father “takes away every branch in me that does not bear fruit” (Jn 15:2).

The psalmist invites us to share in his commitment to liturgical action, “I will praise you, Lord, in the assembly of your people” (Ps 22:26).

And, challenging us to take action in the world, the first reading holds up the example of St. Paul, who “spoke out boldly in the name of the Lord” in city after city (Acts 9:28).

It would be easy to conclude that if we keep God’s commandments, have good results to show for our efforts, engage in vigorous prayer and make God known to other people, then we will be close to God and God will be close to us. But the logic of the readings is just the reverse.

John urges us to obey God’s law of love not so that we might have a relationship with God but so that we might be reassured that we are in a relationship with him. Loving in deed and truth “is how we shall know that we belong to the truth” (1 Jn 3:19).

Jesus declares that we can bear fruit only because we are already united with him, only by being branches of the vine that he is.

The psalmist offers thanks for what God has done for him.

And Paul didn’t become a bold proclaimer of Jesus because he wanted to gain a secure place among his disciples. Rather, Jesus revealed himself to Paul, after which Paul couldn’t stop talking about him.

The logic of the readings is to love, bear fruit, praise and testify not in order to get into a relationship with Jesus but in order to go on being in the relationship with him that he has given us.

Thus Jesus’ fundamental call to action: “Remain in me,” he says, “as I remain in you” (Jn 15:4).

Reflection Quote:
“The way we know that he remains in us is from the Spirit he gave us” (1 Jn 3:24).

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.

Pope Francis to new priests: Be like Jesus the Good Shepherd

Catholic News Agency

On Sunday, April 22, Pope Francis ordained 16 men to the priesthood, reminding them to be like Jesus the Good Shepherd in the way they serve the members of their spiritual flock and minister to those who are lost and searching for God.

“Always have before your eyes the example of the Good Shepherd, who did not come to be served, but to serve and to seek and save what was lost,” the pope said in a homily before the ordination of 16 priests during a Mass in St. Peter’s Basilica.

“Conscious of having been chosen among men and elected in their favor to attend to the things of God, exercise in gladness and sincerity the priestly work of Christ,” he continued, “solely intent on pleasing God and not yourselves or human beings, or other interests.”

The priestly ordination coincided with “Good Shepherd Sunday” and the 55th World Day of Prayer for Vocations.

The new priests, who have been studying for the priesthood at different seminaries in the diocese of Rome, come from countries around the world, including Madagascar, Vietnam, Myanmar, Colombia, and San Salvador.

As in the past, for his homily Pope Francis used the “ritual homily” from the Italian edition of the “Pontificale Romano,” the Latin Catholic liturgical book containing rites performed by bishops, for the ordination of priests, adding a few of his own thoughts to the text.

Reflecting on the Sacrament of Penance in particular, Francis urged the men about to be ordained to “not get tired of being merciful. Think of your sins, your miseries that Jesus forgives. Be merciful.”

It is “through your ministry the spiritual sacrifice of the faithful is made perfect,” he noted, “because it is joined to the sacrifice of Christ, which for your hands, in the name of the whole Church, is offered bloodlessly on the altar in the celebration of the Holy Mysteries.”

He pointed out to the 16 men that in their priestly ministries they will be participants “in the mission of Christ, the only Master,” and advised them to read and meditate tirelessly on the Word of God “to teach what you have learned in faith, to live what you have taught.”

“[May] your teaching, joy and support to the faithful of Christ be the fragrance of your life,” he continued, “that with word and example you can build the House of God which is the Church.”

The Weekday Bible Readings

MONDAY
Acts 14:5-18
Psalm 115:1-2, 3-4, 15-16
John 14:21-26

TUESDAY
Acts 14:19-28
Psalm 145:10-11, 12-13ab, 21
John 14:27-31a

WEDNESDAY
Acts 15:1-6
Psalm 122:1-2, 3-4ab, 4cd-5
John 15:1-8

THURSDAY
1 Corinthians 15:1-8
Psalm 19:2-3, 4-5
John 14:6-14

FRIDAY
Acts 15:22-31
Psalm 57:8-9, 10, 12
John 15:12-17

SATURDAY
Acts 16:1-10
Psalm 100:1b-2, 3, 5
John 15:18-21

DIOCESAN WEEKLY RADIO AND TELEVISION MASS SCHEDULE WEEK OF APRIL 29, 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 at www.stgabrielradio.com.
Mass from Our Lady of the Angels Monastery, Birmingham, Ala., 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 195, Dish Network Channel 250, or DirecTV Channel 305).
Mass from Massillon St. Mary Church at 10:30 a.m. on WILB radio (AM 1060, FM 94.5 and 89.5), Canton, heard in Tuscarawas, Holmes, and Coshocton counties.

DAILY MASS
8 a.m., Our Lady of the Angels Monastery in Birmingham, Ala. (Encore 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 V, Seasonal Proper of the Liturgy of the Hours.
I trust it won’t cause heartburn among the editors of Commonweal if I confess to having cheered at a recent article they posted, “Quit Trying to ‘Fix’ Baseball.” Therein, Professor Gregory Hillis of Bellarmine College took on MLB Commissioner Rob Manfred’s efforts to appeal to millennials – creatures from that deep lagoon known as “social media” – by speeding up the pastime. Prof. Hillis called the ball foul, and I heartily concur.

Baseball is a foretaste of the Kingdom of God precisely because it doesn’t work by clock-time, like football, soccer, basketball, lacrosse, and hockey. A baseball game could, in theory, be eternal. So, to enter the transcendent time-beyond-time of a ballgame is to experience a bit of what awaits us at what the Book of Revelation calls the Wedding Feast of the Lamb: an eternal present.

As Professor Hollis points out, Americans, who live in increasingly thin-sliced fractions of time, need a break from all that. And to tinker with baseball’s hallowed structure in order to appease a generation marked by attention-deficits is a concession that ought not be made: precisely for the sake of those addicted to instant gratification, instant communication, and instant linkage to whomever, wherever, about whatever. Baseball slows down a generation that badly needs a sense of repose.

Prof. Hillis neatly sums up his indictment and his concern: “Perhaps more thought needs to be given to the idea that ... baseball’s popularity problem isn’t a consequence of a broken game, but of a society whose ability to enjoy the leisure of baseball has atrophied.”

And that brings us by a roundabout route to the upcoming Synod of Bishops on youth ministry and vocational discernment. Just before Easter there was a “listening” session in Rome, hosted by the Synod general secretariat, in which several hundred (handpicked) young adults told senior Church officials what they liked and disliked about Catholicism. No new ground was broken, and the conference’s rather dull final document (which bore telltale marks of having been drafted beforehand, and not by young people) was equally un-newsworthy. Perhaps that’s because the entire exercise was misconceived.

I’ve been asked dozens of times why John Paul II was such a piper for the young. And my answers are always the same: his transparent honesty and his challenge. John Paul never asked young people to take up any challenge he had not accepted, or bear any burden he had not borne. That was palpable, and young people, who have very good balloon detectors, sensed it.

Then there was the challenge. In many variations on one great theme, John Paul II said to the young, in effect, “Never, ever settle for anything less than the spiritual and moral grandeur the grace of God makes possible in your life. You won’t always succeed. But don’t lower the bar of expectation. Get up when you fall, dust yourself off, seek reconciliation – and then try again to live a life of heroic virtue. Don’t settle for anything less than that.”

The response was tremendous. Synod-2018 should reflect on that. In a world that panders to them, maybe what those who will create the human future really need is challenge. Compelling, compassionate, and merciful, to be sure. But challenge: the challenge to meet in Jesus Christ the answer to the question that is every human life, and through him to live nobly for others.

George Weigel is Distinguished Senior Fellow of the Ethics and Public Policy Center in Washington, D.C.
Sister Martin Damien Miquelon, OP

Funeral Mass for Sister Martin Damien Miquelon, OP, who died Monday, April 16, was celebrated Thursday, April 19 at the Dominican Sisters of Peace Motherhouse Chapel in Columbus. Burial was at St. Joseph Cemetery.

She was born in 1933 in Boston, Massachusetts to Oliver and Marion (Twomey) Miquelon. She made her profession of vows with the Dominican Sisters of St. Catherine, Kentucky, now the Dominican Sisters of Peace, in 1957.

She was a teacher in Illinois and Massachusetts, a director of religious education at parishes in Lowell and Watertown, Massachusetts, and a hospital sacristan in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

She was preceded in death by her parents and brother, Joseph. Survivors include a brother, Paul and a sister, Marie Clark.

Bush recalled for her ‘unwavering love, devotion’ to family, community

By Catholic News Service

Former first lady Barbara Bush “was a model public servant and set a standard for her unwavering and loving devotion to both family and community,” said Cardinal Daniel N. DiNardo of Galveston Houston in offering his prayers and “heartfelt condolences” to the Bush family.

Wife of the nation’s 41st president and mother of the 43rd president, Bush died at home in Houston on April 17 surrounded by family. She was 92.

A private funeral was held April 21. She was laid to rest on grounds of the Bush Presidential Library at Texas A&M University in College Station.

“Her family’s generous and compassionate decision to invite the public to her viewing to say their farewells tenderly demonstrates how much she has been part of the Houston community,” Cardinal DiNardo said. “Her tireless goodwill efforts and charity throughout Houston in recent years made a tremendous impact on countless families and individuals in need. She was bold and steadfast in her convictions and an inspiration to anyone in faithful service of helping others. May the glory of the risen Lord transform our sorrow into serenity.”

Cardinal DiNardo also conveyed papal condolences sent by Cardinal Pietro Parolin, the Vatican’s secretary of state, via Archbishop Christopher Pierre, apostolic nuncio.

“Pope Francis offers heartfelt condolences and the assurance of his prayers to President Bush and to all her family,” Cardinal Parolin said. “Commending Mrs. Bush’s soul to the merciful love of Almighty God, His Holiness invokes upon all who mourn her passing the divine blessings of strength and peace.”

Barbara Bush, who for many years suffered from a thyroid disorder called Graves’ disease, had been in failing health. She was recently hospitalized for treatment of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and congestive heart failure. A few days before her death, she announced she wanted no more treatments of any kind, just “comfort care” at home.

She and President George H.W. Bush were the longest married of any presidential couple in U.S. history. Married Jan. 6, 1945, they had six children -- George Walker Bush (the future 43rd president of the U.S.), Robin Bush, Jeb Bush (the future Florida governor), Neil Mallon Bush, Marvin Pierce Bush and Dorothy Bush Koch. Their daughter Robin died from leukemia at age 3 in 1953.

She was first lady of the United States from 1981 to 1989, when George H.W. Bush was vice president under Ronald Reagan.

Besides her husband, now 93, and children, she is survived by 14 grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

Pray for our dead

Thomas Eviston

Funeral Mass for Thomas Eviston, 91, who died Wednesday, April 18, was celebrated Monday, April 23 at St. Christopher Church in Columbus. Burial was at St. Joseph Cemetery.

A graduate of Columbus Aquinas High School, he served the Diocese of Columbus for more than 50 years on the Diocesan Development Fund program, which became the Bishop’s Annual Appeal. He was parish chairman of the Bishop’s Annual Appeal and involved in many activities at St. Christopher.

He was preceded in death by his parents, William and Margaret (Flynn) Eviston, a brother, Robert Eviston, a sister, Edna Colburn, and a nephew, Dennis Colburn. Survives include his wife, Norma, daughter, Antonia (Tom) MacDonald-Hinkley, and son, Robert (Lesley) Eviston.

By Catholic News Service

Former first lady Barbara Bush “was a model public servant and set a standard for her unwavering and loving devotion to both family and community,” said Cardinal Daniel N. DiNardo of Galveston Houston in offering his prayers and “heartfelt condolences” to the Bush family.

Wife of the nation’s 41st president and mother of the 43rd president, Bush died at home in Houston on April 17 surrounded by family. She was 92.

A private funeral was held April 21. She was laid to rest on grounds of the Bush Presidential Library at Texas A&M University in College Station.

“Her family’s generous and compassionate decision to invite the public to her viewing to say their farewells tenderly demonstrates how much she has been part of the Houston community,” Cardinal DiNardo said. “Her tireless goodwill efforts and charity throughout Houston in recent years made a tremendous impact on countless families and individuals in need. She was bold and steadfast in her convictions and an inspiration to anyone in faithful service of helping others. May the glory of the risen Lord transform our sorrow into serenity.”

Cardinal DiNardo also conveyed papal condolences sent by Cardinal Pietro Parolin, the Vatican’s secretary of state, via Archbishop Christopher Pierre, apostolic nuncio.

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Marie C. Neal

Funeral Mass for Marie C. (Maticia) Neal, 92, who died Saturday, April 21, was celebrated Wednesday, April 25, at St. James the Less Church in Columbus. Burial was at St. Joseph Cemetery.

She worked for former Bishop Michael J. Ready in the diocese for six years starting in the 1940s as a secretary after graduating from Sacred Heart High School in Columbus.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Michael and Margaret (Lombardo) Maticia, and her husband, Joe. Survivors include her daughters, Maryanne (Bill) Phillips, Elaine (David) Prochetti, Karen (Tim) Keny, Cathy (Alan) Geho and Lori (Michael) Dorrian, and sons, Michael (Sue) Neal and Joseph (Michelle) Neal, 18 grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren.
26 THURSDAY
St. Catherine of Siena lecture series at ODU
7 p.m., St. Charles Preparatory School, 280 N. Grant Ave., Columbus. American debut of a new British musical focuses on Adam and Eve, Cain and Abel, and the tools to spread the Good News. Topic: "Eucharist: relationship with the Trinity and equipping them with 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
ODU Catholic High School Visit Day
8:45 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., Ohio Dominican University, 1215 Sunbury Road, Columbus. University hosts students from Catholic high schools for visit day. Includes class-room experiences, campus tours, discussions, lunch, Mass, student panel, admissions presentation, and group service project. Register at www.ohiodominican.edu/VisitDay.
27, 28, THURSDAY-SATURDAY
27, 29, SATURDAY
27-29, THURSDAY-SUNDAY
27-29, FRIDAY-SUNDAY
30, SUNDAY
All fund-raising events (festivals, bazaars, spaghetti dinners, fish fries, bake sales, pizza/sub sales, candy sales, etc.) will be placed in the "Fund-Raising Guide." An entry into the Guide will be $18.50 for the first six lines, and $2.65 for each additional line. For more information, call Douglas Bean at 614-224-6530.
Catholic News Agency

It was about 10 or so years ago when Kerry Cronin, a professor at Boston College, noticed something was up with the way her young students were dating – or, rather, not dating.

It was the end of the year and she was talking to a group of bright, charismatic students who were full of plans for their future. Cronin asked her students if graduation meant no more romantic relationships – and she got blank stares.

“They were just really stellar people, beautiful inside and out, and had all kinds of charisma and everything and almost none of them had dated at all in high school or college,” Cronin told CNA. “And I thought wait, what? What’s going on?”

Further conversations with students proved to her that this group of seniors was not an anomaly, but the norm.

“I started talking to them about hook-up culture and how that had impacted dating, and what I realized was that the dating social script was sort of gone,” she said.

And so, like any good professor, Cronin turned the problem into an (extra credit) assignment that she gave to her senior capstone class the following year.

While her students all thought it was a good idea, none of them had asked someone on a date by the end of the semester.

“And I realized they had no idea what I was talking about,” Cronin said.

So she tweaked the assignment to include a set of rules that students had to follow – ask a legitimate romantic interest out on a date. In person. Keep the date 60-90 minutes. Go out to ice cream or coffee – something without drugs or alcohol. You ask, you pay – but a first date should only cost about $10 anyway. The only physical contact should be an A-frame hug.

The idea caught on, and pretty soon these “Cronin dates” were the talk of Boston College. Today Cronin travels the country, speaking to college students about how to date, and continues to give the dating assignment in her classes.

Her renown as the ‘Date Doctor’ reached the ears of Megan Harrington and her colleagues, who were looking to create a documentary about dating in today’s world.

“We had put together a pitch at dinner, and there were 14 women at dinner, two were married and the rest were single, and a lot of us just didn’t know when the last time we went on a date was,” Harrington told CNA. “And we were kind of saying, what is going on?”

After hearing about Cronin, Harrington and her team decided to feature the dating assignment in their new film “The Dating Project” – part dating how-to, part dating documentary.

Besides Cronin’s dating assignment, the film follows five single people of varying ages and backgrounds who are looking for love – two college students, Matt and Shanzi; Cecilia, a 20-something living in Chicago; Rasheeda, a 30-something living in New York; and Chris, a 40-something from Los Angeles.

“Dating, at least here at (Boston College) has kind of a broad, uncertain, ambiguous definition,” Matt says in the film.

“Definitely hooking up is more common on a college campus,” Shanzi adds.

The uncertainty and ambiguity is a constant thread in every storyline. Cecilia wishes her Tinder date would tell her what he wants, Rasheeda can’t remember the last time she was on a real date, or what that even means. Chris is so overwhelmed by online dating he’s not sure where to begin.

The moniker “hooking up” is a term young people have embraced, Cronin noted in the film, because it could mean anything from making out to having sex, and everyone gains some social status from being able to say they “hooked up.”

Cronin tries to help her students see that it’s braver – and ultimately better – to get to know a person before becoming physically intimate with them, something the hook-up culture gets backwards.

“They don’t build great habits for marriage and family. It’s easy to lose someone see your body. It’s hard to let someone see you,” she said.

Harrington said she was “shocked” at the amount of pressure on college kids to be very physical in relationships, “and I think that carries over when you get out of college, this pressure to fit in.”

“I knew it was there and it’s not a new thing, and technology has just made it easier,” she added.

Cronin said that while the hook-up culture is prevalent, she’s found that most students are unhappy with that status quo and are looking for a way out.

“They want the way out but nobody’s offering it to them,” she said.

That’s why the rules for her dating assignment are so important, she noted. It’s not that she wants to return to the 1950s or some other bygone era, she added, but there are good things to be gleaned from these “dating scripts” of yesteryear.

“The rules are to help you so that you know what you’re doing,” Cronin said. “You’re not asking someone on an uber romantic date, this isn’t a candlelit dinner with violins and flowers, this is just a cup of coffee, just to see.”

She put together the “rules” from what she remembered of her own days of dating, as well as advice from friends and feedback from students who have done the assignment, Cronin said.

The students, she added, welcome the dating guidance.

“I am amazed at how much this generation of young adults wants coaching in all areas of their life,” she said. “They are hungry for coaching, and they responded so well to these rules I was amazed. In some ways I have no idea why they would do this, but then they do and they’re happy and they want people to help them navigate situations where they need to be brave.”

Two of the three production companies involved in “The Dating Project” are Christian companies – Paulist Productions and Family Theater Productions. Most of the single people featured in the film end up talking about their faith and values at some point, some more explicitly than others.

Rasheeda is the most outspoken about her Christian faith in the film. At one point, she expresses dismay that she can’t seem to find a man who shares her values and wants something out of dating besides a sexual encounter.

Harrington, herself a Catholic, told CNA that faith wasn’t necessarily meant to be a central theme of the film, but faith and values are a topic that inevitably come up during the dating pro-
The Church that a valid, sacramental bond did not exist between two parties, previously married but now divorced.

The Church sees marriages between the baptized as valid and indissoluble, basing her understanding upon the teachings of Jesus about marriage and divorce as found in the Gospels, especially in Matthew 19:3-9 and Mark 10:3-9.

Because of Christ’s teachings, the Church holds that once husband and wife have exchanged consent, they are married until death. This can be a difficult reality for divorced persons, especially those who may wish to remarry in the Church. Yet the Church also recognizes that for many different reasons a permanent bond was not established at the time of consent and thus, a sacramental union did not exist.

Because of the gravity of Christ’s teaching, however, the Church must examine such cases in an objective way as possible to arrive at the truth about someone’s former marriage.

The Church establishes tribunals to hear petitions of individuals seeking declarations of nullity. Such cases are examined through a judicial process that involves the taking of testimony and the interviewing of parties and witnesses, all while trying to respect the rights of all the parties involved. The tribunal also employs psychologists who help the judge come to a greater understanding of the nature and problems of marriages.

All tribunal procedures are handled in confident manner and have no civil effects. This may seem daunting to outsiders, but the purpose is to help persons arrive at the truth regarding their prior marriage, whether a bond is held as valid or invalid.

Additionally, it is hoped that persons going through a tribunal process will have a greater understanding about their past relationship and also find healing and closure.

The tribunal employs several individual to help process these cases as well as judges. The process is entirely free to those petitioning for declarations of nullity. This has been the policy in the Diocese of Columbus for over two decades.

To help fund its ministry, however, the tribunal relies heavily upon its endowments in The Catholic Foundation. The tribunal hopes to continue this service to the faithful for years to come. Therefore, it relies upon generous donors to endowments, like those in The Catholic Foundation.

Information about making donations can be obtained from The Catholic Foundation. Donations can be made by visiting catholic-foundation.org/tribunalendowment.
HOMILY, continued from Page 2

years before the town became part of the new Diocese of Columbus. I think of what an example that story gives us: when Jacob Dittoe, and other Catholic families in a small community, wrote to the bishop and ask for a priest that they might, finally, attend Mass. And there’s that marvelous story of Fr. Fenwick wandering through the woods — lost — until he heard the chopping of wood. And he followed the sound and he came to an individual and asked him, “I’m looking for Jacob Dittoe. Do you know him?” And the response was, “Father, you found him.” God’s providence is wonderful.

Our memories should also stretch back through the centuries, to the time of the first apostles who gave shape to the Church and left a lasting inheritance for us.

Today, in 2018, I think three virtues should animate our thoughts and hearts: gratitude, fidelity, and hope. Thinking on all those faithful who have preceded us in this diocese, we want to honor them with a renewed memory and a deep gratitude. The many clergy. The men and women religious, working diligently under often difficult conditions. The members of the laity who kept the faith alive in those pioneer days. And the parents who passed on the faith to their children in the home — what the Second Vatican Council called “the domestic church.”

And it is instructive to realize that these Catholic families, in a new land, often isolated, often without a priest to celebrate the sacraments, would still Sunday by Sunday gather, read and meditate upon the scripture readings for that Sunday’s mass, pray the Rosary and other litanies, remembering always, “Keep that faith alive.” And how they rejoiced when a priest like Fr. Fenwick finally came and intensely celebrated all the sacraments that they had so deeply missed.

I think, also, of the many people who have worshiped in this cathedral. And I love to think of their presence still among us. And how their prayers and their devotion soaked this building with that presence and with that power of God’s providence. And we thank them for that. And we pray that we, too, by our devotion, add to that legacy and continue to pass it on.

In remembering them, we who are living now recommit ourselves to persevering, to preserving, and enhancing this inheritance by our devotion to the faith, our attention to the challenges of the present moment, and our desire to pass on the faith to future generations as we look forward to the glorious coming of the Lord.

Faithful Christians live and act between humility and hope. We cannot do everything, but we can do something. And that something is accomplished through the belief that Christ is true to his promises. And whatever good we do in his name, no matter how seemingly small, will be a part of the victory of Christ to be fully revealed at the end of time.

I also bring to your consideration, the patrons of this diocese: St. Francis de Sales, a man of deep humility, great intellect, and a profound love for the people. He suffered from the fact that he had been named the bishop of a city that he could not enter. But yet how diligently he taught and preached, wrote catechisms for the young, counseled the laity, and called them much before the time to realize that all baptized Christians are called to holiness of life. And that call to holiness of life should be attuned to their own particular situation and vocation, but nonetheless insistent that all are called this holiness.

And I think of our secondary patroness, St. Anne the mother of Mary. There is, in the dining room of my residence, a pane in one of the stained glass windows which is very tender. It is a scene of Anne teaching Mary her prayers, opening up sacred scripture to her. And what a model that St. Anne is for all parents to take seriously that promise they made at the baptism of their children: to raise the children in the faith in which they are baptized.

And I pray that all generations — our generation, our present people — join the generations that have preceded us in realizing how fundamentally important that is to furthering the kingdom of God.

There are many claims about what the future of the Church will be. These claims stress particular themes or groups, but we must remember that the future of the Church is the Lord Jesus Christ. Living and spreading the faith is not a matter of particular programs, but a desire to know Christ more deeply, living his life more authentically, and learning the words by which we can proclaim his saving message in our own time and place.

Let us, on this anniversary, live and move and have our being in Christ. That Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, today, and forever.