Catholic Veterans Serve Their Nation and Their Church

Pages 10-12
What I learned talking with thousands of skeptics on Reddit

Bishop Robert Barron

Bishop Robert Barron is the founder of Word on Fire Catholic Ministries and auxiliary bishop of Los Angeles. He is also the host of “Catholicism,” an award-winning documentary about the faith, and a best-selling author who has published books, essays and articles on theology and spiritual life.

I recently finished my second dive into the Reddit AMA world. One of the most popular websites in the world, Reddit is a forum for all sorts of online conversations and presentations. The AMA (for Ask Me Anything) is a 21st century version of the medieval _quodlibetal_ questions, during which a theology professor would entertain any inquiry that came from the floor. Things now are a bit cruder and more rough and ready on Reddit than they were in the universities of the Middle Ages, but you get the idea.

When I engaged in the exercise last year, I received almost 12,000 questions and comments, making mine the third most commented-on AMA after those of Bill Gates and Jordan Peterson. This time, I’ve received more than 15,000 comments and counting, making mine the _second_ most commented-on AMA for the past year, just after Bill Gates and ahead of Bernie Sanders! I mention this not to show how popular I am with the Reddit crowd (I’m sure most of them have never heard of me), but rather to demonstrate just how massively interested young people are in the questions of religion.

If you can make it through the plethora of obnoxious, juvenile and insulting comments, you will actually learn a great deal about what is on the minds of the Reddit audience – mostly young men between the ages of 18 and 30 – when it comes to religion. I would identify four major themes: proving the existence of God, the problem of suffering, the determination of why one would choose one religion over another, and homosexuality. Each of these issues was addressed hundreds, perhaps thousands of times. Permit me to speak very briefly of each in turn.

First of all, the question of proving God’s existence came up again and again. Are there rational grounds for believing in God? How do I know there is a God? Can God’s reality be demonstrated to someone who does not believe in the Bible? What struck me very positively in this regard is that the young people on Reddit seemed to have a powerful interest in God – and that’s no small thing. There wasn’t much of the proposal of God’s existence as prescientific nonsense or self-serving fantasy. They were honestly wondering about God, restlessly searching for him. What struck me a bit more negatively is that there seemed to be little or no sense that Christian theologians and philosophers have been presenting and defending arguments for God’s existence for centuries. That the Reddit audience hadn’t an inkling of what these proofs and demonstrations might be, is, at least in part, a failure of the churches in their ministry of education.

The second major theme was the problem of evil. It has been said that all of theology commences with and ultimately centers around the issue of justifying the ways of God in the presence of great suffering; in a way, the intense interest of young people in this question is another encouraging sign that they are eager to think theologically. It obviously would require a lengthy book even to scratch the surface of this matter, but I would make just this one observation: I told a number of my conversation partners that there is only one mystery more puzzling than the problem of evil, and that is the mystery of goodness. Evil does not, strictly speaking, exist. It is the lack of a good that ought to be there, and, as such, it is always parasitic upon the good. So as frustrating and confounding as the problem of evil is, it always is outpaced by the “problem” of goodness – namely, why goodness and beauty should exist at all. This, I suggested, might be a fresh way to address the issue.

The third principal motif was this: How could one possibly know that one’s religion is better or truer than any other? To a large extent, this query is born from the relativism that holds sway everywhere in the culture of the West and, relatedly, from the conviction that toleration is the one indisputable value. Behind the question is the assumption that any attempt to claim truth in regard to a given religion is tantamount to arrogance and bigotry. Those who posed it seem to feel that religions are more or less like hobbies. You have yours and I have mine, but neither one of us would be justified in imposing them on each other or on anyone else. And what all this reveals is a breakdown in anything like genuinely public religious argument. That a person can or actually should make a case rationally for a religious perspective strikes the Reddit audience as absurd. In response to one of these questioners, I offered a brief demonstration of how one might argue on Thomist grounds for the legitimacy of a Trinitarian monotheism. I would be flabbergasted if that little exercise actually convinced my interlocutor, but my more modest hope is that it might show him/her that objective argument is possible in regard to religious matters.

Finally, my Reddit friends were massively concerned with the issue of homosexuality. Repeatedly, probably a thousand times, I heard that the Church hates gays and is hopelessly behind the times in regard to welcoming and affirming homosexuals. I won’t even attempt in the context of this article to address the moral issues here. Those well versed in Aristotelian teleological ethics understand what is meant by the claim that homosexual acts are “intrinsically disordered,” but I’m afraid that the vast majority of people took that language to mean that homosexual persons are twisted and contemptible. Was this a deeply incorrect reading of the Church’s teaching? Absolutely.

I will confess that my two forays into the Reddit space have been more than a little discouraging. If you dare, look at the dismaying number of just plain aggressive and mean-spirited comments. But at the end of the day, I take those 15,000 comments as a deeply encouraging sign that the restless human heart still is searching for the only One who will satisfy it.

OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT
Clergy Assignment

Confirming the appointment of the Superior Delegate of the Missionary Servants of the Word, Father Alberto Basabe, MSP, from service outside the diocese to Associate Administrator, St. Stephen the Martyr Church, Columbus, effective immediately.

Confirming the appointment of the Superior Delegate of the Society of the Catholic Apostolate (Pallottines), Father Wojciech Stachura, SAC, from service outside the diocese to in residence, Sacred Heart Church, Columbus, effective Nov. 1.
New St. Vincent de Paul thrift store needs volunteers

The diocesan St. Vincent de Paul Society is expanding its work with the opening of a thrift store in 2020, but help is needed to get the building ready.

The store will be in the Carnaby Center at 5969 E. Main St., Columbus, in part of a former T.J.Maxx store. It will have about 16,500 square feet of space to provide not only new and used clothing, but other donated items including glassware, toys, household goods and furniture at thrift store prices.

The society will continue to operate a clothing center in downtown Columbus and thrift stores in Newark and Lancaster, provide meals at St. Lawrence Haven in Columbus, and offer shelter for homeless men and single adults in Newark. The society also sponsors social justice activities including a microloan program; Getting Ahead classes; the Vincentian Ohio Action Network, which promotes systemic change in the community.

Items for the new thrift store have been collected since July 1 and are being stored in a smaller building at the Carnaby Center. Donations are being accepted from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 8 to 11 a.m. Saturday. The society had hoped to occupy the T.J.Maxx site in July, but was delayed because the entire Carnaby complex is being renovated.

Diocesan St. Vincent de Paul Society council president Warren Wright, thrift store coordinator Bob Zabloudil and council vice president Deb Zabloudil said the renovation should be completed by Friday, Nov. 15, allowing items to be moved from the temporary location to the new store.

Volunteers are urgently needed to assist with the move. Bob Zabloudil said more than 200 skids of merchandise and 19 truckloads of fixtures must be transferred, with work beginning on Monday, Nov. 18. Items must travel just a few hundred yards, but he anticipates the move will take three to four weeks. The work will take place from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays except Nov. 28 and 29.

“Once the move is completed, we will have a ‘soft’ opening with limited hours, which we anticipate will take place in the last week of December,” Zabloudil said. “This will allow people to preview the store and give us time to train the staff.”

The grand opening is scheduled for Friday, Jan. 3, 2020. After that date, it will be open daily except holidays from 9 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. Monday through Saturday and noon to 6 p.m. Sunday.

Zabloudil said that once the store is in full operation, parishes will be invited to host donation weekends, when the society will bring one of its 24-foot tractor-trailers to a parish so parishioners can drop off donations of clothing, furniture and household goods for the thrift store on weekends before and after Masses.

“We can take just about anything people want to donate, including large items such as flat-screen TVs,” he said. “Mattresses are the one exception.”

“Since July, when we began collecting items for the store, we’ve had excellent support from our regular volunteers and from high schools and parishes,” Deb Zabloudil said. “About 180 people have assisted at our temporary donation center.” She said that because the new store will be open every day, the need for volunteers will be constant.

Once the store is open for a few months, she anticipates that a program will be set up to pay frequent volunteers in credits they can give as vouchers to parish St. Vincent de Paul conferences, which can donate the vouchers to the people they assist.

Some paid thrift store positions, such as clerk and driver, also are available. Through the InnoSource staffing network, the society is interviewing for those positions. Visit http://www.innosource.com and search for SVdP or St. Vincent de Paul as the Career or Keyword and Columbus as the location.

Opening of the new store will not affect the society’s efforts to collect clothes and household items for the Bishop Griffin Resource Center on Columbus’ east side and clothes for its free clothing center at 578 E. Main St., adjacent to the Joint Organization for Inner-City Needs (JOIN) office.

“We just responded to an alert for winter outerwear and men’s and children’s shoes by supplying two skids of items to those sites,” Bob Zabloudil said. “Having the new store won’t change our partnership with the clothing center. That will continue forever. The thrift store will give people more of a chance to assist the society and will allow the society to provide greater outreach to its parish conferences. Any money earned by the store will stay within the community.”

For more information on the stores and the society, or to volunteer or donate items, call (614) 377-1065, go to www.svdp-columbus.org and click on “thrift stores,” or email colssvdpthriftstores@gmail.com.
Grandma remembers: the secret of thriving at age 90

It has become a four-generation tradition to head south of the Twin Cities and take in a small-town celebration of fall. Our route winds between soaring bluffs and a shimmering lake. It feels like a narrow passageway, a tunnel back in time. We perused antique dolls at a whimsical toy store in Wabasha, Minnesota. Grandma recognized a Shirley Temple doll on display; she once had the same one.

Then we climbed aboard the hand-carved carousel – Grandma on a gilded chariot pulled by an ostrich, the baby on her lap. It seemed a fitting placement for our freckled matriarch, who turns 90 this month: a few musical loops for the woman who has circled the sun 90 times, all while remaining in close orbit with the Son.

On the drive home, we gazed at blazing maples and listened to How Great Thou Art – a song played with the Son.

Every fall I wake one day to notice that the trees are bare. I complain that the season doesn’t allow enough time to take in the vibrancy and variety of colors and that the wind has stripped the trees. I wonder how I missed the beauty of the changing leaves.

There are many days of my life, regardless of the season, where I wonder how I missed the vibrancy and variety of beauty in the past 24 hours. It is easy to be ungrateful, giving into the appeal of selfishness and pride. Moments that deserve virtue and generosity get instead anger and frustration, often because I choose not to trust that all things given and allowed by God are for my good. I miss the beauty of the present moment – the only moment I have to encounter God.

Bishop John J. McRaith provided a summary for the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops’ 1992 pastoral letter on stewardship and wrote, “Once one becomes a disciple of Jesus Christ, stewardship is not an option.” Stewardship is the responsibility of each disciple, and a good Christian steward “receives God’s gifts gratefully, cherishes and tends them in a responsible and accountable manner, shares them in justice and love with others, and returns them with increase to the Lord” (Stewardship: A Disciple’s Response, USCCB).

So how do we receive, nurture and grow this gift of the present moment? We begin by receiving, nurturing and growing our relationship with the giver of the gift. After all, stewardship is a response to discipleship, a response to knowing and loving Our Lord. Our daily prayer life, the intentional time given to a conversation with Jesus Christ, is where we are reminded of the all-powerful and inexhaustible love of God. It is in prayer that we receive clarity, truth and the peace of God that surpasses all understanding.

Jesus changes everything. He can make water into wine and death into life. So to embrace his power in the present moment, whether it is one of difficulty or joy, means we trust that He can make every moment one of triumph, even if our suffering does not disappear. So with confidence in the one who loves us, we can approach each moment of our day prayerfully and as faithful stewards who embrace the present moment for what it is: a gift.
Local news and events

Bishop Hartley High School admissions process begins this month

Columbus Bishop Hartley High School has opened its admissions process for the 2020-2021 school year. Those who are interested may visit the school web site, www.bishop-hartley.org, for more information.

DCCW honours 10 women

The Diocesan Council of Catholic Women presented 10 women with its annual St. Teresa of Calcutta award during a program at Columbus St. Agatha Church. The recipients were nominated by their parishes for living in the spirit of Mother Teresa by being strong in their Catholic faith and engaged and involved in their parish communities, setting an example of devotion and dedication. Award recipients, pictured with Bishop Robert Brennan, are: (left to right): first row, Sue Blum, Chillicothe St. Peter; St. Cecilia School; Frances Matz, Sugar Grove St. Joseph; and Claire Milland Tess Hatmacher, Chillicothe St. Peter. Recipients not pictured are Vielka Cassidy, Joan of Arc; second row, Julie Walker, Grove City Our Lady of Perpetual Help; Penny Mary; Monica Flynn, Sunbury St. John Neumann; and Kathleen Walsh, Powell St. with Bishop Robert Brennan, are (left to right): first row, Sue Blum, Chillicothe St.

St. Cecilia School hosts dance

All sixth-, seventh- and eighth-grade diocesan parochial school students are invited to join students of Columbus St. Cecilia School, 440 Norton Road, and its Parish School of Religion for a fall harvest dance from 7 to 9:30 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 16. Admission is $5. Snacks and drinks will be available for purchase.

Filipino Mass site, day to change in January

Effective Saturday, Jan. 11, the monthly Mass in the Tagalog language for members of the diocese’s Filipino Catholic community will be celebrated by Father Ramon Owera at Columbus Christ the King Church, 2777 E. Livingston Ave., at 7:30 p.m. on the second Saturday of every month.

The Mass has been celebrated at this time on the first Saturday of the month at Columbus St. Elizabeth Church, 6077 Sharon Woods Blvd. The last of those Masses will be on Saturday, Dec. 2.

St. Elizabeth also will be the site again this year for Simbang Gabi, a Filipino Christmas tradition featuring celebration of Mass for nine consecutive nights leading to Christmas Eve. This year’s Simbang Gabi Masses will begin at 7:30 p.m. nightly from Sunday, Dec. 15 to Sunday, Dec. 22, with a closing Mass to be celebrated by Bishop Robert Brennan at 7 p.m. Monday, Dec. 23, followed by a potluck dinner.

Monthly Marian devotions, which had been at St. Elizabeth at 7 p.m. on the first Wednesday of each month, will move to Columbus St. Francis of Assisi Church, 386 Buttes Ave., on the same time and date, effective Wednesday, Feb. 6. (Jan. 1, 2020, the first Wednesday in January, is the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, a holy day of obligation.) The devotions include the scriptural rosary, followed by Mass and a novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help.

Father Owera said the 2020 Simbang Gabi Masses would be at St. Francis of Assisi from Dec. 15 to 22, with the Dec. 23 Mass and celebration at Christ the King.

Director of Faith Formation and Mission Position

Strong in your faith? Want to make a difference connecting people to God? Join our team to revive the spirit of evangelization as the Director of Faith Formation and Mission for the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston.

This full-time position with an office in Wheeling, WV, provides leadership for the ongoing development and support of services for Parish Religious Education and Faith Formation Programs. This person will also collaborate with the Catholic Schools Department and our parishes regarding the teaching of religion; and oversee the RCIA, family life and marriage preparation programs in the diocese.

Qualified individuals will have a Master’s degree in religious education, theology or related field. The candidate should also have demonstrated years of experience in Catechetical Formation at the parish, school, or diocesan level. The individual must have a deep faith and personal commitment to the life of the church. Flexibility to work occasional evenings and weekends to meet the needs of collaboration is essential.

Make a difference for the Diocesan Church, its parishes and Catholic schools. Apply today.

Contact Mike Nau, Human Resources Office (mnau@dwc.org) for an application and complete job description. Email cover letter and three references with resume.
Still try to make converts?; Does Mass need a congregation?

**QUESTION & ANSWER**

**Father Kenneth Doyle**

*Catholic News Service*

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

**Q** At the Second Vatican Council, Catholics were told that we should accept non-Catholics as our “separated brethren” and that we shouldn’t be overly concerned if they don’t want to join the Catholic Church. But I was taught since childhood that the only way to salvation was through the Catholic Church. Why the change? (Texarkana, Texas)

**A** It would be a misreading to think that Vatican II does not encourage bringing people to the Catholic faith. The church still honors Christ’s Great Commission (Matthew 28:19): to make disciples of all nations and baptize them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

One need only look at the council’s decree on ecumenism, which states that “our separated brethren ... are not blessed with that unity which Jesus Christ wished to bestow on all those who through him were born again into one body. ... For it is only through Christ’s Catholic Church, which is ‘the all-embracing means of salvation,’ that they can benefit fully from the means of salvation” (No. 3).

But that leaves the question as to how the church should go about bringing those people into the church. In March 2019, speaking in predominantly Muslim Morocco, Pope Francis rejected proselytism, which I would take to mean forced or pressured conversion, coupled with a lack of respect for the religious faith of others. In Morocco, Pope Francis quoted from a 2007 homily in which Pope Benedict XVI had said, “The church grows not through proselytism, but through attraction, through witness.”

As for those who believe that only Catholics can be saved, that is not the church’s teaching. True, all salvation does come through the death and resurrection of Jesus, but the Catechism of the Catholic Church clearly says, quoting Vatican II’s dogmatic constitution on the church:

“Those who, through no fault of their own, do not know the Gospel of Christ or his church, but who nevertheless seek God with a sincere heart, and, moved by grace, try in their actions to do his will as they know it through the dictates of their conscience – those too may achieve eternal salvation” (No. 847).

**Q** When I attended parochial school, we were taught that a priest could not say Mass by himself and needed at least one other person as his “congregation.” But lately I have been told that priests are required to celebrate Mass every day, even if there are no other people present. Which is correct? (Milladore, Wisconsin)

**A** Actually, neither statement is completely correct. Let me explain. As to whether a priest can celebrate Mass without a congregation, the church’s Code of Canon Law, reflecting the fact that the Eucharist is primarily an act of public worship rather that a private devotion, says, “Except for a just and reasonable cause, a priest is not to celebrate the Eucharistic sacrifice without the participation of at least some member of the faithful” (Canon 906).

The code leaves it to the priest to measure the “just and reasonable cause,” and I will tell you what I do. Most days, even as a retired priest, I have Mass obligations at one or another parish.

But let’s say that it’s a day when I’m not obligated, and it happens to be the anniversary of the death of one of my parents. I would consider that a “just and reasonable cause,” and I would celebrate Mass all by myself at the desk in my apartment.

I would feel completely comfortable doing so, particularly since, in answer to your second question, a priest is encouraged to celebrate Mass every day, even though he is not required to do so.

Here’s what the code says about that: “Remembering always that in the mystery of the Eucharistic sacrifice the work of redemption is exercised continually, priests are to celebrate frequently; indeed, daily celebration is recommended earnestly since, even if the faithful cannot be present, it is the act of Christ and the church in which priests fulfill their principal function” (Canon 904).

Apprenticeship of faith

**EVERYDAY CATHOLIC**

Rick Jeric

Columbus and central Ohio are great places to be. The population is growing – a trend which has continued for many years. There are many reasons for this. Many residents of the area have come from other parts of the nation and the world. And as the growth continues, young people who are educated and find good jobs are staying here and raising families of their own. There is a lot of diversity by ethnicity and nationality and, for the most part, everyone is friendly. Unfortunately, we still have our share of crime, poverty and social issues. But there seems to be a real spirit of determination to overcome those challenges and to be part of the world that everyone is proud to call home.

Local jobs and employment opportunities are a big reason for this area’s ability to thrive. The economy is strong and projections are positive.

We need to include the Diocese of Columbus in all the above. We know how important the clergy, teachers, staff and volunteers are in our parishes. While our homes and families are well-served by everything and everyone who make up our local infrastructure and life in general, where would we be without our spiritual homes? We are blessed with some of the most loving, pastoral, caring and dedicated priests, deacons and sisters to be found anywhere. Our Catholic schools and parish schools of religion have wonderfully gifted teachers and administrators. Our parish staffs are knowledgeable and talented as they keep everything running smoothly. Thank you!

Two years ago, a large addition was built at our Women’s Care Center on Main Street on Columbus’ east side. The subcontracted carpenters, electricians, plumbers, roofers, painters, et al, did a great job. At various times throughout the construction, they all spoke of a common challenge: little or no young people want to do this type of work. These professions offer some great opportunities through apprenticeships, but no one wants to look into them. There is a real fear that we are losing workers who have a real and important skill. These careers are solid and pay well, so it is hard to tell why this is. I will avoid offering any opinions as to why young people are not interested.

I must believe that Jesus was a pretty good appren-
Pushing back against evil

MAKING SENSE OUT OF BIOETHICS

Father Tad Pachelczyk

Father Tadeusz Pachelczyk, 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.

He then told her about picking up a pregnant woman with two young children. After greeting them, he looked at his phone and started driving. The address on his screen subconsciously caught his attention; meanwhile, the woman was speaking to someone on her phone in the back seat. After several minutes of thinking about the address, the young driver suddenly realized where they were headed: the local Planned Parenthood abortion clinic.

He decided to make a couple of wrong turns to buy some time so the woman would finish her phone conversation. When she kept talking, he pulled the car over and brought it to a complete stop. As she paused her conversation, he turned and said to her, “I’m sorry, but I have to let you know that because of my religious beliefs, I simply cannot take you where you are going. I will return you to where I picked you up and refund your fee.” The woman was surprised, but seemed to understand, and he drove her and her three children back to the pickup point.

That young driver made an intentional decision, within the confines of the particular garden God had given him to cultivate, to push back against a present evil he became aware of.

Another person of lesser determination might have said “Who am I to get involved in this person’s choices? Am I my brother’s keeper?” He recognized, however, that he was already unwittingly involved, and that each of us is our brother’s keeper. He was concerned about a neighbor and her little family gathered in the back seat of his car.

He knew he could not be party to the wrongdoing she seemed poised to carry out against her unborn child.

We don’t know what happened after he dropped her off. Maybe she just ordered another ride. Maybe, however, she reconsidered her choice. Any time we try to do what is right and push back against evil, any time we seek to act with resolve on behalf of what is good and true, new options open up, the air changes around us and we contribute to renewing our world.

That’s what each of us can do as we take care of our own garden.

We cannot solve every problem in society, but we can bring smiles to a few faces

By Leandro (Lany) M. Tapay
Director, Diocesan Missions Office

Happiness, a sense of contentment, a sense of well-being – we keep searching for it. We long for it. Worldwide, people profess that happiness is their most cherished goal. In universities, courses on happiness are the most popular. Magazine covers promise everything from sexual happiness to financial contentment.

Marketing companies know this. Commercials make grand promises: Do you want to be happy? Drive this car. Do you want some joy? Sleep on this mattress. Do you desire a dose of delight? Eat in this restaurant. Nearly every advertising strategy portrays the image of a joy-filled person.

Studies show that everyone benefits from happiness. Joyful people enjoy higher odds of a strong marriage, lower odds of divorce and superior work performance. Happy people are effective leaders.

Unfortunately, fewer people are finding happiness. According to a Harris poll, two out of three people are not happy. Smiles are in short supply. By some estimates, clinical depression is 10 times more rampant now than a century ago. According to the World Health Association, depression will be the second-leading cause of disease worldwide in 2020.

How can this be? People are more educated. We have made advancements in everything from medicine to technology, yet many people are not happy. What’s up? How do we explain the gloom? The answer is varied and complex. But probably among the answers is the path to happiness.

One path teaches “Happiness happens when you get.” You are happy when you acquire, retire and aspire to drive faster, dress trendier, drink more. Happiness depends on the clothes you wear, the car you drive, the trophy you hang on the wall and size of your bank account.

The other path is what Jesus teaches – “happiness happens when you give.” According to many studies, if you want to be happy, do good for someone else. Jesus says “It is more blessed to give than to receive” (Acts 20:35). Why? Because giving has a boomerang effect.

This is good news. You cannot control your genetics. You are not in charge of the weather. You cannot control the results of elections. But you can increase the number of smiles in this world. You can lower the anger level of your city. Yes. You. You can help people sleep better, laugh more. You can hum instead of grumble. You can walk instead of stumble. You can lighten the load and brighten the road of other human beings.

Jesus was accused of many things. But He never was described as a grump, sourpuss or self-centered jerk. People did not groan when He appeared. Nobody ducked for cover when He entered the room. He called them by name. He listened to their stories. He answered their questions.

Jesus visited people’s sick relatives and helped their sick friends. He fished with fishermen. He ate lunch with the little guy and He spoke words of resounding affirmation. He went to weddings. He went to so many parties that He was criticized for hanging out with rowdy people and questionable crowds.

Thousands came to hear Jesus. Hundreds chose to follow Him. They shut down their businesses and walked away from their careers to be with Him. The purpose statement of Jesus’ life is “I came to give life with joy and abundance” (John 10:10). Jesus was happy and wants us to be the same.

Let us choose Jesus’ path to happiness. We live in a lonely world. Broken hearts populate our cities. Discouragement mummifies countless lives. The world is desperate – yes, desperate – for kindness. We cannot solve every problem in society, but we can bring smiles to a few faces.

During a recent speech in Texas, I mentioned that “drag queen story hours” are being sponsored by local public libraries across the nation. Toddlers and kids are brought in and placed in front of cross-dressing men who read children’s stories to them – stories that encourage them to reject fundamental gender differences between males and females. The LGBTQ agenda, I also noted, is being energetically promoted to upend and rewrite public school curricula, even for kindergarten- and pre-school-age children.

During the Q&A after the talk, one of the parents in attendance, with a measure of frustration in his voice, asked what the average person can do to push back against the seemingly endless expansion of error and evil in our society.

His question is a common one.

I usually reply by saying we cannot yield to discouragement over the apparently widespread moral decline around us, nor dissipate our personal energy in worry and anxiety about the state of the world. Instead, we need to recognize how God has entrusted to each of us a small garden that he asks us to tend. If we tend that plot well, he will extend the reach of his grace in ways we cannot foresee or imagine, and we actually will contribute to stemming the tide of error and evil well beyond the limited confines of our particular plot.

This implies that each of us has different responsibilities, depending upon our particular state in life, our commitments, and our employment and family situations. By attending carefully to those responsibilities and conscientiously tending our gardens, the air around us indeed can begin to change.

A true story I recently heard brought this lesson home in a powerful way.

A woman facing complex health issues felt a strong impulse one morning to pray for her oldest son while confined to her bed. He lived far away in a large metropolitan area and worked in his spare time for a ride-sharing company.

Later that day, her son called home, and she mentioned that she had felt the need to pray for him earlier. “That’s interesting,” he replied, “because I had something unusual happen today.”

Unfortunately, fewer people are
For DeSales, tough season yields playoff spot

By Doug Bean
Catholic Times Editor

Two games into the high school football season, the prospects for Columbus St. Francis DeSales ending a two-year playoff drought didn’t appear promising.

After the Stallions eked out a win in their opener, they suffered a beatdown the following week and were staring at a challenging schedule the rest of the season.

While outsiders might have doubted whether DeSales could recover at that point, the coaching staff and players focused on improving. And the Stallions did improve. The team’s steely resolve resulted in a seven-game win streak that propelled the Stallions into the postsea-

region 11 based on computer points to make the playoffs for the 10th consecutive year, played host to eighth-seeded London (7-2) the same night.

Newark Catholic (7-3), seeded second in Division VII, Region 27, returned to the playoffs for the first time since 2016 by virtue of a strong showing in the Licking County League. The Green Wave, whose three losses all came against playoff teams in larger divisions, faced seventh-seeded Reedsville Eastern (8-2) at 7 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 9.

Fisher Catholic (8-2), the eighth seed in Division VII, Region 27, whose two losses also were to playoff-bound teams, made the playoffs for the second consecutive year and went on the road to face top-seeded Harvest Prep (9-1) at 7 p.m. Nov. 9.

All teams face obstacles during the season while trying to reach their goals, but DeSales had more than its share.

“I would say the odds were against them coming into the season in a lot of ways,” DeSales coach Ryan Wiggins said. “I don’t think a lot of people thought we would be in this position.”

Starting quarterback Reno Godfrey had suffered a horrific leg injury the year before and underwent surgery that left him using a wheelchair for a time and having to learn to walk again before eventually receiving clearance to play. Remarkably, as a result of hard work and skilled medical care, he made it back for the start of practice in the summer and hasn’t missed a game this season.

In June, the OHSAA moved DeSales from Division III to Division II, which is composed of larger-enrollment schools. Then in July, just a week before the start of preseason practice, the team lost an incoming freshman in an accidental shooting.

Once the season began, the Stallions dealt with their fair share of injuries while rallying to defeat Dayton Carroll 35-28 in their opener before losing 45-14 at Dublin Jerome, an eventual Division I playoff qualifier.

“At that point, you wonder where you’re going and then look at what we’re facing,” Wiggins said.

But that was the wake-up call the players needed.

“We went back and watched the film, and we figured out we had to fix some things fundamentally up front and everywhere else,” senior two-way lineman Cole Potts said.

“We came together as a group and we knew we could do something special after that,” senior wide receiver and defensive back Owen Faulkner said. “We didn’t have any doubts. We were pretty sloppy the first two weeks. It was all on us, and it’s been clean ever since.”

It wasn’t always pretty or easy, though. DeSales trailed state-ranked Kettering Alter, a playoff team, late in its Week 4 game before pulling out a 35-31 victory. Two weeks later, the Stallions trailed Columbus Bishop Watterson 16-6 in the second half and then came back to win 20-16.

The next week, DeSales and Dayton Belmont were tied at halftime before the Stallions took control in the second half and won 28-7.

The Stallions were dealt another blow when senior running back and linebacker Jaylen Ball was lost for the season with a knee injury. Ball and junior Quintell Quinn had provided DeSales a dynamic 1-2 punch at running back and on defense.

The next game, a 26-14 victory over Columbus St. Charles, was a hard-fought affair that was tied 14-14 in the fourth quarter. Quinn carried the load with more than 200 yards rushing and two touchdowns.

“We’ve come from behind a few times to win, and there’s some character in that,” Wiggins said. “It’s not the way you want to do it all the time because you kind of feel like you’re living on the edge. But there is something to be said for getting tougher in the fourth quarter. It tells you your team is resilient, has good conditioning, has some toughness to it.

“Is this the kind of team you want in the playoffs? I think so. They’re a bunch of fighters. This is the kind of group that handles things. … This team has just found a way to handle their business and get the job done. They don’t complain, they don’t point fingers, they just find a way to stick together.”

The win at St. Charles gave DeSales a 7-1 record, but there were still no guarantees of a playoff berth in a highly competitive region. The Stallions
DeSales, Newark Catholic girls in state volleyball semifinals

By Doug Bean
Catholic Times Editor

Two diocesan schools accustomed to winning in high school volleyball advanced in separate divisions to play state final-four matches on Friday at Wright State University’s Nutter Center in Fairborn.

Columbus St. Francis DeSales (24-2), ranked sixth in Division I, was to face unranked Solon (18-9) at noon. Unranked Newark Catholic (19-6) was to take on fifth-ranked Fort Loramie (26-2) in Division IV at 6 p.m.

DeSales won its eighth regional volleyball title on Saturday, Nov. 2, defeating Olentangy Orange after eliminating rival Columbus Bishop Watterson two days earlier in a semifinal at Worthington Kilbourne High School.

“Our bracket was definitely loaded, with not only a very difficult-to-handle (state and nationally ranked) Orange in the regional finals, but with a loaded team at Watterson, and having to go against (Columbus Bishop) Hartley, who handed us one of our two losses on the season,” third-year DeSales coach Brenden Pence said. “Each of those matchups took a ton of preparation, composure and grit, and I am so proud of our players, who just kept getting stronger match by match.”

The Stallions most recently played in the state semis in 1982 – the last of three consecutive trips to the final four. Their lone state volleyball title came in 1982.

“Winning the regional title is a huge achievement for our girls and our program,” Pence said. “Any time a team can make it down to the final four in the state, it is an amazing season. The program has not been down to the final four in five years, and absence makes the heart grow fonder.”

DeSales entered the weekend having won 13 straight matches since a Sept. 19 loss at Central Catholic League opponent Bishop Hartley, a state semifinalist in 2018 that bowed out of the tournament in district play this year.

“After that match, we had a very honest conversation as a team about how they choose to respond from here,” Pence said.

“We got knocked down and we could choose to be victims, or we could choose to respond. We could choose fault or responsibility. At the very next practice, I could tell that they were engaged, bought in and ready to recommit to what it would take to see where we could take this.”

Newark Catholic also is no stranger to state appearances, having qualified for the final four a record 20 times and winning eight titles, the last in 2004.

The Green Wave entered the 2019 postseason tournament unranked and as a third seed, but it knocked off top-seeded Delaware Christian in a district final and then beat Portsmouth Notre Dame and Shenandoah in the regional to extend its match-winning streak to 11.

“In my opinion, we’ve been underrated, but I’m so OK with that because I would much rather be the underdog and come from behind,” said Calleigh Hughes, who is in her first year as Newark Catholic’s head coach after serving two seasons as an assistant.

“It’s much more fun for me to have a target to chase and especially with my team being so young.”

Newark Catholic’s last loss came on Sept. 23 to Division I Watkins Memorial.

“It’s amazing and it’s crazy because, like I told these kids, you are the real deal,” Hughes said. “God bless all the girls. They bought in. They’ve been full throttle since the middle of May.”

In addition to jump training, weight training and preseason two-a-day practices, Hughes emphasized mental training with her players and instilled an “it’s not my team, but our team” attitude that paid off.

“There’s been a couple of big decisions where I bring in my captains and we sit down and talk about it,” she said. “There’s been other times we’ll sit down once a week as a group and I’ll say, ‘This is what I see and why. Tell me your opinion. I want to know what you think.’

“It’s just like in life. If you don’t have buy-in from the collective, you’re not going to accomplish the extraordinary. Everyone has to be keyed up. Everyone has to be on the same page. Everyone has to have the same vision, drive, focus.”

None of the current players had experienced the final four, but their coach has been there. She was the 16th player on the Green Wave team that won the state title 15 years ago.

“I just told them, ‘You have to trust me,’” she said.

“If you want something you’ve never had, you have to do something you’ve never done.”

Newark Catholic suffered through six losses earlier in the season against mostly Division I and II teams that helped prepare the players for the big stage.

“I think they thought I was a little crazy at the beginning of the season,” Hughes said. “We had a tough schedule. We’ve been very blessed and we just kept pushing, worked through it and pushed down walls collectively. Praise God, they’ve hit their stride and they’re peaking at the right time.”

The Green Wave breezed through the district and regional without losing a set.

“They’re focused and they’re hungry,” Hughes said.

“That fire, that hunger, that tenacity – they’re really...
Veterans Day is observed every year on Nov. 11 because the armistice that ended the fighting in World War I took effect on Nov. 11, 1918.

Most people assume that just happened to be the day when the armies of the nations known as the Central Powers – Germany, Austria-Hungary, the Ottoman Empire (now Turkey) and others – realized their position was hopeless and surrendered to the United States and its allies.

But there’s also a Catholic connection to the day. It’s the feast day of St. Martin of Tours, a fourth-century hermit and bishop who grew up in a military family, became part of the Roman cavalry and anticipated that, like his father, he would be a tribune, a high-ranking officer in the Roman army.

But when he was about 20, he gave half of his cloak to a beggar and that night had a vision of Jesus, who said He was the one Martin had clothed. This changed the young soldier’s life, and one day he told his superiors he would refuse his pay and not join in a battle. The Catholic Online website describes him as “the first recognized conscientious objector in recorded history.”

After his release from the military, he founded the first monastery in the West, at Liguge, France, and became bishop of Tours, also in France. He was one of the first non-martyrs to be given a feast day on the Catholic calendar and is the patron of soldiers.

For those reasons, Nov. 11 had become a traditional day for signing treaties ending many European wars, so it was appropriate that what at the time was history’s most destructive war ended on that day.

Veterans Day has a special meaning for diocesan residents such as Mike and Crystal Cockerell of Gahanna St. Matthew Church, Angela Beltz of Columbus Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal Church and Doug Heil and Arminda and George Crawford of Westerville St. Paul Church, all of whom were in the military and have children or ancestors who also served their country. They say it’s a day to reflect on their service and recognize how it brought them a deeper understanding of their faith.

“Faith always has been a huge part of our family, especially after Crystal was injured when her vehicle drove over an explosive device in 2004 while in a convoy delivering supplies to troops in Tikrit, Iraq, Saddam Hussein’s birthplace,” Mike Cockerell said.

While his wife was in the Middle East, he was at home in Westerville with the couple’s four children. “I’ll never forget that phone call telling me she was hurt,” he said. “Your heart starts beating a mile a minute, and the first thing you do is get down on your knees and pray. You don’t want to tell your kids their mom is gone. Fortunately, I was able to say God’s loving arms. I knew that my family was taken care of, and my husband and in-laws were there at home and safe. That was the best feeling in the world,” she said.

Crystal received the Purple Heart medal because she was wounded by shrapnel in the bombing. It took four months for her to recuperate.

The Cockerells, who have been married for 28 years, met while both were serving in the U.S. Army at a NATO base in Germany. Mike, whose family’s restaurant was a downtown Westerville gathering place for decades, was a cook, and Crystal was with a Pershing missile battery.

Mike left the service after four years but retains a military connection as a civilian employee of the Defense Department, specializing in transportation management at Beightler Armory in Worthington, headquarters of the Ohio Army National Guard. Crystal did tours in Somalia and Iraq and was a recruiter and a teacher with the Army and the Guard during a military career that totaled 26½ years.

She retired from the Guard in 2013 and has been employed since then by Delta Airlines, working at the ticket counter and behind the scenes at John Glenn Columbus International Airport. From 1994 to 2000, she was a teacher’s aide in diocesan schools while also serving with the Guard.

She became Catholic after gaining her first significant exposure to the faith through her husband. “She was a Baptist, but she turned out to be the best Catholic in the family,” Mike said. “She had always placed God first, and our faith has become a huge part of our lives.”

“Our faith is a way of uniting our family,” Crystal said. “It gives us something to believe in, something that is true, tangible, real and unchanging that our kids can rely on in this world and something I knew I could not get in the same way as a Baptist. I go to Mass every day and am a regular at St. Matthew’s Eucharistic Adoration chapel, and I feel horrible if I miss a day at church.”

The Cockerells have three children. The oldest, Ashlie, served in the U.S. Navy for two years and is a nurse at OhioHealth Doctors Hospital in Columbus. Another daughter, Annabella, taught English with the Peace Corps in Kosovo, is pursuing a master’s degree in international studies at Emory University in Atlanta and had an internship at the Navy’s base in Rota, Spain. The youngest, Michael, is an Ohio Wesleyan University student. He had been appointed to the U.S. Air Force Academy, but a skin condition prevented him from attending. He is pursuing a medical waiver to allow him to attend the academy.

“I think all of them wanted to serve their country because of how they were raised,” Mike Cockerell said. “We were tough on them, but I think they realized that it was done with the intention of making them good citizens. We were strict with them at a time when many people were hostile to the military. As they have gotten older, they have come to appreciate that and to recognize they have to work for everything they earn.”

The military tradition in Angela and Daryl Beltz’s family goes back at least four generations and forward one – from Angela’s great-great-grandfather Frank Stay to Wyatt Beltz, one of the couple’s two sons. Members of the family’s various branches have served in every major conflict fought by the American military for the past 150 years.

Frank Stay was a member of a U.S. Army unit known as Sibley’s Rangers that fought in the Indian wars in the Dakotas and Minnesota in 1862, but are all but forgotten because the Civil War was being fought at the same time. Lake Stay in Lincoln County,
Angela Beltz grew up on the Spirit Lake Nation reservation in North Dakota and joined that state’s Army National Guard in 1986, transferring to the Ohio Guard after marrying Daryl, her husband of 28 years, whom she met during Operation Desert Storm in Saudi Arabia.

She remained in the Guard until 2008, with highlights of her military career including Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm in 1990 and 1991 and recovery efforts after Hurricane Katrina in Mississippi in 2005. She now works for Defense Finance and Accounting Services in Columbus as an administrative specialist, helping take care of soldiers and their families, and is chair of the women veterans advisory committee of the Ohio Department of Veterans Services. Her husband is a lieutenant colonel in the Guard and is stationed at Beightler Armory.

“I was at an outpost on the border of Saudi Arabia and Iraq, where it was rare to see a priest, but I feel that posting strengthened my faith,” Angela Beltz said. “I realized that I was in the middle of the desert in an area where Jesus might have wandered, and I’ve never felt so close to Him. I kept thinking, ‘Oh my gosh. This is where He was.’”

“Desert Storm was a pivotal point in my life. I had come from a very strict home and was kind of falling away from the Church, but out in the desert, I realized I was never going to survive without God. My service in the Gulf War created a great desire to relearn the faith I grew up with.”

Beltz is the daughter of a Native American mother and an Irish father who still live on the Spirit Lake reservation. “A higher percentage of Native Americans have served in the military than people of any other background, and I’m very proud of that,” she said. “We serve because we feel it’s a way to protect what we still feel is our country, despite the mistreatment Native Americans have suffered. Any tribal ceremonial in our culture traditionally begins with prayer and recognition of veterans.”

Beltz said her husband is not Catholic, but always supported raising his sons in the faith and was active in their Scouting and athletic programs at Reynoldsburg St. Pius X Church. “We never encouraged our boys to join the military, but it’s always been part of their life, so it wasn’t surprising when Wyatt entered the Air Force,” she said.

“We went to his graduation from a training program last July, where he received a prayer book and a battle rosary made from parachute cord. He has told us he uses the rosary often and goes to Mass every Sunday. We’re delighted to see him uphold the family’s military and faith traditions.”

Doug Heil was a captain in the U.S. Army from 1998 to 2002, serving for one year in South Korea and three years at Fort Lee, Virginia. His father was drafted in 1970 and served in the Army for two years, and an uncle was in the Texas Air National Guard and is stationed at Tinker Air Force Base in Oklahoma.

“Daryl Beltz is with the U.S. Air Force on the crew of an airborne early warning plane stationed at Tinker Air Force Base in Oklahoma.”

“Desert Storm was a pivotal point in my life. I had come from a very strict home and was kind of falling away from the Church, but out in the desert, I realized I was never going to survive without God. My service in the Gulf War created a great desire to relearn the faith I grew up with.”

“Growing up, I was always aware of my grandparents’ and my father’s service,” Heil said. “Dad served when the military was not very popular and was always proud of the values it instilled and the impact being Catholic had on him.”

“I received an Army ROTC scholarship to Notre Dame, where my (paternal) grandfather had graduated (in 1942). ‘God, Country and Notre Dame’ is the unofficial motto there, and the school has a strong military tradition dating to the Civil War, so it seemed natural to become part of it. “My training there taught me both military leadership and how important faith is to being a good leader,” he said. “That became important when I went to Korea. A chaplain came to Mass at my post in Korea only once during the year I was there, so my faith became a much more personal thing.”

“I prayed the rosary, read a camouflage field Bible a chaplain had given me in college and did whatever I could to help fill the void. It wasn’t necessarily a challenging time, but the absence of a readily available priest actually reinforced my faith because it made me appreciate its importance,” Heil said. “Some of the most memorable things about my time serving in Virginia near Washington, D.C., were the field Masses we had during training, with chaplains using a poncho as an altar cloth.

The chaplains were very important in helping us reconcile the job we had as soldiers with the teachings of our faith, to recognize we were fulfilling both our duty to God and our duty to our country. The servant mindset and the heart for the Lord you gain in the military carries over into being a good citizen, father and spouse.”

Heil was a captain specializing in supply and logistics when he left the Army and now works in information technology at Wendy’s International.

“After leaving the military, it became my purpose to help people and set them up for success,” he said. “At Wendy’s, I want to teach others the lessons I learned in my own service because I know how much it can benefit them.”

Three members of the Heil family are pictured while serving together in the U.S. Army in 2001. They are (from left): Eric Heil, now a lieutenant colonel in the Ohio Army National Guard, Natalie Heil Fancher, and Doug Heil. Photo courtesy Heil family
Ted Mosure, commander of Catholic War Veterans (CWV) Post 1936 of Columbus, is one of 20 people who will be inducted into the Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame at 10 a.m. Thursday, Nov. 7 in Radiant Life Church, 7100 Post Road, Dublin.

Mosure, 70, served in the U.S. Navy from 1968 to 1971 and was part of a Navy SEAL platoon in Vietnam in 1969 and 1970. He is a Columbus native and the son of a U.S. Army Air Force veteran of World War II.

The veterans hall’s 2019 class was chosen from among 145 nominees. Mosure was nominated by retired Air Force Col. Ron Albers, now deceased. This year’s honorees will join 875 Ohio veterans who have been inducted into the hall since 1992 and represent all eras, branches of service and walks of life.

Former Gov. George Voinovich established the hall in 1992 to recognize the post-military achievements of outstanding Ohio veterans. Its members include astronauts, community volunteers, community leaders, safety officers, veteran advocates and government officials. They are honored in a permanent display at the Riffe Center in downtown Columbus.

The Ohio Department of Veterans Services administers the hall on behalf of and in collaboration with the hall’s 13-member executive committee.

A biography distributed by the hall said Mosure’s “distinctive leadership and involvement with veteran, community, school and government agencies is truly noteworthy.”

He has been involved with the CWV for more than 15 years, representing the organization on the military advisory committee of the city of Columbus and the advisory committee of the state veterans services department. He chairs the CWV’s efforts with local parades and, since 2006, has worked with the American Legion, Scout troops and American Heritage Girls to place flags at more than 1,000 veterans’ graves annually for Memorial Day.

He has served the Columbus chapter of the Vietnam Veterans of America as president, a speaker at events and media contributor. He is a fundraiser and musician for Columbus St. Matthias Church and has been a volunteer coach for youth soccer and wrestling teams and president of the Columbus St. Francis DeSales High School Athletic Association.

He spent his business career in the grocery industry and served as president of the Columbus Manufacturers Representative Association.

“My involvement in the Ohio Military Hall of Fame and the Catholic War Veterans has been my primary focus,” he said on learning he was being honored. “Whatever has been accomplished in those endeavors is the result of the combined efforts of a very broad range of individuals that I have had the good fortune to team up with and get to know. I am proud to be receiving this award on behalf of them.”

Ted Mosure, one of 20 people who will be inducted into the Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame on Thursday, Nov. 7.

Photo courtesy Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame
During a period of instability, unrest and massive human migration in the world, humanitarian diplomacy is needed now more than ever, the Order of Malta’s ambassador to Palestine told Columbus members of the Catholic organization at a gathering last week.

Michele Bowe was the featured speaker on Wednesday, Oct. 30 for the Order of Malta’s second annual Hospitalier’s Dinner at the Pontifical College Josephinum’s Jessing Center. Proceeds from the event benefited the order’s Center of Care in Columbus.

She said humanitarian diplomacy is a unique type of diplomacy that doesn’t discriminate with regard to race, age, religion, economics or political beliefs. The Order of Malta is considered a sovereign entity recognized by international law, and maintains neutrality and independence as a faith-based institution. It has served the Catholic Church and the world for more than 900 years.

“Inequities in access to water, employment, food, medical care and security are all on the rise,” she said. “The forgotten of the world need our attention, our help and our care.”

The Order of Malta maintains a presence in 120 nations and counts among its ranks 14,000 members and more than 100,000 volunteers who serve millions of sick and poor and the most vulnerable throughout the world. The Order has a seat at the United Nations.

The lay religious order traces its roots in the Church to 1113, when it was recognized by Pope Paschal II. Its knights and dames operate 20 hospitals and more than 1,500 clinics worldwide that provide care for the suffering, victims of persecution, refugees of all religious faiths, and the destitute. Its Columbus region, one of 28 regions in the United States, has 19 members.

“We practice humanitarian diplomacy to have the biggest impact in defeating the misery of those most in need,” Bowe said. “Why humanitarian diplomacy? Because it is our Christian impetus to go meet the sick and the poor at the margins of society. We don’t wait for them to come to us. “It is in the DNA of our members and volunteers. A mother cannot ignore the cry of her child, and the Order cannot look away from the poor.”

Because the Order of Malta adheres to impartiality and neutrality, it is in a unique position to provide services in areas where nongovernmental organizations such as the Red Cross are not welcome. The Order also quietly facilitates diplomatic negotiations and strives to foster social cohesion among nations to mitigate hostility.

“Humanitarian diplomacy is not concerned with improving economic status,” Bowe said, “but it is clearly focused on persuading decision makers and opinion leaders to act in the interests of those vulnerable people and the forgotten. It is for negotiating access to the forgotten population in need of assistance. It is for discussing the intersection of issues involving religion and international players.”

Bowe experiences firsthand the fruits of the Order’s work at its Holy Family Hospital in Bethlehem, near the site where Jesus was born. As the Order’s ambassador to Palestine, she spends as many as two weeks a month there.

It is fitting that a maternity hospital so close to Christ’s birthplace welcomed 4,652 babies into the world in 2018. The hospital employs 173 Palestinian and Christian workers who toil together under crucifixes and images of the Blessed Mother on the walls to deliver Catholic, pro-life care to mothers and babies in need, regardless of religious creed.

“Through our works we show our Christian charity, and it is highly prized,” she said. “People want this Christian joy that comes from the good work we do.”

Some Catholics might ask why the hospital serves people of all faiths and backgrounds. The answer is that the face of Christ becomes visible in everyone who is suffering and sad.

“If we only provide aid to Christians in the Holy Land, we would worsen their plight,” said Bowe, a mother of five. “Who has ever asked ‘What religion are your unborn child? What religion are you?’ There’s nothing central of care.org.

It is for discussing the intersection of issues involving religion and international players.”

Bowe illustrated how diplomacy took the form of a simple conversation with a 21-year-old Muslim mother after she gave birth to her first child. The mom was worried about dealing with an array of complications the newborn, named Maria, was having. The ambassador learned that both women’s firstborn daughters share the same name.

“She said, ‘We’re just the same. We both named our first daughters Maria.’” Bowe recalled. “‘And you’re a person of the Book, and I’m a person of the Book. I love Mary and Jesus, and you love Mary and Jesus.’

“I just thought ‘I could go to school for years, and in one conversation she taught me what is humanitarian diplomacy.’”

That interaction exemplifies the importance of face-to-face dialogue to facilitate social cohesion and solidarity in areas devoid of peace. The order’s initiatives include tackling the plague of human trafficking, drug use and human organ harvesting.

“So the answer to conflict is not to diminish the role of faith, but to increase it as a peaceful, nonviolent, humanitarian commitment,” Bowe said.

While the Order of Malta makes it a point not to proselytize, its members don’t hide their devotion to their Catholic faith.

“It is essential to bring humanitarian principles to religious principles,” Bowe said. “Reconciliation is a powerful tool of diplomacy. You’ll never bring two sides together, or more sides together, if you don’t have reconciliation.”

In Columbus, faith and charity intersect at the Center of Care, which opened in 2017 at 640 S. Ohio Ave. in partnership with the local Catholic Medical Association. Medical and dental services are offered free of charge to any patient. The clinic had 507 patient visits last year and 383 to date in 2019.

“The care is for their bodies and their teeth, but clearly the founders of the clinic thought about care of the soul of the patients,” Bowe said. “Here in Columbus, you have your own little Bethlehem, where the hospital is offering the best care in accordance with the humanitarian principles of our order.”

Demand continues to rise for medical services in Palestine and Columbus. Donations are critical to provide care and guarantee that no one is turned away.

It’s estimated that Holy Family Hospital in Bethlehem has impacted more than one million lives since 1990. In 2018, 4,652 babies were delivered there. Neonatal care, pediatric services, gynecologic checkups, surgeries and cancer screenings for women are examples of the services it offers.

For information on becoming a donor to the hospital, visit birthplaceofhope.org or call (202) 785-0801. To learn more about the Center for Care in Columbus, the website is centerofcare.org.
32nd Sunday of Ordinary Time

**Faith should be a family affair**

Father Timothy M. Hayes

Is pastor of Columbus St. Timothy Church.

How unified in faith is your family? The Second Book of Maccabees shows us a family in which the mother and sons are one in their understanding of their faith. They know who they are and what they stand for. They are willing to do what is required by God, even if it means they will lose their lives.

Where’s dad? The Bible does not tell us. Perhaps he already has given his life. The response of the sons gives evidence that they have received a clear witness of faith. Mom certainly has strength. She is a brave mother, one who prays as her sons go one by one to face death for their faith. She is torn by grief, but she clings to the God who gave her the gift of being a mother.

The Gospel presents us with the Sadducees, who have been watching what Jesus does from the sidelines as he debates with the Scribes and Pharisees. Now they ridicule the faith of others. (That’s why they are following the law, will accept Scripture the whole crowd.

Jesus is aware of this. Now he pretends to be a student in order to follow the Scribes and Pharisees through their reasoning. He wants to show that what they are saying here is not to be believed.

The Sadducees are those who want to follow the law, will accept Scripture and tradition and are open to things supernatural, such as angels and visions, and the promise of resurrection. Sadducees do not believe in any of these things. (That’s why they are sad, you see?) They are the nobility in their own eyes – the priestly clans, men who own property and who have political clout because they have concluded with the Romans, and so exercise some authority.

They make fun of Jesus and anyone who says there is more to be learned than can be found in the literal interpretation. Sadducees accept the books of Moses, the Law, but not the Prophets and the Writings, because these are not the Torah. Resurrection is not mentioned in the Torah, so it is not to be believed.

The Sadducees come to Jesus, mimicking what is heard in Second Maccabees, a book outside the Torah: the story of seven sons (with the indication of resurrection as a real hope) and the example of levirate marriage – where the brother of a deceased brother is obliged to marry the widow and to give her a son to carry on the brother’s name (see Genesis 38 and Deuteronomy 25). This sort of reasoning mocks the faith and the practice of the others who have failed to reach their goal of stumping Jesus. Notice how Jesus responds. He accepts them on their own terms, and He argues for resurrection with the Scriptures they do accept, the account about the burning bush in Exodus 3.

Faith is received by those who are open to it. To mock the faith of others will lead only to the need for us to eat humble pie later, when they are in the kingdom and we are left outside.

Families can be united in faith. It is possible for children to stand up for the truth with the courage of adults. They can do so only if their parents live the witness clearly, and if they bravely tell their children to keep their eye fixed on God first. The mother and the youngest son remind us of another Mother and Son who were faithful to God right to the end.

In family life, parents must keep in mind that their responsibility for their children does not end with their physical and emotional well-being. Their primary duty is to bring the souls entrusted to them to an attitude of openness to the grace of God and a willingness to answer God’s call. All of us are responsible for forming a culture that is open to God.

Our God is the Lord of the living. Those who have died are alive for Him. We who are on the journey through this life are on the way to eternal life. The challenge of this life is to keep our eyes fixed on what is to come. The weight of the glory that awaits us in the kingdom is beyond our imagining. With the Psalmist, we can pray: “Lord, when your glory appears, my joy will be full.”

“May the Lord direct our hearts to the love of God and to the endurance of Christ.”

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**THE WEEKDAY BIBLE READINGS**

**MONDAY**
Wisdom 1:1-7
Psalm 139:1b-10
Luke 17:1-6

**TUESDAY**
Wisdom 2:23-3:9
Psalm 34:2-3,16-19
Luke 17:7-10

**THURSDAY**
Wisdom 7:22b-8:1
Psalm 119:65-91,139,135,175
Luke 17:20-25

**FRIDAY**
Wisdom 13:1-9
Psalm 19:2-5b
Luke 17:26-37

**SATURDAY**
Wisdom 18:14-16,19-6.9
Psalm 103:2-3,36-37,42-43
Luke 18:1-8

**DIOCESAN WEEKLY RADIO AND TELEVISION MASS SCHEDULE: WEEK OF NOV. 10, 2019**

**SUNDAY MASS**

Mass with the Passionist Fathers at 7:30 a.m. on WWHTV (the CW), Channel 53, Columbus and 10:30 a.m. on WHZ-TV Channel 18, Zanesville. Mass from St. Francis de Sales Seminary, Milwaukee, at 10 a.m. on WWHTV. 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 185, Dish Network Channel 250, or DirecTV Channel 305).

Mass from Massillon St. Mary Church at 10:30 a.m. on WILB radio (AM 1060, FM 94.5 and 89.5). Canton, heard in Tuscarawas, Holmes, and Coshocton counties.

**DAILY MASS**
8 a.m., Our Lady of the Angels Monastery in Birmingham, Ala. (Encores at noon, 7 p.m. and midnight). See EWTN above; and on I-Lifetv (Channel 113 , Ada, Logan, Millersburg, Murray City, Washington C.H., Channel 125, Marion, Newark, Newcomerstown and New Philadelphia, Channel 207, Zanesville).

8 p.m., St. Gabriel Radio (AM 820), Columbus, and at www.stgabrielradio.com.

Videos of Masses are available at any time on the internet at these parish websites: Mattingly St. Mary (www.stmariystmary.org); Columbus St. Patrick (www.stpatricksolumbus.org); Delaware St. Mary (www.delawarestmary.org); and Sunbury St. John Neumann (www.saintjohnsunbury.org).

We pray Week IV, Seasonal Proper, Liturgy of the Hours.

Cathedral Healing Mass and service to take place Nov. 18

A Mass of healing and healing service will take place at 6:30 p.m. Monday, Nov. 18 at Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral, 212 E. Broad St.

The healing service will follow the Mass and include Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, veneration of relics of the True Cross of Christ, and an opportunity for everyone present to speak individually with a priest and have him say prayers of healing for what they seek. The sacrament of Anointing of the Sick also will be available. The service will close with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

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

Secured parking is available off East Gay Street. There is a handicapped-accessible elevator in the courtyard (west side of the cathedral) on East Broad Street. Healing Masses take place at the cathedral on the third Monday of every other month.

For more information, call the cathedral at (614) 224-1295.
Fearlessness and the American bishops in Rome

I once knew a Congregationalist minister – Yale Divinity School graduate, decorated World War II chaplain, veteran campaigner for then-unpopular liberal causes – of whom it was said (sometimes by himself) that “David Colwell so fears God that he fears no one else.” It was a striking statement – redolent, perhaps, of the Jonathan Edwards (“Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God”) school of American Protestant homiletics. But the source of this man’s fearlessness was rather different than that of a man I was just coming to know when David Colwell and I were friendly jousting partners on theological and political questions.

That man was Pope St. John Paul II.

The dissident Yugoslav Marxist, Milovan Djilas, who had seen a lot in his life, once said that the Polish pope impressed him as a man utterly without fear. As I wrote in Witness to Hope, however, John Paul’s fearlessness was neither stoic nor driven by concerns about post-mortem divine retribution. Rather, it was a fearlessness rooted in John Paul’s rock-solid faith that God’s Kingdom had broken into history in the death and resurrection of the Son of God. Because of that, those who became friends of the Lord Jesus and entered the communion of his Church could live beyond fear, here and now, because they had been empowered to live the life of the Kingdom, here and now.

That faith-based fearlessness might well inspire the bishops of the United States on their upcoming ad limina visits to Rome and the “thresholds of the Apostles” – the pilgrimage that every bishop is required to make on a regular basis, during which the Americans will meet in regional groups with Pope Francis and officials of the Roman Curia. Why should the bishops display fearlessness in Rome? Because their task during the ad limina cycle that begins this month and concludes in February 2020 will be to correct the cartoon view of the Church in the United States that is widespread in the Vatican these days.

According to the cartoon, U.S. Catholicism is dominated by a rigid, legalistic cast of mind, more eager to condemn than to convert, warped by imports from the evangelical Protestant “prosperity Gospel” and beholden to wealthy Catholics with a hard-right political agenda. As any serious student of U.S. Catholicism knows, this is a vicious lie. But it has been sold successfully in the Vatican (and then broadcast by the more hard-edged mouthpieces of the present pontificate), despite the fact that an early version of the cartoon was propagated in Rome in 2013 by the now-disgraced Theodore McCarrick. The developed cartoon then was used to bully Third World bishops at Synod 2018, where warnings were issued against forming alliances with the Americans, who were “against the pope.”

That, too, was a lie. With the possible exception of the Italian conference, no bishops’ conference in the world has been more deferential to the Holy See than the U.S. conference. But then, the people propagating that lie are over-the-top ultramontanists – papal absolutists – whose idea of the range of the pope’s teaching authority and the deference due it might make even Pius IX blush, at least a little (and on his better days). To such minds, even respectful challenge is infidelity.

The cartoon view of the U.S. Church was most ludicrously limned in a 2017 article, co-authored by a close papal adviser, Father Antonio Spadaro, SJ, in the Rome-based Jesuit journal La Civiltà Cattolica. Had I been given that article as a paper by a college freshman in American Religion 101, I would have returned it with an offer to the poor student-author: Try again and do much better, or take an “F” for your paper. Yet, a few weeks ago, while speaking with Jesuits in Africa, the Holy Father commended that very article, and while I would like to think that he commended it as a cautionary tale about publishing nonsense, I fear otherwise.

For all its faults – and they are many – the Catholic Church in the United States lives the New Evangelization better than any other local church in the developed world. More acute minds in Rome know that, though many are afraid to say it lest they be labeled “enemies of the pope.” All the more reason, then, for the U.S. bishops to correct the cartoon respectfully but firmly, so that a serious conversation between Rome and America about the Catholic future in the United States can begin.

THE CATHOLIC DIFFERENCE

George Weigel

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

VOLLEYBALL, continued from Page 9

starting to get it. It’s fun to watch.”

Shannon Keck, a 6-foot-3 middle hitter, is the lone senior starter. She leads the Green Wave in kills and blocks.

“She’s a force to be reckoned with in the middle,” Hughes said. “Just a very quiet, humble giant, but she is just fierce.”

Junior Harley Antritt, sophomores Brooklyn Smith and Amber Pierce and freshman Maddie Cauble are part of what Hughes calls the “collective.”

“I really thought this was going to happen,” Hughes said. “This group is talented and they are the real deal. I believe in this group.”

The next challenge was to find a way to get past Fort Loramie in the semifinals.

“A good program with good tradition,” Hughes said. “I think we’ll be fairly evenly matched.”

One of the keys, she said, was to not make the moment bigger than it is. She talked about mental preparation after the players “were a little bit tweaky, a little spazzy” in the district.

“At the end of the day, it’s just another other game,” she said. “It’s just another opponent. It shouldn’t matter who’s across the net. It’s about you bringing your best that day, and it will fall where it falls.”

DeSales’ current players also had never gone to the final four, but Solon, its semifinal opponent, was there last year. If the Stallions can win and advance to the final, they would face nationally ranked Parma Padua Franciscan or Cincinnati Mount Notre Dame, which beat DeSales earlier this season.

“Yes, I thought they could win it all, but I didn’t think it would be so close,” Hughes said. “But they are a very competitive group.”

“DeSales has a chance to win it all, but we will have to learn from those mistakes we made,” Hughes said. “We have to execute better.”

DeSales earlier this season.

“Some of our biggest players are playing newer positions or roles, so there was absolutely some learning curves. But once we put it all on the court, I think everyone on the team and in the program realized we had a chance to do something special.”
Former Diocese of Cleveland bishop remembered for his love of Church

Catholic News Agency

CLEVELAND – Bishop Richard Gerard Lennon, 72, died on Tuesday, Oct. 29 after receiving the sacraments. His colleagues and admirers praised his service to the Church.

He was until 2016 the bishop of Cleveland.

His successor, Bishop Nelson J. Perez, praised the bishop’s life.

“In his service to the diocese, Bishop Lennon showed a deep dedication to the faithful governance of the diocese and a tremendous love of the Church and the people he shepherded. May the Lord grant him eternal rest,” Bishop Perez said in a statement from the Diocese of Cleveland.

Bishop Lennon was installed in 2006 as the 10th bishop of Cleveland after Pope Benedict XVI appointed him to the position. He resigned in December 2016, citing poor health. At the time, the Cleveland diocese said he suffered from vascular dementia, which causes cognitive impairment because of reduced blood flow to the brain, Cleveland.com reported.

Another Cleveland bishop emeritus, Bishop Anthony Pilla, 86, said he was saddened by Bishop Lennon’s death and would pray for him.

“I am grateful for his dedicated service to this diocese and for all the good people who have given him such good care during his long illness,” Bishop Pilla said.

Bishop Lennon regularly invited the Daughters of St. Paul to perform their Christmas concert at Cleveland’s Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist. He often treated them to dinner, the Cleveland diocese said.

Sister Theresa Aletheia, DSP, said that when Bishop Lennon was a chaplain for their order in Boston, he was “a good friend of the community.”

“Once during a terrible blizzard, the sisters were preparing for a communion service when Father Lennon came riding up the hill on a snowplow,” she said. “He was a good and holy servant of the Church. May he rest in peace and intercede for us.”

The bishop was a fan of the Cleveland Indians. He was fond of horses and often offered treats to police horses. Two members of the Cleveland police mounted unit visited his retirement reception.

He was born on March 26, 1947 in Arlington, Massachusetts, near Boston. His father was Arlington’s deputy fire chief. He attended Catholic schools and was an altar boy at St. James Parish. After studies at Boston College, he entered St. John’s Seminary and was ordained a priest of the Boston archdiocese in May 1973.

Bishop Lennon

DOMINICAN LEARNING CENTER (COLUMBUS, OHIO)

The Dominican Learning Center, an educational ministry established and supported by the Dominican Sisters of Peace, is seeking qualified candidates for the position of Director. Located in Columbus, Ohio, the Dominican Learning Center provides a holistic approach to literacy for underserved adult learners with a special emphasis in working with new Americans. Ideal candidates will have experience in management, volunteer recruitment, fundraising, GED/ABE, ESL, adult literacy, or other adult educational programs. A bachelor’s degree in a relevant field or equivalent experience is required, master’s degree preferred. A detailed job description is available upon request. Interested candidates should submit a cover letter, resume, and three professional references by November 15 to:

Dominican Sisters of Peace – Attn: Director of Human Resources
2320 Airport Dr., Columbus, OH, 43219
Fax: 614-252-7435
employment@oppeace.org
WHITEHALL VFW 8794 BINGO
4100 E. Main St.
Regular Small Town Bingo will be played every Sunday at 6 p.m. and Tuesday at 7 p.m.
Doors open at 4:30 p.m. Sunday and 5 p.m. Tuesday.
Food, refreshments, Instant Bingo tickets available
Proceeds help support local Veterans Relief Fund and VFVDC

HAPPENINGS

ST. ALOYSIUS BAZAAR
SATURDAY, NOV. 16 2 PM - 6 PM
SUNDAY, NOV. 17 9 AM - 3 PM
Educational Academy for Boys and Girls
35 Midland Ave.
Directly behind St. Aloysius Church
Sante, raffles, hand crafted items, baked goods, cinnamon rolls, and soups

November 10, 2019
Catholic Times 17

CLASSIFIED

9, FRIDAY
Frassati Society Euchre Night
6:30 p.m., St. Patrick Church, 280 N. Grant Ave., Columbus. Parish’s Frassati Society for young adults sponsors euchre night. Beginners welcome.
To let parishioners know how many will be in building, RSVP to Michael at 574-222-7879

10, SUNDAY
St. Christopher Adult Religious Education
10 to 11:20 a.m., Library, Trinity Catholic School, 1440 Grandview Ave., Columbus. Third of five talks on “The Biblical Prophets: Do They Have Anything to Tell Us Today?” with Scripture scholar Angela Burdge.
Open House for Our Lady of Peace School
12:30 to 2 p.m., Our Lady of Peace School, 40 E. Dominion Blvd., Columbus. Open house for prospective students and their parents. 614-267-4549
Catholic Record Society Meeting
1 p.m., St. Therese’s Retreat Center, 5277 E. Broad St., Columbus. Catholic Record Society annual lecture and luncheon, with Msgr. William Dunn speaking on his recollections of Columbus bishops Clarence Issenmann, John Carberry, Clarence Elwell and Edward Hermann. Cost $10 for lunch. 614-268-4168
Flyer Fraternities of St. Dominic Meeting
1:30 p.m., St. Patrick Church, 280 N. Grant Ave., Columbus. Meeting of St. Catherine of Siena chapter, Flyer Fraternities of St. Dominic.
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. 614-896-2129
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. Speaker: Father David Schalk, pastor of Columbus Christ the King Church. Topic: “Pope Francis: The Globalization of Indifference vs. The Culture of Encounter.” Contact Julie Naprorano at julienaporano1@gmail.com.
Catechesis at the Cathedral
6:45 p.m., St. Joseph Cathedral, 212 E. Broad St., Columbus. Tenth of weekly series of sessions with Father Adolfo Strzelecki, speaker through December on the Catechism of the Catholic Church. 614-224-1295

9, SATURDAY
Life and Mercy Mass in Plain City
9 a.m., St. Joseph Church, 140 West Ave., Plain City. Saturday Life and Mercy Mass, followed by rosary and confession.
Ohio Dominican Preview Day
7 p.m. Friday, 2 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, Bishop Ready High School, 707 Salisbury Road, Columbus. School theater department Bishop Ready High School, Columbus. Open house for prospective students and their parents in grades five to eight, potential transfer students and their parents or guardians. 614-276-5263

11, MONDAY
DCCW Morning of Reflection at St. Therese’s
9 a.m. to noon, St. Therese’s Retreat Center, 5277 E. Broad St., Columbus. Diocesan Council of Catholic Women morning of reflection with Father Thomas Blau, OP, of Columbus St. Patrick Church. Theme: “Is Mary a Disciple Worthy of Imitation?” Cost: $25, including lunch. 614-228-8601
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
Benedicta Post-Aportion Healing Ministry
6:30 p.m., support group meeting, 2744 Dover Road, Columbus (Christ the King convent, first floor). 614-538-2651, 614-309-0157
Our Lady of Peace Men’s Bible Study
7 p.m. Our Lady of Peace Church, 20 E. Dominion Blvd., Columbus. Bible study Sunday’s readings.

12, TUESDAY
Exchanging Good Ready Day for PSR Students
9:15 a.m. to 1:45 p.m., Bishop Ready High School, 707 Salisbury Road, Columbus. Explore Bishop Ready Day for seventh- and eighth-grade Parish School of Religion students from school’s feeder parishes. Reservation deadline Nov. 8. 614-499-5407
Eucharistic Adoration at Bethesda
11 a.m. to 1 p.m., Bethesda, Columbus. Monthly Eucharistic Adoration in chapel.
Calix Society Meeting
6 p.m., Panera restaurant, 4519 N. High St., Columbus. Monthly meeting of the Calix Society, an association of Catholic alcoholics. Preceded by 5:30 p.m. Mass at Our Lady of Peace Church, across street entrance.
Holy Hour at Columbus St. Francis of Assisi
6 p.m., St. Francis of Assisi Church, 366 Butter Ave., Columbus. Holy Hour following 6 p.m. Mass. 614-209-5705
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.
EnCourage Ministry Monthly Meeting
6:30 p.m., EnCourage, an approved diocesan ministry for families and friends of persons who experience same-sex attraction. Confidentiality is maintained. Call for site. 614-296-7404
Abortion Recovery Network Group
7 p.m., Pregnancy Decision Health Center, 665 E. Dublin-Granville Road, Columbus. 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

13, WEDNESDAY
Turning Leaves and Tea Leaves
2 to 3:30 p.m., Martin de Porres Center, 2330 Airport Drive, Columbus. Turning Leaves and Tea Leaves book club with Dominican Sisters Marilene Anzenberger and Colleen Gallagher. 614-416-1910
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
Lancaster Theology on Tap
7 p.m., Bob’s Backyard BBQ, 157 W. Main St., Lancaster. Meeting of Theology on Tap discussion group for anyone 18 to 39. Contact Cindy Goss at cynthia.goss@outlook.com.
Young Catholic Professionals Speaker Series
7 to 9 p.m., St. Joseph Cathedral, 212 E. Broad St., Columbus. Liz Schriner, Franciscan University of Steubenville director of market engagement and special gifts, talks at Young Catholic Professionals organization’s monthly executive speaker series. Information at www.ycpcolumbus.org.

14, THURSDAY
 Fence at John Name
6 p.m., Holy Name Church, 154 E. Patterson Ave., Columbus. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, with prayers in the Cenacle format of the Marian Movement of Priests.
Theology on Tap Meeting
7 p.m., El Vaquero restaurant, 3230 Olentangy River Road, Columbus. Theology on Tap discussion and social group for young Catholics, with pediatrician Dr. Ashley Fernandez speaking on “Catholic Christianity Vs. the Three-Headed Catholicism.” Wines available, snacks, other drinks provided.

15, FRIDAY
Catholic Singles On Fire for Christ
6 p.m., Chapel, Church of the Resurrection, 6300 E. Dublin-Granville Road, New Albany. Monthly meeting of Catholic Singles On Fire for Christ, for anyone older than 35 who is single in the eyes of Catholic spirituality. Polish Mass at Holy Family
2 p.m., Holy Family Church, 584 W. Broad St., Columbus. Monthly Mass in Polish. 614-221-4323
St. Catherine of Siena Confraternity of the Marianists
2 to 4:30 p.m., St. Francis of Assisi Church, 386 Butter Ave., Columbus. Prayer followed by ongoing formation, general meeting and fellowship. Visit www.scimarianists.org for more information.
Taize Evening Prayer at Corpus Christi
4 to 5 p.m., Corpus Christi Center of Peace, 1111 E. Stewart Ave., Columbus. Evening Prayer in the style and spirit of the Taize monastic community, with song, silence and reflection. 614-512-3731

17, SATURDAY
St. Christopher Adult Religious Education
10 to 11:20 a.m., Library, Trinity Catholic School, 1440 Grandview Ave., Columbus. Fourth of five talks on “The Biblical Prophets: Do They Have Anything to Tell Us Today?” with Scripture scholar Angela Burdge.
Blessing of St. Gerard Majella at Holy Family
After 11 a.m. Mass, Holy Family Church, 584 W. Broad St., Columbus. Blessing of St. Gerard Majella, patron of expectant mothers, for all women who are pregnant or wish to become pregnant. 614-221-1890
Angelic Warfare Confraternity at St. Patrick
During noon Mass, St. Patrick Church, 280 N. Grant Ave., Columbus. Monthly meeting of Angelic Warfare Confraternity, with talk on chastity-related issues followed by Holy Hour. 614-224-9522
Open House at Bishop Ready
1 p.m., Bishop Ready High School, 707 Salisbury Road, Columbus. Open house for students in grades five to eight, potential transfer students and their parents or guardians. 614-276-5263
Kateri Prayer Circle at St. Mark
1 p.m., Aranda Center, St. Mark Church, 324 Gay St., Lancaster. Kateri Prayer Circle meeting to honor St. Kateri Tekakwitha and promote Native Catholic spirituality.
Polish Mass at Holy Family
2 p.m., Holy Family Church, 584 W. Broad St., Columbus. Monthly Mass in Polish. 614-221-4323
St. Catherine of Siena Confraternity of the Marianists
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Students at Columbus Trinity Elementary School are pictured with their “literary pumpkins,” which were designed based on the students’ favorite book characters. The pumpkins, donated by a Columbus St. Christopher Church parishioner, were used as centerpieces and conversation starters for “mix it up at lunch” day, in which students from different grades sat together for lunch.

Photo courtesy Trinity Elementary School

Father Nathan Cromly, CSJ, a nationally known Catholic author and speaker, spoke to the senior class at Columbus St. Francis DeSales High School about bringing their faith into the world after graduation. Father Cromly, a Toledo native, is the founder of Eagle Eye Ministries and the St. John Institute in Denver, which are dedicated to inspiring teens and adults in their vocations, particularly in the business world.

Photo courtesy St. Francis DeSales High School

Four new members were inducted into Columbus Bishop Ready High School’s hall of fame. Pictured with school president Celene Seamen (far right), are (from left): former wrestling coach Bob Stoll (class of 1972), holding granddaughter Isabella; Sarah Welsh-Huggins (2008), who works to improve daily living in Third World nations; Alanta Slone (2015), an award-winning designer who is proficient in using social media to promote design and ran a fashion blog while in college; and (not pictured) Slone’s brother Taron (2013), a state champion in track who was an All-American at the University of Akron and is founder and president of a nonprofit mentoring company.

Photo by John P. Tupper

St. Paul kindergarten engineers

Westerville St. Paul School kindergarten students have been exploring how engineers design and create stable structures. After learning about the importance of having a strong foundation to support a building from Cora Kokosing construction project engineer Adam Muth, they worked in groups to draw a free-standing structure with a sturdy base, then used different types of materials to build the structure. They then chose five community buildings to design, with the final products presented to a team from Cora Kokosing and other community partners. This and other science, technology, engineering, arts and math (STEAM) initiatives have earned St. Paul School designation by the Ohio Department of Education as an Ohio STEAM school.

Photo courtesy St. Paul School
George White (pictured) and other members of the Ohio Journey of Hope: From Violence to Healing organization recently visited Columbus Bishop Hartley High School to speak to junior and senior students as part of Right to Life Month in October. Family members of murder victims formed the group to spread the message that the death penalty is not the way to bring the healing that victims’ families need. Group members from all walks of life, representing a diversity of backgrounds and faith, shared their stories with students. Diocesan school Superintendent Adam Dufault told White, “Every one of my students need to hear this.”

Members of the Meredith family of Washington Court House St. Colman of Cloyne Church enjoy the parish Oktoberfest on Saturday, Oct. 19. The celebration began as a small parish event and now is attended by many people from the community and surrounding areas of Fayette and Ross counties. Werner’s Smokehouse supplied German food, and German music was provided by Chris Weiss and by Bill Antoniak’s Polka Heroes. There was an alpenhorn demonstration, with Father Timothy Lynch and others getting the opportunity to play the long horn. Other highlights were a cornhole tournament, a dachshund dash featuring four dogs, beer tray relays and the chicken dance.

The Christ Child Society of Columbus conducted a number of literacy-related activities in its learning center at St. Stephen’s Community House on three dates last month as part of its nationwide “Read to Me, Inspire Me to Learn” campaign. Using themes from Eric Carle books, children at the center made bookmarks, participated in a special music program and created an art project. Shown with children at the center are (in orange sweaters) society members Michele Bianconi and Mary Cartwright. To find out more about the society, go to www.christchildsociety.org.

Sister Colleen Gallagher, OP, a former teacher and principal at Somerset Holy Trinity School, paid a visit to the school recently and told students what it was like to teach in the 1950s and 1960s in the parish’s former wooden school building, which was replaced by the current school in 1968. She is shown with (from left) students Drake Owen, Cash Owen, Ava Emmert, Lillian Emmert, Blake Clouse and Austin Wilson. Two other former teachers, Sister Judene Lilly, OP, and Sister Denise Bourgeois, OP, visited the school earlier this year, with Sister Denise delighting students by telling them about what their principal, William Noll, was like when she was his teacher.

The Columbus St. Dominic Church Altar Rosary Society recently hosted a high-tea luncheon after the parish’s 11:30 a.m. Mass and recruited five new members. They join current members (from left) Shirley Buttrum, Kathy Dupart, Ernesta Moody (president), Linda Brown (vice president) and Gerladine McGimpsey (treasurer). The society maintains and provides altar cloths and linens for the church, hosts funeral lunches and an annual harvest meal, leads prayer services, including a New Year’s Eve Scriptural rosary event, makes an annual donation to the parish, cleans the church and performs many needed services.
Jesus is coming!

Give the gift of music this season.

All is Calm

Instrumentals for a Peaceful Advent and Christmas Season

*All is Calm* is a collaboration of artist friends who have shared their incredible talents with me on this instrumental Advent/Christmas collection. My piano improvisations that interweave throughout their gorgeous melodies and descant parts, capture each carol with a quiet and reflective landscape which brings one's soul to a peaceful moment. Listening to these selections will bring tranquility to your soul in a very busy holiday season.

Mark Voris is a local artist who has served many Columbus church communities as their Director of Music these past 28 years. St. Joan of Arc Parish, Powell; Holy Spirit, Whitehall; St. Christopher Parish, Grandview; and Immaculate Conception Parish, Clintonville. After retiring in October 2018, Mark recently has been called back into the Music Ministry leading worship at both Trinity United Methodist in Lilly Chapel, and Saints Simon and Jude Parish in West Jefferson.