Installed as rector:
Father Steven Beseau officially became the rector at the Pontifical College Josephinum at a ceremony on Oct. 1, Page 3

Priests gather:
Bishop Robert Brennan and the priests of the diocese came together last week for fellowship and discussion at a convocation, Page 3

Scripture:
Father Timothy Hayes offers his reflections on the readings for the 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Page 17

STORIES OF MISSIONS BENEFITING FROM DONORS IN OUR DIOCESE
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Ralph Martin opens ‘From the Cathedral Pulpit’ series on Oct. 19

The first of what is anticipated will be a series of talks on discipleship at Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral, 212 E. Broad St., featuring nationally known speakers will take place at 6:45 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 19 with Dr. Ralph Martin of Sacred Heart Major Seminary in Detroit.

Martin will speak on “The Universal Call to Mission.” His ongoing The Choices We Face television series began in 1985 and is the world’s longest-running Catholic television program. Books by Martin will be available for purchase after the talk.

The next talk in the “From the Cathedral Pulpit” series will be Tuesday, Nov. 5 and feature Msgr. Frank Lane speaking on “The Centrality of Christ in Evangelization.” He is a retired priest of the Diocese of Columbus who was a pastor of several diocesan parishes, vice rector and a teacher at the Pontifical College Josephinum, and spiritual director at Mount St. Mary’s Seminary of the West in Cincinnati.

“Lessons for Evangelization from the New Testament” will be the subject of a talk by Dr. Mary Healy on Saturday, Dec. 7. She also is from Sacred Heart Seminary and is a noted author and speaker on healing and the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

The diocese’s recently appointed evangelization director, Father Adam Streitenberger, is organizing the series, which he hopes will continue monthly. All talks will begin at 6:45 p.m. and will feature music, the speaker and a light reception. The Catholic Foundation is sponsoring the events.

Josephinum live-in weekend

The Pontifical College Josephinum, 7625 N. High St., Columbus, will host a live-in weekend from 4 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 17 to noon Saturday, Oct. 19 for young men of high-school and college age interested in learning more about the seminary.

Participants will be able to experience seminary prayer life, classes, meals and communal liturgy and to talk with seminarians, faculty and staff members. On Saturday morning, there will be an opportunity to work with the seminarians for a few hours. The weekend also will include introductory presentations on discernment and community life. There is no cost for participation, but there is limited space. Participants are advised to dress appropriately for the weather.

For more information, contact Father Michael Lumpe at (614) 885-5585 or mlumpe@pcj.edu or Arminda Crawford at (888) 252-5812 or acrawford@pcj.edu.

 Trafficking will be YCP topic

Christina Conrad, an FBI victim specialist who focuses on human trafficking, will speak on the subject at the October meeting of Young Catholic Professionals (YCP) on Wednesday, Oct. 16 from 7 to 9 p.m. at a site to be determined.

Sister renews vows in Chillicothe

Sister Zephyrina Mary, FIH, of the Franciscan Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary celebrated her 25th anniversary as a member of the order and renewed her vows of chastity, poverty and obedience at a Mass celebrated by Bishop Robert Brennan at Chillicothe St. Peter Church. She is pictured at the far left with 14 sisters of the order and other first-class knights of Columbus.

The weekend also will include introductory presentations on discernment and community life. There is no cost for participation, but there is limited space. Participants are advised to dress appropriately for the weather.

For more information, contact Father Michael Lumpe at (614) 885-5585 or mlumpe@pcj.edu or Arminda Crawford at (888) 252-5812 or acrawford@pcj.edu.

YCP brings together young adults in their 20s and 30s from across central Ohio for speaker events, panel discussions and networking to foster Catholic identity, encourage community and inspire a call to action.

Find details about this and future events at www.ycpcolumbus.org or on social media. If you are interested in donating to or volunteering with YCP Columbus, send an email to info@ycpcompany.org.

40 Days for Life chairman to visit

Matt Britton, national board chairman and general counsel for 40 Days for Life, will be in Columbus at noon Tuesday, Oct. 15 to speak at a vigil on the sidewalk outside the Founders’ Women’s Health Center, 1243 E. Broad St. He will be accompanied by Catholic author Bud Macfarlane.

40 Days for Life is a nationwide pro-life campaign that takes place during Lent and in the fall. Participants stand witness and maintain a peaceful and educational presence outside abortion clinics.

The Columbus vigil will continue from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily through Sunday, Nov. 3. For more information, go to www.gcrlife.org/40-days-for-life.html or call (614) 445-8508.

‘Unplanned’ coming to Plain City

The movie Unplanned, which tells the story of how a Planned Parenthood clinic director became a pro-life activist, will be shown at Plain City St. Joseph Church, 670 W. Main St., on several occasions this month.

Times and dates for the screenings are 7 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 19; 6 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 22 and Friday, Oct. 25, and 2 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 26.

See LOCAL NEWS, Page 5

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Convocation with priests a time to count blessings, discuss challenges

Dear Friends,

At the recommendation of one of the Dominican priests serving here in Columbus, I am reading Lamy of Santa Fe, the Pulitzer Prize-winning biography of Archishop Jean Baptiste Lamy, written by Paul Horgan. The archbishop is also well known as the basis for the character Father Latour in Willa Cather’s novel Death Comes for the Archbishop.

Recruited by Cincinnati Archbishop John Purcell in 1839 from France to serve in the mission territory of Ohio, Father Lamy began his work in Danville and Mount Vernon and from there went twice a month to Newark (and beyond) serving the growing number of Catholics in what would one day become the Diocese of Columbus. Like the Dominican Friars who celebrated the first Mass in Ohio in Somerset and in other surrounding areas, these priests, assisted by the Catholic faithful, built churches and parishes and traveled to offer the sacraments to Catholics throughout central Ohio. As I travel around the diocese (last week I marked six months and 10,000 miles on the car since my arrival in Columbus!), I am particularly awestruck by the challenges they no doubt faced. Truth be told, my happy journeys pale in comparison to the barely traceable roads, the streams and rivers, and the poor weather they endured.

It reminds all of us of the great debt we owe to the generations who came before us: building churches and parishes, schools and hospitals (the latter two contributions of courageous religious women) and establishing a culture of outreach to the poor and vulnerable in our communities.

Last week, I had the privilege of gathering with the priests of the diocese for our convocation. In the interest of continuing our legacy of compassion and growth, we spent a good deal of time seeking to understand the situation of the diocese as it exists today. We organized our discussions and analysis into four fundamental pillars of Catholic life within our diocese: priests, parishes, schools and finance.

At present, there are 105 priests serving in active ministry in the diocese. These include seven priests who are over the retirement age but continue in full-time active ministry. We are also fortunate that a number of senior priests, though officially retired, continue to assist in parishes. These numbers represent a decline of 15 priests over the last 15 years. We are blessed, however, to have a number of young and talented priests who have been ordained in recent years; we will be turning to them very soon after their ordination to serve as pastors.

In the parishes, we see some significant demographic shifts. There are areas of the diocese experiencing rapid growth, while others are seeing a decrease in population. When asked about what I find distinctive here in the Diocese of Columbus, I often point to the robust variety of life, ranging from urban to rural, with a good bit of suburban industrial – and everything in between. We have high concentrations of larger parishes in some areas, while at the same time having some churches serving an entire county. We also experience continuing growth in the richness of ethnic diversity. There is certainly a unique charm in each parish and every situation, but it takes real skill to meet this variety of diverse needs effectively.

As we look to the future, the question becomes: “How to support and prepare our priests to serve our parishes in the new situations? What structures do we need to put in place? What training and preparation is needed as our young priests move beyond the quality of the love and the faith that accompanies your good work. Only in this way will you and those around you truly experience the joy of the priesthood.”

Ordained in 1995, Father Beseau is a priest of the Archdiocese of Kansas City, Kansas. He holds degrees from the University of St. Mary of the Lake in Mundelein, Illinois and the Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas in Rome. Before his appointment in March to the Josephinum, he was a parish pastor, high school chaplain, director of the St. Lawrence Catholic Campus Center at the University of Kansas, and assistant professor of moral theology at The Athenaeum of Ohio in Cincinnati.

In remarks concluding the installation, Father Beseau expressed gratitude to Archbishop Pierre for his kindness, hopefulness and witness to the Good Shepherd.

“As our chancellor, we have a special bond with you and, through you, with our Holy Father. This is a unique and precious gift for all who are part of this seminary,” he said. “Tonight marks a great beginning, and I am excited to begin my work here at the Josephinum.”

FROM THE BISHOP

Bishop Robert Brennan

Father Beseau installed as Josephinum rector/president

Father Steven P. Beseau was installed as the 17th rector/president of the Pontifical College Josephinum on Tuesday, Oct. 1, the Feast of Saint Therese of Lisieux. Archbishop Christophe Pierre, apostolic nuncio to the United States and chancellor of the Josephinum, presided at the installation, which took place during Solemn Vespers in St. Turibius Chapel in the presence of seminarians, faculty, staff, and many visiting bishops, priests and guests.

During the rite of installation, Father Beseau made a profession of faith and took an oath of fidelity, in accord with the Sacred Congregation for the Faith’s 1989 directive to Catholic colleges and universities requiring those directly connected with teaching Catholic doctrine to profess their adherence to the Church’s teaching.

The presentation of the rector’s medallion, a symbol of leadership of the Josephinum, concluded the rite. The bronze medal is of great historic significance. It originally was presented to the seminary’s founder, Msgr. Joseph Jessing, in observance of his 25th anniversary of ordination to the priesthood. Father Beseau received the medal from Archbishop Pierre, who then presented the new president/rector to the congregation.

In his homily, Archbishop Pierre encouraged Father Beseau to lead the seminarians by example and to dedicate himself to prayer in the “little way” of St. Therese. “The fruitfulness of your ministry here at the Josephinum will not be measured by the number of seminarians or the financial status of this institution,” he said. “Rather, the fruitfulness will be measured by that which is not always seen – the quality of the love and the faith that accompanies your good work. Only in this way will you and those around you truly experience the joy of the priesthood.”

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the seminary? How do priests support and encourage each other as they face these challenges, more and more often with a greater sense of isolation?”

Our convocation was only the beginning of these ongoing conversations. At this point, we are seeking first to understand; over time, we will continue this work at the local level and will ask you, the faithful, to work with us as we develop new strategies for the proclamation and living of the Gospel here in central Ohio.

It would be easy to be discouraged by some of these challenges, as well as by the decline in Mass attendance and the secularization that is gripping the culture. But like those courageous and holy priests who forged our early community from the wilderness, the eyes of our faith see deep into reality and recognize the opportunities the Holy Spirit is placing before us. We have far more available to us than those early missionaries in terms of resources and ease of communication. And yet, most importantly, we also have precisely what they had: the power of the Holy Spirit for the proclamation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ in the Roman Catholic Church. Not only does the Holy Spirit give us the strength we need, but we find that the Spirit opens doors and windows with new possibilities for advancing the Kingdom of God.

During the convocation, we priests shared our concerns and challenges, even some of our heartbreaks. But we also spoke about the joys of our vocation and the great reward of seeing the impact that the Gospel and the Sacraments have in the lives of God’s people. Our priests have a deep love of God. They are prayerful men who trust in the help of the Lord even in the most tumultuous of times. Let me tell you, though: your priests love you. The questions they ask, the concerns they have revolve around how these important matters and many others affect the people of their parishes. On behalf of all of us, thank you for your prayers during the convocation. And thank you for your prayers and encouragement of our priests.

About 125 priests of the diocese attended a convocation at Maumee Bay State Park near Toledo from Sept. 30 to Oct. 3. The priests heard from and talked with Bishop Robert Brennan and had a rare chance to gather together at one place. CT photo by Ken Snow

Catholic Social Services is Hiring a Copywriter!

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We’re all on a mission from God to make the world a better place

The missionaries are among the most giving and selfless people I can imagine. Usually, they go somewhere far away and give their lives to spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ while helping people create a better life for themselves. Sometimes it is a lifelong vocation, and sometimes temporary. And there are plenty of missions and missionaries close by, even many in the United States. Members of so many religious orders, including many sisters, give their lives to the missions. God bless them, and they need our prayers and financial assistance. We are blessed in the Diocese of Columbus to have a very active and wonderful missions office. Leandro Tapay and Gina Sergio do an awesome job. They coordinate so much for so many, in and out of the diocese. I do not think I ever have seen anyone smile as much as they do, day in and day out. Most businesses, offices, parishes, schools and institutions have a mission statement. Some are quite long, and some are succinct and to the point. This issue of The Catholic Times is, in a way, providing us with a lengthy statement of what our missions do and how we can support them. The greatest missionary the world has ever known is St. Paul. No one traveled more under so many adverse conditions and did so much to spread and establish the Christian church throughout the world. As a fundraiser, I also consider St. Paul to be one of the greatest development and fundraising professionals ever. As you read his letters, there are always the very practical issues of finances and sustainability when establishing a new Christian community. As we approach the end of another year, keep the missions in mind for your year-end giving. If you are not sure which group to support, contact Lany or Gina for guidance. Or simply make a donation to the missions office. You can be as supportive of the Church spreading throughout the world as St. Paul and his churches were.

We know that we are “sent” after every Mass. In the Latin Rite, the priest or deacon says “Ite, missa est.” Literally, we are dismissed. But somewhat more traditionally we are sent to go into the world and live the Gospel of Jesus Christ in our daily lives. Not coincidentally, the title of the newsletter for the missions office is Ite Missa Ext. Like the missionaries around the world, we are sent in peace, glorifying the Lord by our lives.

LOCAL NEWS, continued from Page 2

Unplanned is the story of Abby Johnson, who went to work at the Planned Parenthood clinic in 2001, eventually became its director, and had her life changed in 2009 when she saw an abortion for the first time.

ProMusica concert to reopen Ohio Dominican theater

Ohio Dominican University will celebrate the grand reopening of its historic Sister Mary Andrew Matesich Theater, 1216 Sunbury Road, Columbus, at 8 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 12 with a performance by the ProMusica Chamber Orchestra. The theater recently underwent a $1 million remodeling.

The event is being made possible with support from Diamond Hill Capital Management. General admission tickets may be purchased for $40 at ohiodominican.edu/ProMusica. Free parking will be available in the university’s Gold parking lot located west of Sunbury Road.

This summer, crews completed the final phase of a five-year refurbishment of the theater, which included replacement of the stage curtain, carpet and seats; strengthening of the exterior walls and roof; restoration of intricate wood and plaster work; painting of the interior walls and ceiling; enhancement of the stage lighting system; and improvement of audio and visual equipment. The refurbished theater has 549 seats. For more information on the remodeling, visit ohiodominican.edu/Theater.

Formerly known as the Little Theater, it was renamed in 2005 for Sister Mary Andrew, the university’s president from 1978 to 2001. She died in 2005.

The theater has been the site of university events, including commencement, baccalaureate, convocation and performing arts programs. Many well-known entertainers, scholars and performers also have been featured on its stage.

St. Charles to host reception for Spanish-speaking families

All Spanish-speaking families with sons in seventh and eighth grades are invited to Columbus St. Charles Preparatory School, 2010 E. Broad St., at 4 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 27 to learn about the school’s programs. To RSVP, call (614) 288-5824 or e-mail smercado@scprep.org.

El domingo 27 de octubre a las 4 p.m. invitamos a todas las familias que tengan hijos en el séptimo u octavo grado a una reunión en español para obtener más información de la escuela preparatoria St. Charles Preparatory School. La dirección es 2010 E. Broad St., Columbus, OH 43209. Para reservar su lugar o obtener más información, favor llamar 614-288-5824 o mandar correo electrónico a smercado@scprep.org.

Open house for eighth-graders set for Nov. 3 at St. Charles

There will be an open house for all eighth-grade boys and their parents at 1 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 3 at Columbus St. Charles, the diocese’s college preparatory school for boys, located at 2010 E. Broad St.

Walking with Purpose founder will speak at St. Joan of Arc

The founder of the Walking with Purpose Catholic women’s ministry will kick off its “WWP Live!” event series with talks at Powell St. Joan of Arc Church, 10700 Liberty Road at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 5 and 9:30 a.m. Wednesday, Nov. 6.

“Hallelujah Anyway: Discovering Good Despite Anxiety” will be Lisa Brenninkmeyer’s theme.

Recent research shows that anxiety affects one in eight children and 18 percent of adults in the United States. Brenninkmeyer will turn to Scripture for truths and solutions for living in the current state of reality and dealing with anxiety.

“When God promised his people a peace that passes understanding, he didn’t say, ‘unless you live in 21st-century America,’” she said. “Anxiety is a profound issue and the questions surrounding it aren’t easily answered. But together, we can move forward to a place of emotional rest and spiritual security.”

The chief executive officer of Walking with Purpose, Julie Ricciardi, also will speak at the event, telling how this ministry is effectively drawing women closer to Christ.

Those interested in attending either or both of the two talks may register at walkingwithpurpose.com/events.

The cost is $15 per person, and there will be a reception and book signing after the program.
Eligibility for sacrament of the sick; when to offer both species

Q I recently received the sacrament of the sick – prior to a cardioversion, which involves an electric shock to the heart. After the anointing, my wife mentioned to our pastor that we might be asking for the sacrament again, prior to some planned knee surgery.

If we understood correctly, our pastor said that he only administered the sacrament for “serious” medical conditions – leading us to believe that we should not ask for it for “routine” knee surgery. My wife and I are both in our 70s.

We are aware of the “consent” that must be signed at the hospital prior to surgery, and we believe this document is based on the possible effects of the anesthesia. Considering this, and the fact of our ages, are we wrong to ask to be anointed prior to such knee surgery? Who makes the call on whether anesthesia. Considering this, and the fact of our ages, are we wrong to ask to be anointed prior to such knee surgery? Who makes the call on whether we should have the sacrament – we or our pastor? (Richmond, Virginia)

A Both the Code of Canon Law and the Catechism of the Catholic Church offer some guidance as to when the sacrament of the sick can be administered. Canon 1004.1 says that it is given “to a member of the faithful who, having reached the use of reason, begins to be in danger due to sickness or old age.”

The Catechism highlights that this anointing is not meant to be limited to those who are right at the point of death (No. 1514). The pastoral judgment of the priest determines when a person is eligible, but my experience has been that most priests tend to be permissive, especially when the person has asked for the sacrament.

In your own situation, I find your argument about anesthesia to be persuasive. In looking at parishes’ websites with regard to this sacrament I found, for example, that St. Mary’s Catholic Church in Sandusky, Ohio, says “you may ask to receive the sacrament any time that you are to undergo surgery under general anesthetic.”

Q In my new diocese, parishes do not seem to offer the precious blood at Communion time. Do certain dioceses restrict that as a “privilege,” when in fact it is a command from Jesus? Christ opted to offer the two species to us separately: “Unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood. ...”

I am a religious sister with great devotion to the Eucharist for nearly 60 years, and I am wondering if the faith of Catholics who no longer believe in the Real Presence might not be strengthened by a catechism on receiving under both species.

(And to be honest, it just seems like another way to exclude folks from a clerical privilege, as even our priests are not invited to receive from the cup.) I would appreciate your thoughts. (Trenton, New Jersey)

A For the first 11 centuries of the church’s history, the Eucharist was customarily received by the faithful under the forms of both bread and wine, but then that custom fell out of practice, in part because Catholics began to receive holy Communion less frequently.

In 1963, the bishops of the Second Vatican Council restored the option for the faithful to receive also from the chalice. The Norms for the Distribution and Reception of Holy Communion Under Both Kinds, issued by the U.S. Catholic bishops in 2002, leave to local bishops the determination as to the occasions on which both species are to be made available, and in practice, most bishops have ceded that judgment to local pastors.

However, there is a clear preference expressed – both in those “norms” and in the General Instruction of the Roman Missal, which is the church’s universal “guidebook” on liturgical directives – for the availability of both species.

The general instruction says, “Holy Communion has a fuller form as a sign when it takes place under both kinds” (No. 281).

(Both the general instruction and the norms do make it clear that distribution under both species is not mandatory and that Christ is fully present when either the consecrated bread or wine is received alone.)

My own experience in celebrating Mass at many churches throughout the United States is that most parishes make both species available at most liturgies.
Baptized and sent: The Church is on mission in the world

By Leandro M. Tapay  
Diocesan Missions Director

The Vatican’s Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples designates one Sunday each year as World Mission Sunday, giving Catholics the opportunity to renew their commitment to participate in Christ’s mission to spread the Gospel to the world. This year, World Mission Sunday is Oct. 20 and the theme is “Baptized and sent; the Church of Christ on mission in the world.”

Across the world and especially in the rapidly growing Church in Africa, Asia and India, the young churches urgently need assistance. The World Mission Sunday collection helps support 194,855 schools, 5246 hospitals, 577 leprosy centers and 80,560 social and pastoral projects.

The Mission Sunday collection also helps provide operating costs for 1,150 mission dioceses. As described by Pope St. John Paul II, World Mission Sunday is “an important day in the life of the Church because it teaches us how to give; as an offering made to God, in the Eucharistic celebration and for all the mission of the world” (Redemptorist Misssio, 81).

The needs of our missions grow every day. With the creation of new dioceses in Third World countries, vocations to the priesthood and religious life are growing, thereby increasing the need for new seminaries and houses of formation. In some areas where the Church once was persecuted or suppressed, it is now welcomed, increasing the need for chapels and buildings.

Church to observe World Mission Sunday 2019 on Oct. 20

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

On Sunday, Oct. 20, we join with Catholic communities from around the world to celebrate World Mission Sunday. Organized by the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, it offers each of us the opportunity to demonstrate our solidarity in support of missions and the missionaries who serve them.

Proceeds of the special collection for the missions will be distributed in the pope’s name worldwide. Our donations help fund missionary activities such as catechetical programs; seminaries; the work of religious communities; communication and transformation needs; and the construction of much-needed chapels, churches, orphanages and schools.

The needs of our missions grow every day. With the creation of new dioceses in Third World countries, vocations to the priesthood and religious life are growing, thereby increasing the need for new seminaries and houses of formation. In some areas where the Church once was persecuted or suppressed, it is now welcomed, increasing the need for chapels and churches. The involvement and commitment of all of us is needed to foster and support this important work.

Let us unite with Catholics across the globe to pray and offer sacrifices and gifts for the missionary work of the Church.

Most grateful to you for your continuing generosity and support, I remain,

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Rev. Robert J. Brennan, DD  
Bishop of Columbus

Bishop Robert Brennan to celebrate Mission Sunday Mass at St. James the Less

Bishop Robert Brennan will celebrate a special World Mission Sunday Mass at 12:30 p.m. Oct. 20 at Columbus St. James the Less Church, 1652 Oakland Park Ave.

Members of the ethnic communities in the diocese, Catholic international students at Ohio State University, Ohio Dominican University and the Pontifical College Josephinum, and exchange students at diocesan Catholic high schools have been invited to join the bishop at the Mass, which is being sponsored by the diocesan Missions, Ethnic Ministries, and Divine Worship offices.

The Mass is in thanksgiving to God for sending missionaries to sow the seed of the Catholic faith in their nation of origin. At the Mass, representatives from various ethnic communities will be wearing their national attire and will walk in procession with Bishop Brennan to the sanctuary. The liturgy, prayers and music will have an international flavor.

After Mass, there will be an international festival of food and fellowship to raise funds for St. James the Less, which has been administered by the Precious Blood Fathers since its founding in 1947. Interested persons can help raise funds for the parish by buying food at the festival or by donating food to sell at the festival, or both. For more information, contact Vilka Cassidy at (614) 262-1179 or send an email to sjamesless@yahoo.com.

God gave us three great commandments — to love God with all our heart, to love our neighbor as we love ourselves and to take the Gospel to the ends of the earth. Spreading the Gospel is a command. It is not an option or an extracurricular activity. It is Christ’s mandate.

World Mission Sunday is about taking the Gospel to the ends of the earth. Not all of us are called to go to the mission fields. But we are all called to participate in the missions through our prayers, sacrifices and financial donations.

For more information about the World Mission Sunday Mass, contact Pam Harris, director of the diocesan Catholic Ethnic Ministries office, at (614) 221-7990 or email ethnicminisries@columbuscatholic.org.
Bridges of St. Mark adds third mission church in Vietnam

By Debra Kaminski
Lancaster St. Mark Church

The Holy Spirit is a strong, convincing force. In 1928, the Holy Spirit called a young woman named Teresa to work for the glory of God. She did so until her death in 1997. St. Teresa to work for the glory of God. She did

Likewise, in 2009, the Holy Spirit arranged a “chance” meeting between two men in the Columbus airport that resulted in fundraising efforts to help Catholic mission churches more than 8,700 miles from the central Ohio. Clearly, great distances do not deter the plans of the Holy Spirit.

This year marks the 10th anniversary of that meeting between businessmen Randall (Randy) Tipple and a young Vietnamese Catholic priest, Father Minh (Nguyen Khac Minh). That meeting led to the formation of Bridges of St. Mark (BOSM) at Lancaster St. Mark Church and its ongoing work with and fundraising for three Catholic mission churches in southeast Asia. The work began in the Vietnamese community of Rach Suc, then expanded to Ca Lang and has been extended to a third church, located in Tra Ech.

Neither Tipple nor Father Minh knew each other when they met. They were associated to opposite directions and were between flights when they introduced themselves, spoke briefly, and exchanged emails. That was all. Yet that time together changed thousands of lives in many positive ways. The opened the doors of Tipple’s heart to the works of the Holy Spirit in ways he never imagined, and for Father Minh, it supplied a support system that did not exist.

For more than six months after their meeting, the Lord gently nudged Tipple toward helping Father Minh in his effort to improve the lives of the poor in the Rach Suc community. Tipple never had been to Vietnam and, outside of Father Minh, whom he spoke to periodically via Skype and a few emails, didn’t know anyone else there. Yet the words of Father Minh as he expressed his desire to help the poor haunted Tipple’s mind to the point of disturbing his sleep. He felt the Lord wanted him to help Father Minh, yet for months he tried to ignore his inner voice.

Eventually, Tipple met with Leon- dro Tapay and Gina Sergio of the Diocese of Columbus Missions Office to determine the authenticity of Father Minh’s priesthood. Afterward, he reinitiated his communication with Father Minh via Skype to let him know that he was coming to Vietnam. Within a few months, he hopped on a plane and headed to the Rach Suc church.

After a two-day trip, he arrived and met with the church’s vicar, Father Francis Xavier (Cha Dinh Trong Tu). Father Francis showed Tipple around the compound, including his own, chicken-coop-like office and sleeping quarters. He introduced Tipple to hundreds of children and many neighboring families who came for the hope of education and a meal.

It took several years for Tipple to learn the story of Father Francis and the impact of his faithfulness on the Rach Suc community. Father Francis was a chaplain in the South Vietnamese army from 1972 to 1975 and was captured by the communist government in 1975 and held prisoner in North Vietnam for 13 years. He was released in 1988, but had no right to work and was sent to a retirement home for priests. At age 55 and after six years of confinement, he was allowed to re-establish his citizenship and was assigned to Rach Suc.

Father Francis was concerned deeply for the people of Rach Suc, as most of them were farmers who were unskilled, uneducated and very poor. He labored to help improve living conditions there, traveling to cities and villages near and far, speaking to people and begging for assistance.

As benefactors began responding, he began by building a large concrete yard for farmers to dry grain and crops after harvesting. He built concrete bridges over a canal to replace skinny bamboo-stick bridges, and he made roads accessible for bicycles and motorcycles. Later, he set up small classrooms for children, established a clinic, and invited doctors to volunteer once a month to offer health exams and prescribe medication. He also organized summer camps where hundreds of children could learn, have lunch and be safe while parents were working busy working.

He baptized thousands of people in Rach Suc and constantly worked to bring people to the Church. By 2009, a new church building was built, providing a place large enough for the thousands of pilgrims who visit Rach Suc every year in May to honor and pray to Our Lady of Fatima. The church has become well known and is often called Mary of Rach Suc Church.

As soon as Tipple returned home from his first visit, he began working on fundraising ideas for the Rach Suc mission. He came to St. Mark Church and its pastor, Father Pete Gideon, took on the challenge. Since St. Mark became the launching pad for his efforts, he named his new ministry Bridges of St. Mark.

After 10 years, Tipple as president of the ministry continues to take a personal interest in the needs of the mission churches, visits them when he can, helps physically when he is there, and keeps up a grueling schedule at home for administrative duties and fundraising. The mission priests in Vietnam also are busy. As a testimony to the spiritual work done there, Father Minh baptized 100 new Catholics at Tra Ech this past Easter. One of the challenges of the Tra Ech church is that it is geographically located in the middle of many Buddhist temples.

With the help of the Holy Spirit and its contributors, Bridges of St. Mark makes a significant difference in how the Church impacts the poor in the communities it serves. A significant impact comes from its efforts to supply water-filtration devices to homes so that water can be consumed safely and used for hygiene and cooking.

Funds raised by BOSM have helped build much-needed bridges in Ca Lang and Tra Ech. Contributions also support efforts to educate people about the dangers of dirty water and to show them how to protect water sources from contaminants. The funds also help maintain and improve church buildings and dormitories for those going to school in the three communities the organization serves.

The money also is used to provide chairs for the churches and schools, food for everyone, books for the children, and medical personnel and supplies to treat the sick. Part of what is contributed also is used for efforts to oppose human trafficking and illiteracy, to combat high mortality rates resulting from poor health and unsanitary conditions, and to provide jobs.

Recently, Tipple and BOSM member Paul Sullivan made a missionary trip to the three mission churches. Most of their time was spent at Tra Ech, where the largest amount of work is needed. Father Minh said Tra Ech is an even poorer community than the other two and is much in need of spiritual and physical rehabilitation, health and safety education, and a way to filter river water. In addition, the church property needs a new bridge because the only path to it is nearly washed out.

Tipple and Sullivan brought in educational information about clean water and enough material for 10 bio-sand water filters, which are in use in homes carefully selected by the priests. The effort was so successful that an order for 50 more filtration units was made.

As God’s plan continues to change, BOSM has grown. There always will be much to do at the three churches. With their success has come the growth of the Catholic population in the area and the hope they will provide more priests, religious, evangelization, and conversions to Catholicism. And there may be opportunities for the ministry to serve more churches, if God wills it.

For more information about the mission churches and The Bridges of St. Mark, go to www.bridgesofsaintmark.org.
La Salette mission in Haiti includes two new parishes, three schools

La Salette missionaries from Madagascar have been present in Haiti for more than 10 years, but the link between La Salette and Haiti existed for many years before the order’s arrival there. Many La Salette priests from the United States have been helping the people of Haiti through parish twinning programs or other forms of support. The order’s permanent presence in the nation resulted from a proposal resulting from the experience of an American La Salle missionary who was helping a parish in the Diocese of Gonaives, Haiti.

Today, three La Salette priests from Madagascar work in the diocese. The bishop of Gonaives entrusted two newly erected parishes to them: St Augustine of Petite Riviere des Bayonnais and St. Joachim and St. An of Haute Feuille.

Haiti made the headlines around the world recently, and this is not the first time. Civic uprisings, politically related violence and natural disasters have been part of the life of Haiti as a nation for years. Unfortunately, the poor people suffered the most from this political instability.

There are two distinct categories of Haitians. On the one hand, there is a group of rich people. They can afford a good education, three meals a day and comfortable homes. Their lifestyles are similar to American lifestyles; in fact, they have at least a few family members working abroad. This group somehow met its dreams, but they are very few.

The majority of the population is suffering. They barely eat once a day; they have meat maybe once a week or once every two weeks. They rely on food that non-governmental organizations provide. Their children go to subsidized public schools, which are struggling without teachers and with a lack of school supplies. They are the ones who suffer from the results of political problems and corruption at all levels of the government of Haiti.

Fortunately, the Catholic Church is present everywhere in the nation, and has been for centuries. Almost all Haitians call themselves Christians, if not Catholics. The Church played a very important role in Haitian society. With the help of benefactors and donations from churches in foreign countries, especially the United States, the Church

in Haiti is able to meet the most basic needs of the Haitian people who are suffering. Parishes and religious communities are managing and running schools, providing primary health care through church-based small clinics, giving food for the children and the elderly through soup kitchens, providing the population with clean and hygienic water, and doing much more.

With the help of their La Salette brothers and benefactors from the United States, La Salette missionaries opened their two parishes in the Goncalves diocese, along with two small chapels. In these four churches, they work hard to motivate parents and parishioners to make sure that their children have access to education and convince them to send the children to school.

They run three schools in three different areas: preschool to ninth grade in Haute Feuille and primary schools in Riviere des Bayonnais and Hatte Chevreu. Because of the limited financial resources of most of the parents, the missionaries pay teacher salaries. They also run soup kitchen programs in the three schools.

La Salette missionaries have a specific charism of reconciliation. That is why they strive to show parishioners that it is urgent that they reconcile themselves with their past and their history. Haitian people are very proud of their past, but without education, this pride can cause more harm than good. Hygiene and environmental awareness are other focuses of La Salette ministry in the parishes.

Today, there are 500 students in the school in Haute Feuille. School buildings are being expanded because of the increasing number of students. Because of generous support, these schoolchildren can continue their education, which they otherwise could not afford, and can at least have one meal a day during school days.

True evangelization needs to go hand in hand with education and schools. In Bayonnais, the school is being restructured for a better impact on the society. Parents are getting involved in a more efficient way in the education of their children. Gradually, they are becoming more responsible for their children’s future. Bayonnais is one of the isolated villages of the Diocese of Gonaives. It is also one of the poorest communities in the diocese.

Haiti has a rich heritage and Haitians are very proud of their history and their culture. They are jealous of their freedom and their past. Unfortunately, in addition to natural disasters of all kinds, the political situation does not help them to flourish and to enjoy the many blessings they inherited from their ancestors.

People in Bayonnais and Haute Feuille, especially children, need help. With support, the children will be able to go to school, more classrooms will be built for them, they will be provided with clean, hygienic water, and they will have a chance for a better life. All of this is part of the La Salette mission and charism: to preach the good news to a people devastated by extreme poverty and to reconcile them with their past and their dignity as human beings. In doing so, the missionaries contribute to the future of Haiti.
By Carol Ann Lombardi and Mary Humphrey
Gahanna St. Matthew Church

Drawn to Tanzania for various reasons, our group of four pilgrims embarked in early May on an epic adventure, united by our love of God, our Catholic faith and a desire to meet and learn more about our African brothers and sisters in Christ. We entrusted ourselves to the guidance of our parish priest, Father Peter Asantebwana, who welcomed us to his home diocese of Moshi.

What began as a mission to serve the Tanzanian people in one form or another became a lesson to us in humility, joy and generosity. We witnessed people who appreciated everything they had, worked hard, radiated happiness, shared graciously and showed how to celebrate life.

We arrived in Tanzania during an unusually late rainy season in the east African nation – one fraught with torrential downpours and flooding, resulting in deeply rutted roadways and occasionally treacherous travel. We accepted Father's word that Mount Kilimanjaro existed here, although it remained shrouded in thick clouds throughout our stay. One member of our group renamed it “Faith Mountain” because it prompted us to believe in something we could not see.

The Mwenge Retreat Center at Kilimanjaro’s base was our home for two weeks. We arrived at 9:30 p.m. to find a wonderful welcoming meal prepared by the kitchen staff, many of whom began working at 6:30 that morning. We blessed them for their dedication by the kitchen staff, many of whom began working at 6:30 that morning.

Throughout our stay, we mingled with some of them in the dining hall at breakfast and/or dinner, where we ate traditional food freshly prepared over wood-fueled flames, along with seasonal fruits and vegetables. Father had cautioned us about the lack of reliable electricity and running water, so we frequently washed our hands with soap and water at a spigoted bucket and occasionally dined by light from a cell phone light placed under a water bottle. We also mastered the “bucket bath.”

Despite the abundance of mud, the people maintained clean floors with fastidious care. Not a vacuum cleaner was heard for our entire stay; they performed everything by hand. We noticed that at the churches, the parishioners cleaned the floors themselves. The people of Tanzania showed diligence in hand-washing throughout the day, especially before meals.

On our first full day in Moshi, we learned about local celebrations as we attended the 50th anniversary jubilee of Father A. Ndekimo at St. John the Apostle Church. The festivities opened with Mass at the retreat center chapel, where Father Asantebwana graced us at the altar with Mass lasting about two hours, complete with wonderful choir selections that culminated in the Hallelujah chorus. The people accompanied the singing with musical instruments and body movement, while the church was filled with Easter decorations of yellow and red flags and banners.

The celebration continued outside under tents on one of the rare sunny days of our trip. Father Ndekimo, a highly revered priest known for his humility, charity to women and service to the poor, made certain that every member of his parish received food and drink that day from a lavish buffet, including a roasted goat. The festivities included live music, dancing, congratulatory accolades and for us, an introduction to Kilimanjaro beer. We witnessed how the Tanzanian people celebrate someone with much joy.

Throughout our stay, while our group benefited from our bilingual host, we discovered immediately that the common greeting among Christians, whether answering the telephone or meeting in person, came by way of Swahili: “Tumisifu Yesu Kristo?” (“Praised be Jesus Christ!”), to which one would respond, “Milele, amina!” (“Now and forever, amen”). Thus we witnessed a pattern of praising that continued throughout the day.

Many days began with Mass at the retreat center chapel, where Father Asantebwana graced us at the altar

used by Pope St. John Paul II when he visited Tanzania. Father presented insightful, heartfelt reflections that merged the daily readings with our current experience and reverently offered the Holy Sacrifice for our little band of travelers.

On some days, we attended Mass at various churches, where we found pews packed with believers worshiping with their whole being. One could find a daily 6 a.m. Mass filled with adults and schoolchildren alike. The celebration of the Mass climaxed on Sundays with parishes offering designated children’s liturgies, youth Masses and regular services, each filled with joyful prayer and song, usually lasting well beyond an hour.

The Holy Spirit seemed alive and active among these Tanzanian people, who esteem the priesthood and somehow instinctively recognized Father Asantebwana as a priest, even when not wearing his clerical garb.

On the first Sunday of our trip, we drove to Christ the King Cathedral in Moshi for Mass. Along the way, we witnessed a man with no legs crawling up the street toward the church.

On this, the Third Sunday of Easter, the Gospel recounted Jesus thrice asking Peter, “Do you love Me?” It seemed to set the stage for our entire journey as we continually witnessed the priests in Moshi tending His flock and feeding His lambs.

After Sunday Mass, as we re-

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Greater Love, continued from Page 10

Education. Opportunities exist to sponsor such candidates and insuring the future availability of well-formed priests willing to serve the world’s flock. The Tanzanian priests greatly appreciate the missionaries who brought Christ to their nation and now stand ready to reciprocate to the ends of the earth.

In Tanzania, a parish usually consists of a main church and two or three outstation churches. Because most people do not own cars, many walk miles to their church to attend Mass. Although these parishes lacked material resources, the pastors always insisted on and found a way of feeding us when we visited.

Likewise, when we visited con-

trols, receiving a wonderful welcome (Karibu in Swahili) and delicious food. Humura Motherhouse, for example, vibrant with prayer, activity, and joy, allowed us to gather with the elderly sisters during our tour. Tanzania also has many young women in formation for religious life.

We spent one afternoon with the friars – Brothers of Christ the Redeemer – where we shared a meal, toured their farmlands and tasted their sugar cane. What a burst of sweet juice!

At the orphanage we visited, the children sang a welcome song for us that stated “Oh, rejoice!” because we were visiting. Most of the children found themselves at the orphanage because they were living homeless on the street, their mother had died or given them up, or their parents died of AIDS. Tanzania does not permit international adoption, but a person can sponsor one of these children.

We also witnessed the groundbreaking work in progress at St. Pammucius School, pioneered by a soft-spoken, humble priest, Father Patrick Asantebwana. Here, children with all manner of special needs, including those with missing limbs or who are deaf or blind, can learn and develop into the fullness of God’s design. One student with no arms won a penmanship competition by writing with his feet!

Until this school was founded, these children remained somewhat hidden, without the opportunity to find a place in society. Here we found the orphanage. We witnessed priests viewed as Baba (Father) to the little lambs and felt a resonance that this reflected Christ’s call. The children run to the priests and the priests bless them with their presence.

We found it refreshing to be able to express our faith everywhere we went and observed what life looks like with this freedom, when centered on Christ and continual prayer. Daily habits of morning Mass, prayer before meals, prayer before pulling out of the driveway, midday prayer shared with others, recitation of the rosary, and reflections on the Gospel readings with companions and song filled our days with the presence of God.

The Church functions in many respects as the center of life in Moshi. Parishes usually have a dispensary where people can receive medical care and, if needed, get a ride to a hospital. Most people do not own a car, so the roads always are filled with people walking, children making their way to or from school, and women carrying items for market on their heads and babies on their backs. Motorcycles zip in and out of traffic carrying all manner of commodities and often transport women with babies in arms.

The hospitals maintain high-level sanitary practices, even while using antiquated equipment and cast-off hospital beds. The level of gratitude and joy for everything humbles American expectations. Again, many areas exist for those interested in contrib-

uting to the ongoing effort to provide quality care.

Things we don’t typically see in America, such as adults walking with clubbed feet, do not deter these happy people from living life. Tanzanians do not embrace excuses and creatively use everything they have. Parishes grow and build by using the labor of their own people as much as possible to construct facilities and outstation churches, progressing as far as possible with a given amount of money and then waiting to complete projects until more funds are obtained. One senses hope for the future and patience in this approach.

This journey provided the personal witness of priests who exemplify Christ’s sacrificial love. Examples include a priest rushing out to celebrate Mass at a local elementary school to provide a source of immediate encouragement after hearing of behavior concerns related to some students. Father Asantebwana was continually blessing people, whether the young staff at the retreat center or a stranger in a Catholic book store who presented items to him. No one escaped his notice. He even drove eight hours to participate in the funeral of a fellow priest. Certainly, our trip proved no vacation for him as he also worked to ensure our well-being.

Always we witnessed the networking of priests in the diocese helping another one with errands and support. All this self-sacrificing is truly a laying down of one’s life, when one considers the generosity in light of the minimal compensation these priests receive.

As another benefit, our trip allowed us to meet members of Father Asantebwana’s family and share Mother’s Day with many of them. Two of the family’s 12 children are priests and two are sisters, and there are several teachers and multiple grandchildren. We basked in the love, joy and hospitality of this blessed family.

We gained as much as we gave during this trip. We thank God that we could travel and experience this wonderful nation, especially the treasure of the Tanzanian people and their children.

While the electricity proved sporadic, the energy of the Holy Spirit never faltered. While running water eluded us at times, the Living Water flowed abundantly. While hardship abounded, grace abounded even more. Love never failed.

Carol Ann Lombardi, one of four pilgrims from Gahanna St. Matthew Church who visited Tanzania with Father Asantebwana, their parochial vicar, to learn about the people of the east African nation, talks with a group of young children.

Father Sabas (playing organ) shares his love of music and teaching. He is also a physicist, author, artist and auto mechanic.
Father Jefferies Foale, CP, is 86 and his continued enthusiasm for missionary work is obvious after 62 years as a member of the Passionist order of priests.

The Australian native has been a frequent visitor to the Diocese of Columbus as part of the diocesan Missionary Cooperation Plan (MCP). He wrote this when asked to tell about his work for this year’s Mission Sunday issue of The Catholic Times:

“I came here from India in 2005 to see if we could survive a Communist regime and maybe recruit and train local Passionist missionaries. As Passionists, dedicated to spreading the word of the great love of God manifested in Jesus’ gift of himself on the cross, we imagined we might be at home in a crucified country like Vietnam. Along the road, we have experienced again and again the generosity of the people of Columbus many times.

“The steady support of our own Passionist congregation and the generosity of the exiled Vietnamese community in Australia, along with the MCP, have enabled us to share with a wonderful band of young men the inspiration that is now taking them to the poorest of the poor in remote and neglected places.

“They have gone through the long years of theology school while spending weekends and holidays serving in shelters for the physically, socially and intellectually challenged of every kind, including beautiful HIV-positive children. Seven Vietnamese Passionists are now ordained, three in remote missions in Vietnam, one helping out in Australia where priests are so scarce, and three running our whole seminary program.

“Vietnam sells itself to the world as a most beautiful land of rapid eco-


conomic progress, but we know the other side of development, the pockets of poverty and neglect left behind. After sending them out in hope and in response to the bishop’s call, it has been an inspiration for me to visit our young Vietnamese Passionist missionaries, hardly out of the seminary, up to their necks in the reality of the suffering poor and loving it.

“The photos accompanying this letter come from a weekend when they organized a group of city friends to volunteer their time and treasure to come to the relief of struggling landless peasants in the little community of Phu Khoi, entrusted to the Passionists by Bishop Stephen Thien of Can Tho in the Mekong delta. Both Passionists come from poor families themselves, but conditions here were a shock even to them. Suddenly, they are feeling the reality of sharing life with the destitute.

“Meanwhile we have been able, through great struggles, to build a large enough religious house, which is almost complete. We call it St. Paul’s Retreat.

“It is a house of prayer and home to 20 Passionist seminarians, who are eager for the day they, too, will live in solidarity with God’s little ones. Pope Francis talks about the pastors needing to take on the smell of the sheep – that atmosphere of being touched by the joys and sorrows, the hopes and dreams of all and never turning our backs on them. Altogether, we have 35 in training in different locations.

“I myself have had the privilege of taking part in the MCP in the Diocese of Columbus several times, and to feel the warmth of the missionaries of the parishes, your own American people, who know that they too are entrusted with a treasure to be shared. All can spread Jesus’ good news around at home or far away. Finally, this year, at 86 I have found a young Vietnamese Passionist, Father Joseph Tuan, to take my place on the road in the U.S. during the summer break from his seminary duties.”

The Comboni order of missionary priests is dedicated to serving the world’s poorest and most abandoned peoples. The order was founded in 1867 by St. Daniel Comboni, who had a love for Africa and a motto of “to save Africa with Africa.” Now, more than 150 years later, his mission is being realized as vocations in Africa continue to increase.

More than 3,500 Comboni priests, brothers, sisters and laity serve in 42 nations. They are dedicated to sharing the joy of the Gospel and the love of Jesus Christ with everyone they meet.

They accomplish this by ministering through the sacraments; preparing local leaders to serve their people; building and pastorizing churches, empowering the next generation to serve as catechists; running medical clinics, dispensaries and hospitals; building and running schools at all levels; digging bore holes and wells for access to clean water; providing opportunities to learn new work skills; advocating for human rights through international and local organizations; living among the people they serve; and much more.

In the United States, Comboni missionaries serve in Cincinnati; Chicago; Los Angeles; and Newark, New Jersey. They also are in Kitchener, Ontario, Canada. Their focus in North America is pastoral work among African Americans and Hispanics, adapting their ministries to the needs of the times.

Comboni Father Louie Gasparini serves as director of Hispanic ministry for the Archdiocese of Cincinnati.

The Comboni Missionaries work hard to build a community of friends and benefactors to help support missions around the world.

Learn more at www.combonimissionaries.org

Catholic Times 12 October 13, 2019
Dominicans persevere in east Africa amid unstable conditions

The Dominican Friars have been serving and preaching the Catholic faith in east Africa for more than 25 years, sometimes against a backdrop of political unrest and violence in a region that often has been unstable.

St. Martin de Porres Priory in Kisumu, Kenya, has formation as its main apostolate. Here, young men live and receive instruction while ordained friars teach at the Catholic University of Eastern Africa; assist at three nearby parishes; are chaplains at three convents and hospitals; and minister to the often-neglected prison population.

During the last year or two, the friars’ chapel, which holds about 30 people, has attracted more worshipers for Sunday Mass than the space can accommodate. The friars are renovating a large storage building to become a chapel for people drawn to the Dominican charism of preaching the Word of God. The St. Catherine of Siena Retreat Center, a new apostolate, serves the wider lay and religious community through retreats, workshops and liturgical and spiritual enrichment classes.

Student friars and professors study at St. Dominic Seminary in Karen. Their outside ministries include working at the Kwetu Home of Peace, which serves the physical, educational and spiritual needs of abandoned, orphaned and at-risk children. The friars use their limited resources to try then decides what it can do to assist financially.

At the St. Martin de Porres outpost of St. Catherine of Siena Church in Kenya’s capital, Nairobi, friars work with young people whose homes are part of a slum, engaging them in activities and outings, providing spiritual direction and serving as good role models. Friars also work in campus ministry at the University of Nairobi.

St. Catherine of Siena Church started in a thatched hut. Through the friars’ efforts, it has developed into a vibrant parish with a new church, completed about two years ago, which is a busy center for the surrounding community’s Catholics. Friars serve in pastoral ministry, have developed a strong and active group of laypersons, and are chaplains to communities of Dominican sisters in the area.

Funds from the Missionary Cooperation Plan of the Diocese of Columbus help support seminarians in formation, ordained friars, and their apostolates. Friars from the United States who serve with the Dominicans in Kenya must become fluent in Swahili to preach effectively.

Preaching is the Dominicans’ charism and an important part of evangelizing people who are still young in the faith and face severe hardships in their daily lives. In all of their daily preaching and various apostolates, the friars bring a deeper theological reflection of the faith so that the church in all of its beauty and gifts may be more fully manifest.

Preparing young people for lay ministry in Central America

The Missionary Fraternity of Mary is an order of priests serving in 11 nations in South America, North America, Africa and Europe and dedicated to educating and ordering young men to bring the good news of Jesus and the sacraments to marginalized Catholics.

With the support of the Missionary Cooperative Plan of the Diocese of Columbus, the Missionary Fraternity of Mary has been working on developing a better spiritual life for young people affected by the environment of violence in Central America.

Because of the challenges affecting the youth of Latin American countries, the order’s seminarians, in their formation program in Guatemala, dedicate their pastoral activities to preparing young people for lay ministry within the Church and to working with the poor to develop their spiritual and temporal well-being.

Fifty seminarians are working in the order’s youth ministry project, which attempts to give life-changing opportunities to boys and girls so they will desire to stay in the nations where they live.

Many young people in Central America think there is no hope for them where they are because they lack education and the institutions of government don’t seem to be interested in them.

The number of documented and undocumented immigrants from Central America to the United States has grown from 118,000 in 1970 to nearly 3.3 million in 2018. That is six times faster than the overall immigrant population. Last year, 87 percent of Central American immigrants came from El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras.

The Missionary Fraternity of Mary’s efforts attempt to give young people a mentality of hope and confidence that there is life and safety at home, so they don’t feel the need to emigrate to the United States. This is designed to benefit the home nations of those youths by having them contribute to the places where they live and to benefit the United States by reducing the strain caused by having so many people leaving their homelands.
Father Francis D’Souza, a priest of the Diocese of Sindhudurg in the state of Maharashtra, India, visited five parishes in the northern part of the Diocese of Columbus earlier this year to raise funds for evangelization and the training of seminarians, through the support of the diocesan Missionary Cooperation Plan.

He was in central Ohio for five weeks and spoke at weekend Masses at Cardington Sacred Hearts, Marion St. Mary, Marysville Our Lady of Lourdes, Kenton Immaculate Conception and Ada Our Lady of Lourdes churches.

“The primary purpose of the funds raised is to print the Bible in the local language,” he said. “With your generosity, we have gone forward and given the bible for printing and we shall release it on Sunday, Oct. 13, when we open the Bishop’s House, a much-awaited event after so many years of the formation of the diocese.”

The diocese was formed in 2005, and its priorities have been building or rebuilding churches, meeting the educational and health care needs of the poor and needy, and feeding all of its students of all faiths. Bishop Alwyn Barreto, the first bishop of Sindhudurg, has operated the diocese from a hostel since its founding until now. He comes from a wealthy family and has given all his inheritance to the diocese. Bishop Barreto was supposed to come to Ohio to raise funds this year, but became ill and had Father D’Souza take his place.

“The other main purpose of our fundraising in the Columbus area is to use the money for the upkeep of seminarians studying for the priesthood,” Father D’Souza said. “Unless we have priests, our diocese will not be able to cope with the spiritual needs of the people or to spread the word of God in our missions.”

“The response to my appeal was very heartening and it was wonderful to see the congregation in every church listening with keen interest and then contributing generously. I was made to feel at home by the respective pastors in giving me a warm welcome and making my stay a comfortable one. I could also exchange and have a healthy conversation with them and come to know their individual ways of functioning, which added to my quest to continuously seek and learn of a good pastoral approach.”

“Interaction with parishioners during the appeals helped me to imbibe culture and mannerisms, and their affability, cordiality and self-confidence, especially among the young, was indeed a joy to behold.”

Donations from five diocesan parishes aid diocese in India

Hands Together is a mission outreach that serves the people of Cité Soleil, a slum area in the Haitian capital of Port-au-Prince that is one of the poorest places on the planet, according to the United Nations. More than 300,000 people live in a three-square-mile area with very little electricity, poor sanitation and no fresh drinking water.

“It is nearly impossible to exaggerate the human misery faced by the people that we help in Haiti,” said Father Tom Hagan, Hands Together’s founder, who frequently has visited the Diocese of Columbus to appeal for aid through the diocesan Missionary Cooperation Plan. “It is an area where there are 10 times as many rats as humans. Hands Together has made a firm commitment never to abandon this area.”

Founded by Father Hagan and lay missionary Doug Campbell with the purpose of bringing hope and dignity to the poorest of the poor, Hands Together serves the people of Haiti through a variety of programs to meet basic needs of education, nutrition, medical care, agriculture and water.

It operates 11 free schools that serve the poorest children in rural and urban Haiti. These are some of the nation’s only tuition-free schools. Hands Together also operates four free medical clinics, which have 42 Haitian medical staff members, including three Haitian doctors. The outreach also supplies drinking water to the people, especially the elderly and schoolchildren. Hands Together’s water well drilling rigs bring life-giving clean water and hope to farmers in areas with unclean water.

The outreach also works in rural Haiti, which presents quite different challenges than the urban slum. Most of the Caribbean nation’s rural regions survive on simple farming that can barely sustain a family. Hands Together’s 100-acre farm invites farmers to practice experimental planting, greatly increasing their yields and profits. In the past 15 years, more than 500,000 Hands Together-grown seedlings have been planted.

In addition, the program sponsors several sustainable development outreach programs aimed at moving families toward self-sufficiency. It actively practices spontaneous charity consisting of thousands of gifts for funerals, medicine, food and housing to people who line up for assistance each day.

When natural disasters strike Haiti, as they frequently do, Hands Together gives needed supplies, food and water. “It is challenging work and we face many obstacles daily, but we know that God wants us to keep going,” Father Hagan said. “We are grateful to all our donors and friends for their faithful support so we may continue our work with the desperately poor.”
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All fund-raising events (festivals, bazaars, spaghetti dinners, fish fries, bake sales, pizza/sub sales, candy sales, etc.) will be placed as a classified ad. An entry will be $18.50 for the first six lines and $2.65 for each additional line.

For more information, call Doug Bean at 614-224-5195.

October

11, FRIDAY
Couples Program with Father Nathaniel Cromby
6:30 to 10 p.m., event room, Roosters restaurant, 1500 Stonecreek Drive, Pickerington. “Discovering God’s Plan for Your Love,” a workshop for married and engaged couples with Father Nathaniel Cromby, CSJ, founder of Eagle Eye Ministries. Cost $45 per couple, including dinner. 614-306-6851

David Haas Concert at Resurrection
7 p.m., Church of the Resurrection, 6300 E. Dublin-Granville Road, New Albany. Concert with sacred music artist David Haas, sponsored by Columbus chapter of National Association of Pastoral Musicians, with singers and musicians from the Diocese of Columbus. Free-will offering to benefit Habitat for Humanity. 614-565-0374

11-12, FRIDAY-SATURDAY
German Village St. Mary Oktoberfest
5 to 11 p.m., St. Mary School lawn, 684 S. 3rd St., Columbus. Third annual Oktoberfest benefiting charities of Knights of Columbus Pope St. John XXIII Council 5429 and St. Mary Home and School Association, featuring German food, drinks and entertainment. 614-445-9668

11-13, FRIDAY-SUNDAY
Italian Festival at St. John the Baptist
5 to 11 p.m. Friday, noon to 11 p.m. Saturday and noon to 7 p.m. Sunday. St. John the Baptist Church, 720 Hamlet St., Columbus. 40th annual Columbus Italian Festival, featuring Italian food, music, games, cooking demonstrations, children’s events, and sports, including a bocce tournament. Includes parade and high school band competition at 1 p.m. Sunday.

12, 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.

David Haas Workshop at Resurrection
9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Church of the Resurrection, 6300 E. Dublin-Granville Road, New Albany. Workshop exploring Matthew’s version of the Beatitudes, with sacred music artist David Haas, sponsored by Columbus chapter of National Association of Pastoral Musicians. Registration $35, including lunch and materials. Register at npncatholic.org/haas.

Columbus Catholic Young Adult Conference
10 a.m., St. John Neumann Church, 9633 E. State Route 37, Sunbury. Inaugural Columbus Catholic Young Adult Conference for anyone age 18 to 35, with talks by Father Edward SIMondon on the modern papacy. Talks include “The Gregorian Reform of the Church.” 614-488-6149

St. Christopher Adult Religious Education
10 to 11:15 a.m., Library, Trinity Catholic School, 1440 Grandview Ave., Columbus. “ST. Thomas Aquinas, the Theologian,” an episode of Bishop Robert Barron’s Pivotat Players series on significant people in Catholic history. 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.

Seasons of Hope Bereavement Ministry
2 to 4 p.m., St. Michael Church, 5750 N. High St., Worthington. Fifth meeting of six-week Sessions of Hope bereavement ministry support group for those who have lost a loved one, sponsored by North High Deanery. 614-565-0795

Family Rosary Day at Cathedral
3 p.m., St. Joseph Cathedral, 212 E. Broad St., Columbus. Annual diocesan Family Rosary Day, with Bishop Robert Brennan as homilist.

Concerts in a Country Church
3 p.m., St. Colman of Clonycne Church, 219 S. North St., Washington Court House. Parish’s “Concerts in a Country Church” series opens with Rutter’s Requiem and Vivaldi’s Gloria, with chorus, soloists and orchestra. Admission $15, seating limited. 677-232-2571

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
5 p.m., St. Peter Church, 6899 Smoky Row Road, Columbus. Mass in Spanish, with confessions in Spanish from 4 to 4:50. 614-294-7702

Catholic Conversations Series
6 to 8 p.m., Sports on Tap, 4030 Main St., Hilliard. Monthly Catholic Conversations series for anyone 21 and older, sponsored by Columbus St. Margaret of Cortona Church. This month’s feature is a Catholic trivia game, with prizes. Contact Julie Napporano at julienapporano1@gmail.com.

Catechist at the Cathedral
6:45 p.m., St. Joseph Cathedral, 212 E. Broad St., Columbus. Sixth of weekly series of sessions with Father Adam Streitenberger through December on the Catechism of the Catholic Church. 614-224-1295

14, MONDAY
Rosary at St. Pius X
6:30 p.m., St. Pius X Church, 1051 S. Waggoner Road, Reynoldsburg. Recital of Rosary for the sick of the parish and all who are ill. 614-866-2859

Blessedresa 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, 614-309-2851

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.

15, TUESDAY
Diocesan Safety Summit at St. Luke
8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., St. Luke Church, 307 S. Market St., Danville. Diocesan-sponsored training session for parish staff and volunteers to provide insight on how to build a culture of safety within their environments. Lunch provided. Register at https://security-summit-stukedanville.eventbrite.com.

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

16, WEDNESDAY
Diocesan Safety Summit at Chillicothe St. Peter
8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., St. Peter Church, 285 W. Water St., Chillicothe. Diocesan-sponsored training session for parish staff and volunteers to provide insight on how to build a culture of safety within their environments. Lunch provided. Register at https://security-summit-stpeter.eventbrite.com.

Abortion Recovery Network Group
9:30 a.m., Westerville Area Resource Ministry, 150 Heathender Drive, Westerville. Abortion recovery network group meeting for anyone interested in recovering from abortion or who has been through a recovery program, and wants to stay connected. 614-721-2100

Christ Child Society Red Wagon Fare Lunch
12-30 p.m., “The Exchange at Bridge Park, 6520 Riverside Drive, Dublin, Christ Child Society of Columbus annual Red Wagon Fare lunch and style show, with boutique open at 10 a.m. featuring local vendors, and style show with clothes from Von Maur. $60 per person. Register at www.christchildsonline.org.

Feast of St. Gerard Celebration at Holy Family
6 p.m., Holy Family Church, 584 W. Broad St., Columbus. Mass in honor of St. Gerard Majella, patron saint of pregnant women, with food trucks open at 5 p.m. and celebration with games and a mystery auction following Mass. 614-221-4323

Divine Mercy Chaplet at St. Pius X
6 p.m., St. Pius X Church, 1051 S. Waggoner Road, Reynoldsburg. Recital of Chaplet of Divine Mercy. 614-866-2859

Storytelling Program at Shepherd’s Corner
6:30 to 8 p.m., Shepherd’s Corner Ecology Center, 987 N. Waggoner Road, Blacklick. “Storytelling Experience” program, with all invited to build, create and share true and fanciful tales. Registration deadline Oct. 14. Suggested donation $5. 614-866-4302

Catholic Times
Monica Glynn

A funeral service for Monica Glynn, 89, who died Monday, Sept. 30, took place on Friday, Oct. 4 at St. Mary’s Cemetery, East Brandy, Pennsylvania.

She was born on July 31, 1930 in Chicora, Pennsylvania to Francis and Mary Alice (Black) Knoll, and was a graduate of Slippery Rock (Pennsylvania) University.

She was a member of Pickerington St. Elizabeth Seton Parish and taught at Columbus Christ the King School for 32 years.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Paul; brothers, Father Charles Knoll, OFM, John, Francis and Donald “Ed”; and sisters, Rita Barnhart and Agnes Pfaff.

Survivors include her daughter, Dr. Anne (Ofer) Zajicek; brothers, Father Lester Knoll, OFM, and Thomas; sisters, Mary Geibel, Bernadette Huefner and Donna “Betty” Neff; and one grandson.

To have an obituary printed in the Catholic Times, send it to: tpuet@columbuscatholic.org
28th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Know the faith to live the faith

2 Kings 5:14-17
Psalm 98:1-4
2 Timothy 2:8-13
Luke 17:11-19

“The Lord has revealed to the nations his saving power.”

What do most people see when they look at the Church? Do they see the saving power of God at work among us?

The call of the Gospel is first to live it, to put it into practice actively and sincerely and fully. Our task as the Church in the world is to be involved, to allow faith to inform all of our decisions.

This means being educated in the Gospel, forming a conscience that understands and intends to live by the fundamental Gospel values, and doing what you can to implement God’s plan for us. Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Others are to see in us the truth of the Gospel, to realize that we are standing on solid ground.

God asks us to do simple things to show that He is part of our lives. Wash. Give thanks. Share. Tell the story. This is the life of the Church and the life of the domestic Church, that is, the Church alive in the home.

Wash – be baptized, go to confession, renew vows and commitments after failures.

Give thanks – connect with the Giver of the gifts.

Share – eat together, talk heart to heart, be with each other here and now.

Tell the story – Go out, find a new audience, invite others in to share.

God is not distant. He is near. God is not the property of any individual or people. God belongs to all. God can be found by anyone who is sincere in the search for Him. Once found, God asks for a response. The response must be personal, direct, all-engaging and open-ended.

Naaman asked for the very dirt of Palestine, so he could worship the God who healed him. The unnamed Samaritan leper returned to acknowledge the power of Jesus when he was cured, and he was praised for his act of faith.

Are we living up to our potential in making full use of the ground that is ours in the Catholic faith?

There a few topics that many in our current culture seem to have trouble with. Like Naaman, we resist hearing the Word of God taught to us by our Church. These topics include:

- The responsibility we have to give God our first and best, the Gospel principle of giving back to God what He has given to us – what we owe in justice for the functioning of our parishes and in charity to the needs of the poor. Are you familiar with the Church’s teachings concerning social justice?

- Church rules about fasting and the obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and holy days. The rule is to fast from all food and drink (except water) one hour before receiving holy Communion and to participate in Mass every Sunday and on all holy days of obligation.

- The teachings of the Church in regard to respect for human life at every stage of its development. Do you listen to the Church’s counsel on the treatment of human life in its first stages, with respect to fertility, and at its end, in regard to end-of-life issues? Do you read, study and pray about these matters before you make decisions?

- Church teaching about marriage and sexuality. Why does the Church have a teaching about these that is so different from the rest of society? Do you have an understanding of the truth of Church teachings on marriage, in particular, a basic grasp of Pope John Paul II’s Theology of the Body and of Natural Family Planning?

- The task that is ours is to change the world, to convince others of the truth of Jesus’ saving power, rather than to be caught up in the things of this world. Are you on board with the New Evangelization called for by all of the recent popes?

We are called to be faithful to Christ. This means we need to know our faith.

Leprous Syrians and Samaritans of every kind seem to have more faith than we do. Can we change our thinking and open our hearts to something better?

Christ, who is always faithful, deserves nothing less from us.
What kind of “believers” are there in Germany?

This past June I was in the Munich area for four days, giving a public lecture on Evangelical Catholicism and doing a lot of media interviews. My hosts were exceptionally gracious, but it was also obvious that the Catholic Church in what was once Germany’s most intensely Catholic region is in terrible shape. The numbers tell the tale.

The parish in whose rectory I stayed has some 10,000 parishioners — which is to say, the pastor knows that there are 10,000 people within the parish boundaries who, when paying their federal taxes, tick the box for the Kirchensteuer, the “Church tax.” Having seen years of statistics on Sunday Mass attendance from the German bishops’ conference, I was expecting the pastor to answer my question about his Sunday congregation with a figure somewhere between 700 and 1,000. No, he said; average Sunday Mass attendance among those 10,000 parishioners was 200. And when he asked people politely when he might see them at Mass, he frequently got the answer, “Look, I pay the Church tax; what else do you want?”

So it was with some interest that I read the recent explanation by Munich’s Cardinal Reinhard Marx as to why he and the majority of the German bishops were defying the Vatican and plowing ahead with their “binding Synodal process,” in order to re-examine “issues” such as the Church’s sexual ethic, its teaching on marriage, and its ancient practice of ordaining only men to the ministerial priesthood. Cardinal Marx claimed that “Countless believers in Germany consider (these issues) in need of discussion.” The not-so-tacit suggestion was that Church leaders in Germany should re-examine “issues” such as the Church’s sexual ethic, its teaching on marriage, and its ancient practice of ordaining only men to the ministerial priesthood. Cardinal Marx suggested the “issues” at the top of German Catholics’ agenda.

And further: How many of these “countless believers,” who seem to think that what is settled is in fact unsettled, have ever had the truths they question explained to them? How many of German Catholicism’s legion of theologians and church workers devote themselves to such teaching? The Archdiocese of Munich and Freising has, I was told, some 2,000 employees. Do any of them live the vocation to explain what is challenging in the Gospel and the Catholic Church’s application of it?

Moreover, in what time-warp do these “countless believers” live? The Catholic Church has spent an inordinate amount of time and energy over the past 50 years “discussing” the “issues” that Cardinal Marx suggests are at the top of German Catholics’ concerns. Isn’t the real problem here that, after a lot of discussion and deliberation, the teaching authority of the Church resolved those issues in a way that “countless believers” didn’t like and still don’t like — perhaps because the Church’s settled answers are in severe tension with the libertine public moral culture that prevails across western Europe?

A little honesty here would go a long way.

Much of the Catholic Church in Germany (and in other German-speaking lands) is in a de facto state of schism: many of its leaders and intellectuals do not believe what the Catholic Church believes. And because of that, they do not teach what the Catholic Church teaches. Nor does this de facto schism touch on neuralgic moral questions alone. It involves the bottom of the bottom line: Is Jesus Christ the unique redeemer of humanity, such that all who are saved are saved through him (in one fashion or another)? Are there divinely revealed truths that remain binding over time? Is the Catholic Church speaking the truth when it solemnly declares that it is doing so, irrespective of what the surrounding culture thinks?

Catholicism is dying in the German-speaking world, not because the Gospel has been proclaimed and found incredible or hard, but because it hasn’t been proclaimed with joy, confidence and zeal. Friendship with the Lord Jesus Christ, and incorporation into the community of disciples in mission that is the Church, has not been offered. That is why there is 2 percent Mass attendance in that Munich parish. Recognizing that hard truth is the only path toward a German Catholicism that has something credible to say to the rest of the world Church.
Bishop Campbell dedicates Hartley multipurpose area

Columbus Bishop Hartley High School’s new Telerski and Casson Center was dedicated on Tuesday, Sept. 24. The center is a multipurpose facility that includes an auxiliary gymnasium, weight room, classroom and conference space.

Retired Bishop Frederick Campbell celebrated a homecoming Mass for the student body and blessed the facility, which honors retired Hartley teachers Robert Telerski and Barbara Casson.

Special guests included Deacon Jim Kelly and Deacon George Zimmerman; Susan Streitenberger from the diocesan Office of Catholic Schools; diocesan facilities director Bruce Boylan; retired teachers Dick Geyer, Tim Grannan and Kathy Servick; architect John Eberts; representatives from Sullivan Builders; and family members and Hartley supporters Paul and Deborah Coleman, Sandra Grosko, Peggy Mackessy, Eric and Jennifer Motter, and Karen Page.

From 1966 until his retirement in 2005, Telerski was a teacher and coach, model and mentor to students. Casson, a Hartley graduate, returned to her alma mater in 1999 as assistant principal and academic dean. She supervised establishment of the Notre Dame program, the first formal program in the diocese to address needs of students with learning disabilities.

Bishop Frederick Campbell blesses the new Telerski and Casson Center at Columbus Bishop Hartley High School. He is pictured with Deacon George Zimmerman (left) and Deacon Jim Kelly.

Photos courtesy Bishop Hartley High School

Telerski and Casson family members attended the dedication.

Winter Grave Decorations

This year we are offering live wreaths which can be used on both graves and mausoleum crypts. Decorations will be placed at burial sites by cemetery personnel during December and will remain until weather renders them unsightly.

Live variegated greens give freshness and beauty

The wreath measures 24” in diameter offering a distinctive appearance. Attached are pine cones and attractive red bow. Easel stands are included for display on graves.

ORDER FORM

Name ______________________________________________________
Address ____________________________________________________
Name of Deceased ____________________________________________
Cemetery ________________________ Section or Building __________
Lot # or Side ______________________ Grave or Crypt # __________
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Mail orders for St. Joseph and Mt. Calvary Cemeteries to:
St. Joseph Cemetery, 6440 South High Street, Lockbourne, OH 43137
Mail orders for Resurrection Cemetery to:
Resurrection Cemetery, 9571 North High Street, Lewis Center, OH 43035
Mail orders for Holy Cross Cemetery to:
Holy Cross Cemetery, 11539 National Road, S.W., Pataskala, OH 43062

No Phone Orders Please!
Diocese of Columbus Summary of 2018 Missions Donations

Society for the Propagation of the Faith (SPOF)

- World Mission Sunday $85,914
- Membership $57,109
- Other Gifts $127,536
- Total SPOF: $270,559

Other Collections

- Missionary Cooperation Plan $342,468
- Mass Offerings $8,380
- Missionary Childhood Association $1,189
- Latin American Collection $58,263
- Home Missions $73,593
- Black/Indian Missions $61,554
- Peter’s Pence $78,881
- Total Other: $624,328

Grand Total Receipts: $914,996

Thank you for your generosity!

Evangelization has no boundaries.
Bringing the Gospel to the ends of the earth.
For this you were Baptized and Sent!

The Society for the Propagation of the Faith

World Mission Sunday
Pray and give generously

October 20th

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