Christus Vivit: Bishop Robert Brennan discusses the new apostolic exhortation released last week, Page 2

Nuncio at Josephinum: Archbishop Christophe Pierre (left), the pope’s U.S. envoy, visited the Pontifical College Josephinum, Page 3

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GERMAN VILLAGE ST. MARY REOPENS AS HOLY WEEK BEGINS Pages 10-12
‘Powerful’ papal letter offers hope to youth, Bishop Brennan says

By Tim Puet
Catholic Times Reporter

Bishop Robert Brennan said Pope Francis’ recent apostolic exhortation to young people offers hope and confidence amid the difficulties presented by the world and even the church itself.

The 183-page document, titled *Christus Vivit (Christ Lives)*, was issued on Tuesday, April 2 and contains the pope’s reflections on young people, the faith and discernment. The gathering of bishops and youth representatives from throughout the world took place for 25 days in October at the Vatican.

“*Christus Vivit* is rooted in the resurrection of Jesus that really gives us our hope,” Bishop Brennan said in a 15-minute interview recorded on Thursday, April 4 for St. Gabriel Radio in Columbus. “Hope is really the principal concern of this letter. In *Amoris Laetitia* (a 2016 apostolic exhortation), he (the pope) talks about love. Here, he (the pope) talks about hope. Young people need to know that hope is rooted in the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Jesus lives; he’s among us.

“In one of the (document’s) opening paragraphs, there’s just a beautiful line: ‘Jesus himself, Jesus Christ, he is in you, he’s with you, he never abandons you. However far you may wander, he’s always there, the risen one. He calls you, he waits for you to return to him and start over again. And then he says that when you feel you are growing old and have sorrow, resentment, fear, doubt, failure — he’ll always be there to restore you, to restore your strength.’ Very powerful,” the bishop said.

The papal document was released four days after Bishop Brennan was installed as the 12th bishop of Columbus on Friday, March 29. “I couldn’t have asked for a better gift from the Holy Father on coming here,” the bishop said. “Within a week, he released this, which I think has set us on fire here in central Ohio and really across the United States. This is such an opportunity for us to go deeper into that little line: ‘Jesus himself, Jesus Christ, he is in you.’”

The day after his installation, Bishop Brennan said we need to imbue the faithful with a sense of hope, which is why the document is so powerful.

Lenten series: Jesus dies on the cross

By Sister Constance Veit, LSP

This week, we reach the culmination of Christ’s saving mission, his crucifixion and death. This is the fifth of Mary’s seven sorrows. This week’s key word is STANDING. St. John tells us in his Gospel (19:25-30), “Standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother and his mother’s sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary of Magdala. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple there whom he loved, he said to his mother, ‘Woman, behold, your son. Then he said to the disciple, ‘Behold, your mother.’ And from that hour the disciple took her into his home. After this, aware that everything was now finished, in order that the scripture might be fulfilled, Jesus said, ‘I thirst.’ There was a vessel filled with common wine. So they put a sponge soaked in wine on a sprig of hyssop and put it up to his mouth. When Jesus had taken the wine, he said, ‘It is finished.’ And bowing his head, he handed over the spirit.”

As I mentioned, this week’s key word is STANDING. Some artists portray Mary stooped over sobbing, or swooning in St. John’s arms at the foot of the cross. But Scripture tells us that Mary STOOD there. Does her posture at that moment really matter? I think it does, or St. John wouldn’t have mentioned it. Mary wasn’t hysterical, crushed with sadness or turned in on herself as her Son hung there dying. She stood strong before Jesus crucified, as close as she could, to take it all in and to experience all his bodily sufferings with him — seeing them, contemplating them and loving them with a mother’s compassion.

How could she be so strong? Thinking about Mary standing at the foot of the cross, I am reminded of stories of parents who summon more courage and endurance than seems humanly possible to care for a child who is sick, injured or in trouble. This is a parent’s unconditional, undying love, and Mary’s love rose to a level infinitely higher than even the best of ordinary parents because she was full of grace and the Holy Spirit.

I’d like to quote one of our favorite authors, Jean Lafrance: “Standing near the cross, Mary cruely suffered with her only Son, associated with a motherly heart to his sacrifice, giving the consent of her love to the immaculation of the victim born of her flesh. That is where her heart was really pierced as with a sword. . . . Her love was immeasurably great and we know that the one who loves more suffers more. In her human nature the Mother of God could not have endured such a pain, but she surrendered herself to the will of God and, comforted by the Holy Spirit, she received the strength to bear her suffering.”

In his prayer after the Way of the Cross during World Youth Day, Pope Francis also emphasized the significance of Mary STANDING before her crucified Son:

“Let us look to Mary, woman of strength. From her let us learn how to stand beneath the cross with her same determination and courage, without evasions or illusions. She accompanied the suffering of her Son. . . . She supported him by her gaze and protected him with her heart. She shared his suffering yet was not overwhelmed by it. She was the woman of strength who uttered her ‘Yes,’ who supports and accompanies, protects and embraces. She is the great guardian of hope.

“We too, Father, want to be a Church that supports and accompanies, that is able to say, ‘Here I am!’ in the lives and amid the crosses of all those Christs who walk by our side. . . . From her we want to learn to stand beneath the cross, but not with hearts tightly shut, rather with hearts that can accompany, that feel tenderness and devotion, that show mercy and treat others with respect, sensitivity and understanding. . . . Father, like Mary, we want to learn what it means to ‘stand.’

“Lord, teach us to stand at the foot of the cross, at the foot of every cross. Open our eyes and hearts . . . and rescue us from paralysis and uncertainty, from fear and from desperation. Father, teach us to say ‘Here I stand, alongside your Son, alongside Mary and alongside all those beloved disciples who desire to welcome your Kingdom into their heart.’ Amen.”

Let’s offer this prayer in the name of the young people we know.

Sister Constance Veit, LSP, is director of communications for the Little Sisters of the Poor
Archbishop Christophe Pierre, apostolic nuncio to the United States and chancellor of the Pontifical College Josephinum, visited the Columbus seminary on Saturday, March 30. He celebrated Mass in St. Turibius Chapel, formally greeted each seminarian and faculty member, and enjoyed brunch with the seminary community. “I greet you in the name of Pope Francis and assure you of his prayers, his spiritual closeness and his paternal affection,” he said.

As the Josephinum nears a transition in the office of rector-president this summer, Archbishop Pierre acknowledged the service of Msgr. Christopher Schreck, who has been rector since 2012. “He has served faithfully for seven years,” the archbishop said. “An ordinary term is only five years, but he generously agreed to stay an additional two years. Monsignor, thank you for all you have done.”

Msgr. Schreck will begin a one-year sabbatical on July 1 before receiving his next assignment.

Present also for the archbishop’s visit was Father Steven Beseau, assistant professor of moral theology at The Athenaeum of Ohio in Cincinnati, who will become rector-president of the Josephinum on July 1. Welcoming Father Beseau, Archbishop Pierre said, “I know the new bishop (of Columbus), the faculty and staff and students are looking forward to your leadership and to a fruitful collaboration in the formation of new priests.”

One day before coming to the Josephinum, Archbishop Pierre took part in the installation of Bishop Robert Brennan as the 12th bishop of Columbus. This was the archbishop’s second visit to the seminary since his appointment as nuncio to the United States. In that position, he also is chancellor of the Josephinum, the only papal seminary outside of Italy. Bishop Brennan is vice chancellor by virtue of his position as bishop of Columbus. In April 2017, Archbishop Pierre came to the Josephinum for the dedication of St. Turibius Chapel following completion of its restoration and renovation.
op Brennan began administering the sacrament of confirmation throughout the diocese, following the schedule set for his predecessor, retired Bishop Frederick Campbell. That meant the new bishop already had visited several parishes when he recorded the interview.

“I often say to young people, ‘The church needs joyful, credible witnesses of Jesus Christ.’ In these last few days in Columbus, I’ve already encountered so many joyful, credible witnesses of Jesus, especially our young people. I’ve already found the young people are just so impressive around this diocese, so committed, so joyful and uplifting and with a desire to reflect Jesus Christ in their lives,” he said.

“They know it’s not easy. We talked about some of the difficulties, the obstacles in the world. … We know in our world how many things are weighing us down – the drug culture, the hurts in the families. He (the pope) talks about ending abuse in every form. … We have young people who are just powerful witnesses, who stand against the tide. They get up at their confirmation and they say, ‘I do. I renounce Satan. I believe in God. I believe in Jesus Christ. I believe in the Holy Spirit. I believe in the gifts he gives us in this church.’

“What a powerful witness!” the bishop said. “The gifts of the Holy Spirit – we count on them to build up the world.”

*Christus Vivit* is written “to young people, for young people and about young people,” Bishop Brennan said. “In the passages where the pope is speaking very directly to young people, it’s like a father talking to his children or a grandfather to his grandchildren, but he also makes it clear that he’s speaking to the whole church, and he’s speaking about young people.

“Not talking about them, but reminding us young people have something very important to teach the church, and we have some very important lessons that he draws out of those conversations (at the synod) that he presents to the whole church to reflect on and to grow with.

“He goes through the whole Old Testament and names people who were longing for Christ. He talks about different encounters with Christ (in the New Testament) and draws on the lives of many different young saints who teach us about the faith.”

Bishop Brennan noted that *Christus Vivit* refers to the parable of Jesus in which 10 young women were awaiting the arrival of a bridegroom, but only five were prepared with enough oil to keep their lamps lighted during the wait. “Our lives are always about being prepared, deriving from the oil, the reservoir of God’s grace,” the bishop said. “The Lord himself gives us that oil – what we need to be able to prepare, to have that long view in mind. It’s not just the moment.”

The pope’s document contains many variations of the message “You, the youth of the world, are beloved.” “At the baptism of Jesus, the Lord says, ‘You are my beloved son,’” the bishop said. “At our baptism, God speaks to each of us: ‘You are my beloved son, you are my beloved daughter as you are, as I created you. Because of who you are, you are my beloved.’

The bishop then asked, “How often are our young people told, ‘That’s not exactly true. You have to earn it (God’s love). Somewhere or find it somewhere else.’ We have people in the Scriptures like the prodigal son. Neither son (in the parable of the prodigal son) really believed they were beloved by their father. The world is constantly telling us, ‘You have to do this. You’re lacking here. You’re not beloved as you are.’

“So the Holy Father really goes out of his way to remind young people, and all of us, that ‘You are my beloved children,’” Bishop Brennan said.

He said the pope’s document is very candid in discussing “the outside influences, the outside dangers, the obstacles, the things in the culture of the world around us. He talks about the struggles within the church. He’s actually very frank about some of those struggles. It’s something that we all need to learn from as well.”

“He talks about how a substantial number of young people, for all sorts

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Local news and events

**OLB enrolling for summer program**

Columbus Our Lady of Bethlehem School and Childcare, 4567 Olentangy River Road, is on the fast track for summer with a program for children ages three through grade six from Monday, June 3 to Friday, Aug. 16.

OLB summers provide a safe, nurturing environment where each child can explore the world through weekly themes, activities and field trips. This year’s focus is on science, technology, religion, education, art and math (STREAM).

Students will spend their summer days making new friends, skill building, sharpening their reading, building on their faith, and participating in physical education, art and fun-themed days. As part of this year’s STREAM theme, students will work in the school’s “backyard” in an all-inclusive space to explore, create and work with nature. The space includes a vegetable and butterfly garden, digging area, music garden and imaginative play area.

The school’s 11-week summer gives families the opportunity to have their children enrolled full-time Monday through Friday, or on two, three or four days a week to complement a family’s schedule. For more information, go to www.ourladyofbethlehem.org or call (614) 459-8285.

**Bishop Ready sponsors sports camps**

The Columbus Bishop Ready High School athletic department is sponsoring a series of summer sports camps with participation designed for students in grades two to eight, depending on the sport. Ready coaches will oversee each camp and will be assisted by Ready athletes.

Football camp runs from Monday to Thursday, June 3 to 6 and volleyball camp is Monday to Thursday, June 10 to 13. Both are for students in grades four to eight.

The boys basketball camp runs from Monday to Thursday, June 17 to 20 and girls basketball from Tuesday to Friday, June 25 to 28. Both are for students in grades three to eight.

Softball camp is Monday, Wednesday and Thursday, July 15, 17 and 18 for students in grades two to eight, and baseball camp is Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, July 23, 25 and 26 for students in grades five to eight.

Camps are at Bishop Ready High School, 707 Salisbury Road, except for volleyball and girls’ basketball, which will be at Grove City Our Lady of Perpetual Help School, 3752 Broadway, and boys’ basketball, which will be at Columbus St. Cecilia School, 440 Norton Road.

Information on times, costs, and as well as a registration form, is available on the Bishop Ready website, brhs.org, under “Summer Camps” or by contacting Ready athletic director Steven McQuade at (614) 276-5263, extension 211, or smcquade@cdeducation.org.

**Serra day of reflection**

Msgr. Frank P. Lane will preside at the annual day of reflection sponsored by the Serra Club of North Columbus on Tuesday, May 7, at the Jessing Center of the Pontifical College Josephinum, 7625 N. High St. The cost is $25 per person and includes a continental breakfast and lunch.

The day will begin at 9:30 a.m. with registration. Msgr. Lane will present two talks and celebrate Mass in St. Turibius Chapel, and there will be time for confession and meditation. The event, which will include the installation of new club officers, will end at 2 p.m.

Reservations are required by Wednesday, May 1. Contact Ginger West at (614) 846-6133 or ginger-west@sbcglobal.net. Checks made out to Serra Club of North Columbus or cash will be accepted on arrival from those who have made reservations.

**St. Vincent de Paul financial mentor training**

The diocesan St. Vincent de Paul Society’s next financial mentor training session will be on Saturday, May 11 from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at Grove City Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, 3730 Broadway.

Mentors are needed for the society’s microloan program, which seeks to provide an effective alternative to high-interest payday loans and to create a community in which individuals receive financial mentorship and consumer protection information from...
A Lenten quiz: Which came first, God’s creation of the world or God’s covenant with Israel? If we think in terms of mere chronology, the answer is obvious. If we think theologically, however, we get a different answer—and the drama of creation, covenant and redemption comes into clearer focus.

In Jesus of Nazareth – Holy Week, Pope Benedict XVI teaches that God’s covenant with Israel is not some sort of divine afterthought, an add-on or remedy for something that had gone wrong. No, the covenant and its fulfillment in the life, death and resurrection of a son of Israel, Jesus of Nazareth, who inaugurates a new covenant including both Jews and Gentiles, are the very reasons why God created the world: “According to rabbinic theology, the idea of the covenant—the idea of establishing a holy people to be an interlocutor for God in union with him—is prior to the idea of creation and supplies its inner motive. The cosmos was created, not that there be inhabited things in heaven and earth, but that there might be space for the ‘covenant,’ for the loving ‘yes’ between God and his human respondent.”

God creates and redeems the world so that God’s holiness might be shared by a people empowered by grace to live holy lives. God’s thirst for the holiness of his people is liturgically manifest on the Fourth Sunday of Lent in Jesus’s thirst for the faith of the Samaritan woman, from whom he asks a drink of water. And God’s thirst for a holy people with whom the Trinity can be in a covenant of love continues today. That is why the Church, the continuation of Christ’s presence in the world, is a communion of disciples in mission.

That mission often carries heavy costs, and it is appropriate to be reminded of that as the Church walks the Way of the Cross these last weeks of Lent.

During last year’s synod in Rome, I had the good fortune to befriend a true missionary disciple who is also the bishop of Mamfe in Cameroon, Andrew Nkea. During our work together, I discovered in Bishop Nkea a man of deep Catholic faith, wholly persuaded that the Gospel his people have embraced is the greatest liberating power in the world. I also found someone whose exceptional calm amid horrific circumstances in his homeland testified to his conviction that God remains with the people he has called to holiness, even when he can seem far distant.

And God can indeed seem distant in contemporary Cameroon, a country beset by deadly civil strife in which the government is complicit.

During the synod, Bishop Andrew told me of having to close 15 parishes in his diocese because large gatherings of Anglophones were an excuse for Francophone government thugs to commit atrocities in the name of suppressing spurious “terrorism.” A few weeks after we said farewell in Rome, a 33-year-old Kenyan Mill Hill missionary priest in Bishop Nkea’s diocese was the victim of a random, drive-through shooting by the quasi-military Gendarmerie Nationale in the village of Kembong, to which Father Cosmos Omboto Onardi had returned with hundreds of refugees after much of the village had been burned down by government forces. Bishop Nkea was in Kembong the next day and counted 21 bullet holes in the church building in which the refugees were taking shelter, and saw Father Ondari’s blood on the cement at the entrance to the building. In my mind’s eye, it was not easy to imagine the bishop, who was such an articulate, joyful proponent of the truth of Catholic faith in Rome, standing where a priest he had welcomed into his diocese had just been murdered for no other reason than to terrorize the people Father Ondari served. Yet they were one and the same man—the Andrew Nkea I came to admire in Rome and the grieving but resolute bishop who demanded justice from a corrupt government while calling his people to intensified prayer for peace.

If the rabbinic theologians cited by Pope Benedict were right, Father Ondari and Bishop Nkea were “in the mind” of God before creation, embodiments of the holiness for which God thirsts in his people. Catholics in safer environments should ponder their example and live in spiritual solidarity with those who may sometimes think themselves forgotten by the world and the Church.

**George Weigel is the Distinguished Senior Fellow and William E. Simon Chair in Catholic Studies at the Ethics and Public Policy Center.**

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Trained volunteers.

The program typically provides loans of as much as $750 at three percent above the prime rate, based on availability of funds. The money is for one-time expenses such as car or home repair, emergency medical expenses, apartment security deposits, educational expenses, and paying off payday or car title loans.

Additional mentors are needed to work with people whose loans have been approved. The revised mentor training curriculum includes relationship building, characteristics of microloan candidates during home visits, and “Your Money, Your Goals” training.

Those who are interested in learning more about the financial mentor role, including previously trained mentors, are invited to register. Mentors do not need to be St. Vincent de Paul Society mentors. Lunch and materials will be provided at the training session.

Anyone interested in attending is asked to contact Deb Zabloudil at debzabloudil@gmail.com or (614) 507-5345 by Tuesday, May 7.

**St. Charles graduate to present concert in Lithopolis**

Larry MacDonald, a Columbus St. Charles Preparatory School graduate and the father of three priests, will present a piano concert titled “From Ragtime to Rhapsody” at 2 p.m. Sunday, May 5 in the Wagnalls Memorial Library, 150 E. Columbus St., Lithopolis. The concert, a fundraiser for renovation of the 93-year-old building, is being presented as a tribute to the pianist’s brother, James MacDonald, who died last month.

It will include ragtime music by Scott Joplin and Artie Matthews, film themes from classics such as Gone with the Wind and ET, and MacDonald’s own solo piano arrangement of Gershwin’s Rhapsody in Blue.

MacDonald’s six children include Father. Eben MacDonald, pastor of St. Cyril of Jerusalem Church in Encino, California; Father Timothy MacDonald, pastor of Queen of the Miraculous Medal Church in Jackson, Michigan; and Father Adam MacDonald, SVD, a missionary priest of the Society of the Divine Word, who works as a vocations director in the society’s Chicago province.

MacDonald, who grew up in Columbus, attended St. Mary Magdalene School, St. Charles, and Ohio State University. Since 1966, he has taught at C.S. Mott Community College in Flint, Michigan, where he holds the rank of professor emeritus. He has taught a course there on film music since 1999. He has been music director of St. Michael Church in Flint since 2002.

This will be the first time MacDonald has performed publicly in the Columbus area since moving to Michigan. There will be no charge for the concert, but free-will offerings to benefit the library renovation are encouraged. For more information, contact Tami Morehart at (614) 817-4765.

**ODU celebrates Dominican Sisters’ 10th anniversary**

Ohio Dominican University will celebrate the 10th anniversary of the founding of the Dominican Sisters of Peace at 4 p.m. Wednesday, April 24. The celebration will include the planting and blessing of two burning bushes beside a statue of St. Catherine of Siena between Erskine Hall and the Spangler Learning Center on ODU’s campus at
Q. Recently, I heard read at Mass these words from St. Mark’s Gospel: “Amen, I say to you, all sins and all blasphemies that people utter will be forgiven them. But whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven.” What does this mean?
A. The quote you reference is from Mark 3:28-29. On the surface, it would seem to clash with what we grew up learning: that God can forgive anything if we’re sorry. And so, not surprisingly, this passage has sparked considerable commentary.

The first thing I should say is that God indeed can forgive anything; that’s the very reason Jesus came. Early in the Gospel, the angel of the Lord tells Joseph in a dream: “You are to name him Jesus because he will save his people from their sins” (Matthew 1:21).

What then does the passage from Mark mean? It means that the one who blasphemes against the Holy Spirit is one who refuses to accept God’s forgiveness.

As the Catechism of the Catholic Church explains: “There are no limits to the mercy of God, but anyone who deliberately refuses to accept his mercy by repenting, rejects the forgiveness of his sins and the salvation offered by the Holy Spirit. Such hardness of heart can lead to final impenitence and eternal loss” (No. 1864).

As Pope St. John Paul II explained in his 1986 encyclical letter Dominum et Vivificantem, “Blasphemy” does not properly consist in offending against the Holy Spirit in words; it consists rather in the refusal to accept the salvation which God offers to man through the Holy Spirit, working through the power of the cross” (No. 46).

So “blasphemy against the Holy Spirit” – I believe and would hope – is rather unusual; it would mean rejecting God’s offer of forgiveness all the way to the end of one’s life.

Q. My wife and I are traditional Latin-rite Catholics who moved to central Virginia from an area that had numerous Catholic churches, where Masses with dignified, traditional music could always be found. But the churches where we live now are small in number and feature contemporary music at every Mass.

Worship bands have guitars, flutes, mandolins and, evidently, whatever one wants to bring. Hymns are normally vapid, meaningless campfire songs. I leave Mass wondering whether God was even present. Often applause breaks out for the band, and the pastor said nothing will be changed because he loves it.

I have taken to bringing “earbuds” so I can listen to prerecorded Gregorian chant that drowns out the band. Consequently, I leave with a more upbeat feeling. Is this practice frowned upon? (Some parishioners give me nasty looks.)

A. Are you sure there’s not another Catholic parish you could attend without too much inconvenience – one with quieter, more traditional music? (I googled “Catholic churches in central Virginia” and found 20 or so listed – but I know this covers a wide geographic area.)

I do understand why it makes others uncomfortable to see you sitting there playing your own music. The Mass is meant to be a public act of worship – a community of faith praying together – not a private devotion.

As a very last resort, you’re doing is surely better than not going to Mass at all – but it might be best to sit near the back of church so as to minimize the distortion to others.

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

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of reasons, don’t ask the church for anything because they don’t see her as significant in their lives. He goes on to say, actually, sometimes people even just ask to be left alone.

“That’s a tragedy, but not always without reason,” Bishop Brennan said. “And he talks about some of the real scars and shadows in the life of the church. He talks about how the church walks its pilgrim way. He says, ‘We walk without makeup. We walk, and we reveal all our blemishes and scars and hurts and sins and kneel before the Lord, asking pardon, repentance and the grace to grow more fully in the image of Jesus Christ.’

“He talks about the obstacles within the church, and yet he gives us a sense of hope,” the bishop said. “In the end, our hope is in Jesus risen, his divine mercy. What does Jesus do after the resurrection? He goes back to the church, back to Peter and the Apostles with the gift of divine mercy and shows them his wounds.

“Maybe that’s something we have to do is look at the wounds that allow Jesus to heal us and guide us, to make us stronger, to fill us with that sense of resolve to be credible witnesses of Jesus Christ.”

Bishop Brennan said that April 2, the day Christus Vivit was issued, also marked the 14th anniversary of the death of Pope St. John Paul II, then noted that the document’s opening words were “Christ is alive, and he wants you to be alive.”

He described that as “a beautiful message” and said that later in the document, Pope Francis “talks about how God wants us to be happy even now, and says, ‘You know, we look on youth as a time of preparation, and that’s important, but contrary to what many people think, the Lord does not want to stifle the desires for fulfilling life, even now.’

“God wants us to be happy now,” Bishop Brennan said. “He wants youth to be a time of fulfillment in itself. It’s not just looking ahead to the future.

“The best preparation for the future is to live the present. The key to it, though, is that you will never know the deepest, fullest meaning of happiness now unless you encounter your best friend – the friend who is Jesus.”

LOCAL NEWS, continued from Page 5

1216 Sunbury Road, Columbus.

In 2009, the university’s founding congregation, the Dominican Sisters of St. Mary of the Springs, joined six other congregations across the nation to form the Dominican Sisters of Peace, who have ministries in 22 states and two foreign countries.

This ceremony is the first in a year-long series of celebrations to mark the congregation’s first decade of ministry. Images of trees planted by the water of Christ’s love with deep, strong roots are found frequently in the Bible and gave inspiration to this element of the congregation’s celebration.

“The theme for our 10th anniversary celebration is ‘Rooted in the Word; Preaching Peace,’” said Sister Pat Twohill, OP, the congregation’s prioress. “What better way to celebrate our own deep roots in Scripture, our commitment to God’s creation, and our hope in the future than by planting beautiful burning bushes at Ohio Dominican University.”

As part of the planting, a plaque will be installed to commemorate the anniversary celebration. The event also will feature a brief program, refreshments and a prayer for the future.

DLC hosting tutor training

The Dominican Learning Center is looking for tutors to teach adults who are seeking basic education skills, preparing to take their high-school equivalency diploma test or learning English as a second language.

Its next tutor training workshop will be from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Saturday, April 13 at the center, 1111 E. Stewart Ave., Columbus. Volunteers must be at least 18 years old and have a high school diploma. Materials are free to tutors.

To register, call (614) 444-7330, extension 1 or email www.dlcolumbus@oppeace.org. To find out more, visit www.dominicanlearningcenter.org.
We have arrived at the start of the holiest week of the year and the apex of the Church year – Holy Week. Palm/Passion Sunday, Monday through Wednesday of Holy Week, Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday and the ultimate, Easter Sunday. Holy Week is simply the best. Lent culminates at the Sacred Triduum, and we can all celebrate our journey’s end with forgiveness, love and a positive move forward. And while we celebrate our redemption, we also celebrate the culmination of the RCIA process in thousands of parishes everywhere. The practical parts of the Easter Vigil are all about welcoming new Catholics into our faith. Most are already fellow Christians, and it is a beautiful thing to welcome them into full communion in our Church. Profession of faith, Baptism, Holy Communion and Confirmation. All of this initiation, and then affirmation and the full embrace of the universal Church. Especially these days, what a testament it is to desire to be a full and active member of the Catholic Church. While others cry out for death and destruction, our new members realize that we need each other more than ever. We, as current and longtime Catholics, need to show the same resolve and commitment to our faith.

How far back can we trace the RCIA process? Without going into factual detail, we can simply stay with practical and factual history. We can go all the way back to the time of Jesus’ passion, death and resurrection. We are hearing and absorbing a steady diet of these events in Scripture throughout Lent, and especially now during Holy Week, and then throughout the Easter season. Of course, Jesus and all His disciples and followers were devout Jews. Jesus Christ is our first Christian. So who would be the first “converts” to Christianity? We might say that all the early followers were. Some stayed faithful and some wandered away. They left for reasons such as difficulty understanding that Jesus would give us His flesh to eat and His blood to drink. They left when things got tough and the crowds turned against Him. They left when they witnessed the Way of the Cross and the death of the Rabbi. And they left as Christians were persecuted and killed by Jews and Romans. Fortunately, so many more stayed and passionately grew the Church as Jesus commissioned. And their example drew more and more others to be converted. Mary Magdalene was the first to greet the risen Jesus. You might say she was the first to be converted on the spot. Pentecost and the gift of the Holy Spirit converted the apostles and others, and many more from many nations immediately thereafter. The spread of the new Christian Church was destined to be solid and rapid, and there was no stopping it. St. Paul had quite a unique and personal conversion. He quickly became the greatest missionary and fundraiser the Church has ever known. He started the original RCIA process. And the first Gentile converted was the Roman centurion Cornelius, baptized by Peter. The Church was truly open to all.

We all know converts to Catholicism. We know fellow Christians who have gone through the RCIA process. Our parishes proudly profess the current class of candidates. We pray for them, encourage them and joyfully welcome them at Easter. It would be so awesome if each of our parishes were jam-packed and overflowing for each Easter Vigil. We should be so overflowing with joy to welcome new fellow Catholics. This Holy Saturday will be extra special, as my family welcomes our future daughter-in-law into the Church in Virginia. Pray for her and all our new members throughout the Church. Embrace them, welcome them and love them. Christian initiation is celebrated forever, but in particular for the 50 days of Easter.
Seven Chillicothe Bishop Flaget School students received superior ratings at a regional science fair in Athens and will have their projects displayed on Saturday, May 11 at State Science Day at Ohio State University. They are (from left): Mikayla Spaulding, Isabella Flores, Mason Brown, Molly Prochaska, Julia Janes, Brigham McDaniel and Avery Brown. Receiving excellent ratings were Olivia Beatty, Alayna Butler, Elizabeth Henson, Claire Herrnstein, Emma Powers, Simone Fleurima, Meryl Haller, Vincent Haller, Isaac Herlihy, Maddie Howard, Thomas Kessler, Aiden Spaulding and Isaac Corcoran. Special awards were received by Janes, Flores, Prochaska, Herrnstein, Herlihy, Howard, Mikayla Spaulding, Mason Brown and Avery Brown.

Photo courtesy Bishop Flaget School

The Columbus chapter of the America Needs Fatima apostolate sponsored its annual rally in support of marriage and the family on Saturday, March 16 at the Village Green in Worthington. The organization conducts this event every year on the Saturday closest to March 19, the Feast of St. Joseph. It included an hour of prayer, song, and public witness. The chaplain for the local group, Father Joseph Klee, said there were many affirming toots from car horns, far outnumbering the critical comments that came from some passers-by.

Photo courtesy Father Joseph Klee

Kindergarten students at Lancaster St. Bernadette School made cookies for the city’s Foundation Dinner program, earning them a purple cross for their Lenten calendar. Pictured are (from left) Brendan Crook, Giovanni Bruno, Timmy Ross, Wyatt Holstein, Keegan Forquer, Alec Roundhouse, Michael Messerly and Charlie Bricker. Every school day, class members color a cross on the calendar to show what good deed they did that day — green for saying extra prayers, purple for helping someone, red for doing something good that was hard to do, and yellow for doing good without being told. Making cookies for the Lancaster Foundation Dinner program earned them a purple cross.

Photo courtesy St. Bernadette School

Second-grade students at Columbus St. Andrew School asked the “Men Who Mean The Most” in their lives to visit for an afternoon. They read books, played games and spent time together. Shown are Audrey Rudzinski and her father, Jerry. Second-grade teacher Jenni Bucher asked her father, Carl Bucher, to read to the class. He teaches English at Columbus Bishop Watterson High School and is a graduate of that school and St. Andrew.

Photo courtesy St. Andrew School
Dick Black (third from left) was honored by Father Charles Griffin Council 15793 of the Knights of Columbus, based at Chillicothe St. Peter Church, as its Knight of the Year. Pictured with him are (from left): Father William Hahn, the church’s pastor; Black’s wife, Pat; and Bob Kight, council grand knight. Also recognized at the council’s Knight of the Year banquet were Sara Harness, Youth of the Year; and the family of Jim and Mollie Maimone, Family of the Year.

Photo courtesy K of C Council 15793

Tim Conway, vice president of sustainability at Shaw Industries, visited the seventh-grade science classroom at Columbus Immaculate Conception School to discuss how his company creates sustainable flooring products without adding carbon to the atmosphere. Students are shown looking at one of those products. Conway challenged the students to make an impact on the environment now through everyday decisions such as whether to purchase Styrofoam, use a straw, or buy disposable water bottles. He urged them to use their voice in helping change a culture of waste to one that does not use fossil fuels or products created by fossil fuels.

Photo courtesy Immaculate Conception School

Catholic Business Leaders (CBL) provides a unique, Catholic faith and business learning experience for family enterprise owners and corporate executives, rooted in the dignity of work, and in the spirit of community philanthropy.

Part I
May 16 @ 4

Part II
Sept. 12 @ 5

Part III
Oct. 29 @ 5

For more information and a complete listing of dates, visit www.catholic-foundation.org/cbl
**St. Mary German Village: Looking like new after a century and a half**

*By Tim Puet*

*Catholic Times Reporter*

“Grand Old St. Mary’s” will look grander than ever when it is reopened to the public this weekend.

The Anticipated Mass for Palm Sunday to be celebrated at 4 p.m. Saturday, April 13 in Columbus St. Mary, Mother of God Church will be the building’s first event since it was closed in October 2016 because of the effects of a lightning strike on Aug. 28 of that year.

In the 18 months since, an $8 million renovation has resulted in the repair or replacement of nearly everything in the church at 684 S. 3rd St., which anchors the city’s German Village neighborhood. Parishioners have been attending weekend Masses in the St. Mary School gymnasium next door during much of the restoration.

When people come to Mass in the renovated church, probably the first thing they will notice is that its interior appears brighter. That’s because vibrant colors such as clay red, cornflower blue and golden yellow were used in painted scenes on the ceiling. Enhanced lighting also makes the church shine perhaps even more than it did when it was dedicated 151 years ago.

Father Kevin Lutz, pastor, said the renovation included repairing the roof, foundations, wall supports and choir loft supports; installing new front stairs and a new sidewalk; re-wiring the entire church; replacing the heating, ventilating and air-conditioning system and the floor; re-leading stained-glass windows; repainting statues; and restoring the confessionals, baptistery and Pieta shrine. In addition, a prayer garden, funded through a donation from a parish family, has been added in front of the church.

Work has been constant since the decision was made to close the church and rebuild it practically from the ground up. When The Catholic Times visited in late March, scaffolding was still up as touch-up work was being done on painted areas, and new woodwork was being installed for the confessionals and pulpits. “We’re still looking for a couple of the church’s original pews, which were auctioned off,” Father Lutz said. “We have the rest.

“Probably the last things we will be doing involve bringing in candlesticks and linens, and, of course, palm decorations and individual palms for Palm Sunday, plus a lot of extra chairs for the crowds we anticipate for our first Masses and other Holy Week and Easter events,” he said.

“One of the great things that happened today (March 27) was that the movie were trying to rebuild a school, and we’re rebuilding a church, but, in both cases, a lot of obstacles were overcome to get to this point.”

Father Lutz created a Catholic Times advertisement in February 2017 for the church’s rebuilding campaign reflecting the Bells of St. Mary’s theme.

In the movie, religious sisters opened the heart of a tightfisted millionaire who ended up donating a building to the school. “We didn’t have anything quite so dramatic, but we did have many benefactors who gave generously of both their money and their time,” Father Lutz said.

One parishioner matched donations up to $1 million and ultimately donated considerably more than that. Hundreds of smaller donations were made, and parishioners volunteered countless hours of assistance, in addition to the efforts of the principal contracting firms – Hamilton Contractors and Corna Kokosing for general construction; Kabil Associates for engineering; Meleca Architects; Rambusch Lighting of Jersey City, New Jersey, for the lighting; and Martin Painting and Coating of Grove City and EverGreene Architectural Arts of Brooklyn, New York, which restored the church’s artwork.

Among the most notable volunteer efforts were those of parishioner Tim Sprosty, a woodworker who built a new tabernacle and altar in the style of the church’s original liturgical furniture. A former parishioner, Julius Vargo, found the church’s former Stations of the Cross in a warehouse, and they were restored. “One of the interesting things you’ll find if you look closely is that the sky gets a little darker in each station, becoming black for the crucifixion, the 12th station,” Father Lutz said.

“We set a goal of reopening for the 2019 Easter season,” he said. “I felt we would make it, but for the longest time, even after a year, I couldn’t see the light at the end of the tunnel. It seemed this project was going to tax everybody’s strength. Only when the painters began working on the ceiling late last year did I began to feel certain that things would be done on time.”

The restored paintings were created by Gerhard Lamers, a liturgical artist who worked in several Midwestern states during the mid-19th century. In an earlier restoration, the paintings were stenciled and the restoration work was done by hand. This time, they were replaced with canvasses covered with digitally reproduced colors that look like paint. The ceiling
The renovation was led by Father Kevin Lutz, pastor, who is well-known for his work in preserving church artifacts. He also is founder of the Jubilee Museum, the nation’s largest collection of Catholic artwork.

The church’s organ stayed in place during the reconstruction and was enclosed in plywood while work was performed around it. An organ presentation will be part of an open house at the church at 2 p.m. Sunday, April 14, and will accompany a showing of the 1927 silent film classic “King of Kings” at 8 p.m. that night. Also shown are ceiling panels which depict some of the titles given to the Virgin Mary in the Litany of Loreto.

New drywall was put up, followed by grid work was put up for a new ceiling. “This was then plastered over, and the roof trusses were not enhanced in any way. What’s impressed me about the work done on the paintings and on everything throughout the church is the perfect attention to original detail paid by all the companies involved. They were meticulous.”

The church wasn’t immediately closed after the lightning strike in 2016. Father Lutz said repairs obviously had to be made, but the extent of the damage wasn’t fully known until a structural engineer looked at it several weeks later. On completion of his inspection, he ordered the building’s immediate closure because its roof trusses had shifted after decades of wear and fatigue.

“Putting in the new ceiling and installing the girders and their supports was what took the longest time. In-stallation of the girders was a two-day process, but the prep work took several weeks.

“Next, the old ceiling had to be removed, and 10 huge steel girders were dropped through the ceiling and embedded in the walls,” Father Lutz said. “This was then plastered over, and the grid work was put up for a new ceiling. New drywall was put up, followed by restoration of the paintings.

“We had been anticipating a capital campaign for repairs to the church and renovation of the Specht Center next door so it can be used as classroom space for the school and meeting space for the community,” Father Lutz said. “Closing the church accelerated everything.” A second phase of the campaign will involve expansion and improvement of the school.

Weekend Masses have taken place in the school gym since the church was closed. Since March 10, the parish’s 4 p.m. Saturday Mass has been celebrated at nearby St. Leo Church, which is within the St. Mary parish boundaries. St. Leo has not been a parish since mid-1999, but the church building has remained an active worship site because of the dedication of the St. Leo Preservation Society in maintaining it.

See ST. MARY, Page 12
A worker from Martin Painting and Coating of Grove City prepares ceiling panels which match the originals. The new panels are canvases covered with digitally reproduced colors that look like paint.

“The move to St. Leo on Saturdays was partly because the gym was needed on March 8 and 9 for the 41st All-Ohio St. Mary Basketball Tournament,” host- ed every year by Columbus St. Mary School, in which schools with the St. Mary name from throughout Ohio com- pete, Father Lutz said. “It also helped condition parishioners to go into a beau- tiful church again after 2 1/2 years sitting on folding chairs in a gym.”

Following Palm Sunday Masses at 4 p.m. April 13 and 11 a.m. Sunday, April 14, several Holy Week activities are planned at the restored St. Mary Church. There will be an open house, including a choir and organ accompaniment at 2 p.m. Sunday, followed by a reception in the garden. The 1927 Cecil B. DeMille silent film classic King of Kings, depicting the last weeks of Jesus’ life, will be shown with organ accompaniment at 8 p.m.

Father Lutz will celebrate weekend Masses in Latin at 8:30 a.m. Monday and Tuesday, 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, 9 a.m. Thursday and Friday and 7 a.m.

Workers repair the church’s bell tower. The bells were silent for 2 1/2 years as part of the renovation. The bell system is controlled by an electrical carillon system installed in 2012.

Saturday.
Services for the Sacred Triduum will be at 7 p.m. Holy Thursday, 3 p.m. Good Friday and 8:30 p.m. Holy Saturday, with Stations of the Cross at 7 p.m. Friday.
“Easter will be spectacular,” Father Lutz said, “with brass, plenty of flowers and a procession of all our servers – so many that we have to borrow servers’ robes from other parishes. After Easter, we plan concerts with several choirs to honor the parish’s German heritage.”

Those invited to perform at the parish include the Columbus Maennerchor and Damenchor, the Mendelssohn Liedertafel, several parish choirs, and a group with Alpine horns, “the kind you hear in the Ricola cough drop commercials,” Father Lutz said.

For more information about the parish and the renovation, including extensive photo documentation, go to the parish website, www.stmarygv. org. The church’s phone number is (614) 445-9668.
Ada Our Lady of Lourdes – Mime Stations of the Cross with eighth- to 12th-grade students, Friday, April 19, noon.

Columbus Holy Family – Good Friday Vigil with the Holy Virgin, Friday, April 19, 7:30 p.m. to Saturday, April 20, 10 a.m., with the Sacrament of Reconciliation available until midnight Friday and praying of the Sorrowful Mysteries of the Rosary every hour.

Columbus St. Elizabeth – Easter egg hunt, Saturday, April 13, 10 a.m.; Tiffin University Gospel Choir concert, Sunday, April 14, 12:30 p.m.

Columbus St. Francis of Assisi – Soup supper featuring parish members telling how each of the Stations of the Cross relates to their lives, Monday, April 15, 6:30 to 8 p.m.

Columbus St Joseph Cathedral – Diocesan Chrism Mass, with Bishop Robert Brennan blessing holy oils to be used in parishes throughout the diocese, and diocesan priests renewing their commitment of service, Tuesday, April 16, 6 p.m.; Walking Stations of the Cross, stopping at 14 sites throughout downtown Columbus, Friday, April 19, 8 to 11 a.m., starting at the cathedral; Tenebrae service, designed to re-create the sense of betrayal, abandonment and agony related to Good Friday, featuring the Cathedral Schola (choir members) and including Tallis’ Lamentations of Jeremiah, Friday, April 19, 8 p.m.

Columbus St. Ladislas – Living Stations of the Cross in Spanish, Sunday, April 14, during 11 a.m. Mass; Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, Thursday, April 18, 7:30 p.m. to midnight.

Columbus St. Margaret of Cortona – Eucharistic Adoration, Thursday, April 18, from the end of 7 p.m. Mass to 11 p.m.

Columbus St. Mary, Mother of God – First Mass celebrated in the church since it was closed for rebuilding for 18 months following a lightning strike in 2016, Saturday, April 13, 4 p.m.; Palm Sunday Masses, Sunday, April 14, 9 and 11 a.m.; open house, including organ presentation and reception in the parish garden, Sunday, April 14, 2 p.m.; silent movie King of Kings with organ accompaniment, Sunday, April 14, 8 p.m.; Tenebrae service chanted in Latin, Wednesday, April 17 to Friday, April 19, 9 p.m.

Columbus St. Matthias – Living Stations of the Cross with middle school students, Tuesday, April 16, 7 p.m.

Columbus St. Patrick – Sermo Dominicus, a reading of Jesus’ last discourse (John chapters 14 to 17), Thursday, April 18, 11:30 p.m.

Delaware St. Mary – Walking Stations of the Cross, Friday, April 19, 11 a.m.; ecumenical prayer service, Friday, April 19, noon; blessing of Easter food baskets, Saturday, April 20, 11:30 a.m.

Dublin St. Brigid of Kildare – Vespers service, Sunday, April 14, 5 p.m.; Easter food blessing, Saturday, April 20, 2 p.m. in chapel, followed at 2:30 by Easter egg hunt on parish green.

Lancaster St. Mark – Come Touch the Robe Easter cantata, Sunday, April 14, 7 p.m.

New Boston St. Monica – Living Stations of the Cross, Sunday, April 14, 5:30 p.m.

Portsmouth St. Mary and Holy Redeemer – Walking Stations of the Cross, Friday, April 19, 6 p.m., from St. Mary to Holy Redeemer.

Reynoldsburg St. Pius X – Living Stations of the Cross, Sunday, April 14, 6 p.m.; Tenebrae service, Wednesday, April 17, 7:30 p.m.; men’s ministry sponsors walk with wooden cross along eight-mile course on bike trails and sidewalks of Reynoldsburg, Saturday, April 20, 7:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.; blessing of Easter food baskets, Saturday, April 20, 1 p.m.

Sunbury St. John Neumann – Simultaneous indoor and outdoor Stations of the Cross, Friday, April 19, 3 p.m.

Zanesville St. Thomas Aquinas – Tenebrae service, Sunday, April 14, 5 p.m.

Ad For All You Can Eat! Friday 5:00 - 7:30 pm
LEN Ten FAMILY

St. Joan of Arc Church www.bestfishfry.com

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St. Margaret of Cortona 1600 N. Hague Ave. • 614-279-1690

Fried Ocean Perch or Baked Cod, with French Fries, Baked Potato or Sweet Potato, Macaroni & Cheese, Cole Slaw, Applesauce, Roll & Butter, and homemade Desserts. Free coffee!

Fridays during Lent
March 8 - April 12 | 4:30 - 7:30 PM

• $10.00 Adults
• $9.50 Seniors
• $5.00 Children (10 & under)
• Free (3 & under)
• Pop, Beer, Seconds, and Carryouts available
Passion (Palm) Sunday (Year C)

My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?

We are called to acknowledge God’s love and mercy revealed to us in Christ. We are called to practice in our own world the acts of mercy that we see – forgiveness, help to carry burdens, preparations for the struggles at the end of life.

Our world is now very publicly rejecting the witness of the Church. Every day brings new reports that we have not been who we say we are as followers of Christ. Sadly, there is truth in the reports. But something else that is also true is missed: We do have the Spirit of Christ to heal and to renew us.

The charge given by the passion of Jesus is twofold:

- We are to accept our share in the suffering of Christ and His Church, the cross that is ours.
- We are to live in hope as a witness of the truth of God’s love and mercy poured out in Jesus.

The Passion of Jesus continues in the Church and in our world. Our brothers and sisters are hurting. We need only to look around to discover them. They are watching, waiting, hoping that we will notice. They have a message to tell us, a message that comes from God and opens in our hearts a channel of God’s own love.

The poor are right here. Some are materially poor. All of us are spiritually poor. We have a need for something only God can give. The way He chooses to give it is through our relationships with one another.

There is something we have to offer to others that they need, that they want, that they are seeking. It goes by the name of mercy, but it is tailored, shaped to each soul and to each soul’s need in many different forms.

Are we ready to follow Him along the way of his passion? Will we follow His lead and the example of those who show Him mercy?

Father Timothy M. Hayes is pastor of Columbus St. Timothy Church.
Burial Mass for Mark A. Enke, 67, who died on Tuesday, April 2, was celebrated on Monday, April 8 at Granville St. Edward Church. Burial was at St. Joseph Cemetery, Columbus.

He was born on Oct. 7, 1951 in Columbus to Arthur and Mary (Murphy) Enke and was employed for many years by ARC Industries.

He was preceded in death by his parents and a brother, Kevin. Survivors include a brother, Msgr. Paul Enke, pastor of St. Edward Church, and a sister, Anna Marie (John) Rice.

Burial Mass for Jane E. Leach, 82, who died Monday, April 1, was celebrated Friday, April 5 at Columbus St. Agatha Church. Burial was at St. Joseph Cemetery, Columbus.

She was born in Columbus on Feb. 23, 1937 to the late Robert and Margaret (Mullen) McCaffrey.

She was a graduate of Hoban Dominican High School in Cleveland and of Kent State University, where she received a bachelor of arts degree in English and education. She also did graduate work at Ohio State University in English.

Survivors include her husband, John; son, John Jr.; daughters, Theresa Williams and Ellen; and two granddaughters.

Finances are not the favorite discussion topic of most couples. Here are some ways to make it a productive conversation: Set aside a time (and separately from a date) for the discussion. Focus more on the values behind the numbers than the amount after the dollar sign. Use this conversation to affirm your spouse’s dreams, but focus on common goals.

Diocese of Columbus Marriage and Family Life Office
APRIL

The Perfect Mother’s Day Gift! Send a newly born baby from the hospital with a new layout lovingly assembled by the Christ Child Society members for a $35 donation. Your Mother will receive a beautiful Mother’s Day card announcing your gift in her honor. To order, email Jenny Davies by May 2nd at jdnvies1349@gmail.com or go to the Christ Child Society of Columbus website christchildso.org. Click on Layettes.

11-12, THURSDAY-FRIDAY
33 Hours of Adoration at Resurrection From end of 9 a.m. Thursday Mass to 6:30 p.m. Friday, Reservation chapel, Church of the Resurrection, 6300 E. Dublin-Graveline Road, New Albany. 33 Hours of Eucharistic Adoration in honor of Jesus’ 33 years on Earth. 614-390-5985

11-13, THURSDAY-SATURDAY
Three Bags Full Consignment Sale 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Thursday, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 7 to 9 p.m. Friday. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday (selected items half-price Friday night and Saturday), Hartford Fairgrounds, 14028 Fairgrounds Road, Croton. Three Bags Full consignment sale of children’s items. Unsold and unclaimed items are donated to Catholic and pro-life charities. 614-561-5300

12, FRIDAY
Living Stations at Marion St. Mary 5:30 p.m., St. Mary Church, 251 N. Main St., Marion. Living Stations of the Cross with Mt. St. Mary School and Parish School of Religion students. Byzantine Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts 7 p.m., St. John Chrysostom Byzantine Catholic Church, 5858 Cleveland Ave., Columbus. Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts, a Vespers service with Holy Eucharist. 614-882-7578

Stations of the Cross on Cathedral Organ 7:30 p.m., St. Joseph Cathedral, 212 E. Broad St., Columbus. Marcel Dupre’s Le Chemin de la Croix (The Stations of the Cross) with cathedral organist Nicole Simental. 614-241-2526

12-13, FRIDAY-SATURDAY
Watterson Presents ‘The Addams Family’ 7 p.m., Bishop Watterson High School, 99 E. Cooke Road, Columbus. School drama department presents the musical ‘The Addams Family.’ 614-268-8671

12-14, FRIDAY-SUNDAY
DeSales Presents ‘Beauty and the Beast’ 7 p.m. Friday and Saturday, 3 p.m. Sunday, St. Francis DeSales High School, 4212 Karl Road, Columbus. School’s drama department presents the musical Beauty and the Beast. 614-267-7008

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

Scouting International Awareness Program 8:30 a.m. to 1:15 p.m., Holy Resurrection Melkite Catholic Church, 4611 Glenmore Ave., Columbus. Annual international awareness program sponsored by diocesan Catholic Committee on Scouting, giving all diocesan young people and adults a chance to learn more about the Catholic Church’s Eastern rites. Fee $15 for shorter program, $30 for longer program. 614-506-2510

Dominican Leashin Carmel for Training 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Dominican Learning Center, 1111 E. Stewart Ave., Columbus. Training for tutors to work with adults who are seeking basic education skills, preparing for the GED test or learning English as a second language. Volunteers must be at least 18 with a high school diploma.

Pascha Foods Sale at St. John Chrysostom 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., St. John Chrysostom Byzantine Catholic Church, 5858 Cleveland Ave., Columbus. Annual Pascha (Easter) foods sale, including Pascha bread loaves; pirogi; nut, apricot, and poppyseed rolls; and lamb-chopped cakes. Reopening Mass at St. Mary German Village 4 p.m., St. Mary, Mother of God Church, 672 S. 3rd St., Columbus. First Mass at church since it was closed for rebuilding for 18 months following 2016 lightning strike. Sunday Masses will be at 9 and 11 a.m. 614-445-9668


14, SUNDAY
Living Stations at St. Ladislas During 11 a.m. Mass, St. Ladislas Church, 277 Reeb Ave., Columbus. Living Stations of the Cross in Spanish and English. 614-442-6228

Gospel Choir Concert at St. Elizabeth 12:30 p.m., St. Elizabeth Church, 6077 Sharon Woods Blvd., Columbus. Concert with Tiffin University Gospel choir. 614-891-0150

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

Open House at St. Mary German Village 2 p.m., St. Mary, Mother of God Church, 672 S. 3rd St., Columbus. Open house, including organ presentation and reception in parish garden.

Seasons of Hope Bereavement Ministry 2 to 4 p.m., Columbus Bereavement Center, 20 E. Dominion Blvd., Columbus. Fourth meeting of six-week support group sponsored by Seasons of Hope bereavement ministry for those who have lost a loved one, sponsored by North Hilliard. Monthly Catholic Conversations series for anyone 21 and older, sponsored by Columbus St. Margaret of Cortona Church. Speaker: Cardinal author and broadcaster Emily Jaminet on “Spiritual Friendship.”

Easter Cantata at St. Mark 7 p.m., St. Mark Church, 324 Gay St., Lancaster. Come Touch the Robe Easter cantata. 614-885-7814

Reopening Mass at St. Mary German Village 7 p.m., St. Mary, Mother of God Church, 672 S. 3rd St., Columbus. Presentation of the silent movie King of Kings, with organ accompaniment.

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

Discussion on Opioid Epidemic at ODU 7 to 9 p.m., Mateesch Theater, Erskine Hall, Ohio Dominican University, 1216 Sunbury Road, Columbus. “Inside the Epidemic: The Opioid Crisis in Columbus” program with an anesthesiologist, a Columbus Division of Fire Representative, and people recovering from addiction.

16, TUESDAY
Day of Prayer for Peace at Shepherd’s Corner 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Shepherd’s Corner Ecology Center, 987 N. Waggoner Road, Blacklick. Day of prayer for peace, with prayer, reflection and time to walk and be quiet, led by Sister Marguerite Chandler, OP. Suggested donation $10. Lunch of soup and bread will be included. 614-866-4302

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.

Living Stations at St. Matthias 7 p.m., St. Matthias Church, 1582 Ferris Road, Columbus. Living Stations of the Cross with middle school students. 614-267-3406

17, WEDNESDAY
Abortion Recovery Network Group 9:30 a.m., Westerville Area Resource Ministry, 10700 Heatherridge Drive, Westerville. Abortion recovery network group meeting for anyone interested in recovering from abortion or who has been through a recovery program. 614-721-2100

Center for Dominican Studies Lecture Series Meeting 12-30 p.m., St. Catharine of Siena Center, 987 N. Waggoner Road, Columbus. “Worship and Wings’ at St. Michael 6:30 p.m., St. Michael Church, 5750 N. High St., Westerville. ‘Worship and Wings’ at St. Michael 6:30 p.m., St. Michael Church, 5750 N. High St., Westerville.

17-22, SUNDAY
Dinners with the Solidarity Network 6:30 p.m., St. Barnabas Catholic Church, 6750 N. High St., Columbus. Dinner with the Solidarity Network.

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Catholic Travel
TRIPPIN’ THROUGH THE CAROLINAS
Exploring a unique American vacation destination
By Aaron Leventhal

For the past decade I have escaped Ohio’s cold, bleak winter days for an enjoyable vacation in the Carolinas. I love the region’s sunny days, extraordinary natural beauty, majestic mountains, ocean blue skies, world-class golf courses and genuine Southern hospitality. And being able to reach any destination in the Carolinas in a day’s drive is a major perk. So many Midwesterners and Northeasterners vacation in the Carolinas that being a Yankee is no longer a liability. In fact, we are welcomed as a dynamic force for economic development.

Listed below are some of my favorite Carolina destinations. They combine outstanding outdoor activities and attractions, arts and entertainment, diverse dining options and comfortable lodgings at moderate prices during the low season, October-April. To assure a relaxed and engaging adventure, put aside at least 10 days for your Carolinas adventure.

Asheville, NC
“Best U.S. Destination in 2017,” Lonely Planet
Asheville is a great place to begin any tour through the Carolinas. Take Route 23 South for a leisurely drive along Appalachian country mountain roads. (7-hour drive from Columbus) Asheville, a progressive community in the heart of the Blue Ridge Mountains, was cited by National Geographic as a city among the “Top Globally for Authenticity, Stewardship, Integrity of Place.”

What to do: Tour the Biltmore Estate, the 19th-century, 250-room, French-inspired chateau built by George W. Vanderbilt and the largest private home in the country. The Basilica of St. Lawrence, built by Spanish architect Rafael Gaustavino in 1867, is regarded as a masterpiece for its elliptical dome. The River Arts District, with more than 100 galleries and studios, is a vibrant neighborhood once filled with dormant factories and warehouses. Malaprop’s Bookstore and Cafe is a joyful community gathering place celebrated for its frequent readings by gifted writers. The Omni’s historic Grove Park Inn features spectacular mountain views, a Donald Ross-designed golf course, luxurious spa and fine dining.

Dining: 12 Bones and Luella’s for BBQ, Mayfel’s for Louisiana dishes, Strada for Italian fare, Laughing Seed for vegetarian/vegan specialties and the Lobster Trap for seafood and its Oyster Bar.

Lodging: I always stay at the Crowne Plaza Tennis and Golf Resort’s vacation villas, 30 cozy cabins tucked away in the woods, fully furnished with access to all of the resort amenities. (crowneplaza.com/Asheville/CrownePlaza)
For more information: exploreasheville.com, 828-258-6129.

Charleston, sc
“No. 1 City in the U.S.A.,” voted by readers of Travel + Leisure (2017-2018)
Revered for its Southern charm, historic architecture, rich cultural heritage and famed Lowcountry cuisine, Charleston successfully mixes its antebellum past with world-class attractions and activities. Located along the Atlantic Ocean seaboard, it is the South’s oldest and best colonial town, known as the “Holy City” with 187 churches at last count.

What to do: Take a ferry boat ride from Charleston Harbor to tour Fort Sumter National Monument, where the first shots of the Civil War rang out in April 1861. Tour Magnolia Plantation and Drayton Hall, both with exquisite mansions and gardens. The South Carolina Aquarium houses more than 5,000 living specimens and a renowned Sea Turtle Care Center. Hundreds of quality carriage, walking and water tours are available, focusing on Charleston history, African American Gullah culture, ghosts, nature and culinary experiences.

For shopping, take to the bustling King Avenue, with more than 2 dozen blocks of boutiques, galleries, restaurants and pubs. The historic City Market has hundreds of vendors hawking their wares, from handcrafted sweetgrass baskets and jewelry to locally produced jams, jellies and spices. Performing arts venues include the Charleston Gaillard Center for major concerts and special events, South Broadway Theatre Company, Pure Theatre, the Commodore for jazz and blues and dozens of other clubs featuring live music scattered throughout the city.

Lowcountry cuisine—with influences from Africa, the Caribbean, France and England—is unique to the Carolinas. Primary ingredients are long-grain rice, okra, seafood, sausage and local produce. Specialties include she-crab soup, fried green tomatoes, seafood gumbo, shrimp and grits, fresh and fried oysters, fried chicken, Frogmore Stew and pecan pie. My fa-
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vorite restaurants for Lowcountry cuisine and much more are the Oyster House, featuring Chef Tony Palmisano’s seafood specialties; Fleet Landing, with beautiful waterfront views; Magnolia’s for classic Southern dishes; Sticky Fingers for BBQ; and Justine’s Kitchen for po’ boys.

**Lodging:** Frances Marion Hotel on King Street is in the middle of all the buzz, near dozens of shops and restaurants and across the street from a delightful city park that hosts many of the city’s top events. (francismarionhotel.com) Historic downtown inns with fabulous period decor, but a bit pricey, are the Pinckney, the King Charles and Governor’s House.

For more information: explora-charleston.com, 800-774-0006.

**Folly Beach, SC**

“**The Perfect Beach Town,**” Southern Living

Folly Beach is a 12-square-mile barrier island and a laid-back, small city of 2,500 residents, a 30-minute drive to downtown Charleston. Though it’s affectionately known as “Charleston’s Beach Town,” residents will let you know it’s much more than that. For example, Dave Miller, originally from Charlotte, North Carolina, says, “We definitely are not Charleston’s bedroom community. We are a welcoming, year-round town with the highest standards for quality of life. We are much more than a summer getaway.”

This past January, my wife Beth, our Lab Lily and Nelson, our mellow, orange cat, shared a two-bedroom apartment just a few blocks from the Atlantic Ocean and a 6-mile sandy beachfront and within walking distance to Center Street with its cozy watering holes, restaurants and shops.

During our stay I experienced vibes reminiscent of my teenage years in Cleveland when I hung out with my buddies at funky beach towns like Geneva-on-the-Lake. It has the same relaxed, carefree joie de vivre so appealing to beach lovers, fishermen, fun-loving families and active retirees.

**What to do:** Charleston Outdoor Adventures specializes in guided boat tours, fishing charters, kayaking and paddle board tours and rentals. Steps away is Bowen’s Island Restaurant, a Lowcountry landmark serving local oysters, shrimp, fish and crab dishes. Charleston Tea Plantation, the only tea plantation in North America, has guided tours, tea bar tastings and a well-stocked gift shop. Bert’s Market, the only grocery on Folly Beach, is open daily 24/7. (Their motto is, “We may doze, but we never close.”)

It’s a popular gathering place with free coffee and a hodgepodge of food and merchandise. McLeod Plantation Historic Site has guided tours along a trail that tells a fascinating story of the conflicted relationships between blacks and whites before, during and after the Civil War. Nearby Johns Island features the Angel Oak, a magnificent 65-foot, 400-year-old live oak tree, and a farmers market on Saturdays. The City of Charleston Municipal Golf Course is challenging and inexpensive to play.

**Dining:** Folly Beach is filled with small, independent restaurants and pubs serving Lowcountry dishes and have dog-friendly, outdoor patio dining when weather permits. Local favorites on Center Street include Jack of Cups Saloon, noted for global pub grub; Folly Beach Crab Shack; Snapper Jack’s; Rita’s Seaside Grille; and the Wash Out, a popular hang-out for burgers, roasted oysters and rockin’ bands. Nearby, Ellis Creek Fish Camp has excellent fish and seafood with a large, inviting outdoor dining area—dogs welcome. Crosby’s Seafood, a legendary market and Jimmy Buffet favorite, sells local fish and seafood, much of it caught aboard the company’s boats docked in the back.

**Where to Stay:** We rented our apartment from Kevin Edenborough, owner and manager of Seaside Property Management. (seasidefolly@gmail.com) The Purdue University engineering graduate and retired U.S. Air Force jet pilot has lived on Folly Island for the past decades and was an excellent tourism resource and friend during our stay. He manages 5 rental homes and helped me put together a “Carolinas Winter Golf Escape” package for the first week in March 2020. We’ll stay in his three-bedroom, fully-furnished homes near the beach. Open to the first 12 registered golfers. Check it out at leventhaltravel.com and call if interested at 614-506-9666.

For information: visitfolly.com.

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Mount Pleasant, SC

“One of the 25 Best Places to live in the United States,” Money Magazine

Settled in 1779, Mount Pleasant, just northeast of Charleston and across the iconic Ravenel Bridge, is a thriving community and one of the country’s fastest-growing areas.

What to do: The Historic Old Village is a hidden gem off busy Coleman Avenue and a National Register District with dozens of classic colonial homes, churches, riverfront parks, distinctive landscaping and one-of-a-kind shops. Its Post House Inn, a gracious B&B, has a lively tavern and restaurant. Patriot’s Point Naval & Maritime Museum includes the WWII USS Yorktown aircraft carrier, the USS Laffey destroyer and Medal of Honor Museum. Waterfront Park has a Visitor Center, fishing pier, war memorial and the Sweetgrass Cultural Arts Pavilion. Dozens of fishing and shrimp boats are docked at Shem Creek Marina, a popular entertainment and dining mecca with a lovely park extending along a 2,200-foot boardwalk into the surrounding marshlands.

Nearby is Boone Hall Plantation, established in 1681, with its famous live oaks corridor and daily tours of the mansion, gardens and original slave quarters. Sullivan Island—a barrier island known for its long sandy beaches, historic homes, marshlands, restaurants and taverns—is home to Ft. Moultrie, a log fort famed for the first naval victory over the British Navy in 1776.

Golf courses here are Lowcountry links—designed with extensive waterways, Palmetto trees and tall grasses. Bermuda grass helps to set up the ball for fairway shots. Green fees are reduced and tee times are no problem in the low season. Courses open to the public include: Patriot’s Point Links, with a panoramic view of the harbor; National Country Club, designed by Reese Jones; Dunes West Golf Club, an Arthur Hill design with 200-year-old live oaks; and the Arnold Palmer Rivertowne Country Club, with marshlands and stunning vistas. Watch out for alligators sunning on the banks of the ponds!

Dining: Lowcountry favorites of both locals and vacationers include: Mustard Seed, Pages Okra Grill, the Shelter Kitchen + Bar, Boulevard Diner, Five Loaves and Vickery’s, with a delightful outdoor patio overlooking the marina.

For more information: experience-mountpleasant.com

Beaufort, SC

One of “52 Places to Go in the World” - New York Times, 2016

Beaufort, founded in 1711, is the quintessential, small Southern town, only recently emerged out of the shadow of Charleston 70 miles to its north. The original frontier settlement along the Atlantic Seaboard prospered, producing and shipping its prized Sea Island cotton, rice, indigo and produce across the country and the world. However, the Civil War, devastating hurricanes and the boll weevil led to a complete economic collapse. Fortunately, a group of local, civic leaders banded together in the 1970s to develop a tourism industry, while steadfastly maintaining the highest preservation standards to protect its classic, historic architecture.

Beaufort’s downtown is recognized as a National Historic Landmark, and its small businesses and independently owned and managed shops, galleries and eateries thrive year-round. Major Hollywood movies have been filmed here, including “Forrest Gump” and two others based on books by native son Pat Conroy, “The Great Santini” and “Prince of Tides.”

During our February stay, we constantly were told by the locals that Ohioans are retiring and vacationing here in record numbers, attracted by its friendliness, subtropical climate, natural beauty, dining options and affordable housing and vacation rentals.

What to do: Carriage, walking or small van tours explore the cobblestone streets, Antebellum and Victorian mansions and historic landmarks, including the Points, the town’s most historic residential enclave. Harbor and riverboat tours meander through the salt marshes and along the ocean shoreline. In town, Santa Helena History Center tells of the Spanish settlement in the 16th century before Jamestown and Plymouth Rock; Parish Church of St. Helena, was established in 1712 on Church Street by Thomas Hayward, Jr., a signer of the Declaration of Independence; the John Moore Vendier House is a Federalist mansion used by Union soldiers as its headquarters after an early capture of Beaufort in 1861; and more than 14,000 soldiers are laid to rest in Beaufort National Cemetery, built by Union troops in 1863.

On the Sea Islands east of Beaufort, I recommend a Gullah tour of St. Helena Island to hear stories of the freed West African slaves who settled here and the rural life of their descendants. The major attraction here is Penn Center, the country’s first school for freed slaves, central to the Civil Rights Movement. Today, its historic wooden cabins are used for educational and cultural programs. Nearby Hunting Island State Park is popular for its 5 miles of sandy beach, 8 miles of trails, fishing pier, campsites and rental cabins.

Golf courses include: Legends Golf Course, on Parris Island’s Marine base, ranked as one of the world’s 10 best military courses; and Lady’s Island Country Club, with its popular Tavern for lunch and dinner. Fripp Island’s Ocean Creek and Ocean Point golf courses, open to guests of the resort, are recognized among the finest in the Southeast.

Dining: Favorites include Sea Eagle Market; Saltus River Grill, on Bay, Plum’s, and Panini’s, all along Bay Street, the town’s major avenue, and all with back patios facing the waterfront park and marina; and Breakwater Restaurant & Bar for fine dining. On Lady’s Island, it’s Dockside and the Fillin’ Station on Lady’s Island, and Boondocks and Foolish Frog on St. Helena Island.

Lodging: We stayed at Fripp Island, a private 3,000-acre island, wildlife sanctuary and cited by Links magazine as “One of 100 Best Golf Resorts in North America.” Vacationers renting properties or staying at the Fripp Island Golf and Beach Resort have access to its 3 miles of wide, sandy beaches; golf courses; tennis courts; swimming pools; daily nature center activities; restaurants; and bike, scooter, kayak and golf cart rentals. (www.frippislandresort.com)

For information: beaufort.com
The Good Friday Vigil with the Holy Virgin

3:00pm Veneration of the Cross
7:00pm Stations of the Cross
7:30pm Vigil with Our Lady begins
Confessions offered from 7pm—12 Midnight
Vigil Concludes at 10:00am Holy Saturday
Sorrowful Mysteries of the Holy Rosary prayed every hour

Holy Family Church 584 West Broad Street  Columbus, Ohio 43215