PERMANENT DEACONS FAITHFULLY SERVE THE DIOCESE OF COLUMBUS
Crisis management in the Church

It would be easy to try to wish away the scandals that have rocked the Catholic Church in America during the past month. Sometimes you can ignore a problem and it will fade from public consciousness, but not in this case. Sometimes things have to get messy before they get better. And that’s where the Church finds itself at the moment.

By now, most Americans have heard about the alleged malfeasance of Archbishop Theodore McCarrick, at one time one of the highest-ranking prelates in the United States, and the disturbing grand jury report in Pennsylvania that documented hundreds of past improprieties by the clergy in six of the state’s dioceses. And late Saturday, Archbishop Carlo Maria Vigano, a former apostolic nuncio to the United States, released an 11-page statement in which he wrote that Pope Francis knew about the allegations of sexual abuse of minors by Priests or Deacons.

There are many good and holy priests and bishops serving God and His Church. So what are the Church and the Holy Father going to do going forward? That’s the question many Catholics are asking.

A number of Church leaders, including Pope Francis in Ireland this past week, have expressed their disappointment about what happened and have vowed to work toward greater transparency and accountability. Some U.S. bishops have announced that they will release a list of the accused in these dioceses or open their records to investigators.

It remains to be seen what systematic actions will be taken to build upon the safeguards the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops put in place starting in 2002 with the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People and the Essential Norms for Diocesan/Episcopal Policies Dealing with Allegations of Sexual Abuse of Minors by Priests or Deacons.

Understandingly, the laity have reacted with deep concern to these reports. While they might feel powerless, there are several ways they can help.

First of all, report any questionable activity you might witness. Don’t stop going to Mass just because you might be disillusioned with the Church.

And pray, fast and do penance for the victims, abusers and enablers. They are most definitely in need of healing.

CORRECTION
A story in the Aug. 26 Catholic Times did not list the telephone number for James Allen, a contact for a retreat sponsored by the Catholic Laymen’s Retreat League from Sept. 7-9 at St. Therese’s Retreat Center. The number is (614) 403-7831.
USCCB president seeks papal audience, answers to questions

Catholic News Service

The president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops said he was “eager for an audience” with Pope Francis to gain his support for the bishops’ plan to respond to the clergy sexual abuse crisis.

In an Aug. 27 statement, Cardinal Daniel N. DiNardo of Galveston-Houston also said that the questions raised by Archbishop Carlo Maria Vigano, former nuncio to the United States, in a letter published by two Catholic media outlets “deserve answers that are conclusive and based on evidence.”

“Without those answers, innocent men may be tainted by false accusations and the guilty may be left to repeat the sins of the past,” the cardinal said.

In his 11-page letter, published Aug. 26, Archbishop Vigano accused church officials, including Pope Francis, of failing to act on accusations of abuse of conscience and power by nuncio to the United States from 2011 to 2016, wrote that he was compelled to write his knowledge of Archbishop McCarrick’s misdeeds because “corruption has reached the very top of the church’s hierarchy.”

In his statement, Cardinal DiNardo reiterated an Aug. 16 call for an apostolic visitation, working with a national commission granted independent authority, to investigate the “many questions surrounding Archbishop McCarrick.”

He also said he convened members of the USCCB Executive Committee on Aug. 26 and that they “reaffirmed the call for a prompt and thorough examination into how the grave moral failings of a brother bishop could have been tolerated for so long and proven no impediment to his advancement.”

The plan earlier outlined by Cardinal DiNardo also called for detailed proposals to make reporting of abuse and misconduct by bishops easier and improve procedures for resolving complaints against bishops.

Cardinal DiNardo again apologized to abuse survivors and their families. “You are no longer alone,” he said.

The statement explained how since 2002, professionally trained staff have worked with the U.S. church to support survivors and prevent future abuse. Cardinal DiNardo pointed to the steps the church has put in place in response to abuse, including the zero-tolerance policy regarding clergy abuse; safe environment training in diocesan offices, parishes and schools; background checks for church workers and volunteers working around children; victim assistance coordinators; prompt reporting to civil authorities; and diocesan lay review boards.

“In other ways, we have failed you. This is especially true for adults being sexually harassed by those in positions of power and for any abuse or harassment perpetuated by a bishop,” Cardinal DiNardo said.

“We will do better. The more she is buffeted by storms, the more I am reminded that the church’s firm foundation is Jesus Christ. The failures of men cannot diminish the light of the Gospel.”

Two parishes to host ‘Surviving Divorce’ programs

There are few topics more challenging in the Church today than divorce. Not only is the reality of divorce incredibly painful for those involved, but few seem to understand what the Catholic Church teaches on the topic. As a result, many divorced people stop attending Mass or leave the faith altogether.

Whether they experienced divorce years ago or are in the midst of it now, they often feel rejection and shame. Many also fear being judged by their communities. They have questions, and it seems that many people who minister to the laity are paralyzed when attempting to give meaningful answers.

In response to these concerns, two Columbus-area parishes are offering “Surviving Divorce: Hope and Healing for the Catholic Family,” a program of hope and healing.

The program will be presented beginning at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 19 at Powell St. Joan of Arc Church, 10700 Liberty Road, and at the same time Wednesday, Oct. 3 at Grove City Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, 3730 Broadway, continuing through the next 12 weeks at both locations.

Because of the sensitive nature of the program and to build relationships and confidentiality, no new participants will be admitted after the first three weeks.

The program offers answers and guidance to the many issues surrounding divorce, annulments, remarriage, parenting, and more. Its goal is to bring the divorced through emotional healing with the power of forgiveness, and into a more vibrant relationship with Christ and the Church.

Each session begins with a 30-minute video presentation addressing a specific topic, followed by small-group discussion. Participants will receive a workbook that contains all the points shared and discussed throughout the program. The only charge for the program is a suggested $10 charge for the book.

Keith Luscher, director of the Non Solum Columbus group for separated and divorced Catholics, which is sponsoring the program, said it will help participants discover how to work through the emotions of separation and divorce; experience personal healing and hope; gain wisdom and comfort from others who share their experiences; address questions of forgiveness and new family dynamics; and obtain an understanding of the annulment process.

“Divorce is one of the most significant factors that drive Catholics away from the Church,” Luscher said. “In fact, there are simply too many myths and misunderstandings, often among Catholics themselves, about the issue.” He points out that “divorce does not mean excommunication, the annulment process does not render children ‘illegitimate,’ and the Catholic Church never will abandon any person who may have been abandoned by his or her spouse.”

Those interested in participating are asked to RSVP so that enough books and materials will be available at the sites. Contacts are Jeanne Falter at (614) 778-0736 or jeanefalt@aol.com and Joe Scarpitti at (614) 571-6394 or scarpij@gmail.com at St. Joan of Arc, and Marti Hurd at (614) 875-3322, extension 318 or mhurd@ourladyofperpetualhelp.net and Patrick McMillan at (614) 288-1278 or mcmillan1952@hotmail.com at Our Lady of Perpetual Help.
Have Faith in Education
By Adam Dufault

Prayers for a new school year

When I served as an elementary school principal in the Archdiocese of Chicago, the first day of school was one of my favorite days of the year. It was not because the building was returning to life after a summer of cleaning and planning, but because of the joy I saw in the returning children. Students ran inside, excited to return to classes, to reconnect with old friends, and to share their news of summer adventures. Uniform shirts were the cleanest that they would be all year long. Teachers were ready to start their work with a new group of students. The first day is a time of eager anticipation of the good things to come.

Last week, those same first-day scenes played out across the Diocese of Columbus as classes began at most of our 53 schools. More than 15,000 students returned to classes, settling into new classrooms and ready to learn.

I had the privilege of joining the students and faculty at St. Mary School in German Village on their first day to attend their annual Schulzeit ceremony. Staying true to the school’s German heritage, first-graders were presented with gigantic paper cones stuffed with school supplies, books, and more goodies during an assembly. This models the traditional German practice of welcoming the youngest students into the school community and wishing them Gruss Gott – all the wonderful blessings of God – as they embark on their academic journeys. As the grateful recipient of my own Schulzeit, I can tell you that it is a great way to start a new year.

And what a blessing these children already have received simply by being enrolled in a Catholic school. It is truly a generous gift from their parents. Pope St. John Paul II once said, “Catholic education aims not only to communicate facts, but also to transmit a coherent, comprehensive vision of life, in the conviction that the truths contained in that vision liberate students in the most profound meaning of human freedom” (Address during ad limina visit to U.S. in 1988). I once heard the late Cardinal Francis George of Chicago echo these words by describing Catholic education as the only “truly free education possible.” In this statement, he spoke not about financial costs, but about the same true freedom mentioned by the late Holy Father. Our children are free to learn in an academically rigorous environment that continues to be on the leading edge of education, with initiatives such as support to children with special needs, standards-based grading, and the investment in forward-looking STEM programs. They are free to participate in top-notch athletics, extracurriculars, and fine arts programs. But most importantly, our students are in the only place where they can freely encounter Jesus Christ and be formed into disciples through an environment of faith, prayer and service that forms the solid foundation of Catholic education. Nowhere else is this possible, other than through the valuable gift of our Catholic schools.

We are blessed to be in a diocese where Catholic education is available for children beginning at six weeks old (at Our Lady of Bethlehem School and Childcare in Columbus), continuing through 41 other elementary schools and 11 high schools, and leading right into undergraduate and graduate programs at Ohio Dominican University. As this year begins, I’d like to ask for your continued prayers for our schools, our students and their families, and our teachers and administrators. It’s going to be a great year!

Adam Dufault is the Episcopal Moderator for Education and Superintendent of Catholic Schools of the Diocese of Columbus.

DeSales announces two appointments

Columbus St. Francis DeSales High School has appointed Tim Jewett as advancement director and Allison Grosik as campus ministry director. Jewett has spent the last two years in the school’s enrollment office working with new students and international student admissions. He previously was an English teacher and track and field coach at the high school level and was employed by Bob Evans Farms, Cigna, and The Sherwin-Williams Co. He received a bachelor of arts degree from John Carroll University and continued postgraduate studies at Otterbein University.

Grosik, a 2011 DeSales graduate, attended St. Francis (Pennsylvania) University, earning a bachelor of arts degree in psychology. She was awarded a master of education degree in school counseling by California University of Pennsylvania. She is also a nationally certified counselor.

Watterson inducts seven into athletic hall

Columbus Bishop Watterson High School inducted seven new members into its athletic hall of fame last weekend. They joined 41 others connected with the school’s athletic program who have received the honor since the hall was established in 2014.

The new inductees were: David Brown, basketball (1987-89); Scott Dockter, tennis (1981-85); Denny English and Jason Homorody, doubles tennis (1989-91); Chuck Gleich, boys and girls volleyball coach (1987-2012); Steve Shoemaker, baseball (1985-88); and Kelli Stein, swimming (1997-2000).

The inductees were introduced at halftime of Watterson’s football game against Dublin Jerome on Friday, Aug. 24. A brunch and induction ceremony took place Sunday, Aug. 26 in Dominican Hall at the school, 99 E. Cooke Rd.

Backpacks blessed at St. Bernadette

Students at Lancaster St. Bernadette School had their backpacks blessed on the first day of school. Father Ty Tomson, pastor of St. Bernadette Church, told them, “A blessing makes things special for God. Because we are a Catholic school, everything we do, even homework, we do for God.”

Photo courtesy St. Bernadette School
St. Mary of the Springs 150th anniversary

Gravates of the former Columbus St. Mary of the Springs Academy are celebrating a pair of milestones this year – the 150th anniversary of the school’s founding and the 20th anniversary of the Jubilee Museum in Columbus, which has a room dedicated to the institution. The academy for girls was founded in 1868 by the Dominican Sisters, who came to Columbus after a fire in 1866 destroyed their academy in Somerset, where they had been since 1830. Businessman Theodore Leonard offered the sisters land if they would relocate to Columbus. The sisters gave the school and their congregation the name of St. Mary of Springs because the former Leonard property included several natural springs. On the same land, the congregation established St. Mary of the Springs College (now Ohio Domini- can University) in 1924. The academy existed until 1966, and the building that housed it was torn down in the 1970s. It is pictured above, along with a photo of the school’s 1908-09 basketball team. The committee in charge of the academy’s room at the museum is looking for yearbooks, autograph books, graduation dresses, and any other items related to the school which have been kept by graduates or handed down to their families. Recent gifts of this type include an 1888-89 autograph book and a 1917 yearbook. The committee also is looking for financial donations to pay for painting, plastering and general maintenance of the room. For more information, write to Carol Bringardner Klunk, 3002 Plymouth Ave., Columbus OH 43209, or contact Ann Seren at annseren57@gmail.com or (614) 237-1379.

Photos courtesy Ann Seren

Columbus Catholic Renewal sponsoring two events

The Columbus Catholic Renewal organization is sponsoring a praise and healing Mass on Saturday, Sept. 8 and a retreat for women from Friday to Sunday, Oct. 19 to 21.

The Mass will take place at Columbus Holy Cross Church, 204 S. 5th St. The program will begin at 3 p.m. with the Chaplet of Divine Mercy, followed by contemporary praise and worship, with teams available for individual prayer.

Mass is scheduled at 5:15 p.m., with Father Dean Mathewson as the celebrant. The Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick will be available after Mass. Fellowship will follow.

The retreat will take place at St. Therese’s Retreat Center, 5277 E. Broad St., Columbus. It will be led by Jane Barz, who has been a liaison for the national Catholic Charismatic Renewal group for 17 years and has been a member of its national service committee. To register for the event and for more information, contact Columbus Catholic Renewal at (614) 980-3021.

The Columbus Catholic Renewal is under the authority of Bishop Frederick Campbell through its liaison to the bishop, Father Mathewson. For more information, send an email to info@ccrcolumbus.org or call (614) 500-8178.

ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR
POSITION AVAILABLE

The Catholic Diocese of Columbus is looking for a fulltime Associate Director for the Office of Catholic Ethnic Ministry. The essential job responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

1. Manage and support the basic policies and procedures of the day-to-day operations of the office. Assist with the office budget, ongoing formation for the office’s staff, and oversight of administrative support assistants helping the office.

2. Oversee, under the supervision of the Director, the office’s Catholic Latino Ministry efforts, including interaction and collaboration with the office’s Latino Catholic consultative board.

3. Support and work with all other ministerial activities associated with and populations served by the Office, including the African-American, African, and Asian/Asian-American communities. Work with consultative bodies appointed by the Diocese to represent these broad ethnic/national groups.

4. Provide support for clergy assigned to care for specific ethnic/national communities and those communities’ lay leadership. Additionally, provide support of clergy and religious vocations and ministry formation specific to these communities, as warranted.

5. Help represent the Diocese at local and national conferences, on various committees, and at public events.

6. Help solicit grants for projects in ethnic ministries, including the office’s collaboration with the Office of Development and Planning to support stewardship education and formation among Catholic ethnic/national communities.

Job Related Skills: The ideal applicant must be a practicing Catholic and exhibit the ability to effectively communicate both in written format and oral presentation; ability to maintain organization, multi-task and establish priorities; exhibits initiative, responsibility and flexibility. In addition, this position requires the ability to work with others in a diverse and collaborative team environment and be proficient in MS Office software (Word, Excel) and Google Apps.

Education/Experience: A Bachelor’s degree in ethnic ministry or a related field is required; a master’s degree in the same is preferred. The ability to be bilingual in Spanish and English is mandatory for this position. Three to five years of experience in ethnic ministry settings is required.

Compensation, Benefits & Requirements: 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” program. Benefits are according to Diocesan policy. Send cover letter, resume, and three references by:

Monday, September 17, 2018 to Dominic Prunte, HR Director at dprunte@columbuscatholic.org.
Is death penalty out completely?

QUESTION & ANSWER
Father Kenneth Doyle
Catholic News Service

Q I have always been against the death penalty -- since the prisoner is behind bars and removed from doing further harm to the public. But a recent piece in The Wall Street Journal included statements by criminals who said that they were not as aggressive with victims when they knew there was a death penalty -- so it does seem to have served as a deterrent and to have saved some lives.

I still, though, don’t believe that society should take a life of someone who might need more time to turn to God, and I’m wondering whether the pope’s recent pronouncement removes the death penalty completely from the Catholic conversation. (Chesapeake, Virginia)

A According to a revision of the Catechism of the Catholic Church ordered by Pope Francis in August, the use of the death penalty is now a settled question in Catholic moral teaching: The church stands opposed to it.

The text of the catechism will now say that the death penalty “is inadmissible because it is an attack on the inviolability and dignity of the human person.” That language replaces a text in place since 1997 (No. 2267) that had permitted capital punishment in exceptional cases “if this is the only possible way of effectively defending human lives against the unjust aggressor.”

The new text will note that, in present-day society, “more effective systems of detention have been developed, which ensure the due protection of citizens but, at the same time, do not definitively deprive the guilty of the possibility of redemption.”

Far from marking a radical change in the church’s position, the new revision simply elucidates what has been a developing church teaching over a number of years. St. John Paul II in his 1995 encyclical Evangelium Vitae (The Gospel of Life) had written in opposition to the death penalty, and he, Pope Benedict XVI and Pope Francis had regularly pleaded for clemency and stays of execution for inmates on death row.

In 2015, Pope Francis had called capital punishment “cruel, inhumane and degrading” and said that it “does not bring justice to the victims, but only foments revenge.”

The Catholic Church, with this latest clarification, makes clear that no matter how horrendous the crime perpetrated, civil society has no right to “play God” and decide that a prisoner’s life on earth is over. The death penalty, said Pope Francis in announcing the revised text, “is, in itself, contrary to the Gospel, because a decision is voluntarily made to suppress a human life, which is always sacred in the eyes of the Creator and ... in the last analysis, only God can be the true judge and guarantor.”

The Vatican announcement reflects a worldwide trend. Today, more than 140 countries have eliminated the death penalty or simply stopped executions by de facto moratoriums.

Q Our parish uses the Nicene Creed at Mass, which includes the phrase “for us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven.” Why isn’t the phrase gender-neutral? It makes me feel marginalized as a woman.

Christ gave us an example of how to pray in the Lord’s Prayer: “Give us this day … forgive us our trespasses.” Why doesn’t the church follow his example on deciding the wording of the creed? (Bloomington, Indiana)

A The English wording of the Nicene Creed -- “for us men” -- is actually a mistranslation. The Latin wording is propter nos homines, and in Latin the word homo is generic; it means “person” or “human being.” (By contrast, the Latin word vir is used when one wishes to denote a male individual.)

At the Masses I celebrate, I resolve the issue in a pastoral way by simply skipping over the word “men” and saying “for us ... and for our salvation he came down from heaven.” (The other option, of course -- permitted by the liturgical guidelines -- is to use the Apostles’ Creed instead of the Nicene Creed.)

Questions may be sent to Father Kenneth Doyle at askfatherdoyle@gmail.com and 30 Columbia Circle Drive, Albany NY 12203.
Can We Pay Others to Donate a Kidney?

Often we envision donating our organs after we are dead, but we can also choose to become an organ donor while we are alive if we share part of our liver or donate one of our kidneys. The proposal to give one of our two kidneys away, though, does raise some ethical and safety concerns. There can be long-term risks for the donor. Donating a kidney, moreover, would not be therapeutic for us — only for someone else — and in fact might slightly increase our own risk for experiencing renal failure in the future.

Clearly we have a general duty to respect the integrity of our body. This means we shouldn’t cause injury to it, or damage it, for example, through surgeries or treatments that are not necessary to preserve our health or save our life. In light of these considerations, donating one of our kidneys would seem to run counter to our responsibility to maintain bodily integrity.

Yet the notion of integrity can also be understood in a broader sense; namely, as functional integrity, so that if one of our kidneys were removed without imposing undue risk and without a significant loss of blood-filtering function, then we could say that the functional integrity of our renal system was preserved. In that case, the removal of one of our kidneys, as a sacrificial act and for a proportionate reason, such as saving or improving another person’s life, could be justified. This is what the Church affirms.

A further ethical concern, however, centers on the fact that the decision to donate must be made freely by the donor, and consent should be given without any undue pressure. This means that offering payments for organs is fundamentally coercive and unethical.

We face a serious shortage of available kidneys for transplant in the U.S. Average wait times for a kidney are approaching five years, and about 15 to 20 people die each day while waiting for an organ — the majority for a kidney. In August of 2018, I participated in a conversation with some of the health policy team at the White House as they considered possible strategies for increasing the supply of live donor kidneys. We discussed the ethical, legal, economic and health implications of some proposed solutions, including the proposal to reward organ donation by providing various non-cash benefits.

During the White House meeting, some parties to the discussion offered recommendations that the government provide lifetime guaranteed coverage of all future medical expenses, or lifetime health insurance, to every person who becomes a living kidney donor. I emphasized that we should not be “encouraging” donation by offering “incentives” to donors as a direct benefit at all. Offering lifetime health insurance or similar proposals would, in my view, constitute a form of payment or “valuable consideration” offered to the donor, and would again raise the problem of improperly incentivizing the donation of organs, pressuring someone to consider donating as a way to secure lifetime health insurance coverage.

When Congress passed the National Organ Transplant Act in 1984, this concern about incentivizing donations was directly addressed. This law prohibits the purchase of organs or any exchange of “valuable consideration.” This same law, however, clearly permits reimbursement of various expenses associated with the transplant, such as travel costs to get to the hospital in order to have the kidney removed, temporary housing at the time of surgery, lost wages incurred in connection with the donation of the organ, etc.

Providing reimbursement of expenses should not be viewed as encouraging or incentivizing the donation itself, but rather as “eliminating disincentives,” or “removing hindrances or roadblocks.” An organ donor should not have to assume extra personal expense or take on other heavy burdens to be able freely to help out another patient who would benefit from receiving his or her kidney.

From the ethical point of view, our ultimate goal should be not so much to “incentivize donation,” as to “support or encourage personal generosity” on the part of those individuals who may desire to donate freely one of their kidneys. The distinction is an important one. At the end of the day, we want people to become organ donors, not organ vendors. Human organs and tissues, because of their close proximity and connection to our human identity, cannot be reduced to commodities to be acquired or sold on an open market. We must do what we can, legally and otherwise, to safeguard the generosity of the organ donor’s freely chosen act and prevent others, especially the poor and disadvantaged, from being exploited because they need money, health care, or other “incentives.”

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

PDHC plans celebrations of life in September

The Pregnancy Decision Health Centers invite the community to join them in Columbus and Lancaster for two celebrations of life. The events will take place at 7 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 13 at Lancaster Fisher Catholic High School, 1803 Granville Pike, and at the same time Thursday, Sept. 20 at Villa Milano, 1630 Schrock Road, Columbus.

The events will feature music by George Dennehy, who sings and plays songs from his heart, using his feet, because he was born without arms. His Instagram handle and Twitter account name is #ThatArmlessGuy.

Because he has overcome so many challenges, starting with his brush with death in a Romanian orphanage before an American family adopted him at age one, he believes that every individual has a purpose and anything is possible. He started his musical journey by learning to play the cello at age eight, and since then has taught himself to play the guitar, electric bass, and basic piano.

The celebrations will raise money for PDHC, a nonprofit organization that empowers women and families to make healthy life choices, including parenting or adoption during an unexpected pregnancy. PDHC has more than 100 volunteers who make it possible for the organization to have an average of 180 interactions each day through its intervention, prevention, extension and recovery programs.

“PDHC helped more than 12,000 people in the last year, and we need to celebrate that,” said the organization’s development director, Kathy Scanlon. “Women and families are empowered when they come to PDHC. They are shown that they are not alone and they can be successful parents.”

There is no charge to attend either event. The deadline for registration is Monday, Sept. 10. For more information and to register, visit www.SupportPDHC.org/celebratelife.
Loving Mary enough to nickname her

By Sarah Reinhard

When my second daughter was born, I was not prepared for how her big sister, age 3 1/2, would react. She had watched with great interest as my belly grew and she knew — though she didn’t really understand — that a baby would somehow be coming out of there.

When the baby was born, my three-year-old loved the baby, though that was no surprise; I knew she would be my helper and cheerleader because that’s her nature. I wasn’t surprised that she had big plans for playing with the baby, and I nodded when I saw her pick out clothes every morning and afternoon.

The real surprise came with the nicknaming. And the delight has been that it has continued as we’ve had more children.

My oldest, who always had been verbose, immediately began coming up with pet names for her sister, and some of them have stuck. I thought for sure that baby would enter high school answering to “Noonie.” We discouraged some of them as inappropriate (though accurate, such as “Poop-poops”), but couldn’t help joining in ourselves.

I realized in the midst of watching this that we have a family habit of nicknames. A favorite aunt was “Aunt Bug” or “Pitty,” while her husband was “Uncle Dee.” When my oldest was just learning to talk, “Padre,” our parish priest, was translated as “Wobby.”

I’ve found myself adopting my daughter’s nicknames for my own use. I still call that beloved priest “Wobby” every so often, especially when I’m feeling particularly fond of him. He is close to my heart, after all, and has walked with me down the path to conversion to Catholicism and conversion within Catholicism, even as he’s been a family friend and an employer and my younger daughter’s godfather.

It seems only natural to call my mother-in-law “Mimi,” just as my children do, because of the love that flows from the name as I say it. It was supposed to be “Grammy,” but I love it more for the modification a small mouth made to it. She’s done so much for me, been such a loving example, prayed and encouraged and shared ... how can I not refer to her intimately and with love?

A few years ago, my husband nicknamed a niece “Mabel,” and we now call her that. We can’t help it any more than we can help any of the other name modifications in our life. It just fits.

When I hear my children calling me “Momalee” or “Gobbgees” or some other strange-sounding sobriquet, I smile.

After all, you only nickname those you love.

And so, when I read about “Cachita,” Cubans’ nickname for Our Lady of Charity, I felt tears stinging my eyes. Once again, the most famous mother, the Virgin Mary, inspired an entire people to nickname her. “Cachita” is a familiar nickname, one that comes from the heart, the sort of nickname you would give a favorite aunt or a dear grandmother.

She’s more formally known as Our Lady of Charity or La Virgen de la Caridad del Cobre. Sometime between 1604 and 1612, depending on the source, three young boys headed across Cuba to the Bay of Nipe for salt. They were native Indian brothers Rodrigo and Juan de Hoyos and their slave, Juan Morena. History remembers them as “the three Juanas.”

Salt was an important part of life in the early 17th century, and these three needed to get it for meat preservation at the local slaughterhouse, which supplied residents and workers at the Spanish copper mines near Santiago.

While they were out on the bay, a storm took them by surprise and terrified them. Probably inspired by the medal of Mary that Juan Morena was wearing, the three began to pray for her protection in the midst of the waves and lightning. I wonder if they thought it would work. It always sounds good to say that you prayed for Mary to help you, but did they really believe it at the time?

Whether they did or not, Mary must have had a hand in the sudden calm and the disappearance of the storm. How else can you explain the object mysteriously floating in the water some way from their boat, or their discovering that it was a dry statue of Mary? The statue was attached to a board reading Yo Soy la Virgen de la Caridad, or “I am the Virgin of Charity.” She was holding Jesus with her right arm and a gold cross in her left hand, dressed in a real cloth gown and robe and with real hair. Her skin was that of a mixed woman, either a mestiza or a mulata.

In the 16-inch statue, Mary’s feet are on a moon, with silver clouds and three angels spreading golden wings. Jesus, resting on Mary’s arm, holds a gold globe and raises his other hand in blessing. A heavy cloak covers the entire statue.

Many devoted followers have changed the statue’s original white clothing so that Mary is wearing a white robe and a blue veil and Jesus is in red, which are also the colors of the Cuban flag. She also has been depicted in a heavy white dress with gold threads with a Cuban national shield embroidered on the skirt.

In the centuries since her appearance on the Bay of Nipe, the Virgin of Charity has come to represent the heart of Cuban Catholic devotion. Wherever refugees have settled, and despite persecution from communists on the island, Cachita’s followers remain loyal. She’s a unifying factor in a people who are oppressed in their home country and spread around the globe as refugees.

The Child Jesus holds the globe in his hand, even as Mary holds Him. The statue speaks to me of the love she must have for each one of us. Maybe our oppression doesn’t involve communists, but sin can so very easily weigh us down with its promise of an easy answer, a quick recovery, a fast escape.

Sarah Rinehard is a Catholic wife, mother, and convert who writes from central Ohio with a sidekick of coffee and a yard full of critters. Get her Catholic take every weekday in your inbox by signing up at SnoringScholar.com.
Deacon Felix Azzola of Delaware St. Mary Church felt called in his youth to be a missionary. He says that call has been answered in his life, but not in the way he expected.

Deacon Azzola grew up in Italy, where he attended a seminary run by the PIME missionary order, then was sent to the United States to study theology at the Pontifical College Josephinum. “While there, it was recommended that I choose another path,” he said. “I thought I had given up my ambition to be a missionary, but in time I became a deacon. After five or 10 years in that role, I realized that the United States is really a mission territory as well, because the practice of the faith here is so weak.

“As I baptized people and presided over weddings and validations of civil marriages, in which at least one partner was Catholic, I learned how out of sync many Catholics and others are when it comes to understanding Catholic doctrine. I saw the need for strengthening the Catholic faith in this area. I came to understand that my own parish is a mission field, and that my mission for the last 29 years has been to strengthen, whenever possible, the Catholic faith at Delaware St. Mary.”

Deacon Azzola was the seventh of eight children born to a stonemason and his wife at Pradalunga in northern Italy. “Most people there lived in buildings with six or seven families, but as soon as my father could, he built a house for the family. I still own the ground floor of that house,” he said.

The deacon, his wife, Melanie, and members of his family return to the house at least once a year. The Azzolas have five children, ages 43 to 30, and two grandchildren, Leo and Ryan, both age 5. “My children want to go there often, so they can see experience their Italian heritage,” he said. “They know the area quite well, including all the shortcuts through the mountains and hills, and are recognized by the relatives and the people in town.”

Pradalunga is about 20 minutes from the village of Sotto il Monte, where Pope St. John XXIII grew up. Deacon Azzola has been the leader of several pilgrimages to the two towns and said it’s likely there will be another one next year. “My heart is always half there and half here,” he said. He also led pilgrimages to the Holy Land in 2015 and 2017.

The road to becoming a deacon took Deacon Azzola, 74, from Italy to central Ohio and back to Italy before he returned to this area for the second and final time.

After studying theology for two years at the Josephinum, he left the seminary in 1968. He remained in the Columbus area, receiving a bachelor of arts degree in philosophy and Latin from Ohio Dominican College (now Ohio Dominican University) in 1969 and a master of arts degree in classical languages from The Ohio State University in 1970, and doing advanced graduate studies in Latin at OSU in 1970 and 1971.

He went back to Italy when his father died, and because he was back in his own country, he had to serve a year-and-a-half in the Italian army. Afterward, he returned to Columbus, where on Oct. 28, 1972, he married Melanie, whom he had met at OSU.

From 1973 to 2008, he was an educator, primarily teaching students with learning and behavioral disorders in the Columbus city schools. He earned a master of arts degree in special education from OSU in 1976. His final five years with the school system were spent as its coordinator of federal and state programs for nonpublic schools.

He served as principal of Delaware St. Mary School from 1978-83 and of Hilliard St. Brendan School from 1984-90. He also has been an adjunct professor of Italian and Latin at Columbus State Community College and at Otterbein University and of communication across cultures at Ohio Dominican.

The Azzolas have been members of Delaware St. Mary Church since 1978. After being involved in youth ministry, RCIA, and the Parish Council for several years, Deacon Azzola began considering the diaconate. “It seemed a natural progression, because I had my theological training earlier and had a great desire to become more actively involved in ministry to the parish,” he said.

He was ordained to the diaconate by Bishop James Griffin on Aug. 5, 1989, the liturgical memorial of the dedication of the Basilica of St. Mary Major in Rome. This is the same date as the annual celebration of the Marian Shrine of the Forcella, an important event in his hometown. He said that since his vocation originated in Pradalunga under the shadow of that shrine, he wanted to recognize Mary’s role in that vocation.

“I can see Mary’s fingerprints everywhere in my life,” he said. “She has been a guiding star, definitely present in many places. Devotion to Mary is the sure way to salvation, especially in these times. When we go to Italy, the first thing we do on arriving and the last thing on leaving is to go the Marian shrine in my hometown and thank Mary for a safe arrival and pray for a safe return to the States.”

Deacon Azzola is part of a Cenacle of Mary group which recites the rosary at his church on the first Saturday of each month. “It’s really good being part of a parish with a strong devotional life, both Marian and Eucharistic. We have weekly Eucharistic Adoration and an annual procession on the Feast of Corpus Christi,” he said.

“One of the things I would like to do is to form a small group to sing Gregorian chant. I sing it at Masses on suitable occasions, and the people find it’s easy to pick it up and sing it as well. The treasures found in Gregorian chant are worthy of being passed on to the next generation.”

Deacon Azzola has spent all 29 of his years as a deacon serving his home parish, except for the period from 2014 to 2016, when he was at Columbus St. John the Baptist Church because the parish needed someone who speaks Italian. St. John the Baptist was set up in 1896 for people who spoke Italian and did not know English, and retains the distinction of being an Italian national parish.

“My greatest satisfaction about being a deacon has been that I have been in this parish for so long that now I am able to see people whom I baptized as children bringing their own children and sometimes grandchildren for baptism,” he said. “The parishioners here have been so loving and kind, and to see them growing in the faith has encouraged me to continue my work.”

He officially retired in 2017, “but I’m still here at the parish nearly every day. Retirement just means it’s for fewer hours,” he said.

Deacon Azzola said his biggest challenge as a deacon has been balancing his family responsibilities with the needs of the parish. “Being faithful to both the vows of marriage and the vows of ministry is difficult,” he said. “That’s why Melanie’s support has been and is so important. She’s a real positive influence who keeps me grounded, and takes on more than her share of household tasks so I can dedicate myself to the diaconal ministry at my parish.

“She’s grateful to her for that commitment.”

“The calling to the diaconate requires you to be a more serious follower of Jesus and to pray more often,” Deacon Azzola said. “The ministry is a fertile ground for practicing many virtues, especially the virtues of being more reflective, patient, and forgiving. The Lord has given me a lot of gifts and challenges. Looking back, I just trusted that things would work out, and they have. Praise God!”
The essence of a deacon’s role in the Catholic Church can be found in the Greek words from which the English word ‘deacon’ is derived – diakonos, or servant, and diakonia, or service to others.

“A deacon is an icon of Jesus as servant,” said Deacon Frank Iannarino, director of the diocesan Office of the Diaconate. “Given the grace of Holy Orders, a deacon helps the Church in its ministry of Word, Altar, and Charity, helping the bishop fulfill his own role as deacon.”

The order of deacon goes back to the earliest days of the Church, when seven men were ordained as deacons to serve the community of believers in Jerusalem.

Today, all men who are ordained priests are first ordained as deacons, serving in that role usually for a year. The diaconate also included laymen for the Church’s first 500 years or so, but lay deacons essentially disappeared from the Church for the next 1,500 years or so until the Second Vatican Council document Lumen Gentium recommended restoration of the permanent diaconate.

Pope Paul VI implemented that recommendation in 1967. One year later, the permanent diaconate was restored in the United States.

“It’s no accident that the diaconate is the first of the Holy Orders,” Deacon Iannarino said. “If you talk to most deacons in the diocese, they say they already had been serving their parish for years, were looking for a way to extend that service to the universal Church, and wanted to help others embrace the idea of being servant ministers.”

That’s why Deacon Roger Pry, who on March 25, 1975, became the first permanent deacon ordained for the Diocese of Columbus, was interested in the diaconate. “I knew I wasn’t called to the priesthood, but I wanted to serve God in some way,” said Deacon Pry, who in his 43 years as a deacon has served Columbus St. Augustine Church until 2001 and Canal Winchester St. John XXIII Church since then.

Because the Columbus diocese had not started a training program for deacons, he began training for the diaconate in 1972 in a former seminary near Crestline in the Diocese of Toledo. Training for the diaconate for the Diocese of Columbus began in 1974 at Sacred Heart Seminary in Shelby, with the program being transferred to the Pontifical College Josephinum in Columbus in 1982.

“In those days, people had many questions concerning what a deacon could do—whether he was able to bless things, for instance,” Deacon Pry said. Deacons indeed can bless religious items; more significantly, they also can preside at baptisms, marriages, and funerals, with pastoral permission. At Mass, they lead the community in the penitential act (“Lord, have mercy”), preach, lead the Prayer of the Faithful, accept and prepare the gifts of bread and wine at the altar, invite the community to express the Sign of Peace, assist in distribution of the Eucharist, and dismiss the community.

On the altar, they are recognizable by their distinctive vestment, the dalmatic, a long, wide-sleeved tunic given that name because of its origins in Dalmatia, now part of Croatia.

“Even after 43 years, people still are uncertain about what a deacon can do,” Deacon Pry said. “Earlier this summer, I was the only clergy member one night at Vacation Bible School at my church. People asked ‘How can he have a wife and kids?’ not realizing deacons can be married. People also don’t understand that because they have taken a vow of chastity, deacons generally are not free to remarry if they are widowed, unless they obtain special permission from the Vatican.”

Deacon Iannarino, who also is religious education director at Columbus Bishop Watterson High School, says there are 107 permanent deacons ordained for the Diocese of Columbus, some of whom serve in other dioceses. Applicants for the diaconate can be between 32 and 60 years old. The diocese’s current deacons range in age from 39 to 93.

One of the two oldest deacons is Deacon Tom Johnston, who was ordained in 1985 and retired in 2015, serving at Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral for his entire diaconal career. He also was associate director of the Office of the Diaconate from 1987-2004, and, like Deacon Pry, taught for more than 30 years in the Columbus public schools.

“After a deacon turns 70, he has to tell the bishop each year whether he wishes to continue,” Deacon Johnston said. "I wasn’t ordained until I was 60, but I was fortunate enough to be in good health for many years, allowing me to continue.

“Finally in 2015, I got a letter from Bishop (Frederick) Campbell asking me to come to his office for a talk. He said people had noticed some things about me that caused them concern, so I agreed to retire because I had taken a vow of obedience. I still minister pastorally, but not liturgically.”

Deacon Johnston describes the diaconate as “a ministry of encounter, where you get to talk about Jesus and the Catholic Church in everyday ways and places a priest often doesn’t have the chance to get.
Deacon Iannarino said that in most cases, including his own, people recognize active Catholic layman with the potential to be a deacon and tell them to consider the diaconate. That was the case with Deacon Jim Kelly, who was ordained in 2008 and has served at Reynoldsburg St. Pius X Church or the past 10 years.

“A number of people whom I really trusted said they would think about becoming a deacon,” he said. “So I took the necessary preliminary classes, put in an application, and began my four years of diaconal training in 2004.”

Formation classes for the diaconate are on a four-year cycle. A new class of 10 candidates began its cycle this year, so there will not be another class until 2022.

“I have been so blessed in my life, so I ultimately decided I would try studying for the diaconate. But that didn’t come without a lot of long, hard thought of every reason I shouldn’t do it. That included the example of my father,” a deacon ordained in 1979 and serving in Parkersburg, West Virginia, Deacon Kelly said. “I thought ‘My kids are too young.’ He reminded me that his kids, including me, were about the same age when he was in diaconal training.”

Deacon Kelly, deputy director for research and drafting at the Ohio Legislative Services Commission, said what he enjoys most about being a deacon is “walking with people in their faith, whether through RCIA, presiding at Catholic marriage ceremonies and those in which civil marriages are validated by the Church, delivering Communion at hospitals and homes, or just talking to people after Mass and hearing what’s on their minds. The people I minister to also minister to me as I see the depth of their faith.

“Probably my biggest challenge comes in preparing for the homilies I deliver on certain Sundays. There’s a strong awareness that your task is to break open the Word of God. This is something I always take seriously in the hope that through the Holy Spirit, what I say will plant a seed that will grow. Once I deliver the homily, it’s out of my hands. It’s the Holy Spirit’s work.”

Deacon Kelly and the other deacons interviewed for this story all stressed the importance of having a strong, supportive family in allowing them to fulfill their calling. A deacon’s wife has to be a practicing Catholic.

“Knowing that your wife and children are backing you up is indispensable,” he said. “As a deacon, your first vocation is to be a husband and father. If the family isn’t on board, your second vocation (to the diaconate) won’t work. Sometimes I have to be away from home or leave my job and head straight for church. They understand this, and they contribute to whatever success I have as a deacon by their patience and willingness to share me with the Church.”

“You (deacons) are part of two worlds,” Bishop Frederick Campbell said last year as he delivered the keynote speech to the National Association of Diaconate Directors convention in Columbus. “You are clerics – there is no such thing as a lay deacon – but you also have a profession and are part of a world in which your faith commitments may not be widely shared. So understand what a deacon is and what a vocation to the diaconate is about. … A deacon is not a ‘junior varsity priest,’ as I’ve heard in some descriptions.”

Bishop Campbell has been a strong supporter of the diaconate throughout his 13 years as shepherd of the Diocese of Columbus and the five years before that when he was auxiliary bishop of St. Paul-Minneapolis. He was chair of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ committee on the diaconate from 2004-06 and authored the foreword to the conference’s directory on the formation, ministry and life of permanent deacons.

Deacon Iannarino said that when talking to prospective candidates for diaconal training and to their wives, he is looking for “a mature person, specifically for a self-starter. I don’t want to force-feed this guy. He has to have integrity, a sense of both holiness and wholeness or balance in his life, generosity for service, and good health. He has to work with people and to be able to preach, listen, and be accepted by others. When I’m considering someone, I ask people if they think that person would be a good deacon.”

Prospective deacons, also known as inquirers, must be endorsed by the pastor of their home par-
In 1968, after the close of the Second Vatican Council, the Roman Catholic bishops of the United States requested the restoration of the diaconate as a permanent order in this country.

Among the reasons for the request were that the many diaconal ministries already present would be enriched and strengthened by the sacramental grace of Holy Orders; a new group of devout, competent men would be enlisted in the church’s ministry; charitable and liturgical services would be extended in rural and urban communities; and the official and sacramental presence of the church would be provided in communities where priests were not readily available.

Pope Paul VI responded favorably to the request, but it was not until 1972 that he issued the apostolic letter *Ad Pascendum*, establishing norms for restoration of the diaconate around the world. Because the apostolic letter was not released until 1972, Bishop Clarence Elwell of Columbus decided not to proceed with restoration of the diaconate as a permanent order in the diocese.

Bishop Elwell died in February 1973 and was succeeded by Bishop Edward Herrmann, who initiated the program in the diocese by appointing Father Ralph Huntzinger as its first director. Father Huntzinger began to initiate the formation slowly and was succeeded in 1976 by Father Thomas Shonebarger, who began to develop the order through his assignment as diocesan vocations director.

Under Father Huntzinger and Father Shonebarger, any candidate interested in becoming a permanent deacon had to travel and study with the deacon candidates of the Diocese of Toledo on one weekend a month at Sacred Heart Seminary in Shelby, approximately 120 miles northeast of Columbus. The formation program was a two-year process. The first two permanent deacons of the diocese, Deacons Roger Pry and Jack Rankin, were ordained in the spring and fall of 1975, respectively.

The training took place in Shelby until 1982, where the program was transferred to the Pontifical College Josephinum under the direction of Father Joseph Hendricks, who established the Diaconate School of Theology for the diocese. The school later was directed by Father John Cody, with Deacon Joe Farry as associate director, until 1990.

By this time, approximately 50 deacons had been ordained over a 16-year period. Bishop James Griffin, who succeeded Bishop Hermann, placed a moratorium on new entrants while the program was evaluated and restructured.

In 1992, Bishop Griffin appointed Deacon Frank Iannarino as diocesan director of the diaconate and established the Office of the Diaconate, which maintains a central location for diocesan diaconal administration and study at The Catholic Center in downtown Columbus.

Under Deacon Iannarino and the newly established diocesan Diaconal Council, the formation process was studied; the course of study was rewritten; and the formation program was re-established in 1993. According to the current *Guidelines for Deacons in the Diocese of Columbus*, the formation process is based on a four-year cycle, with each class being ordained before a new class of candidates begins formation.

The Diaconate School of Theology continues to exist at the Josephinum, where it maintains all formation and academic classes under the direction of the bishop of Columbus, who serves as vice chancellor of the Josephinum. The formation process has a well-developed inquiry, aspirancy, candidacy, and post-ordination component reflecting the Vatican’s 1998 *Basic Norms for the Formation of Deacons*. 

Deacon Marion Smithberger proclaims the Gospel at the cathedral.
Permanent Deacons and Directory for the Ministry and Life of Permanent Deacons.

In 2005, Bishop Griffin was succeeded by Bishop Frederick Campbell, who was chairman of the committee on the diaconate for the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and had helped author and wrote the foreword for the 2004 National Directory for the Diaconate for the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. It has 107 permanent deacons. It has 10 deacon candidates in their second year of formation who hope to be ordained in 2020. Although a few of the deacons are retired and a handful work full-time in parishes or schools, the majority have jobs in the secular world and work in parishes, hospitals, schools, and prisons at other times.

Although they assist the bishop and parish priests in proclaiming the Word, administering sacraments, and assisting in charitable works, they are most importantly an image of the Servant Jesus to the Church throughout the world.

Formation, Ministry and Life of Permanent Deacons in the United States.

Soon after his appointment as bishop, he began to implement the directory’s guidelines throughout the diocese.

The Josephinum, as the center for diaconal studies throughout the United States, hosts various summer institutes related to the directory. The Josephinum also houses the office of the National Association of Deacon Directors; publishes a theological journal on the diaconate; and maintains the Josephinum distance learning program to enhance online classes for deacons throughout the world.

With ordination of the 12-member class of 2016, the Diocese of Columbus has 107 permanent deacons. It has 10 deacon candidates in their second year of formation who hope to be ordained in 2020. Although a few of the deacons are retired and a handful work full-time in parishes or schools, the majority have jobs in the secular world and work in parishes, hospitals, schools, and prisons at other times.

Although they assist the bishop and parish priests in proclaiming the Word, administering sacraments, and assisting in charitable works, they are most importantly an image of the Servant Jesus to the church throughout the world.
By Kevin Perrotta
Catholic News Service

Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-8
Psalm 15:2-5
James 1:17-18, 21-22, 27
Gospel: Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

As we listen to the Scripture readings at Mass today, the most difficult patch, I think, may be this portion of the second reading:

“All good giving and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no alteration or shadow caused by change. He willed to give us birth by the word of truth.” He has spoken his word into our world in Jesus of Nazareth. This Word brings us to birth a second time (a strikingly maternal image!). The God who said “Let there be light” creates us anew.

The mysteriousness of the text turns out not to lie in obscurity of expression, in using arcane words. The mystery is in the reality proclaimed. If we hear and respond to God’s word in Jesus, it turns out to be not simply a message about God or instructions for living a good life. God’s word changes us.

When the creator speaks, things come into existence: stars in the heavens, rivers and mountains, life. “Let there be light” creates us anew.

Reflection Question:
How have you experienced God speaking to you?

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.

Knights support sainthood for Fenwick

The Supreme Council of the Knights of Columbus has approved a resolution asking that Ohio’s pioneer priest, Bishop Edward Fenwick, be considered for sainthood.

The action was taken during the Knights’ annual national meeting in Baltimore last month, in response to a proposal by four Knights councils from Ohio — Council 10876 of Granville, Council 1016 of Lancaster, Council 13371 of Summitville in Columbiana County, and Council 13586 of Youngstown.

The resolution reads as follows: “Resolved that we stand in solidarity with the founder of the Dominican Order in America, Father Edward D. Fenwick, OP, and recognize his heroic efforts to serve our Holy Mother Church and the unwavering sanctity of the life he led; and further resolved that we pray that he will one day be granted the Honors of the Altar.”

A similar resolution, which described Bishop Fenwick’s career in detail, was approved at the Knights’ state convention in May.

Bishop (then Father) Fenwick celebrated the first Mass in Ohio in 1808 in Somerset, where he took up residence eight years later. He established the state’s first permanent Catholic church, Somerset St. Joseph, in 1818. Four years later, he became the first bishop of the Diocese of Ohio, based in Cincinnati, which covered all of Ohio and Michigan and parts of Wisconsin.

For 24 years beginning with his arrival in Somerset, he constantly traveled as a missionary throughout that region. He died in 1832 in Wooster while comforting victims of a cholera epidemic during the last of his journeys.

THE WEEKDAY BIBLE READINGS

MONDAY
1 Corinthians 2:1-5
Psalm 119:97-102
Luke 4:16-30

TUESDAY
1 Corinthians 2:10b-16
Psalm 145:8-14
Luke 4:31-37

WEDNESDAY
1 Corinthians 3:1-9
Psalm 33:12-15,20-21
Luke 4:38-44

THURSDAY
1 Corinthians 3:18-23
Psalm 24:1-6

FRIDAY
1 Corinthians 4:1-5
Psalm 37:3-6,27-28,39-40

SATURDAY
Micah 5:1-4a or Romans 8:28-30
Psalm 13:6
Matthew 1:11-16, 18-23

DIOCESAN WEEKLY RADIO AND TELEVISION MASS SCHEDULE: SEPT. 2, 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, 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 DirectTV Channel 305).

Mass from Massillon St. Mary Church at 10:30 a.m. on WLB 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. (Encores at noon, 7 p.m. and midnight). See EWTN above; and on i-Lifetv (Channel 113 in Ada, Logan, Milersburg, 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.

Living ‘I Do’ – Weekly Marriage Tips

Don’t have time for a romantic dinner? Surprise your spouse with a 15-minute date. Whether it’s a favorite food, song, or location for your spouse, take a moment for a surprise, a laugh and a memory. Use the 15 minutes to express your love and appreciation for your spouse, and keep other topics for another time. These moments are the most memorable.

Diocese of Columbus Marriage and Family Life Office
The Sunday Mass scriptures during this summer of horrors have often been eerily appropriate, beginning with Jeremiah’s polemic against malevolent shepherds who mislead the Lord’s flock (July 25) and continuing through the story of many disciples’ defection after “the hard words” of the Bread of Life discourse (Aug. 26). And it’s entirely understandable that more than a few Catholics have choked on the word “holy” these past few months, when asked to affirm it of the Church during the Creed and the Offertory. But while understandable, that still bespeaks a misunderstanding. The reason why is given immediately after the defection story in John 6:60-66, when the Lord asks the Twelve if they, too, are going to bail on him and Peter answers, “Master, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.”

Everlasting life is offered to us sacramentally at every Mass. That is what we believe; that is why we remain in the Church; and that is why we must all bend every effort, from our distinct states of life in the Mystical Body of Christ, to reform what must be reformed so that others may know and love the Lord Jesus and experience the life-giving fruits of friendship with him. The Church’s current crisis is a crisis of fidelity and a crisis of holiness, a crisis of infidelity and a crisis of sin. It is also a crisis of evangelization, for shepherds without credibility impede the proclamation of the Gospel—which, as the other headlines of the day suggest, the world badly needs.

In the immediate aftermath of Archbishop Carlo-Maria Vigano’s “Testimony,” and its statement that Pope Francis knew of the dereliction of Theodore McCarrick, former archbishop of Washington, and lifted the sanctions against McCarrick that had been imposed (but never seriously enforced) by Pope Benedict XVI, the polemics within the Church immediately intensified and ricocheted through the media. In this febrile atmosphere, it is virtually impossible for anyone to say anything without arousing suspicions and accusations. But as I knew Archbishop Vigano well during his service as papal representative in Washington, I feel obliged to speak about him, which I hope will help others consider his very serious claims thoughtfully.

First, Archbishop Vigano is a courageous reformer, who was moved out of the Vatican by his immediate superiors because he was determined to confront financial corruption in the Governatorato, the administration of Vatican City State.

Second, Archbishop Vigano is, in my experience, an honest man. We spoke often about many things, large and small, and I never had the impression that I was being given anything other than what he believed in his conscience to be the truth. That does not mean that he got everything right; a man of humility and prayer, he would be the first to concede that. But it does suggest that attempts to portray him as someone deliberately making false accusations, someone other than an honest witness to what he believes to be the truth, are unpersuasive. When he writes in his Testimony that he is “…ready to affirm [these allegations] on oath calling on God as my witness,” he means it. And he means it absolutely. Archbishop Vigano knows that, in swearing such an oath, he would be taking his soul into his hands; which means he knows that if he were to speak falsely, he would be unlikely to find his soul again.

Third, Archbishop Vigano is a loyal churchman of a certain generation and formation, bred to a genuine piety about the papacy. His training in the papal diplomatic service would instinctively lead him to make the defense of the Pope his first, second, third, and hundredth priority. If he believes that what he has now said is true, and that the Church needs to learn that truth in order to cleanse itself of what is impeding its evangelical mission, then he is overriding his engrained instincts for the gravest of reasons.

What Archbishop Vigano testifies to knowing on the basis of direct, personal, and in many cases documentable experiences in Rome and Washington deserves to be taken seriously, not preemptorily dismissed or ignored. Cardinal Daniel DiNardo, the U.S. bishops’ conference president, evidently agrees, as his Aug. 27 statement makes clear. That is another step toward the purification and reform we need.
Gary Tate

Funeral Mass for Gary “Coach” Tate, 72, who died Saturday, Aug. 18, was celebrated Tuesday, Aug. 21 at Reynoldsburg St. Pius X Church. Burial was at Resurrection Cemetery.

He was born on Feb. 15, 1946, in Zanesville to the late Wilbur and Betty (Cook) Tate. He grew up in Akron, graduated from Akron Buchtel High School, attended Kent State University, and served in the Army as a military policeman in the Panama Canal Zone.

He was employed for many years in maintenance at St. Pius X Church and also held several other jobs in construction, logistics and building maintenance.

He was a well-known baseball and softball player, was on all-Army and all-U.S. teams while in the military, and played in the Pittsburgh Pirates organization. He was inducted into the USA Softball Hall of Fame (Ohio) in 2006. He also coached softball from 2000 to 2010 at Columbus Bishop Hartley and Grove City high schools.

Survivors include his wife, Sandy (Berkebile); son, Lonnie (Tracy); daughter, Angela (Dan) Keener; brother, Kevin (Carmen); and four grandchildren.

Richard Theado

Funeral Mass for Richard J. Theado, 84, who died Thursday, Aug. 23, was celebrated Monday, Aug. 27 at Our Mother of Sorrows Chapel of St. Joseph Cemetery in Columbus.

He was employed in the food services department at the Pontifical College Josephinum for 22 years.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Andrew and Rosemary. Survivors include brothers, Don and Paul (Nancy) and a sister, Norma Siemer.

Center for Dominican Studies presents lecture series

Ohio Dominican University’s Center for Dominican Studies will present a series of lectures focusing on “Justice,” the theme for the university’s 2018-19 academic year. The series is based on the corporal works of mercy, and each lecture will be presented by a member of the Dominican Sisters of Peace, the university’s founding congregation.

The free presentations will take place from noon to 12:30 p.m. in the St. Catherine of Siena Room of Erskine Hall on ODU’s campus, 1215 Sunbury Road, Columbus. A free lunch will be provided.

All the lectures will take place on Wednesdays. Dates are:

- Sept. 12 – “Hearts Burning for Justice,” with Sister Diane Traffas, OP.
- Oct. 10 – “I Was Marginalized and You Came to Me,” with Sister Margie Davis, OP, and Amy Thomas, Dominican Sisters of Peace Associate.
- Nov. 7 – “I Was Homeless and You Sheltered Me,” with Sister N-adine Buchanan, OP.
- Dec. 5 and 12 – “Advent – I Am the Light of the World,” with Sister Carol Ann Spencer, OP.
- Feb. 13, 2019 – “I Was Captive and You Ransomed Me,” with Sister Mary Joel Campbell, OP.
- March 20 and 27 and April 3, 2019 – “I Was Thirsty and You Gave Me to Drink,” with Sister Louise Mary Passeri, OP.
- April 17, 2019 – “I Was a Stranger and You Welcomed Me,” with Sister Gemma Doll, OP.

To reserve a seat, contact Sister Diane Traffas, OP, the university’s vice president for mission and identity and director of the Center for Dominican Studies, at traffas@ohiodominican.edu or (614) 251-4722.
9 a.m., Holy Family Church, 584 W. Broad St., Columbus. First Saturday Mass for world peace and in response for reparations against the Virgin Mary. 614-221-4323, extension 329.

10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Sacred Heart Church, 893 Hamlet St., Columbus. Monthly day of prayer for Columbus chapter of Lay Missionaries of Charity. 614-372-5249.

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

Filipino Mass at St. Elizabeth 7:30 p.m., St. Elizabeth Church, 6077 Sharon Woods Blvd., Columbus, Mass. in the Tagalog language for members of the Filipino Catholic community.

2nd Sunday Prayer Group Meeting at Christ the King 5 to 7 p.m., Christ the King Church, 2777 E. Livingston Ave., Columbus (enter at daily Mass entrance). Weekly parish prayer group meets for praise, worship, ministry, and teaching. 614-886-8266.

Spanish Mass at Columbus St. Peter 7 p.m., St. Peter Church, 6899 Smoky Row Road, Columbus. First Friday Spanish Mass. Call 614-761-4054.

Compline at Cathedral 9 p.m., St. Joseph Cathedral, 893 Hamlet St., Columbus. Eucharistic Holy Hour with the intention of deepened holiness and an increase in the virtue of fortitude for the Holy Father, bishops, and priests, concluding with Benediction, social period, and refreshments. 614-372-5249.

7th Saturday Mass at Sacred Heart 7 p.m., Sacred Heart Church, 893 Hamlet St., Columbus. Eucharistic Holy Hour with the intention of deepened holiness and an increase in the virtue of fortitude for the Holy Father, bishops, and priests, concluding with Benediction, social period, and refreshments. 614-372-5249.

7th Friday Catholic Social Services Breakfast 7 to 9 a.m., Renaissance Columbus Hotel, 50 N. 3rd St., Columbus. Catholic Social Services yearly fundraising breakfast. Speaker: Sam Quinones, author of Dreamland: The True Tale of America’s Opiate Epidemic. Tickets $55. 614-221-5891.

St. Cecilia Adoration of Blessed Sacrament St. Cecilia Church, 543 Northport Rd., Columbus. Begins after 8:15 a.m. Mass; continues to 5 p.m. Saturday.

Eucharistic Adoration at Columbus St. Peter 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., 6899 Smoky Row Rd., Columbus. First Saturday Eucharistic Adoration in day chapel.

First Friday Masses at Holy Family 9 a.m., 12:15 and 7 p.m., Holy Family Church, 594 W. Broad St., Columbus. First Friday Masses in honor of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. 614-221-4323.

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

Catholic Men’s Luncheon Club 12:15 p.m., St. Peter Church, 6899 Grant Ave., Columbus. Catholic Men’s Luncheon Club meeting, with Dr. Michael Parker speaking on challenges to Catholic health care.

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

All-night Extravaganza at Our Lady of Victory Our Lady of Victory Church, 1559 Roxbury Rd., Columbus. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament from 8 p.m. until Mass at 8 a.m. Saturday.

7th-Friday-Sunday Men’s Silent Retreat at St. THERESE St. THERESE’s Retreat Center, 5777 E. Broad St., Columbus. Men’s silent retreat sponsored by Catholic Men’s Retreat League and directed by Father Denis G. Wilde, OSA. Theme: “To Have a Relationship with the Holy Spirit.” 614-949-5905.

Dominican Sisters’ “Come and See” Weekend St. Catherine of Siena Church, Fairlawn. 614-652-1912.

New Dominican Sister of Peace “Come and See” weekend, giving single Catholic women ages 18 to 45 a chance to experience the sisters’ daily life. Lodging and meals provided. 614-416-1020.

8th, SATURDAY Life and Mercy Mass in Plain City 9 a.m. Mass, St. Joseph Church, 140 West Ave., Plain City. Saturday Life and Mercy Mass, followed by rosary and confession.

Praise and Healing Mass at Holy Cross 5:15 p.m., Holy Cross Church, 204 S. 5th St., Columbus. Praise and healing Mass sponsored by Columbus Catholic Renewal, celebrated by Father Dan Mathewson, preceded by Divine Mercy chaplet at 3 and contemporary praise and worship, with prayer teams available for individuals, and followed by the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick and fellowship. 614-501-8178.

9th, SUNDAY Lay Fraternities of St. Dominic Meeting 1:30 p.m., St. Patrick Church, 280 N. Grant Ave., Columbus. Meeting of St. Catherine of Siena chapter, Lay Fraternities of St. Dominic.

Jubilee Museum 20th Anniversary Banquet 5 to 8:30 p.m., Renaissance Columbus-Westerville Hotel, 409 Altair Parkway, Westerville. Banquet celebrating 20th anniversary of the Jubilee Museum, which has the largest collection of diversified Catholic art in the United States. Includes dinner, silent and live auctions, raffles, door prizes. Tickets $60, including two complimentary drinks. 614-600-0054.

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

Spanish Mass at Columbus St. Peter 7 p.m., St. Peter Church, 6899 Smoky Road, Columbus. Mass in Spanish. 760-761-4054.

10th, MONDAY Aquinas Alumni Luncheon 11 a.m., TAT Ristorante di Famiglia, 1210 S. James Road, Columbus. Monthly Columbus Aquinas High School alumni luncheon.

Benedicta Post-Abortion Healing Ministry 6:30 p.m., support group meeting, 2744 Dover Road, Columbus (Christ the King convent, first building west of church). 614-718-0227, 614-309-2651, 614-309-0195.

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

11th, TUESDAY Blue Mass at St. Timothy 5 p.m., St. Timothy Church, 1088 Thomas Lane, Columbus. Annual Blue Mass for law enforcement and first responder personnel. 614-451-2671.

Catholic Social Services Breakfast 6 p.m., Panera restaurant, 4519 N. High St., Columbus. Monthly meeting of the Calix Society, an association of Catholic alcoholics. Precended by 5:30 p.m. Mass at Our Lady of Peace Church, across street from meeting site.

Holy Hour at Columbus St. Francis of Assisi St. Francis of Assisi Church, 386 Bottles Ave., Columbus. Monthly Holy Hour following 6 p.m. Mass. 614-299-5781.

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 the Church’s Respect Life Committee.

Encourage Ministry Monthly Meeting 6:30 p.m., Encourage, an approved diocesan ministry for families and friends of persons who experience same sex attraction. Encourage respects the dignity of every person, promotes the truth of God’s plan for each of us, and focuses on sharing our love. Confidentiality is maintained. Call for site. 614-296-7404.
CCL forms football partnership with Dayton-area schools

By Doug Bean
Catholic Times Editor

The Central Catholic League took steps this summer to ease the scheduling burden for its varsity football teams by forming an alliance with the Dayton-area Greater Catholic League that begins in the 2019 season.

Weeks 4 and 5 on the 2019 and 2020 schedules will feature matchups between the historically strong Catholic leagues, whose teams have produced 14 state championships, 13 runner-up finishes, 56 final four appearances and 130 playoff berths.

The participating schools will include Columbus St. Francis DeSales, Columbus Bishop Hartley, Columbus Bishop Watterson, Columbus St. Charles Preparatory School, Middletown Bishop Fenwick, Kettering Alter, Dayton Chaminade Julienne and Dayton Carroll.

For years, CCL schools have experienced difficulty finding opponents. Because there is a limited number of teams in the league, athletic directors and coaches have scrambled to find suitable opponents that are not playing games in their own conferences, particularly later in the season. That led teams to have to go out of state and endure four-hour bus rides to often take on schools with significantly larger enrollments.

The move will be advantageous, CCL Commissioner Jim Jones said, because the Dayton area is relatively close to Columbus and the schools are similar in size and driven by the same Catholic mission.

“Scheduling is not easy in the CCL and we felt that it would be easier on both leagues to combine our schedules,” he said. “We noticed an opportunity that we could combine with them to make scheduling easier. This will help alleviate travel problems as well and will allow us more flexibility in scheduling.”

CCL coaches believe the teams and Hartley is slated to play Clinton Massie in 2019, and Alter has yet to schedule opponents for Week 5 in 2019 and 2020.

Alter coach Ed Domsitz explained the reason for being involved solely in Week 4, when his team will face DeSales.

“It came down initially that we were supposed to play Watterson and Hartley,” Domsitz said, according to the Butler County Journal News. “I didn’t want to play Hartley and DeSales in the same year. That was fine initially, then they changed it all and said, ‘Here’s what we’re going to do — Alter’s going to play the two best teams in Columbus.’ We’re not doing that. That’s ridiculous.”

Columbus Bishop Ready will not be part of the alliance. The Silver Knights have been playing a Mid-State League Ohio Division schedule for the past few years. Also in 2019, Ready will begin facing CCL opponents on a rotating basis and no longer will meet rival Hartley annually.

Playing MSL teams has “been good for us,” Ready coach Brian Cross said. “Just listening to the other coaches talking about struggling and traveling

GCL-CCL MATCHUPS

2019, Week 4: Middletown Fenwick at Columbus St. Charles, Dayton Carroll at Columbus Bishop Watterson, Dayton Chaminade Julienne at Columbus Bishop Hartley, Kettering Alter at Columbus St. Francis DeSales
2019, Week 5: St. Charles at Carroll, DeSales at Fenwick, Watterson at Chaminade Julienne
2020, Week 4: St. Charles at Fenwick, Watterson at Carroll, Hartley at Chaminade Julienne, DeSales at Alter
2020, Week 5: Carroll at St. Charles, Fenwick at DeSales, Chaminade Julienne at Watterson

Friends of Josephinum 4-miler set for Sept. 15

Friends of the Josephinum (from left) John Reiner, Joe Kohler, Marilyn Dono, Father Jeff Rimelspach, Debbie Coleman, Don Brown, Monica Brown and seminarian Evan Jones gathered at Glacier Ridge Park in Dublin, the site of a four-mile run/walk on Saturday, Sept. 15 that will benefit the future priests studying at the Pontifical College Josephinum.

Reviewed by Jay Jackson, Associate of the Dominican Sisters of Peace and adjunct instructor in theology at Ohio Dominican University.

“How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity,” proclaims Psalm 133. The essays in The Abrahamic Encounter: Local Initiatives, Large Implications look at how Columbus Muslims, Jews and Christians have taken intentional steps toward living into our common kinship as children of Abraham, our father in faith. In a fractious world and a nation marked by denigration and disrespect of those perceived as alien to “our” way of life and thought – whoever the “our” may be – it is good to realize that Columbus has a significant history of acknowledging the “other” and encountering those of other faiths with respect and integrity.

This book is the effort of Mazhar Jalil, trustee of the Islamic Foundation of Central Ohio; Norman Hosansky, lay leader of Congregation Tifereth Israel; and Paul Numrich, professor at Methodist Theological School and Trinity Lutheran Seminary. They dedicate it “To all the children of Abraham who want to live as friends and neighbors” and begin it with a welcome summary of the history of interfaith encounter in central Ohio. Through interviews and research, Part One of the book tells a remarkable story of one community’s response to plurality. It is a response that is built upon our common origin and our common goal, God, and does not gloss over our differences. At heart, the interfaith movement described here requires each participant to know and claim their identity in order to relate with integrity with one another. We read about the early efforts of Jalil and Bishop James Griffin, then bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Columbus, to create a space for dialogue between Muslims and Christians that resulted in conferences in 1989 and 1990 covering a range of topics of mutual interest. Subsequent conferences took place between Muslim and Jewish participants.

In the aftermath of Sept. 11, 2001, Columbus Jews and Christians showed a solidarity with the Muslim community when the Islamic Foundation was vandalized, as the text describes Rabbi Harold Berman and Cantor Jack Chomsky of Tifereth Israel and the Rev. Tim Ahrens of First Congregational Church going beyond dialogue to hospitality and action. Intentional encounter among the three faith communities has continued to identify places of congruity and possibility. The Interfaith Association of Central Ohio promotes relationships across faith lines. The BREAD organization mobilizes Abrahamic communities in pursuit of social justice and the common good.

The difficulties of honest interfaith dialogue and relationship are presented as well, because this is a story of people who live in the midst of conflict, misunderstanding and change. The challenge is to identify the elephant in the room as part of the conversation. Where there is disagreement, we come to the most important component to interfaith work: to remain present to one another.

The goals of the Central Ohio Abrahamic Encounter are enhancing mutual understanding and fostering relationships, providing accurate information about our traditions, and contributing to the common good. The Abrahamic Encounter describes the successes that sustain the effort to continue toward those goals and provides the encouragement to journey on together.

The Abrahamic Encounter is available locally from Interfaith Association of Central Ohio at office@iaco.org or (614) 849-2490.
Bishop celebrates Mass at Quo Vadis retreat

About 35 young Catholic men entering ninth to 12th grades this fall attended the inaugural Quo Vadis retreat sponsored by the diocesan Vocations Office in mid-August at Sts. Peter and Paul Retreat Center in Newark. Bishop Frederick Campbell celebrated Mass there on the Feast of the Assumption, the closing day of the retreat. Pictured with the bishop are diocesan seminarians (from left) Seth Keller, Deacon Bryant Haren, Daniel Colby, Michael Haemmerle and Michael Fulton.

Photo courtesy Sts. Peter and Paul Retreat Center

Father Garland to speak at Serra boys luncheon

Father Brett Garland will be the featured speaker at the annual boys vocation luncheon sponsored by the Serra Club of North Columbus at 11:30 a.m. Tuesday, Oct. 2 in the Jessing Center at the Pontifical College Josephinum, 7625 N. High St., Columbus.

Father Garland was ordained in May and is serving as parochial vicar at Columbus St. Aloysius, St. Agnes and St. Mary Magdalene churches. He will speak to high school-age boys about discerning the vocation to which God is calling them and his experiences of being a seminarian at the Josephinum.

His own vocation discernment began when he was a fifth-grade altar server at Washington Court House St. Colman of Cloyne Church and was influenced by the life and example of Pope St. John Paul II. Father Garland is a graduate of the Catholic University of America and the Josephinum.

Students in diocesan high schools may make reservations for the event. Through their schools. Home-schooled students and public school also are encouraged to attend and may make reservations by calling Tim Perrine at (614) 507-2037.

Chris Stefanick coming to Newark

Popular Catholic speaker, author and television host Chris Stefanick will bring his Reboot! renewal program to Newark St. Francis de Sales Church from 7 to 9:30 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 26.

Stefanick has presented Reboot! at several churches in the Diocese of Columbus and spoke at the 2018 Columbus Catholic Men’s Conference.

The program is designed to bring new energy and vitality to parishes. The event, for anyone age 12 and older, begins with an inspirational, high-energy unpacking of the genius of the heart of the Gospel, revealing its power and beauty, often resulting in both laughter and tears. It finishes with real-life, practical, “can-do” ways of applying the Gospel in prayer, spirituality, work, dating, marriage, parenting, health, and more, leaving no part of a person’s life untouched.

Stefanick is a graduate of Franciscan University of Steubenville and is the founder and president of Real Life Catholic, a nonprofit which operates as the headquarters for his various initiatives. His live seminars reach more than 85,000 people per year, and his “Real Life Catholic” television show, videos and radio spots reach millions of people each month. He also is author of the Chosen Confirmation program. He and his wife, Natalie, are the parents of six children.

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